TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 4, 2016
CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Registration Open for Texas Academy of Science's 2016 Meeting**
The 119th annual meeting will be March 4-6 at Texas Tech's Junction campus.

Registration is open for the 119th annual meeting of the Texas Academy of Science (TAS) March 4-6, hosted by Texas Tech University's Llano River Field Station (LRFS) at its Junction campus.

Registration for the meeting is $175 for professionals and $75 for students.

The meeting will include presentations by the Texas Distinguished Scientist and Outstanding Educator awardees, free socials and an awards banquet. Students, faculty and agency professionals can participate in networking and informative talks, poster sessions covering all 18 sections of the Texas Academy of Science, professional development workshops and unique field trips into the scenic Hill Country. TAS will award more than $25,000 for the best student presentations and research proposals.

Organizers hope to build on the success of the 2009 meeting at the LRFS, which featured hundreds of presentations, several workshops and nearly 600 attendees from 10 states and Mexico.

"This will likely be the largest conference ever hosted by Texas Tech University," said Tom Arsuffi, director of the Llano River Field Station. "It is a tremendous opportunity for Tech to show off our award-winning field station and all the great research on water and watersheds, award-winning K-12 programs like our Outdoor School, our diverse partnerships, our renewable energy programs and our Discovery Point Trail."

Find more information on field trips, accommodations and general information about the location, directions, food and social breaks, facilities and recreational activities here.

**Texas Academy of Science**
TAS promotes scientific research in the state, encourages research as part of student learning and enhances the professional development of its professional and student members. Founded by teachers in 1880 as the Academy of Science in Texas, the organization as it is now known emerged in 1929 with a physicist, botanist, mathematician and two biologists as founding members.

TAS began publishing its peer-reviewed journal, The Texas Journal of Science, in 1949. It conducts an annual meeting to highlight research in its 18 sections, provides about

$25,000 in funding each year for students and facilitates expert testimony on policy issues related to STEM or science education. TAS has more than 800 members, more than half of whom are students.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 5, 2016
CONTACT: K'Leigh Sims, kleigh.sims@ttu.edu
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**Knight Raiders Win 2015 Pan-American Championship**
This is the first time Texas Tech has won this tournament against the top collegiate chess teams in the nation.

Texas Tech University's chess team, the Knight Raiders, recently won the 2015 Pan-American Intercollegiate Chess Championship for the first time in program history in Cleveland, Ohio, qualifying for the Final Four of College Chess in April.

This is the third consecutive year Texas Tech has qualified for the Final Four.

"We are all very proud to win this prestigious title for Texas Tech," said Alex Onischuk, coach of Texas Tech chess. "Our team has been working very hard for the past three years. We played the best chess and we had the toughest pairings among all teams. It was a well-deserved victory."

On the last day of the tournament, Texas Tech was behind the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (UT-RGV), Webster University and the University of Texas-Dallas by a half-point along with Columbia University and Lindenwood University.

While UT-RGV and Webster made draws on each team member's boards on the final day, the Knight Raiders made their way to the top with two wins and two draws, beating out 10-time Pan-American champion UT-Dallas.

The winning team included International Master Andrey Gorovets and Grandmasters Yaro Zherebukh, Elshan Moradiabadi and Andriy Baryshpolets.

Texas Tech's Carla Heredia, a woman grandmaster, also was named the top alternate at the championship tournament.

The chess program at Texas Tech, housed under the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement, is nationally known for its strong competition and leadership by coach Onischuk. Known as an international grandmaster, Onischuk is ranked as one of the top 100 players in the world and has been for the past 19 years.

In the next two weeks, Onischuk said the Knight Raiders will begin their preparation for the Final Four, which will take place in New York City at the Marshall Chess Club.

"I would like to congratulate coach Alex and his team on their first of many more Pan-American Championship wins," said Paul Frazier, associate vice president for the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement. "This victory is the result of all their hard work and commitment to excellence."

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 6, 2016
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**Archive of Modern American Warfare Aims to Preserve Veteran History**
Texas Tech's primarily digital modern war collection relies on the donations of veterans to preserve history and benefit research.

In addition to being a "Best for Vets" and Purple Heart University, Texas Tech University is home to a number of unique military collections that preserve the donations of veterans, the youngest being the Archive of Modern American Warfare (AMAW).

A branch of the Vietnam Center and Archive, which houses the largest collection of Vietnam War records outside the National Archives, the AMAW was created in 2007 to collect and preserve the records of veterans of military conflicts after 1975. Though the collection houses physical material such as uniforms, newspapers and propaganda items, the AMAW is primarily a digital archive. The AMAW's push for digital material such as photographs, videos, emails, text messages and other digital documents makes it unique, and puts these materials at risk if they are not donated soon.

Andrew Hinton, special projects archivist for the AMAW, said it's imperative that modern war veterans donate their digital materials as soon as possible, before advancements in technology make accessibility of modern digital records difficult or impossible.

"We're trying to get modern war veterans to think about the importance of preserving their history and donating their digital materials now," Hinton said. "If we don't get that stuff soon and give it the attention it deserves by migrating it to a format that will be sustainable over time, none of this stuff is going to be accessible in the future because the technology that was used to create it will be obsolete."

The AMAW aims to preserve veterans' history by collecting their donated materials and arranging them in a way that is both accessible to researchers and reminiscent of its original order and use to veterans. An online portal is being created in order to make digital records accessible online.

"Privacy is a big issue a lot of veterans are concerned about when it comes to donating their material," Hinton said. "Many are concerned they may not have the right to donate some of their material or release it to the public, but we want them to know their privacy is our top priority."

The AMAW has software that can restrict material as necessary, creating a controlled environment for each veteran's donations based on the content of the materials.

“We’re not like WikiLeaks or something like that where we’re just throwing it all out there for anyone to see,” Hinton said. “Our collection is very controlled, and its accessibility is focused on providing material to researchers wanting to learn about what it was like over there during these wars.”

With each collection organized by donor, a benefit to donating digital materials is veterans do not have to part with items that may be sentimental to them.

“Some veterans have sentimental reasons for not wanting to donate materials, like they have journals or diaries which they may not want to part with the original,” Hinton said. “However, we’re always willing to make copies of donated items so veterans can keep any original material they want.”

The archive, which will help researchers at Texas Tech understand modern warfare, is unique compared to other military collections in the United States.

“There are a few other institutions doing similar things, but what makes this collection unique is it’s born digital,” Hinton said. “I haven’t seen anybody collecting things like emails, and that’s really information-rich content. Those are the letters home of the modern era. That’s what makes it so important to donate these things now – we need to give them the attention they require before they’re lost.”

Following in the footsteps of the Vietnam Center, the AMAW hopes to one day be the largest collection of modern war records, focusing on digital-born materials and preserving veterans’ history while benefiting research.

“We have a unique project here,” Hinton said. “When we really get this off the ground and continue building, I think it will be a really impressive thing for Texas Tech.”

For more information on the AMAW and how to donate, visit its website or contact Andrew Hinton at andrew.hinton@ttu.edu.

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**CONTACT: Andrew Hinton, assistant archivist, Archive of Modern American Warfare, The Vietnam Center, Texas Tech University** (806) 834-5971 or andrew.hinton@ttu.edu

# Expert Pitch

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 6, 2015
CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Experts Available to Discuss North Korea's Possible Hydrogen Bomb Test**

**Pitch**
North Korea has announced what it called a successful test of a hydrogen bomb, but that claim is being called into question. The underground test happened at 10 a.m. local time Wednesday (Jan. 6), which was 7:30 p.m. CST Tuesday (Jan. 5). It corresponded with a magnitude 5.1 seismic event, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, comparable to North Korea's previous tests of plutonium bombs, the most recent in 2013. This measurement is far smaller than would be expected with the more powerful hydrogen bomb, causing some experts to doubt that's what it is. If the claim is true, however, it would mark an enormous advancement for the North Korean regime and leader Kim Jong Un while presenting a global controversy for other world leaders.

Texas Tech University has three experts who are available to talk about the North Korean bomb test.

**Experts**
**Dennis Patterson, chairman of the Department of Political Science, (806) 834-5758 or dennis.patterson@ttu.edu**
Dennis Patterson, an associate professor and chairman of the Department of Political Science, specializes in the politics and political institutions of Asia, with a focus on the continent's security issues.

**Talking Points**
- North and South Korea struck a truce in the wake of artillery exchanges in August 2014 in which North Korean leaders stated they would cease with provocative actions and the South agreed to stop beaming propagandistic broadcasts into the North.
- Today's surprise announcement was strongly condemned by the U.S., the European Union, Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, France and China. South Korean President Park Geun-Hye called the test "a grave provocation to our security" and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called it a "grave threat." In response, the UN Security Council is meeting and considering sanctions and other actions.
- Preliminary analysis of the seismic data has concluded the explosion occurred but did not amount to a hydrogen (fusion) explosion. Most South Korean intelligence analysts said the test amounted to a "boosted-fission bomb."

**Quote**
- "This kind of behavior is very typical of the North Korean government, where it moves between the peaceful and provocative behavior," Patterson said.

**Ambassador Tibor P. Nagy Jr., vice provost for international affairs, (806) 834-0128 or tibor.nagy@ttu.edu**
Ambassador Tibor P. Nagy Jr., vice provost for international affairs, served as U.S. ambassador to Guinea from 1996-99 and Ethiopia from 1999-2002. Prior to those assignments, he attended the State Department's prestigious Senior Seminar and served in the Foreign Service from 1978-95 with assignments in Lusaka, Zambia; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Lome, Togo; Yaounde, Cameroon; and Lagos, Nigeria. Nagy was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1949 and arrived in the United States as a political refugee in 1957.

**Talking Point**

- The bomb test claim could be intended to raise North Korea's political standing amid current events.

**Quote**

- "All indications are that this test was similar to the last one in 2013 and not a hydrogen bomb," Nagy said. "Certainty will come only if and when outside countries can analyze radioactive gases from around the site. The likely reasons for this explosion are to provide Kim Jong Un an early birthday present, which he is celebrating this Friday, as well as strengthening his hand for the upcoming Seventh Congress of the Korean Workers Party in May – the first in 36 years."

**Victoria Sutton, Paul Whitfield Horn professor in the School of Law and director of the Center for Biodefense, Law and Public Policy, (806) 834-1752 or vickie.sutton@ttu.edu**
Victoria Sutton is a Paul Whitfield Horn professor in the Texas Tech School of Law and director of the Center for Biodefense, Law and Public Policy, the only center at a law school in the U.S. to focus solely on issues of law and biodefense, biosecurity and bioterrorism. She served as chief counsel for the Research and Innovative Technology Administration in the U.S. Department of Transportation from 2005-07 and as assistant director in the White House Science Office and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during George H. W. Bush's presidency. Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry appointed her to the Texas Council on Key Resources and Critical Infrastructure for her expertise in biodefense law.

**Talking Points**

- North and South Korea were both admitted to the United Nations, giving some legitimacy to North Korea as a separate country in 1991.
- Both North and South Korea signed a declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in 1992.
- The U.S. and North Korea negotiated the Agreed Framework, with an objective to end North Korea's nuclear program, in return for food and fuel aid as well as light-water reactors. The Agreed Framework allowed for further talks toward normalization relations.
- In 2003, North Korea became the only country to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of the 191 members, although four never joined: Israel, Pakistan, India and South Sudan.
- North Korea began conducting nuclear tests again in 2013; they had not tested any nuclear weapons since 2009.

**Quote**

- “North Korea is so heavily sanctioned that more sanctions will undoubtedly have little effect,” Sutton said. “Starving their people is considered a worthwhile tradeoff.”

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# Expert Pitch

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 7, 2016
CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
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**Sugar: Public Enemy No. 1? Nutrition Expert Available to Discuss Dietary Guidelines**

The Obama Administration released its five-year dietary guidelines today (Jan. 7); the biggest recommended change is reducing the amount of sugar in the average American's diet.

Key recommendations are:

- Consume less than 10 percent of calories per day from added sugars;
- Consume less than 10 percent of calories per day from saturated fats; and
- Consume less than 2,300 milligrams per day of sodium.

Martin Binks, an associate professor of nutritional sciences, is available to talk on the changes. Binks leads the Behavioral Medicine & Translational Research Lab and is director of the Nutrition & Metabolic Health Initiative at Texas Tech. His expertise spans a breadth of clinical and translational research topics and issues in public health related to obesity including: behavioral, pharmacologic and surgical obesity treatment; barriers to treatment adherence (nutrition and physical activity); obesity and comorbidities; non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD); pain and sleep in obesity; sickle cell disease; health disparities; and neuroscience related to obesity.

**Expert**
Martin Binks, associate professor of nutritional sciences, (806) 834-4434, m.binks@ttu.edu or @DrBinks

- "It is important to note the dietary guidelines are ideally intended to provide a road map to assist in public health recommendations and are frequently used to inform policy decisions to improve public health. However, the general public and media frequently represent them as guidelines to inform their personal nutritional decisions. Unfortunately, the guidelines do not speak to the many individual nutritional needs of specific subgroups of people, individual differences in physiological and medical situations and personal preferences and goals."
- "One pitfall of such guidelines is the public and policymakers are inclined to over-interpret the guidelines as hard and fast rules of behavior as opposed to guidance based on available, and at times incomplete, evidence."
- "In the field of nutrition a 'one size fits all' policy has proven ineffective over time and science is increasingly supporting a variety of effective nutritional strategies to maintain health as it relates to dietary practices. While the guidelines have attempted to be

evidence-based while also introducing a more holistic and flexible perspective, they at times revert to singling out individual nutrients and/or food classes as opposed to focusing on the diet more broadly."

- "As an example, they have singled out sugar as this year's villain, much as we did fat in the 1980s. Certainly reducing sugar as part of an overall plan to reduce caloric density, total calories in the diet and to improve overall nutritional balance can be helpful and contribute to overall health. However, if the message to the public, similar to the 1980s message regarding dietary fat, is that sugar alone is now somehow the magic culprit in in improving overall health and maintaining healthy weight this could be problematic in that it may give people a false sense of security in the belief that if they simply target sugar reduction, all will be well."
- "As our knowledge of the complexity of human nutrition combined with our experience in targeting fat alone has proven, this is not an effective strategy for public health."
- "On the positive side, the guidelines have now updated guidance on dietary cholesterol to be in keeping with current evidence and have adopted a somewhat more realistic target for sodium, though that evidence remains controversial."
- "Taken as a whole there is some good evidence-based guidance in the guidelines. However, these should be considered in the context of the unique situation of every individual. As such I would urge the public to speak with qualified nutrition professionals to aid in interpreting the guidelines as they relate to their personal health situations, goals and preferences."

**More information on Martin Binks**
He is a fellow, chairs the development committee and is secretary-treasurer of The Obesity Society; he also holds membership in a number of other national and international obesity and nutrition associations and is an editorial board member for the International Journal of Obesity and Obesity Science and Practice. He is a recipient of The Obesity Society's Atkinson Stern Award for Distinguished Public Service in Obesity.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 7, 2016
CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
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**Texas Women in Higher Education Holding Conference**

The conference on Jan. 29 will focus on empowering women in higher education, the workforce, politics and more.

Registration is open for the Texas Women in Higher Education at Texas Tech University conference on Jan. 29.

Keynote speakers include Alessandra Corsi, an assistant professor of physics and National Science Foundation CAREER Grant recipient to study origins and reasons for gamma ray bursts; Katharine Hayhoe, an associate professor in public administration and director of the Climate Science Center; and Lee Ann Nutt, president of Lone Star College-Tomball and an alumna of Texas Tech.

Panel topics include "Who is a woman? Gender and academe in a new age;" "One size does not fit all: Finding voice in gender equity;" "Managing managing: Styles of leadership;" and "Mentoring the new Texas women: Students, staff and faculty."

Men and women are invited to the conference, which is from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 29 at the McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center at 17th Street and University Avenue. Registration is available here and is open through Jan. 15.

Texas Women in Higher Education is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing, advancing and supporting women working at colleges and universities throughout the state.

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**CONTACT: Aliza Wong, associate professor, Honors College, Texas Tech University,** (806) 834-3051 or aliza.wong@ttu.edu

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 8, 2016
CONTACT: K'Leigh Sims, kleigh.sims@ttu.edu
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**Texas Tech Named as Top Military School in 2016 Guide to Colleges, Universities**
The guide, created by Military Advanced Education & Transition, is a reference tool to help military and veterans make the right choices about their college education.

In the recent December issue of Military Advanced Education & Transition's (MAE&T) magazine, Texas Tech University was recognized as a top school in the 2016 Guide to Colleges and Universities for its efforts in providing active military, veterans and their family members with an affordable education and the resources they need to help transition from military to civilian life. This is the fifth consecutive year MAE&T has recognized Texas Tech for its military programs and resources.

One of these resources include the Military and Veterans Programs (MVP), a department solely dedicated to veterans and their families who attend Texas Tech.

Lou Ortiz, MVP director and Texas Tech alumnus, said this honor is something to be proud of for Texas Tech.

"We are thrilled to be selected as a top school for the 2016 Guide to Colleges and Universities," Ortiz said. "This honor reflects Texas Tech's commitment in providing a support system for smooth campus transition and academic success for our military and veteran students."

The guide is a searchable database of survey results collected by MAE&T. Six areas were analyzed in the survey including military culture, financial assistance, flexibility, general support, online support and on-campus support. After participating institutions' surveys were conducted, each school was given an overall score.

Texas Tech scored highest on military culture followed by on-campus support and general support.

The university serves more than 2,200 military students and also has more than 250 faculty and staff members who are veterans and offer assistance to military and veteran students within each college and other areas of campus.

The MVP department, housed under the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement, helps to provide a seamless transition from military to civilian life as soon as military students step foot on campus. From registering for classes, processing G.I. Bill benefits and Hazlewood Act exemptions and assisting, advocating and mentoring military and veteran students, MVP strives to serve those who have served with the utmost dignity and respect.

MVP also offers events every year for Texas Tech's military community, including the Tournament for Heroes golf scramble; the Sun's Up, Guns Up Reveille Run; TechVet Boot Camp; football tailgates; speakers and more.

The in-depth results about Texas Tech, visit the guide at http://mae-kmi.com/schools/texas-tech-university.

For more information about MVP and other awards and recognitions it has received, visit its website at mvp.ttu.edu.

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**CONTACT: Lou Ortiz, director, Military and Veterans Programs, Texas Tech University,** (806) 742-6877 or lou.ortiz@ttu.edu

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 11, 2016
CONTACT: K'Leigh Sims, kleigh.sims@ttu.edu
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**Big 12 Diversity Leaders to Discuss National Topics**

The chapter, which was formed in 2008, will meet Wednesday and Thursday (Jan. 13-14) for its quarterly meeting on the Texas Tech University campus.

For the first time since it was formed in 2008, the Big 12 Chief Diversity Officers chapter will return to Texas Tech University for its quarterly meeting to engage in discussions about recent campus events across the nation, such as the University of Missouri, Fisher v. the University of Texas and the recently released Standards of Professional Practice for Chief Diversity Officers created by the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE).

"We are thrilled to once again host this distinguished group of higher education professionals and to further insert Texas Tech's national leadership and model for access, equity and inclusive excellence," said Juan Muñoz, senior vice president of Texas Tech's Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement and vice provost of Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs.

Serving as the preeminent voice for diversity officers in higher education, NADOHE works to lead higher education institutions toward inclusive excellence through institutional transformation.

Meetings will begin Wednesday (Jan. 13) and will conclude Thursday (Jan. 14). Those in attendance will include:

- The Big 12 Chief Diversity Officers chapter members
- Texas Tech President M. Duane Nellis
- Lenore Pearlstein, publisher for INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine and owner and publisher of Potomac Publishing, Inc.
- Texas Tech Provost Lawrence Schovanec
- Suzanne Tapp, executive director of Texas Tech's Teaching, Learning and Professional Development Center
- Members of the Texas Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education
- Regional diversity representatives from colleges and universities in West Texas

Jason Kirksey, chapter president, vice president of Institutional Diversity and chief diversity officer at Oklahoma State University, said this quarterly meeting provides the

time for chief diversity officers from universities to come together and talk collectively about different diversity issues, share resources and continue to develop ways to create inclusive universities.

"This is a great time for us to come together, exchange ideas and figure out new things to try on each of our colleges campuses regarding diversity and inclusion," Kirksey said. "At this meeting, one of our focuses will be about attracting diverse faculty and staff. In particular we will discuss strategies aimed at recruiting and retaining high-quality faculty members that will promote diversity and inclusive excellence across the Big 12 university campuses. We are most grateful to Texas Tech for its willingness to serve as this spring's institutional host for the Big 12 Chief Diversity Officers meeting."

Texas Tech has made major strides toward NADOHE's goal since 2008. With the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement (founded in 2009), Texas Tech has 12 programs dedicated to serving students from all different walks of life. The Division of Institutional Diversity has received many awards and accolades for its efforts in advancing diversity on a college campus, including:

- Receiving the INSIGHT Into Diversity award for two consecutive years
- Being included in the White House Initiative's Bright spots in Hispanic Education
- Multiple military and veteran awards, rankings and recognitions
- A continual growth in the diverse student population at Texas Tech

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**CONTACT: Jobi Martinez, member, Big 12 Chief Diversity Chapter, Texas Tech University,** (806) 445-5098 or jobi.martinez@ttu.edu

# Expert Pitch

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 11, 2016
CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
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**Experts Available to Discuss Life and Legacy of David Bowie**

**Pitch**
Songwriter, musician and actor David Bowie, known to the world as a forward-thinking artist who pushed boundaries with his nontraditional interpretations of fashion, personas and sexuality, died on Sunday (Jan. 10) at the age of 69.

His androgynous appearance was an iconic element of his image, especially in the 1970s and 1980s. His alter ego, Ziggy Stardust, helped to create one of the biggest cult followings in pop culture at the time.

Texas Tech University has three experts who are available to talk about Bowie's life and legacy.

**Experts**
**Amelia Talley, assistant professor, (806) 834-3937 or amelia.talley@ttu.edu**
Amelia Talley, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychological Sciences, teaches undergraduate courses in social psychology and graduate courses in stereotyping and prejudice, attitudes and attitude change. Her research expertise is in sexual identity.

**Talking Points**
- Bowie was one of the original musicians to push gender roles and boundaries, similar to what people today probably see in Lada Gaga.
- Society always has those who are willing to push boundaries that we are all socialized to adhere to, but the lives and experiences of such individuals are not always championed nor shared for the greater good. For example, before Bowie, it was Oscar Wilde.
- Bowie's legacy centers around the idea that we should all be given freedom to be who we are and have the prerogative to change our minds. He modeled this by sharing his "truths" or what he believed to be true about himself, reinventing himself and his music, and inspiring others to find their own path.

**Quotes**
- "Obviously, having such people in the public spotlight can allow fans of them and their work to question and consider how gender performance affects how others see us and the role of gender stereotypes and expectations in our own lives and experiences."
- "I think David Bowie's charisma, sensationalism and musical talent obviously made the news more intriguing for readers. The time Bowie thrived as a musician saw many cultural sub-groups exploring more liberal lifestyles and sexuality in general, which is

maybe why Bowie and his music made such an impact with that generation. The staying power of his music throughout the decades is more of a testament to his musical talents."

- "When one considers that gender is something society dictates and prescribes certain behaviors or traits, people may choose to play with these distinctions between what it means to be 'feminine' or 'masculine.' The most iconic example I can think of is simply Bowie's wearing make-up. But you can also see how he often exaggerated or sexualized boundaries, perhaps to mock their arbitrariness or even to bring light to their absurdities."
- "I think Bowie's fans were more open to exploring their own definitions of gender and what their experience with sexuality was. Again, I think this also was facilitated by the larger social climate (e.g., the feminist revolution). Simply knowing others share your perspective or experience (or knowing that others have different perspectives and experiences) can be validating and allow for more comfort or freedom in exploring various ways to be."
- "I do believe it is important for people to see performances of those who go against the grain. Again, we see this historically with films like 'Clockwork Orange,' and novels like '1984' and 'Fahrenheit 451.' It is the oldest story around – imagine if Eve had chosen not to eat the forbidden fruit to 'know more' in the Garden of Eden. Such personalities in popular culture allow everyone more dialogue, more self-insight, more validation, more expression. All of these are valuable things to contribute to in my opinion."

**Roger Landes, professor of practice, roger.landes@ttu.edu**

Roger Landes is a professor of practice in the School of Music. He is the founding director of the Balkan Ensemble and has taught the popular History of Rock 'n' Roll class since 2009. He studies American and European traditional music, American popular music and folk music revival. Prior to teaching, Landes had a 30-year career as a touring performer, recording artist, bandleader and producer in the field of Irish traditional music, co-founding the critically acclaimed American Celtic band Scartaglen in 1982. He also has a solo CD, "Dragon Reels," released in 1997 and has contributed to other recordings and soundtracks.

**Quotes**

- "David Bowie was a cultural icon, an artist first and a musician second. A brilliant singer and songwriter, he was known for his uncanny ability to convincingly change styles, chameleon-like, and seeming to turn on a dime."
- "For Bowie presentation was as important as content. He realized his work had to be performable and that he would have to present it live for it to work, and this lent a very strong element of acting to his performances. He took this further than any previous rock 'n' roll artist had, creating Ziggy Stardust and The Spiders from Mars, which made a connection between his music and science fiction."
- "In the first phase of his career Bowie used his bisexuality as part of his métier, cross-dressing, wearing makeup and generally blurring gender distinctions in ways that were seen as shocking and confrontational, particularly in the United States."
- "Bowie was a musical innovator who was not content to rest on his laurels or repeat any successful formula more than once. His Berlin Trilogy albums, 'Low,' 'Heroes' and 'Lodger', (1977-79), recorded in West Berlin and on which he collaborated with ambient

music maverick Brian Eno, were a major departure for a Western artist and adopted a mysterious 'from behind the Iron Curtain' vibe in many ways."

- "His later periods also were experimental as he embraced various trends in popular music, taking recent developments and bending them to his own unique artistic vision. His last album, 'Blackstar,' was released on Jan. 8, just two days before his death from cancer, which he had been fighting for 18 months. His family and musical collaborators have confirmed that the release was carefully timed to coincide with his passing, a final act in a life that in many ways was itself a public performance."

**Rob Weiner, humanities and pop culture librarian, (806) 834-5126 or rob.weiner@ttu.edu**
Rob Weiner is a pop culture guru and humanities and popular culture librarian at Texas Tech University. He personally saw David Bowie perform in Dallas in 1995.

**Talking Points**

- David Bowie exemplified the meaning of the word "artist" in the true sense of the word. He always reinvented himself and he never stood on his laurels.
- He didn't care what the critics thought. If he made a bad album it didn't matter, because he would always come out with a good one.
- Bowie transcended all the styles and the trends: Glam, Punk, Techo, Industrial, Metal, Pop, Disco and everything else.
- David Bowie dictated fashion that others followed.

**Quotes**

- "I saw David Bowie with Nine Inch Nails in 1995 in Dallas. Trent Reznor came out and played 'Scary Monsters' with him and it was mind blowing: the energy, and the pacing."
- "Nobody could ever know the 'real' David Bowie as there was not just 'one' Bowie, but many. It's all there in his music, his films, his whole body of work. It's a shame because he apparently just released his best album in years."
- "David Bowie was style personified, but he also was from outer space."
- "My favorite song is 'Heroes.' That song has such emotion, truth and beauty. It touches the core of one's soul and has a good message for everyone: 'We can be heroes just for one day.'"

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 11, 2016
CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Historic Quilt Exhibit Opening at Museum of Texas Tech**
"Legacy of a Thousand Stitches" includes almost 50 quilts
spanning more than 150 years of history.

An exhibition on quilting, one of the original types of graphic design, opens Friday (Jan. 15) at the Museum of Texas Tech University, 3301 4th St.

"Legacy of a Thousand Stitches" includes 42 unique handmade quilts from the museum's collection. Quilts, which were designed to tell a story or send a message, in many cases are the only legacy left behind by the quilter. Where the maker's identity is known, a picture and history will be included.

"The collection is encyclopedic in that major types of quilts are represented from an early 19th century whitework and trapunto quilt whose whole design is created by the quilting line and areas that have been stuffed from the back to create a three-dimensional effect, to quilts made by contemporary quilt artists," said Marian Ann Montgomery, the curator of clothing and textiles at the museum. "There are quilts made from early 19th century chintz and those made from the feed sacks that were used across West Texas for clothing and household items."

Highlights of the display include:

- A quilt of chintz cut with an inscription documenting it to 1839, which contains the same fabric prints as chintz quilts in the collections of the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum and Colonial Williamsburg.
- A quilt made by Hispanic women in Lubbock in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the work of the Baptist Women's Missionary Union and presented to the president of the Mexican Baptist Convention in 1988.
- A machine-appliqued quilt dating to 1861, which is unusual because few households had sewing machines at the start of the Civil War.
- A red and white Rocky Mountain Road quilt made in the late 1800s by Annie Parker Anderson, a relative of Chief Quanah Parker.
- A wool suggan, a small quilt often used by cowboys, which is embroidered with cattle brands.

Additionally, six doll quilts will be on display. These quilts are rare because they typically were made from scraps from household sewing and often didn't survive playtime. This is the first time these quilts have been exhibited at the Museum of Texas Tech.

The exhibit runs through May 15. Visitors can pick up a catalog in the gift shop that includes the history and photos of 101 quilts, including the 42 that will be on display. Interested patrons can participate in a bed turning on March 31, in which the other quilts will be available for viewing. Included in that special exhibit is the Susan Robb quilt, the only surviving quilt that records the Confederate sympathies from the Civil War.

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**CONTACT: Marian Ann Montgomery, curator of clothing and textiles, Museum of Texas Tech University,** (806) 834-5146 or marian.ann.montgomery@ttu.edu

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 11, 2016
CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Teacher Prep Program Earns Top Grade from Teacher Quality Organization**
The National Council on Teacher Quality rated Texas Tech on its content offerings, degree plans and admissions selectivity.

The College of Education at Texas Tech University was one of 35 teacher preparation programs that earned top scores in the high school content standard of the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ).

The NCTQ's biennial teacher prep review considers specific state regulations on teacher certification standards and institutions' course content offerings, degree plans and admissions selectivity. Texas Tech was one of two universities in the state to earn this distinction and one of two Big 12 Conference schools.

"The recognition highlights the important commitment of the College of Education and multiple departments across the university in preparing teachers," said Doug Hamman, chairman of the Department of Teacher Education. "We know our candidates are strong in their content preparation; otherwise they wouldn't be admitted to our program."

Hamman submitted syllabi and degree plans to NCTQ for secondary-level teacher preparation in mathematics and history, which was part of a larger audit and evaluation of the program. The ranking underscores the strong collaboration between the College of Education and the College of Arts & Sciences because secondary-level teacher candidates must major in a core-content discipline and minor in education in order to qualify for state certification.

"The difficult work of creating a teacher education program that truly serves the needs of both our teacher candidates at Texas Tech and students throughout our state and nation is being recognized," Education Dean Scott Ridley said. "We will continue to strive for the highest level of excellence and are pleased that NCTQ is recognizing these efforts."

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**CONTACT: Doug Hamman, chairman, Department of Teacher Education, College of Education, Texas Tech University,** (806) 834-4113 or doug.hamman@ttu.edu

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 12, 2016
CONTACT: K'Leigh Sims, kleigh.sims@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Texas Tech's Online Programs Nationally Ranked by U.S. News and World Report**
This is the fourth consecutive year the university's online education programs have been recognized by the prestigious news organization.

U.S. News and World Report released its Best Online Programs rankings Tuesday (Jan. 12) where Texas Tech University was ranked in four different areas: Best Online Graduate Computer Information Technology Program (No. 11), Best Online Graduate Engineering Program (No. 16), Best Online Graduate Education Program (No. 78) and Best Online Bachelor's Programs (No. 100).

This is the fourth consecutive year Texas Tech has been included in the rankings and the first time to be ranked for its online bachelor's programs.

"Congratulations once again to Worldwide eLearning on being ranked by U.S. News and World Report for its online education programs," said Texas Tech President M. Duane Nellis. "Our goal at Texas Tech is to provide a high-quality education to all our students both near and far. Worldwide eLearning's faculty and staff have made great strides in these efforts, and I am happy to see their hard work paying off."

The results of the U.S. News and World Report rankings are gathered by a statistical survey with an analysis of five different categories: student engagement, faculty credentials and training, student services and technology, peer reputation and admissions selectivity.

Last year, Texas Tech received the following rankings:

- Best Online Graduate Computer Information Technology Program: No. 14
- Best Online Graduate Engineering Program: No. 20
- Best Online Graduate Education Program: No. 107

Texas Tech moved up as many as 29 spots in the rankings from 2015 to 2016.

"These rankings are a testament to the commitment our faculty, staff and administration have for offering high-quality online and distance education programs," said Justin Louder, assistant vice provost for Texas Tech's online and distance education program Worldwide eLearning. "Our rankings have steadily improved the last few years, and I am

excited to see our online bachelor's program ranked for the first time along with our other programs."

Worldwide eLearning offers more than 50 degree, certification and certification preparation programs that are fully available online. There also are six regional teaching sites across the state, including El Paso, Fredericksburg, Highland Lakes, Junction, Waco and Collin County, so educational goals can be achieved with Texas Tech throughout the state. The degrees earned online and at regional sites are the same degrees earned on Texas Tech's main campus in Lubbock.

For more information about Worldwide eLearning and a list of online programs visit http://www.depts.ttu.edu/elearning/programs/.

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**CONTACT: Justin Louder, assistant vice provost, Worldwide eLearning, Texas Tech University,** (806) 742-7227 or justin.louder@ttu.edu

# Expert Pitch

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 13, 2016
CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Expert: Law Professor Develops Course on Space Law**

**Pitch**
For many companies looking to gain a foothold beyond the Earth's atmosphere, space exploration and business ventures are a reality as the U.S. space program has transitioned from government control to private enterprise. A Texas Tech University professor has found expansion into space also presents the opportunity for up-and-coming lawyers to get in on the ground floor of space law. They'll be responsible for determining the laws and regulations that will guide free enterprise in space, from international treaties to even state law.

Vickie Sutton, a Paul Whitfield Horn professor in the Texas Tech University School of Law and the director of the Center for Biodefense, Law and Public Policy, is offering a short course online entitled "Business Opportunities for Space Law for Now and the Future" with plans to create a full course that will be offered through the Texas Tech Law School beginning in Spring 2017, known as Space Law.

**Expert**
Vickie Sutton, Paul Whitfield Horn professor and director of the Center for Biodefense, Law and Public Policy, Texas Tech School of Law, (806) 834-1752 or vickie.sutton@ttu.edu

**Talking Points**
- Only a few law schools across the globe offer graduate degrees dealing with space law, and a handful of others offer courses in space law.
- The course covers the development of activities in space and the basic laws and regulations that regulate those activities. It also explores the international asteroid defense program, the emergence of asteroid mining as well as space tourism and how those areas will be regulated as well.
- The short, online course now available will guide those interested through the legal aspects of space travel and development to give a clearer picture of emerging business opportunities and how to navigate the basics of space law. The three-hour course, available in about a year, will delve into those aspects in much more detail.
- A link to the short course can be found here.

**Quotes**
- "You're not going to have jurisdictional boundaries in space like you do for aviation where you take off and land and fly through air space and can regulate that. That's not possible in space law where you're passing through at a distance and not landing. It created a whole other territory for jurisdictional, substantive law."

- “I designed the course for non-law and law students. I think bringing law students together with science students or engineering students is really optimal for science and technology courses. The law student learns from the science student and the science student learns from the law student.”
- “What we have now in the state of evolution of space is the private sector is thinking how they can take what has been developed and how entrepreneurs can make it into something profitable. We’re at that stage right now where it’s not quite profitable, but it’s getting closer.”

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# Expert Pitch

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 13, 2016
CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Experts Available to Discuss Oscar Nominations Thursday**

Texas Tech University experts in film, theatre and pop culture are available Thursday to dissect the nominations for the 88th annual Academy Awards.

**Tim Day, film instructor,** (806) 577-9267 or tim.day@ttu.edu
Day teaches screenwriting, race and gender in film and sports and American film. He writes the blog Day at the Movies, where he reviews movies, including best and worst of the year. The best two movies in 2015, according to Day, were "Room" and "Sicario;" "Room" was a best picture Golden Globe nominee, and Brie Larson, the protagonist in "Room," won the Golden Globe for best performance.

**Dean Nolen, head,** acting/directing program for the School of Theatre and Dance, (917) 687-4493 or @deannolen
For 20 years Nolen has written and edited "The Film Encyclopedia," considered the most comprehensive English-language film encyclopedia and has been an actor on film and TV shows for many years. Nolen is a member of the Screen Actors Guild and votes in the SAG Awards, so he has seen almost all of the Oscar-nominated films and actors.

**Rob Peaslee, chairman,** Department of Journalism & Electronic Media, (806) 834-2562 or robert.peaslee@ttu.edu
Peaslee teaches visual communications, writing for feature film and "The Blockbuster." He researches fan cultures, film, global and international media, media anthropology and superheroes and culture.

**Paul Reinsch, assistant professor of practice in cinema,** (806) 834-6087 (office), (425) 999-9135 (cell) or paul.n.reinsch@ttu.edu
Reinsch is an American film historian and has been studying and writing about film for more than 20 years. He teaches the Introduction to Film course as well as courses on film adaptation and music videos.

**Rob Weiner, pop culture librarian,** (806) 834-5126 or rob.weiner@ttu.edu
Weiner has published articles in "Movies in American History" and "Too Bold for the Box Office" and is co-editor of "From the Grindhouse to the Arthouse." He can discuss what films have created the most buzz in the last year and compare Oscar winners of the past to the current Hollywood pool as well as what viewers should expect from the winners this year.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 13, 2016
CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Groundbreaking String Duo Bringing Unique Sound to Texas Tech**
Black Violin combines classical, hip hop, R&B and bluegrass as
part of the Presidential Lecture & Performance Series.

WHAT: American duo Black Violin will perform at Texas Tech University next month at the Presidential Lecture & Performance Series.

Black Violin, made up of Kev Marcus and Wil B, was named one of the hottest bands at the annual South by Southwest music festival in 2013. The Florida natives have a unique blend of classical, hip hop, R&B and bluegrass music. They have played for members of the military abroad and at the official President's Inaugural Ball and the Kids Inaugural Concert in Washington, D.C., as well as playing with Alicia Keys and Linkin Park.

As writers and producers, the two have worked with P. Diddy, Kanye West, Aerosmith, 50 Cent and Tom Petty. Kev Marcus and Wil B push their instruments to the limit, weaving in and out of genres and entertaining audiences with a range from classical music to old-fashioned hoedowns.

Tickets are $18 and are available at Select-A-Seat, by phone at (806) 770-2000 or at www.selectaseat.com. Texas Tech students will receive one free ticket with a student ID at the info desk in the Allen Theatre.

Black Violin will sign CDs after the event in the theatre lobby.

Visit the PLPS website or Facebook page for additional information.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Feb. 12

WHERE: Allen Theatre, Student Union Building

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**CONTACT: Jo Moore, director, Presidential Lecture & Performance Series, Texas Tech University,** (806) 834-5261 or jo.moore@ttu.edu

# Expert Pitch

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 14, 2016
CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**It's (Probably, Maybe) Leo's Time: Experts Weigh In On Oscar Nominations**

The surprises with the 2016 Academy Awards aren't so much who made the list but who didn't. Various cinema experts from Texas Tech University are available to discuss what performers and films were nominated this year, which weren't and whether Leonardo DiCaprio will finally take home a golden statue.

**Tim Day, film instructor,** (806) 577-9267 or tim.day@ttu.edu
Day teaches screenwriting, race and gender in film and sports and American film. He writes the blog Day at the Movies, where he reviews movies, including best and worst of the year.

- A year after the Oscars had its whitest year on record, it beat that record. All of the actor and actress nominees are white. Will Smith wasn't nominated for "Concussion," Michael B. Jordan wasn't nominated for "Creed" and Idris Elba wasn't nominated for "Beasts of No Nation," a widely acclaimed film that wasn't nominated in any category.
- "Room" deserved its Best Picture and Best Director nominations. Christian Bale, though he may have deserved his Best Supporting Actor nomination, did not have a better performance than "The Big Short" co-star Steve Carell, who did not earn a Best Actor nod.
- Hollywood favorite Jennifer Lawrence has no chance of winning, while Leonardo DiCaprio and Sylvester Stallone are virtual locks in the actor categories.
- "Leonardo has been nominated six times and has been snubbed that many more times. 'The Revenant' isn't even in his top five best performances, but Leo will win for his larger body of work."
- "Mad Max" likely will beat out "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" in the technical categories and is likely to win the most awards of the night, but not in major categories. Sam Smith will win Best Song for "Spectre."
- "In ironic fashion, 'Earned It' is a Best Song nominee from 'Fifty Shades of Grey.' Really? Why no love for Wiz Khalifa? If you can have a song from this soft-core porn, why not a 'Fast and Furious' movie?"

**Rob Peaslee, chairman,** Department of Journalism & Electronic Media, (806) 834-2562 or robert.peaslee@ttu.edu
Peaslee teaches visual communications, writing for feature film and "The Blockbuster." He researches fan cultures, film, global and international media, media anthropology and superheroes and culture.

- Count another vote for DiCaprio as Best Actor and Stallone as Best Supporting Actor, especially after the standing ovation Sly received at the Golden Globes last weekend.
- "The momentum for Best Picture today is in favor of 'The Revenant,' but I suspect that may wane a bit. The overall buzz from film people I know is the two best films on this list are 'Spotlight' and 'Mad Max.' Given its genre, I think 'Mad Max' wins by being nominated, so I'm going with 'Spotlight' here."
- Brie Larson is the likely Best Actress pick for her "devastating and devastatingly good" performance in "Room," with Rachel McAdams potentially winning Best Supporting Actress for "Spotlight," though she's had a good year all-around.
- The hardest category this year is Cinematography; "Mad Max" and John Seale may come in for an upset here.
- Other predictions: "Inside Out" will probably win Best Animated Feature, though "Anomalisa" should, and Alejandro G. Iñárritu will likely win Best Director for "The Revenant."

**Rob Weiner, pop culture librarian,** (806) 834-5126 or rob.weiner@ttu.edu
Weiner has published articles in "Movies in American History" and "Too Bold for the Box Office" and is co-editor of "From the Grindhouse to the Arthouse."

- "Mad Max" is his pick for Best Picture, though it's an atypical genre for this award. "Mad Max" showed equalization between women and men in film is possible and you could still have a testosterone-filled action flick that satisfies.
- DiCaprio likely will win, as people have been clamoring for him to win an Oscar for years. However, Bryan Cranston from "Trumbo" deserves the Best Actor statue.
- "Cranston's performance is amazing, and it shows why he is an actor I think is up there with Daniel Day-Lewis as one of the best actors in our time."
- Mark Ruffalo from "Spotlight" and Jennifer Jason Leigh in "The Hateful Eight" deserve supporting actor and actress praise, with Best Director likely going to Iñárritu.
- "Ultimately with the Oscars one really never knows. Sometimes they are so predictable it's pathetic, and other times the Academy can still surprise."

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 14, 2016
CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Team Wins Grant to Promote Engineering Graduate Programs in Ethiopia**
The team includes professors from engineering, education, natural resources management and architecture.

An interdisciplinary team from Texas Tech University is one of three groups and the only American team to win a sizable international grant to increase engineering programs in Ethiopia.

Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, the associate dean of research and graduate programs in the Whitacre College of Engineering, is the principal investigator (PI) for the grant, which is funded by the German Agency for International Cooperation and administered by the British Council. The grant provides 1 million euros (about $1.1 million) to create a center of excellence at Jimma Institute of Technology (JiT) affiliated with Jimma University in southwest Ethiopia as well as additional graduate programs at JiT and three other regional universities. The grant will focus on civil engineering and construction technology.

In addition to Ekwaro-Osire, the members of the team are Joseph Aranha (architecture), Tewodros Ghebrab (civil, environmental and construction engineering, or CECE), Dave Louis (education), Gad Perry (conservation biology), Sanjaya Senadheera (CECE) and Venkatesh Uddameri (CECE and director of the Water Resources Center). Other faculty members from the Department of Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering may teach distance classes and act as mentors as well.

In the last decade Ethiopia has seen a substantial increase in university attendance. From 2002 to 2012 the number of university students rose from 58,000 to 554,000, and there was a 1,600 percent increase in postgraduate students in the same time period. However, there are not enough professors to conduct research and teach the students, meaning staff with master's degrees are teaching courses that should be taught by staff with doctorate degrees. At JiT, only 27 of the 405 staff members have doctorate degrees. Few avenues exist to correct this imbalance as many schools, including JiT, don't have Ph.D. programs.

"They have these universities they need staffed as quickly as possible, but they do not want their students to go overseas because students who go overseas sometimes do not return in a timely manner," Ekwaro-Osire said. "That's why the focus of this grant is on development of home-grown graduate programs."

The grant will create resources for an additional 200 master's students and 20 doctoral students spread throughout four universities. The Texas Tech team will design the

curricula, introduce at least three new graduate programs and expand others, teach online classes, mentor graduate students and conduct research. They want to make sure the graduate students know how to research and how to teach so they can continue teaching at Ethiopian universities after graduation.

Job Kasule, a former postgraduate researcher from Texas Tech, will be the grant's scientific coordinator at JiT. He will work with the PIs in the grant to coordinate distance learning, international collaboration, mentoring and research grants and other research opportunities.

The grant funding lasts for two years, at which time the team hopes to have enough students in place to make the engineering education programs self-sustaining and have the infrastructure surrounding the center of excellence at JiT in place.

This grant is one of several international awards the university has received in the last two years since the International Research and Development Division (IRDD) of the Office of International Affairs was created to increase focus on the global community. Sukant Misra, associate vice provost for international programs, said IRDD fosters relationships with funding agencies and international partners, which led to being notified about the British Council opportunity.

It was a good fit because of the university's connections with Ethiopia and the unique resources Texas Tech has to address issues facing the west African nation, such as limited water. The College of Engineering also has one of the best distance education programs in the nation, which will be put to use to teach graduate students halfway around the globe.

The increasing focus on international collaboration and research is moving Texas Tech toward national research institution status, he said.

"It is a crucial part of the activities of research-intensive universities that seek to offer opportunities for students and faculty to interact with an increasingly globalized scientific, economic and cultural environment," Misra said. "The Office of International Affairs integrates the global vision of the university by increasing the capacity of Texas Tech faculty and creating new opportunities to enhance the global reputation of the university."

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**CONTACT: Stephen Ekwaro-Osire, associate dean of research and graduate programs, Whitacre College of Engineering, Texas Tech University,** (806) 834-1308 or stephen.ekwaro-osire@ttu.edu

# Expert Pitch

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 15, 2016
CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Early Start to Hurricane Season May Be Evidence of Stronger Storms to Come**

**Pitch**
A rare January start to hurricane season may be evidence of changing ocean temperatures, which can make for stronger storms.

Hurricane Alex is only the second hurricane on record to form in the Atlantic Ocean during the month of January; the other was in 1938. Alex also is the first January hurricane to occur in the Atlantic since Alice, which formed Dec. 31, 1954. Alex became the strongest January hurricane on record Thursday when its winds reached an estimated 85 mph, exceeding the 80 mph peak of both Alice and the 1938 hurricane. The Atlantic hurricane season officially runs from June 1 through Nov. 30.

Alex made landfall as a tropical storm early Friday in The Azores, a group of islands in the North Atlantic Ocean about 850 miles west of Portugal, and was expected to transition into a non-tropical, low-pressure system by late Friday.

Katharine Hayhoe, director of the Texas Tech University Climate Science Center, is available to talk about the climate change implications of such an early start to the hurricane season. Her research focuses on developing and applying high-resolution climate projections to evaluate the future impacts of climate change on human society and the natural environment. She has published more than 120 peer-reviewed publications and served as lead author on key reports for the U.S. Global Change Research Program and the National Academy of Sciences, including the Second and Third U.S. National Climate Assessments.

She serves on the American Geophysical Union's Hydrology Committee on Uncertainty, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Climate Predictions and Projections team and the NOAA Climate.gov advisory team. She also serves as a scientific adviser to the National Center for Atmospheric Research's Climate and Global Dynamics Laboratory, Citizen's Climate Lobby, the EcoAmerica MomentUS project, the Energy and Enterprise Initiative and the Evangelical Environmental Network. In 2014, she was named one of the TIME 100 most influential people in the world and one of Foreign Policy's 100 global thinkers. She is frequently featured in national media speaking on issues related to climate science, impacts and solutions.

**Expert**
Katharine Hayhoe, director, Texas Tech University Climate Science Center, (806) 834-8665 or ljames@atmosresearch.com

**Talking Points**

- Alex is the first Atlantic storm to form in January since 1978 and the first hurricane since 1938.
- Alex's strength is unusual because tropical storms thrive most over warm waters, a condition not common in the North Atlantic Ocean in the middle of winter.
- Human activity is creating more favorable conditions for stronger storms.

**Quotes**

- "Hurricanes require warm ocean water. That's what supplies their energy. The warmer the ocean water, the stronger the hurricane."
- "As climate changes due to human activities, more and more of the excess heat being trapped by the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is going into the oceans."
- "As the heat content of the oceans increases, so too does their temperature."
- "This means the conditions conducive to hurricanes — particularly strong ones — will likely increase as climate changes."

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 15, 2016
CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Texas Tech University to Dedicate Newest Piece of Public Art on Thursday**
Marco Cianfanelli's "Knowledge Structure" draws parallels between nature and intellect.

WHAT: Dedication for artist Marco Cianfanelli's steel sculpture "Knowledge Structure," the newest piece of public art on the Texas Tech University campus as part of the university system's 1 Percent for Art program.

The 17-foot-tall mild steel sculpture, designed to rust over time, was designed and created to relate to the work that goes on at the Innovation Hub and Research Park. It is meant to change in appearance from different vantage points. "From some angles it appears to be a naturalistic tree, exploring geometric construction in nature," said Emily Wilkinson, Texas Tech's public art director. "From other angles it represents a human brain, connected to the ground by five vertical conduits or columns.

"A parallel is drawn between tree and intellect. The trunks and branches represent a notion of different disciplines which are connected, interrelated and interdependent, sharing resources and displaying a process of growth and interconnectedness," Wilkinson said. "The form of the human brain is evident, a neural network that is connected to, as well as dependent on, the earth. In this sense, the five columns or trunks that support the brain can be seen as conduits. This concept emphasizes the importance of innovation, science and technology in the furthering of humanity, as endeavors that need to be responsive to and in synergy with, the environment."

WHEN: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday (Jan. 21)

WHERE: Texas Tech University Innovation Hub and Research Park, 3911 4th St.

EVENT: University System Chancellor Robert Duncan and Michael Molina, vice chancellor for Facilities Planning & Construction, will speak during the dedication ceremony. The University Public Art Committee will also attend.

The dedication event is open to the public. Reservations are requested by Tuesday (Jan. 19) to presidents.events@ttu.edu.

Cianfanelli is well-known for his bold public art pieces and large-scale sculptural works. He was a member of the design team for The Freedom Park, South Africa's national monument to freedom, in Pretoria. His monumental fragmented portrait sculpture, Release, has recently been inaugurated to symbolically mark the 50th anniversary of Nelson Mandela's capture at the site in the KwaZulu Natal Midlands. He has had seven solo exhibitions and has won numerous awards, including the ABSA L'Atelier and Ampersand Fellowship.

Learn more about the university's Public Art Program here.

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**CONTACT: Emily Wilkinson, public art director, Facilities Planning & Construction, Texas Tech University System** (806) 742-2116 or emily.wilkinson@ttu.edu

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 19, 2016
CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Texas Tech Helping Lead Way in Program Bringing Agricultural Scholars from Developing Countries to Earn Doctorate Degrees**

The doctoral candidates study in America for three years before finishing their final year in their home country.

Through various programs funded through large national grants, the Texas Tech University Office of International Affairs (OIA) continues to build its reputation throughout the world.

A sure sign of that growth is a program that brings scholars from developing countries to Texas Tech to complete a doctorate degree and help solve food security and availability issues in their native lands. That's exactly what the Bourlag Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) program aims to do.

Named after Nobel Peace Prize winner Norman Bourlag, the program aims to increase the number of agricultural scientists and strengthen scientific institutions in developing countries. Texas Tech has been involved with the program for two years and saw its enrollment triple from the first year to the second.

"As an institution of higher education, we need to operate in a global context, and these types of programs allow our students to understand global issues and the faculty to work within that global challenge," said Sukant Misra, the associate vice provost for international affairs. "Then all of us can be informed and be part of the global solution."

The BHEARD program was developed in 2013 at Michigan State University through a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Association of Public Land-grant Universities (APLU). Texas Tech became involved in the program in 2014 when an open call was held by Michigan State for universities who wished to join the program.

With Texas Tech's strong background in agricultural education through the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, it seemed the BHEARD program was a perfect fit. Of the 13 universities participating in the program, Texas Tech is the only non-land grant university.

“Obviously, Michigan State was very pleased with how we managed ourselves, how we responded to the needs of the program and how we delivered what we promised we were going to deliver,” Misra said. “That’s hugely important to Michigan State.”

Scholars who apply to the BHEARD program come from Feed the Future countries, mostly African and Central American countries dealing with issues of food supply and security. Those selected are then paired with a faculty adviser in one of three departments – Agricultural Education and Communication, Agricultural and Applied Economics and Plant and Soil Science.

After three years pursuing their degree at Texas Tech, students return to their home country to finish their fourth year and earn their degree, and their Texas Tech faculty adviser travels to their home country for about 10 days during that fourth year to assist them.

In the first two years of the program, Texas Tech has received more than $1.4 million from USAID to educate these students, which includes travel expenses, all educational costs, health insurance and housing. The students chosen for the program are hired as graduate research assistants.

According to Misra, only a handful of schools outside of Michigan State have more than one or two students. That puts Texas Tech ahead of such prestigious company such as Ohio State, Washington State, Florida, Louisiana State, Kansas State, Virginia Tech and others.

“That’s extremely important for us as an academic institution to educate and graduate more doctoral students,” Misra said.

Misra credited Texas Tech’s early success and growth within the program to several factors Michigan State looks at when considering schools for the program – competitiveness of the doctorate programs, experience and expertise of the faculty adviser, flexibility with admissions deadlines and delivery of what is promised.

He said with the success students at Texas Tech have already shown in a short period of time, he is confident the 2016-17 class of BHEARD students could reach an additional seven or eight coming to Texas Tech.

“This program is not going away,” Misra said. “Given what we’ve seen so far and what the faculty interested in the program have seen, and that Michigan State is pleased with what we have done and what we can do, we hope to continue to grow this program, and that comes with dollars that strengthens our research enterprise.”

To read the full story, click here.

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**CONTACT: Sukant Misra, associate vice provost for international affairs, Office of International Affairs, Texas Tech University,** (806) 742-3667 or sukant.misra@ttu.edu

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 20, 2016
CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**MEDIA** – Lisa McDonald, director of the Kinetic Accelerator, will be present to assist, but requests no photos or video be taken of her. Mentors will be available for on-camera interviews.

**2016 Kinetic Accelerator Cohort Kicks Off with All-Day Boot Camp**

The Kinetic Accelerator, Innovated by Texas Tech assists researchers in commercializing their intellectual property.

WHAT: The 2016 class of the Kinetic Accelerator, Innovated by Texas Tech kicks off with an all-day boot camp for members of the Texas Tech University System community interested in research and intellectual property commercialization and launching an entrepreneurial venture.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday (Jan. 23)

WHERE: Texas Tech Innovation Hub and Research Park, 3911 4th St., first floor conference rooms

WHO: Students from Texas Tech University, the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and the Texas Tech School of Law applied to the Kinetic Accelerator program and were selected by an independent panel of mentors who will assist them along the way. Some of the mentors, all but one of whom live outside Lubbock, will be present.

Also in attendance will be representatives from the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance; Robert V. Duncan, Texas Tech's senior vice president for research; and Ryan Davis, business development director for New York City-based founder.org, which invests in young innovators.

EVENT: The event begins with a breakfast and networking sessions. Lisa McDonald, director of the Kinetic Accelerator, will give an introduction to the program and the modules participants will encounter starting at 9:30 a.m., and guest speakers will give presentations of how technology commercialization is vital to advance society and innovate culture. Cameron Smith, a licensed patent attorney and licensing associate in the Office of Research Commercialization, will speak about the patent process and its meaning in a university setting.

"We will provide our faculty researchers a road map for commercialization," McDonald said. "We are teaching the fundamentals of commercialization and the process of launching entrepreneurial ventures."

Davis will give a presentation at 11:30 a.m., followed by one-on-one meetings with participants with the possibility of a capital investment of up to $100,000.

Media may come and go throughout the event, but the event is closed to the public.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 21, 2016
CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Texas Tech Wool Team Wins National Western Stock Show Competition**
Red Raiders place four individuals in the top 10 overall.

Before the semester began, the Texas Tech University Wool Judging Team has already picked up its first victory of the spring, taking first and second place at the National Western Stock Show in Denver.

Two teams from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources outlasted Angelo State to earn the win. The Texas Tech Black team took first with 2,043 points followed by Texas Tech Alternates with 2,036 points. The Texas Tech Red Team finished seventh with 1,992 points.

Texas Tech also placed four individual finishers in the top 10. Ivie Mynatt, a freshman from Eldorado, competed for the Black team and finished second with 694 points. Brooke Blum, a freshman from Howe on the Alternates team, was fourth with 686 points while April Molitor, a freshman from Hondo from the Alternates, was sixth with 678 points. Shallowater freshman Cole Bradford from the Red finished ninth with 676 points just ahead of Delaney Hanagan, a freshman from Artesia, New Mexico, from the Black team with 673 points.

Mynatt finished second in grading and ninth in placings. Blum was second in reasons and fourth in placings. Molitor finished fourth in grading and ninth in reasons. Bradford took seventh in placings and 10$^{th}$ in reasons while Hanagan was 10$^{th}$ in placings.

Clay Braden, a freshman from Wall competing on the Red team, took third in grading. Sam Spradlin, a freshman from Granbury on the Alternates team, was fifth in placings and third in reasons. Ryder Mata, a freshman from Seminole, and Matthew Huston, a sophomore from Gainesville, both competing for the Red team, finished fifth and sixth, respectively, in reasons.

Other team members include:

- Kaylee Martin, a freshman from Roscoe
- Dean Chapman, a freshman from Sweetwater
- Ben Mills, a freshman from Shallowater
- Kyle Mahagan, a sophomore from Plainview

Texas A&M's Alternates team finished fourth followed by its Maroon and White teams.

Sam Jackson, an associate professor in the Texas Tech University Department of Animal and Food Sciences, serves as the teams' adviser.

The team is coached by graduate student Dan Crownover from Italy; Colton Fritz, a senior from Fredericksburg; Gabe Jennings, a junior from Mason; Bryce Winfrey, a junior from Seminole; and Breanne Burner, a sophomore from Grape Creek.

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**CONTACT: Moriah Beyers, coordinator, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Texas Tech University,** (806) 742-2805 or moriah.beyers@ttu.edu

# Expert Pitch

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 22, 2016
CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Expert Gives Tips to Extend New Year's Fitness Resolutions Past January**

**Pitch**
Every year, thousands of people start exercise routines in January as part of a New Year's resolution. Gyms and exercise classes are full of people invigorated by their new routines, but only a few weeks into the new year, most of those have reverted to their old habits. Emily Dhurandhar, a visiting assistant professor of nutritional sciences in the Texas Tech University Department of Kinesiology and Sport Management, can offer tips to keep that momentum going.

Dhurandhar teaches an undergraduate-level course on physiological application of nutrition to exercise and physical activity. Her research interest is in the dietary and psychosocial factors that influence energy balance-related behaviors and body weight. She has developed an interdisciplinary research program to study how particular foods and food components, eating patterns, environmental factors and psychosocial factors may affect the regulation of energy balance to result in weight gain and obesity. She earned her bachelor of science in nutritional sciences from Michigan State University and her doctorate in human nutrition from Louisiana State University before completing a post-doctoral fellowship with the University of Alabama-Birmingham's Nutrition Obesity Research Center.

**Expert**
Emily Dhurandhar, visiting assistant professor, (806) 834-6556 or emily.dhurandhar@ttu.edu

**Talking Points**
- Be realistic and set a reasonable goal. Setting one's fitness goals too high in the new year can backfire for a lot of reasons.
- Do it for the right reasons. If a person is going to the gym to see the number on the scale change and lose a significant amount of weight, he or she may be disappointed and unmotivated pretty quickly. Going to the gym to look and feel better are great reasons to go, but the results aren't likely to be very obvious from the scale.
- Consider, identify and remove all barriers before starting a new fitness regimen. Changing habits is hard work, comes at a cost and many things can get in the way.
- One of the biggest reasons for not being able to sustain a physical activity program is having anxiety or depression at the start. If a person is concerned about the stability of his or her mood, or stress and anxiety, consider evaluating these issues first with a professional.
- Make sure to have the support of friends and family and set aside the necessary time for the new regimen.

**Quotes**

- "Self-efficacy, or confidence in the fact that you can achieve something, is a large part of sticking to a fitness regimen. When setting your goals, stick to what you know, since self-efficacy usually comes from having done something before successfully, and make sure you are 100 percent confident it is something you can achieve."
- "You are in this for the long haul, and consistency is the name of the game. Running one mile a day for a year is much better than trying to run three miles a day and quitting after the first month."
- "Exercise without any other significant changes in diet usually only produces a few pounds of weight loss. Instead, look for results in your energy levels, your mood, your strength and physical functioning, and inches lost. Even consider the fact that exercise plays a big role in maintaining body weight and consider that weight maintenance can be a victory. If you are trying to lose weight, exercise is only one important part of the process, and I would recommend talking with a dietician to make any sustainable changes in your diet that are more than a fad."
- "The consistency of a fitness regimen in the first five weeks following the commitment is the best predictor of long-term success, and that's about how long it takes for something to become a habit. So, make sure you've paved the way for success in those early stages, to make sure you give yourself the chance to develop a new sustainable habit."

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 22, 2016
CONTACT: George Watson, george.watson@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Texas Tech Meat Judging Team Wins Competition at National Western Contest**
The livestock team finished fourth at a competition in Colorado by winning the sheep- and goat-judging categories.

Fresh off the program's 12th national championship last fall, the Texas Tech University meat judging team opened the spring season with a victory Sunday (Jan. 17) at the American Meat Science Association National Western Collegiate Meat Judging Contest in Greeley, Colorado.

The Texas Tech team from the Department of Animal and Food Sciences in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, outpaced Colorado State University with 4,198 points. CSU was second with 4,159 points, followed by Oklahoma State University (4,137), Texas A&M University (4,098) and the University of Missouri (4,062).

Tommy Fletcher, a sophomore from LaVernia, finished as the top overall winner with 1,068 points. Fletcher took first place in beef grading (268 points), overall beef (553) and specifications (100). Fletcher also finished sixth in beef judging and reasons while taking 10th in total placing.

Chelsi Vineyard, a sophomore from Bridgeport, took first in beef judging with 290 points and total placing (497) while finishing sixth in lamb judging (142). She also finished eighth in reasons and 10th in specifications. Cole Perkins, who finished fourth overall with 1,054 points, took third in pork judging, fourth in specifications and reasons, seventh in total placing and overall beef, eighth in beef judging and ninth in lamb judging.

Kye Schwartz, a sophomore from San Angelo, finished sixth overall with 1,045 points. He was fifth in overall beef, sixth in beef grading and ninth in specifications.

Other members of the meat judging team are:

- Lane Harrington, a junior from Waxahachie
- Augustus Holbein, a junior from Hebbronville
- Jessica Humphrey, a junior from Okeechobee, Florida
- Kiersten Scott, a junior from Scott City, Kansas
- Katlynn Freeman, a sophomore from Panhandle
- Shannon O'Quinn, a sophomore from Galveston

- Keeley Sears, a sophomore from Weatherford
- Courtney Jasik, a junior from Mertzon
- Blayne Troxell, a sophomore from Pampa
- Boyd Henry, a sophomore from San Angelo
- Megan Writt, a sophomore from Spring
- Kyle Caldwell, a sophomore from Midlothian

The meat judging team is coached by professor Mark Miller and assisted by instructor Loni Lucherk and graduate assistants Nick Hardcastle and Mallorie Phelps.

The Texas Tech livestock judging team also competed over the weekend, finishing fourth at a competition in Denver with first-place finishes in sheep and goat judging.

Members of the livestock judging team are:

- Gabe Jennings, a junior from Fredonia
- Brody Halfmann, a junior from Garden City
- Johnathan Nieman, a junior from New Home
- Chama Martin, a junior from Mason
- Zane Webste, a junior r from San Simon, Arizona
- Dakota Crissman, a junior from Bells
- Bryce Winfrey, a junior from Seminole
- L.J. Young, a junior from Pendleton, Indiana
- Austin Adams, a junior from Hedley
- Maclaine Shuls, a junior from Meeker, Colorado

The livestock team is coached by associate professor Ryan Rathmann and assisted by doctoral student Jon DeClerck.

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**CONTACT: Moriah Beyers, coordinator, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Texas Tech University,** (806) 742-2805 or moriah.beyers@ttu.edu

# Expert Pitch

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 25, 2016
CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Experts Available to Discuss Increasing Rates of Food Addiction and Its Role in Obesity Epidemic**

As awareness about addictions and disordered eating arise, two researchers at Texas Tech University are examining food addiction, its effect on the brain, the gastrointestinal symptom and how to recognize and treat it.

Cynthia Dsauza, an assistant professor of addictive disorders and recovery studies, and Allison Childress, a registered dietitian and nutritional sciences instructor, are in the early stages of a study examining the biochemical markers of hunger and satiety and will eventually include clinical trials to compare people with food addiction and those without in several areas of functioning. Their collaboration came about after working with clients who struggled to lose weight despite having the knowledge and tools necessary to do so.

The study also will look at how food addiction compares to drug addiction in its effects in the brain.

Dsauza studies binge eating disorders and food addiction. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist who has worked in mental health for seven years; she also works with the Obesity Research Cluster at Texas Tech. She has spoken to various nutrition and dietetics organizations about her research in disordered eating.

Childress is director of the didactic program in dietetics and a nutritional sciences instructor. She is certified in sports dietetics and as a personal trainer. She specializes in cardiac, pediatric and geriatric dietetics, sports nutrition and weight management counseling. She is on the board of directors of the Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and has twice been named an Everyday Hero by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

**Expert**
Cynthia Dsauza, assistant professor of addictive disorders and recovery studies, (806) 834-7335 or cm.dsauza@ttu.edu

Allison Childress, nutritional sciences instructor, (806) 834-6371 or allison.childress@ttu.edu

**Talking Points**

- There is no universal definition for food addiction, nor is there a gold standard for treatment, although previous studies have established food addiction exists.

- There is more and more evidence that certain types of food can be addictive. Those most likely to be are foods that are high in sugar, salt and fat (or a delicious combination of the three), such as pizza, chocolate, chips, cookies, ice cream, French fries, cheeseburgers, soda, cake and cheese.
- Three regions in the brain deal with addiction: the amygdala, prefrontal cortex and nucleus accumbens. The dopamine system is activated through the circuitry of these regions and is thought to be an essential aspect of drug/alcohol, and possibly food, seeking. Triggers such as pictures, smells and memories of foods can release dopamine into the nucleus accumbens in the hope of a "rewarding event."
- As people seek out ways to satisfy these cravings, they develop a strong association between trigger and satisfaction.
- Because food addiction is a newly recognized type of disordered eating, many doctors fail to recognize it. However, a patient should seek out not only his or her primary care physician for guidance but also a dietitian and licensed mental health provider.
- Obesity and food addiction can be related, although not always. Typically as body mass index increases food addiction symptoms increase. However, a person can be at a normal weight and still suffer from food addiction.

**Symptoms of food addiction**

- Cravings for certain foods
- Often eating much more than intended
- Eating to the point of feeling excessively full
- Feeling guilty after eating particular foods, yet eating them again despite intentions not to
- Making excuses about eating something one is craving
- Repeatedly trying to quit eating certain foods or setting rules around those foods, but not succeeding at those attempts
- Hiding consumption of unhealthy foods from others
- Unable to control consumption of unhealthy foods despite causing physical harm, including weight gain

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# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 25, 2016
CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136
Photographs are available upon request.

**Harry Belafonte, Cornel West to Speak during African-American History Month**
Lectures will focus on activism and the endurance of racism in Barack Obama's America.

Entertainer and activist Harry Belafonte and racial justice champion Cornel West will speak to the Texas Tech University community in February as part of the 2016 African-American History Month Lecture Series.

Belafonte will give his speech, "My Life in Activism," at 7 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Student Union Building's Allen Theatre. West's speech, scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 25 in the Allen Theatre, will discuss what has and has not changed for black Americans and other racial minorities during Barack Obama's presidency.

Both lectures are free and open to the public but space is limited. Tickets, which are limited to two per person, are available on a first-come, first-served basis in Doak Hall, Room 101, beginning Feb. 1.

"The goal of the lecture series is to bring distinguished African-American writers, artists and others to Texas Tech to share their stories with our community," said Karlos Hill, founding director of the lecture series and an associate professor in the Texas Tech Department of History. "This is a really good opportunity for the university to increase awareness of African-American history and life, so I'm really looking forward to these lectures."

Belafonte was the first black performer to win an Emmy Award and the first recording artist to sell more than a million copies of a single album with "Calypso" (1956) featuring his hit "Day-O." After he met a young Martin Luther King Jr. in the early 1950s, the two developed a deep and abiding friendship, and Belafonte played a key role in the civil rights movement, including the 1963 March on Washington. In 1985, disturbed by war, drought and famine in Africa, Belafonte helped organize the Grammy-winning song "We Are the World," a multi-artist effort to raise funds for Africa. Belafonte was active in efforts to end apartheid in South Africa and release Nelson Mandela from prison.

He served as the cultural adviser for the Peace Corps, a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and was honored as an Ambassador of Conscience by Amnesty International. Recently, Belafonte founded the Sankofa Justice & Equity Fund, a nonprofit social justice organization that utilizes the power of culture and celebrity in partnership with activism.

Belafonte received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in November 2014.

"Harry Belafonte is someone who is distinguished as an entertainer, but over his career and even recently he's been very outspoken about American politics and the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq," Hill said. "He's 88 years old and I was told by his agent this is probably going to be the last year he's in the lecture circuit because he's starting to slow down a little bit. So we thought this was a great opportunity to get someone of his caliber here to talk to our students about what it means to be an activist, to be a change agent in society. And hopefully he can inspire our students to be change agents."

As one of America's most provocative public intellectuals, West has been a champion for racial justice since childhood. His writing, speaking and teaching weave together the traditions of the Black Baptist Church, progressive politics and jazz. West is a professor of philosophy and Christian practice at Union Theological Seminary and professor emeritus at Princeton University. He also taught at Yale, Harvard and the University of Paris. His 1993 book, "Race Matters," a searing analysis of racism in American democracy, is a bestseller.

In 1993, he was the winner of The American Book Award. West has written more than 20 books and has edited 13. He offers commentary weekly on "The Tavis Smiley Show" and is a frequent guest on "Real Time with Bill Maher," "The Colbert Report," CNN, C-Span and Democracy Now. He has appeared in more than 25 documentaries and films and has made three spoken-word albums.

"Cornel West is probably the most recognized, pre-eminent African American studies professor in America today," Hill said. "He was probably one of Obama's most vocal critics of foreign policy and domestic policy in terms of the treatment of African-Americans, so we thought it would be great to have him talk about how black Americans have fared during Obama's presidency.

"Many people thought Obama's election meant we had overcome racism in this county. West has been pushing against that, saying how black Americans are still facing discrimination and racism as we see with Black Lives Matter and other social issues. We wanted someone with his level of credibility to come in and help us understand what perspective we ought to have on President Obama right now and going forward."

The African-American History Month Lecture Series is sponsored by the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost and the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement. It is co-sponsored by the College of Visual & Performing Arts, the Department of History, the Department of Political Science, the Women's Studies Program, the Humanities Center, the Honors College, the Cross-Cultural Academic Advancement Center and the Black Faculty and Staff Association.

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**CONTACT: Karlos Hill, founding director, African-American History Month Lecture Series, Texas Tech University,** karlos.hill@ttu.edu

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 25, 2016
CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Media Availability with Interim President John Opperman**

WHAT: John Opperman will be available to the media to discuss his position as interim president of Texas Tech University.

WHEN: 5 p.m. Monday (Jan. 25)

WHERE: Board of Regents Committee Room (Room 206), Administration Building

Parking will be available in the lot east of the Student Union Building by McClellan Hall.

VIDEO: Broadcast-quality video of the media gathering will be made available after the event on the Texas Tech University System FTP. For log-in information contact Jeff Ramazani with the Office of Communications and Marketing at jeff.ramazani@ttu.edu.

**About John Opperman**
John Opperman was named vice chancellor for academic affairs for the Texas Tech University System in June. In that role he is responsible for systemwide strategic planning, academic affairs and policy development. He served as vice chancellor for policy and planning from 2002 to 2015, overseeing strategic planning for the system and academic policy issues assigned by the chancellor. From 1996 to 1999 he was vice chancellor of administration and finance and chief financial officer with the Texas Tech System. He also spent more than 20 years in public service with the State of Texas, working on issues related to higher education, public education and state budgeting.

Opperman served as director of budget, policy and planning for the governor of Texas, budget director for the lt. governor of Texas and director of the Senate Finance Committee in the Texas Legislature. He also served as special adviser to the lt. governor on public and higher education policy and the state budget and as special adviser to Sen. Jane Nelson. He earned his bachelor's degree in economics at Texas Tech and his master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.

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**CONTACT: Chris Cook, managing director, Office of Communications and Marketing, Texas Tech University** (806) 742-2136 or chris.cook@ttu.edu

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 26, 2016
CONTACT: Amanda Castro-Crist, amanda.castro-crist@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Texas Tech Libraries Seek Book Cover Art for "Recovering the Classics" Exhibit**

Members of the Texas Tech and Lubbock communities are invited to submit works of art for inclusion in a pop-up art gallery of reimagined covers of classic novels.

Staff members of the Texas Tech University Libraries are asking local artists to flex their artistic muscles and recreate the cover art of classic novels.

The artwork will be displayed in the "Recovering the Classics" pop-up gallery, slated for a 7 p.m. opening on Feb. 8 in Library Room 309. The opening will launch a book reading series that will last through the month and include guest speakers and discussions focusing on "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

"We've done book reads, but we really haven't had a fun art event like this before," personal librarian Kimberly Vardeman said.

Recovering the Classics is an organization that uses crowdsourcing to collect original covers for classics in the public domain that may otherwise be left with poorly designed or auto-generated covers. Artists interested in participating in the Texas Tech exhibit can create paintings, prints, sculptures, collages or other visual art to represent any of the 50 classic titles listed on this website.

"Moby Dick" and "The Works of Edgar Allan Poe" are among those listed on the website. Personal librarian Cynthia Henry said two artists have already made plans to submit art based on the works. The amount of submissions or size of the art is up to the creator, each of whom will be responsible for drop-off and pick-up of their pieces, she said.

"As long as you can move it across campus, you can make it whatever size you want," Henry said. "They can submit as many things as they want."

Plans for the pop-up gallery at Texas Tech began after Vardeman attended the American Libraries Association Conference in San Francisco last year and viewed a gallery of prints illustrating reimagined book covers.

"They had all different sizes of the posters," Vardeman said. "They had some that were probably 24-by-36 inches, and they had some that were postcard size."

Visitors to the Texas Tech gallery will have a chance to see some of the same art she saw at the conference, she added.

“They’ll be sent here from the organization,” Vardeman said. “We’ll have around 40 pieces of art from them and in addition to that, we’ll have whatever our local community submits.”

Henry said after the exhibit closes, those prints will be available to other libraries through a collaboration between the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and Texas Tech University Libraries.

“We’re going to let any library across the state use them,” Henry said. “All they have to do is contact me and we’ll ship them, and then they can do their own pop-up gallery.”

Deadline to submit art for exhibit consideration is 5 p.m. on Feb. 5. Those interested should send their art to cynthia.henry@ttu.edu at the University Libraries. Submissions must include the artist’s name, contact phone number and email address.

For more information about Recovering the Classics, visit its website.

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**CONTACT: Cynthia Henry, personal librarian, Texas Tech University Libraries,** (806)-834-0898 or cynthia.henry@ttu.edu.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 27, 2016
CONTACT: Jenae Fleming, jb.fleming@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Texas Tech Women's Studies Hosts Sexism in Cinema Film Series**
The series will begin Feb. 3 with a showing of "Winter's Bone."

The Texas Tech University Women's Studies Program is sponsoring the Sexism in Cinema Film Series which will consider the ways in which sexism is embedded, endorsed and/or challenged in cinema.

Elizabeth Sharp, associate professor in the College of Human Sciences, said more than 500 people have enjoyed the film series since the series began in 2015.

"The purpose of the series is to promote critical engagement with popular films," Sharp said. "The discussions of the film help create community and raise awareness about representations of men, women, race/ethnicity, sexuality, class, objectification and sexual violence."

Each film features female protagonists to be viewed and discussed. The movies begin at 7 p.m. at Alamo Drafthouse with a brief introduction. Following each showing, a discussion will be led by Texas Tech faculty members and special guest speakers.

The films are open to the public and admission is $3.

Spring 2016 film line-up:

Feb. 3: "Winter's Bone"
A fearless teenage girl encounters dangerous terrain as she hunts down her criminal father while trying to keep her family intact.

March 2: "The Color Purple"
A black southern woman struggles to find herself after suffering from years of abuse.

April 6: "Day of the Dead"
A group of military officers and scientists hide away in a bunker to survive the overrun world of zombies.

May 4: "Bridesmaids"

Competition between the maid of honor and a bridesmaid threatens to unravel the friendship of the bride and her maid of honor, an out-of-work pastry chef.

The series is sponsored by Alamo Drafthouse, International Film Series, Texas Tech University Women's Studies, and Risk Intervention & Safety Education.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 28, 2016
CONTACT: Glenys Young, glenys.young@ttu.edu
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**UrbanTech to Introduce New Playground, Sports Field Developments for Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Centers**

UrbanTech will host a public showing of the expansion during the First Friday Art Trail.

UrbanTech will announce a major partnership to develop the Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Centers during a news conference at 12:15 p.m. Friday (Feb. 5) in the first floor lobby of the Texas Tech University Downtown Center, 1120 Main St.

The announcement will introduce a new playground and sports field expansion planned for the Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Centers, 405 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

UrbanTech also will host a public showing of the expansion plans during that evening's First Friday Art Trail from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Downtown Center. It will focus on 10 areas to be developed at the facility, each with a budget that enables individuals to adopt the project for actualization.

The areas are:

- Fencing and gateways
- Glass garage doors from existing gymnasium to expanded outdoors areas
- New and relocated heating, ventilation and air conditioning units for the existing gymnasium
- Playground with three zones for different age groups and purposes
- Developed free-play zone with loose parts
- Football field and bleachers
- Volleyball courts (2)
- Basketball courts (2)
- Picnic pavilion with concessions, toilets and storage
- Landscape and paths

**About UrbanTech**

Urban Tech is a program within the Texas Tech University College of Architecture. It is a place for students to think, draw, design, model and create; a product of ideas and information in public exhibition in the form of drawings and models and transportable information via digital media; and a process of civic engagement and exploration. UrbanTech clarifies the public benefits of architecture, promotes the creation of knowledge and serves as a laboratory for ethical professional behavior where community needs supersede private agendas.

UrbanTech's involvement with Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Centers is sponsored by FBT Architects and HB Construction. The project started in September 2015. UrbanTech has previously been involved in projects with the Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts, High Cotton Homeless Facilities and downtown redevelopment projects.

Lubbock Area United Way
Community Partner

**About the Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Centers**
Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Centers, a United Way community partner, has been serving families in the Guadalupe and Parkway neighborhoods for more than 50 years. It was founded in 1962 by the Lubbock Area United Way to address the needs of the families living in the Guadalupe neighborhood. After the 1970 tornado destroyed and damaged much of downtown and East Lubbock, director Barbara Sommerville perceived the need for a similar center in the Parkway-Cherry Point neighborhood. Over the years, the centers have served thousands of children and their families, providing literacy training, language skills, family living training and academic support.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 29, 2016
CONTACT: Heidi Toth, heidi.toth@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Online Special Education Master's Program Ranked 10th in Nation**

The program's success is based largely on its focus to apply core competencies in the classroom instead of passing tests.

A leading education choice website ranked Texas Tech University 10th in the nation for its online master's degree in special education.

Best Choice Schools used their lists as well as lists from College Navigator, Edudemic, TheBestSchools, GetEducated.com and Best College Reviews Online to examine programs based on faculty-student ratio, acceptance rate, graduation rate and net cost. Texas Tech is one of four Texas schools to make the list. West Virginia University (No. 13) was the only other Big 12 Conference school in the top 30.

Dee Brown, coordinator of the special education program in the College of Education, said the competency-based program offers students many benefits they may not see in other programs, including the national recognition of Texas Tech's online programs has earned, the variety of specializations and the resources available for each specialization.

The College of Education is accredited through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, which Brown said is a difficult accreditation to earn.

"A lot of 'online' programs are not connected to a brick-and-mortar institution, so we're providing instruction out of a scholarly atmosphere, not from a for-profit institution," she said.

Students can choose from nine specialties: deaf and hard of hearing; educational diagnostician; general special education; orientation and mobility; visual impairment; dual sensory impairment; applied behavioral analysis; autism; and special education transition. Students in master's level courses can get a master's degree, a graduate certificate or certification in a specific area.

The College of Education also is home to the Burkhart Center for Autism Education & Research and the Virginia Murray Sowell Center for Research and Education in Sensory Disabilities, which offers students, both on-campus and online, the opportunity for more in-depth study into these programs.

The faculty work to provide the online students with the same opportunities and resources available to on-campus students, including distance supervision, mentoring and the classes necessary for graduates to earn state or national certification.

Additionally, said vice dean and professor Robin Lock, students are evaluated throughout the semester to judge whether they are learning and applying the needed skills, and faculty members will consider what individuals need in order to be successful. They use video of lessons and students' lesson plans to provide data-driven evaluations. The faculty members look for evidence that students can collaborate with parents, young adults and other educators to ensure a high-quality educational experience. Reading a textbook and passing a test is not an acceptable measure of mastery.

"What is so outstanding about this program is it is competency-based and online so students are not only evaluated on their development of knowledge and skills, they must demonstrate how they can actually use it out in the field," Lock said. "People said this can't be done, but we're doing it."

More than 500 students are enrolled in the online master's level program in special education, which is part of the university's nationally ranked Worldwide eLearning program.

"Texas Tech's College of Education is one of our largest providers of distance and online programs," assistant vice provost Justin Louder said. "The college is committed to offering distance students a high-quality Texas Tech degree no matter where the student might be."

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 29, 2016
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**Prospective Students: Raider Roadshow Coming to Austin**
Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. Sunday (Jan. 31)

High school students interested in Texas Tech University can come to the Raider Roadshow in Austin this weekend. Deans, associate deans and other representatives from Texas Tech's academic colleges and student services will be in attendance. Current students will be on hand to describe the traditions, spirit and campus activities that await students.

Seniors will attend a breakout session just for admitted students while underclassmen will have the opportunity to explore future options at Texas Tech. Parents will get a chance to meet other parents and find out what Texas Tech has to offer.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. Sunday (Jan. 31) at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (208 Barton Springs Rd.) followed by a welcome from campus administration and other distinguished guest speakers. The Roadshow will last until 6 p.m.

"This is a day that provides prospective students from the Austin area the opportunity to see what makes Texas Tech so special," said Jamie Hansard, managing director for Undergraduate Admissions.

Most importantly, Raider Roadshow is designed for students to meet one-on-one with faculty, staff and students. Academic information sessions and student service sessions will be available for students to attend along with a resource fair.

For more information about Raider Roadshow or to RSVP, visit the Undergraduate Admissions website or call (512) 345-4888.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
DATE: Jan. 29, 2016
CONTACT: Cara Vandergriff, cara.vandergriff@ttu.edu
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**RaiderThon to Host Upcoming Fundraiser Events**

RaiderThon features a speaking engagement as well as its annual Dance Marathon this week to benefit the Children's Miracle Network at University Medical Center.

Texas Tech University's student-run philanthropy, RaiderThon, begins 2016 with two events in February benefitting the Children's Miracle Network at University Medical Center.

The first event, a speaking engagement titled "Because I Said I Would," will take place at 5:30 p.m Monday (Feb. 1) in room 100 of the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center. The discussion will feature Col. Parker Schenecker, a veteran and former employee of the United States Intelligence Community who joined the Because I Said I Would campaign after the deaths of his two children.

Because I Said I Would is a nonprofit social movement dedicated to the betterment of humanity and focuses on the importance of keeping promises to end suffering, establish peace and build happiness.

RaiderThon will host its fifth annual Dance Marathon from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday (Feb. 6) at the Texas Tech Recreation Center. This fundraising event also benefits the Children's Miracle Network by raising money and awareness with a gymnasium full of marathon dancers.

Participants can register for the Dance Marathon here. Registration fee includes a RaiderThon T-shirt, meals and access to the Dance Marathon event. Participants can also visit RaiderThon's website for fundraising tips.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Web Only

**Last Chance: Ansel Adams, Antarctica Exhibits Closing in January**

The two exhibits, the only ones of their kind in the region, are among the highlights of a visit to the Museum of Texas Tech University.

By Heidi Toth

Anyone interested in Antarctica or the photography of Ansel Adams has just a couple more weeks to experience these two unique exhibits at the Museum of Texas Tech University.

Both "Ansel Adams: American Master, Selections from the David H. Arrington Collection" and "Antarctica – Pioneering American Explorations of the Frozen Continent" will close Jan. 17.

**Ansel Adams**

This exhibit includes 100 original photographs from Adams, the most well-known American landscape photographer. Curator of art Peter Briggs said thousands of people have viewed the exhibit since it opened in August.

"This may be the only opportunity to view firsthand a comprehensive range of original works of art by one of America's premier landscape artists of the last 100 years," Briggs said. "This collection of art works by Ansel Adams is from a private collection, probably the largest private collection of Adams' work in the world. They may never be available again.

"This is the first and maybe the last chance to see these original works of art that have in so many ways defined the American landscape, especially the western American landscape."

His favorite photograph, which he chose somewhat under protest – "there are so many classic, monumental, sublime images in this exhibition" – is the 1940s image of "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico." It's easily recognized, continues to define the Southwest and demonstrates Adams' artistic goal of capturing that moment with his camera.

Midland oil executive and Texas Tech alumnus David Arrington loaned the works to the museum. He started collecting the photographs after graduating in 1983 and now has more than 600 pieces. The first photo he bought was "Monolith, the Face of Half Dome."

The museum has held a number of events surrounding the exhibit since August. The final event will be from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday (Jan 12) at the museum. Alan Ross, the photographer's longtime assistant and an internationally recognized photographer, will discuss his experiences and stories working with Adams as well as letters Adams sent to him.

**Antarctica**

"Antarctica – Pioneering American Explorations of the Frozen Continent" highlights the work F. Alton Wade, a Horn professor and research associate at the museum, did in Antarctica before coming to Texas Tech and the Antarctic Research Center at the museum, which he created in 1971.

In 1933, Wade went to Antarctica for the first time as a geologist in the Second Byrd Expedition. That trip included a 77-day sled journey into the unmapped Marie Byrd Land on western Antarctica. He went back five more times in the next 20 years. While at Texas Tech he continued to play a significant role in furthering the research done at the South Pole.

"Few people realize Texas Tech's role in Antarctic exploration or that Antarctica is a desert," said Eileen Johnson, director of academic and curatorial programs at the museum. "While it's a historical exhibit, it's also a fun exhibit."

The exhibit includes almost 100 objects from the museum's collection, including fossils, a mummified seal, a reconstructed base camp that would sit atop a glacier, Wade's early broadcasts from Antarctica to the United States, a 3-D printed turtle soup can from an early food stash and some interactive areas.

The exhibit is in the main gallery of the museum and almost impossible to miss, so thousands of visitors have explored it since its opening in January 2015.

The museum is located at 3301 4th St. It is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Briggs encouraged visitors to not wait until the last day of the exhibits, as he anticipates the museum will be very busy.

Sidebar:
"Ansel Adams: American Master, Selections from the David H. Arrington Collection"
Closing Jan. 17

"Antarctica – Pioneering American Explorations of the Frozen Continent"
Closing Jan. 17

Museum hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday

# Web Only

**Life, Love and Money: Class Helps Students Prepare for Biggest Investments**

The class, which is helpful for students of any major, has openings for the spring semester.

By Heidi Toth

For several years, Texas Tech University professor Sandra Huston taught Introduction to Personal Finance, a course designed for all majors to increase financial literacy among college students. The personal financial planning professor believed universities had a responsibility to help students become financially literate and avoid the financial pitfalls that plague Americans.

Over time and with research, however, she noticed a disturbing trend.

"All the data pointed to the conclusion that even when we can assist in getting people financially literate – this is, they know what they are supposed to do financially – this doesn't guarantee they will be able to stay on that path of consistently making wise financial choices," said Huston, who is the director of the personal finance program (PFI) in the Department of Personal Financial Planning.

From that research came PFI 1305: Life, Love & Money. The course, available for students in any major or classification, covers the three biggest investments that drastically affect people's future success and happiness: the career path they choose (life), the long-term couple relationship they choose (love) and the ability to control their finances (money).

Throughout the semester students will examine the connection between their education and career choice, learn how to effectively communicate with others to create rewarding relationships and explore their money habits and what they can do to improve their financial behaviors. It is an excellent opportunity to get to know themselves, their weaknesses and how to apply the knowledge they've gained to better themselves.

"It's one thing to know it and another thing to do it," said Dawn Abbott, assistant director of PFI. "We all know debt is bad. Getting into a lot of debt is bad. So why is anybody in a lot of debt? If we know debt is bad, why do we do this?"

There will be two sections of PFI 1305 this semester; Dawn Abbott, who is working on her master's degree in family and consumer science education, is teaching one and her husband, Michael, who has master's degrees in psychology and personal financial planning, is teaching the other.

**Life**

The first section of the class looks at the students' biggest investment – themselves. Students defer working for four years to come to college. They spend time and money

earning a degree, then finish and have no idea how to market this huge investment. Often graduates end up underemployed or going to graduate school for additional credentials.

“We have our learners methodically work through how their educational investment will pay off for them in the future – emphasizing how they plan to turn their education into an income-generating activity, how they specifically plan their path to graduation and how to ensure they make the most of their time in college to give them a comparative advantage in the job market when they cash in on their educational investment,” Huston said.

In this course they discuss not only the job search but also how to prepare to have a job and ways to be more attractive to employers. That may include joining different student organizations, building relationships with professors and professionals and using the alumni network.

The course also covers the jobs for which students are preparing themselves. For instance, Abbott asks about the first job out of college most of them expect to get. Architecture majors say building a skyscraper in New York City. Fashion design majors expect to design wedding dresses for the rich and famous. Business majors want to be CEOs.

“No, you’re not,” she tells them. “We need to take this down a notch. That might be your aspiration and your career goal, but let’s back that up to your first job.”

That is one of the more surprising findings in the three semesters Abbott has been teaching. She focuses them on the entry-level jobs they’ll get after college, ways to set themselves apart and even talks about money, what they can expect to get paid in Dallas as compared to Lubbock and the goals they need to set to be prepared for work as soon as they graduate.

**Love**

The second biggest investment is in a spouse or a long-term relationship partner, and the rate of return is not always great.

“It involves fully investing all of our resources, both financial and human, with another person,” Huston said. “Yet, if I offered you an investment with a 50 percent risk of failure, would you take it? Most people would say, ‘no way,’ yet this is the divorce risk people face when getting married.”

The class will discuss communication skills, what questions to ask before marriage and how to argue better – not better so one spouse wins, but better so arguments are less destructive. The goal is to give students the tools needed to decrease their “investment risk” (chance of divorce) and improve their “return on investment” (have a more rewarding relationship).

“It’s not if you argue, it’s when you argue, what does that look like?” Abbott said. “You learn how to navigate an argument so it’s a successful argument.”

They also talk about conversations that need to happen before a couple gets married. How will they divide up holidays between their families? How much money will they spend on

family vacation versus individual hobbies? How do they want to raise children? How will the workload be divided?

Rarely do people find their "perfect match" in these areas, Abbott said. Because both partners come from different backgrounds, they have different expectations about marriage and family life. A couple can find compromise, but they have to talk about it and know when and how to talk productively.

**Money**

The third biggest investment – and the No. 1 cause of divorce in the United States – is money.

The money questions they discuss in Life, Love and Money aren't about saving or investing or how much insurance is needed for a family. Abbott talks with the students about their relationship with money and how to have financial conversations with their spouse or partner.

"It's not at all the functional side of money," she said. "We never talk about bank accounts or borrowing or anything like that. We talk about what is your affiliation with money?"

Helping people understand why they make the money decisions they do was a major impetus for creating this course, Huston said. They use neuro-economic research to help students understand how the human brain is wired and how to use that information to help people become more financially competent.

The first step is allowing the students to understand how they feel on money issues. They take a self-assessment – one of about 13 over a semester – to determine whether they are risk averse or risk seeking; i.e. do they want to hide money under their mattress or invest their life savings on a hot new stock tip.

"It's really getting to know yourself and know how you deal with money," Abbott said. "Are you a saver? Are you a spender?"

They also talk about where those attitudes come from, such as a person's family of origin. A student whose father handled the finances may expect the man in a relationship to do the finances. A student whose mother kept track of money may expect the same in his or her relationship. Or, a student who comes from a wealthy family who never worried about money may choose to marry a person who grew up with less money and thus has a more stressful relationship with it.

The course also covers potential financial red flags in future partners, such as people who spend everything they earn and then some.

"Some people, it's not going to matter if they make $1,000 a month or $100,000 a month, they're going to be in debt because whatever they get, they spend," she said.

**A must-have**

In this class, as with all classes at Texas Tech, students evaluate the course at the end of the semester. Any doubts Huston had about how it would be received were gone after the first evaluations came in. Students said they got along with their roommates better, they improved relationships with girlfriends and boyfriends and one called off a wedding after learning what qualities to look for in a long-term partner. Still another student changed majors after a difficult but rewarding conversation with his parents about how he didn't want to take over the family business.

Others students appreciated the money section and what they learned about themselves.

"I learned I am more present-oriented and need to use some commitment devices to help me stay on the right path," one student wrote. "When I took the financial literacy test in this class, I was shocked at how low my score was. I am definitely going to sign up for PFI 3301 right away!"

PFI 1305, which is available at 12:30 and 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, satisfies the core curriculum requirement for social and behavioral sciences. It is valuable for any student in any major, even those who have already started down the paths they cover. Abbott said she learned better ways to communicate with her husband as she prepared to teach the class and encouraged anyone to sign up.

"If there's a desk we'll get you in there somehow," Abbott said. "I believe every student should have this class."

Huston agreed. She routinely has people tell her they wished they could have taken this course in college, and many of her peers at other colleges are starting similar classes.

"I love, love, love this course," she said. "The content is not only directly appealing to students – who doesn't want to learn more about themselves? – but it also provides you with some of the important tools you need for navigating a rewarding future."

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Web Only

**Nafees and Fisher: Representing Texas Tech Across the World**

Saba Nafees and Caleb Fisher attended the One Young World Summit in Bangkok as representatives for Texas Tech University and the United States.

By K'Leigh Sims

1,300 young people from around the world gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, in November for the 2015 One Young World Summit, a conference to debate, formulate and share innovative solutions for pressing issues the world faces today. Two of the people in attendance were Texas Tech University's Saba Nafees and Caleb Fisher.

Representing the university, Nafees and Fisher were two of 130 delegates from the United States to attend the annual summit. It was Nafees' second year to attend and Fisher's first.

"Growing up in West Texas, I haven't been as well-traveled as far as understanding the different cultures, belief systems, how different countries and cultures functions and how they are each working toward similar goals," Fisher said. "It was really cool to be taken from Texas – I think I was the only person born and raised in Texas – and learn from more than 1,200 leaders from 196 different countries."

At the summit, Nafees and Fisher discussed with many other young leaders from around the world issues such as climate change, human trafficking, terrorism and poverty.

Counselors, such as CEO's, star soccer players, musicians, activists, Nobel Peace Prize winners, philanthropists and many other well-known people from around the world, led individual sessions with groups of young ambassadors and delegates to discuss issues in the world today and ways to overcome them.

"When I attended last year, it was an amazing, life-changing experience," said Nafees, graduate vice president for Texas Tech's Student Government Association and One Young World Ambassador. "I promised myself last year I would go again as an ambassador but would take someone else with me from Texas Tech, someone that had the open mind and the open heart to learn more about the world and the world's issues and do something about them. So, I asked Caleb to go."

Fisher, external vice president for Texas Tech's Student Government Association, said he learned a lot from the summit and grew as a person.

"It gave me a better understanding about how the world functions," he said. "The summit gave me a different lens to look through when trying to understand what goes on in the world and the people from other countries. Being at the conference in downtown Bangkok was a really neat experience, but just being in Asia was humbling in and of itself."

One of the people who made a huge impact on him and Nafees was a young woman named Yeon-mi Park who escaped from North Korea to China and was sold into human trafficking, but was able to escape to Mongolia and find freedom. Park spoke at the summit and has written a book about her life story called "In Order to Live: A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom."

Nafees and Fisher said they would like to establish a program at Texas Tech to allow one or two students to go each year.

"After talking about One Young World with Caleb, we talked about trying to find a way for Texas Tech students to go," Nafees said. "I think it's important to be connected to a global forum such as this and help our fellow young people to gain a better global perspective about issues in the world today.

"The place that you have the highest density of young people who can make a difference is a college or university campus. After Caleb and I have left Texas Tech, we would like the university to continue to be represented at the ssummit and find the financial means to sponsor students to attend each year."

After the conference ended, Nafees and Fisher stayed in Bangkok for a few days to enjoy the culture of Thailand, walk around the city, and for Nafees, see family members she hadn't seen in 15 years.

Fisher enjoyed being immersed in the culture. He visited the temples, Bangkok's floating market and even a tiger and elephant sanctuary where he bottle fed a young tiger and came in contact with a young elephant.

"It was such a great experience, just interacting with the Thai people," Fisher said. "They were very sweet and had such an honor-based culture. They would always bow to you when they saw you and they just wanted to make your life perfectly pleasurable. I even got to the point where I was bowing to people out of habit just because I had been so immersed in it."

Both Nafees and Fisher couldn't speak more highly of the One Young World Summit and their time there. Both of them would like to attend the summit again if the chance were to arise.

"It was truly an amazing experience," Fisher said. "Just to be able to take my beliefs, culture and ideas to 1,300 people, talk about issues and find ways to solve them in a civil manner was a humbling experience. One day these people will be leaders in their own countries, so if we can solve pressing issues on this level in a civil manner, just think of what we can do whenever we are older and making a difference in our countries and around the world."

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Web Only

**Students Spend Winter Break Rebuilding Homes for Hurricane Katrina Survivors**

The students volunteered with Texas Tech's Center for Active Learning and Undergraduate Engagement and Project Homecoming to rebuild homes in New Orleans.

By K'Leigh Sims

Right before the historic Goliath snowstorm struck Lubbock in December, seven Texas Tech University students along with two staff members traveled to New Orleans teaming up with Project Homecoming to rebuild homes for Hurricane Katrina survivors.

During their time in New Orleans, students mainly worked on one home of a woman named Ms. Connie who was one of many victims of contract fraud after the hurricane. After a persistent effort to get her home rebuilt, Project Homecoming and the students used their skills of painting, wall and door trimming and grouting tile for her home after 10 years.

Jacy Proctor, trip adviser and unit coordinator for Center for Active Learning and Undergraduate Engagement (CALUE), said this trip and CALUE's other service breaks give students a new outlook on service.

"These opportunities allow our students to help communities they might never come in contact with and in ways they might never have thought they could," she said. "With these new experiences and the reflection done while on the trips, we really hope students will be inspired to come back to their own communities and serve."

From the famous Café du Monde to tired and achy muscles and visiting areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina, students blogged about their daily activities and experiences at CALUE Service Breaks.

On the fourth day, Walker Carson, a freshman animal science major, recounted Ms. Connie's experience during the hurricane.

Carson wrote that due to the immensity of the storm, Ms. Connie was forced to leave her home and evacuate to Birmingham, Alabama. Once she returned, the damage to her home was so bad it needed to be knocked down and rebuilt. With the lack of insurance money, she was forced to stay in Birmingham for a year and attempt to get her home rebuilt.

When talking about the hurricane, Ms. Connie said it felt like she was in a black-and-white movie she couldn't escape.

"Ms. Connie's stories and the way she told them were enough to make everyone's eyes tear up, including mine," said Claudio Bustos, a senior mechanical engineering major.

“Her tales were not only moving, but were also filled with well-informed facts and ideas that may have shifted the focus of some of my life goals. Listening to her speak is life-changing. She was as motivating as she was grateful for our volunteer work.”

Students from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette volunteered with Project Homecoming. All of the students and trip advisers stayed together at “the village” with Project Homecoming, cooked for one another, had daily chores and helped build beds for more lodging.

Ashley Wasswa, a junior biology major, said building the house for Ms. Connie and the work for the village was a great challenge.

“I’ll be the first to admit that building a home is definitely not as glamorous or simple as I thought it was,” she said. “From working on your hands and knees for hours on end to figuring out the correct measurements for each piece of the ‘house puzzle,’ it was both physically and mentally exhausting. But I’ll also be the first to say it is all worth it. It is worth my time. It is worth how tired I feel after eight hours of work each day. It is worth it all just to know that God has blessed us by giving us an opportunity to bless someone else.”

One of the most pressing things the students experienced was the damage left behind from Katrina after almost 11 years. The students took a tour through the areas of New Orleans that were hit and still are recovering from it today, and also saw a presentation that walked through the timeline of events.

“I was really shocked to know what happened with the city before and after the hurricane,” said Nataly Montano, a senior biology major. “On our walking tour of the Lower Ninth Ward, it was living proof of the effects the hurricane had on the city. I love the sense of community the people in this city have. This is their home, and many still returned to rebuild their homes after the disaster.”

At the end of the trip all seven of the students had been impacted greatly by Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, Project Homecoming and Ms. Connie.

Ryan Bowman, a freshman pre-medicine student, said the best way to describe the trip was a “service learning experience” because they had learned so much on their service break.

“We learned about everything from the best place to get a po’boy to the sheer magnitude of the damage that Hurricane Katrina caused,” he said. “We experienced everything from the process of piecing a home together to what it was like to live through the hurricane disaster.

“Although we went to New Orleans to serve the community, I believe we gained the greatest reward. This was made evident through the words of the sweet Ms. Connie. She delivered a message of encouragement and informed us that we can make a difference in the lives of countless people through service. I think all of my fellow CALUE members can agree this topped off the trip.”

The CALUE Service Breaks program began in 2014 and has continued to grow. CALUE hosts service breaks during the winter, spring and summer breaks. They have traveled to San Antonio, El Paso and Dallas and will travel to Waco, Corpus Christi and Costa Rica later this year.

The Waco trip is scheduled for spring break (March 16-20) and students will team with Life on the Other Side and World Hunger Relief.

The Corpus Christi trip also is scheduled for Spring Break (March 15-19) where students will work with the Texas Sealife Center rescuing injured or stranded coastal and aquatic wildlife. This service break will mainly focus on sea turtle rescue.

This summer, CALUE will travel to Costa Rica (May 21-30) to work on another sea turtle conservation project to protect nests from human poachers and beach erosion. The work of volunteers includes night patrols, hatchery shifts, collection and relocation of eggs, beach cleanup and reforestation.

"Even though the program is based around the service projects, we hope the students are getting just as much out of the experience when they are meeting new people, seeing new places and embracing the community they are helping serve," Proctor said.

For more information about the upcoming service breaks, visit the CALUE website.

# Web Only

**Table for Ones: Singles Table Has Long History of Connecting Faculty**

The table, which was in the faculty club in the Student Union, allowed faculty members opportunities to get to know colleagues in different disciplines.

By Heidi Toth

Before there was Reddit, before there was Tinder, before there was LinkedIn, there was the singles table at the faculty club.

The faculty club at Texas Tech University, which was in the room now known as the Red Raider Lounge in the Student Union Building, was a faculty-only cafeteria with stylized stained-glass windows on the doors. In that room was an oval table. It wasn't large; it would comfortably seat about eight people. It wasn't flashy, just plain oak with no special insignia.

But it may as well have had a neon sign over it flashing "singles table."

"Everyone walking into the room knew where it was and what it was," said Jim Brink, a longtime Honors College professor who was the "baby" at the table in the 1970s. "Everyone who sat there would know that everyone who sat there was by themselves. That's why it was always called the singles table."

Donald Haragan, a longtime geosciences and Honors College professor and 12th president of the university, said the "table gatherings" began in the late 1960s or early 1970s. Faculty members trickled into the club for coffee before they went to class, with professors naturally breaking into several small groups to chat. Over time several of the regulars made these mornings breaks their official unofficial start to the day, with conversation that he called lively, friendly and not always for the thin-skinned.

"The topic of conversation varied from university happenings (academic and athletic), faculty issues and local politics to what was probably the favorite topic of conversation – the university administration and recent actions taken there," Haragan said. "The table is where Bill (Killer) Cain made his famous statement regarding the administration at the time. Bill advised us to be 'glad we didn't get all of the administration we paid for.'"

That comment was especially enlightening for Haragan, who started his time at the singles table as a young professor before becoming provost and eventually the president.

Those regulars ran the disciplinary gamut from business, physics, history and philosophy to engineering, psychology, home economics and math. A few drop-ins joined the group as well. The diversity allowed for professors to connect with their peers, get them talking about their work and discovering opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

“When I found myself by myself, rather than having made prior arrangements to go eat, I would sit there,” Brink said. “I got to know people that I would not have known otherwise and actually became friends with a lot of people across campus that I wouldn’t have known otherwise but for that venue.

“It was a kind of serendipity that ended up being productive.”

In the mid-1990s the faculty club shifted focus and then shut down. More and more professors got coffee on their way to work and ate lunch in their offices or out with colleagues in their department instead of meeting on campus. The university president had to close the club; it simply wasn’t making enough money to be sustainable.

“In the ‘70s Texas Tech was truly a community of scholars, and faculty would indeed discuss their work with other faculty in entirely different fields of endeavor,” Haragan said. “This in my mind is truly what education is all about. Today faculty are so entrenched in their own specialties that their closest colleagues, rather than those on their own campus, are faculty on other campuses whose specialty in research is in precisely the same area as theirs.”

The club became a meeting room, one of the stained-glass windows was destroyed (Brink rescued the other one just in time, and it remains a part of the Student Union), and the singles table went into storage, where its story could have ended. Haragan, however, learned it was in storage, decided it was an important piece of Texas Tech’s history and had it retrieved and restored. When he retired from the presidency and became an Honors College professor, the table moved into his office, first in Holden Hall and then McClellan.

It’s moved only once since then, across the hallway from Haragan’s old office, now a spacious, intellectual-looking conference room, into Dean Michael San Francisco’s office. Before he got the table, Brink and Haragan made sure he understood the history that came with the table.

“It is safe to say it played an important role in my learning process as a young faculty member,” Haragan said. “It is too bad that today experiences are not shared in the same way. I will never forget the friendships that were made and the experiences and opinions shared among colleagues at the singles table.”

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Web Only

**Texas Tech Accreditation Reaffirmed Through 2025**

The accrediting agency oversees institutions of higher education in 11 southern states and Latin America.

By Heidi Toth

Texas Tech University was notified in January that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmed the university's accreditation through 2025.

The reaffirmation process is standard for all of SACSCOC's member institutions, Vice Provost Darryl James said. SACSCOC accredits institutions of higher education throughout the 11 southern states and Latin America.

"The reaffirmation of our accreditation is a continued demonstration of the high quality of faculty and staff that are focused on continuously improving student learning through integrated teaching, research and service," James said.

The nearly two-year process began with the "Road to Reaffirmation Kick-Off" in March 2013 with a visit from Belle Wheelan, president of SACSCOC. It concluded when the SACSCOC Board of Trustees fully reaffirmed accreditation for Texas Tech at the 2015 annual meeting in December.

The benefits of reaffirmation are significant for the university community, James said. Reaffirmation provides assurance that Texas Tech is meeting national accepted levels of higher education quality while fulfilling its university mission.

"For students, this means Texas Tech is committed to the strengthening of institutional effectiveness and enhancing the quality of student learning through continuous improvement of all university units," James said.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Web Only

**Texas Tech Helping Lead Way in Program Bringing Agricultural Scholars from Developing Countries to Earn Doctorate Degrees**

The doctoral candidates study in America for three years before finishing their final year in their home country.

By George Watson

When he came to the Office of International Affairs (OIA) two years ago, Sukant Misra was part of a team with the goal of creating one integrated office that handled every aspect of Texas Tech University's global engagement in order to help comprehensively internationalize the campus.

Having done just that, the OIA is growing in reputation throughout the world, and a sure sign of that is the growth of a program that brings scholars from developing countries to Texas Tech to complete a doctorate degree and help solve food security and availability issues in their native lands.

"Being an institution of higher education, we have to operate in a global context," said Misra, the associate vice provost for international programs. "We need to prepare our students to be operating in a global environment when they go out into the workforce, and they need to understand what the global issues are in the economy and society. The problems we're dealing with are both multidisciplinary and multinational in nature."

The Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) program is named after Nobel Peace Prize winner Norman Borlaug with a goal of increasing the number of agricultural scientists and strengthening scientific institutions in developing countries. Texas Tech has been involved with the program for two years and saw its enrollment triple from the first year to the second.

"As an institution of higher education, we need to operate in a global context, and these types of programs allow our students to understand global issues and the faculty to work within that global challenge," Misra said. "Then all of us can be informed and be part of the global solution."

## Coming to America

The BHEARD program was developed in 2013 at Michigan State University through a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Association of Public Land-grant Universities (APLU). Texas Tech became involved in the program in 2014 when an open call was held by Michigan State for universities who wished to join the program.

With Texas Tech's strong background in agricultural education through the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, it seemed the BHEARD program was a

perfect fit. Of the 13 universities participating in the program, Texas Tech is the only non-land grant university.

But that has not stopped Texas Tech from being one of the leading universities in the program, growing from three students chosen to attend Texas Tech for the 2014-15 academic year to six additional students for 2015-16, and more anticipated for next fall.

"Obviously, Michigan State was very pleased with how we managed ourselves, how we responded to the needs of the program and how we delivered what we promised we were going to deliver," Misra said. "That's hugely important to Michigan State."

Scholars who apply to the BHEARD program come from Feed the Future countries, mostly African and Central American countries dealing with issues of food supply and security. Those selected are then paired with a faculty adviser in one of three departments – Agricultural Education and Communication, Agricultural and Applied Economics and Plant and Soil Science.

After three years pursuing their degree at Texas Tech, students return to their home country to finish their fourth year and earn their degree, and their Texas Tech faculty adviser travels to their home country for about 10 days during that fourth year to assist them.

Scholars wishing to study at an American university must have a master's degree and must meet the same rigorous admission standards as any other doctorate applicant to Texas Tech. In addition, scholars must score at least a 79 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), which is a university requirement, though there are options to consider students who score below that mark if there are significant reasons to do so.

In the first two years of the program, Texas Tech has received more than $1.4 million from USAID to educate these students, which includes travel expenses, all educational costs, health insurance and housing. The students chosen for the program are hired as graduate research assistants.

Once Texas Tech was chosen to participate in the program, Reagan Ribordy, the senior grants administrator in the OIA's International Research and Development Division, became the point person responsible for Texas Tech's direction in BHEARD. She is responsible for putting together and submitting applications and matching potential scholars with appropriate faculty members.

She also has a strong relationship with the administrator of the program at Michigan State, which has further strengthened Texas Tech's standing within the program and allowed it to grow significantly from 2014 to 2015.

"Texas Tech is unique in the sense that we have that relationship on the front end to develop proposals and identify the proper faculty for the program," Ribordy said.

But it's an effort that involves the full Office of International Affairs. Once the students are chosen and arrive on campus, Alexa Smith, the assistant director for international enrollment development, becomes the students' contact person responsible for

management of their affairs. Chris Lemmons, the international student life administrator, coordinates events and student organization activities for the students that help create a sense of community and build relationships with other students on campus.

"The students are outstanding on both an academic and personal level," Smith said. "It's really a pleasure to get to know them and to help them succeed during their time here at Texas Tech."

**Flexibility, expertise, competitiveness**

When compared with some of the other schools in the country involved in the program, the fact Texas Tech has nine students, having doubled its total number of students each of the past two years, is quite impressive.

According to Misra, only a handful of schools outside of host Michigan State get more than one or two students. That puts Texas Tech ahead of such prestigious company such as Ohio State, Washington State, Florida, Louisiana State, Kansas State, Virginia Tech and others.

"That's extremely important for us as an academic institution to educate and graduate more doctoral students," Misra said.

Misra credited Texas Tech's early success and growth within the program to several factors Michigan State looks at when considering schools for the program.

- **Competitiveness of the doctorate programs:** "If there is a need for a student to go to a program, say in agricultural economics, they look for an agricultural economics program that has some national recognition," Misra said.

- **Experience and expertise of the faculty adviser:** Misra said this is important to Michigan State because they want to match students with people who have recognizable expertise in certain areas. The faculty members also derive an added benefit in that it helps them make contacts in foreign countries that allow them to develop more collaborations for research. "It speaks volumes to our faculty being picked to advise these international scholars," Misra said.

- **Flexibility:** Universities who wish to be a part of this program have to be somewhat flexible because some deadlines within the program don't always mesh well with Texas Tech's deadlines, such as application and reporting deadlines. Misra said that is one of the reasons Texas Tech received just three students the first year. "We're not going to compromise quality, we just have to agree to be a little bit flexible so we can put together the pieces and match with the students," Misra said. "After matching is done, the students have to be able to come here very quickly."

- **Delivery:** After all the other three criteria are passed, Texas Tech still has to deliver what it says it can, from admitting the students to ensuring quality faculty advice to enhancing the student's experience both at Texas Tech and in the United States in general. Seeing what Texas Tech delivered, Misra feels that is a big reason its second class of BHEARD students jumped from three to six.

**Education with a purpose**

A big component to the program is having the students spend their fourth year earning their doctorate in their home country. That allows them to get a head start on tackling the problem for which they are earning their degree in the first place.

Theophilus Tengey entered the program in the 2014 class and is earning a degree in plant and soil science with the hope of solving the food security problems faced by developing countries, such as his native Ghana.

"I chose to study crop science, specifically with a research focus on plant breeding and genetics, because there are few experts in this area to solve the many problems faced by farmers in my country," Tengey said. "Availability of experts in this area will help keep farmers in business as high-yielding, adaptable crop varieties will be made available for production.

"I also want to develop new technologies such as disease- and insect-resistant crop varieties that will discourage the use of pesticides, which pose serious health and environmental hazards."

Tengey's adviser, assistant professor Venugopal Mendu, said he has found the students in the program to be highly motivated to learn science and novel technologies and easily adaptable to their new environment.

"Since we have an international environment at Texas Tech, it was not very difficult for the students to get adapted to live at Texas Tech," Mendu said. "They have quickly adjusted to the academic and personal life at Texas Tech."

Assistant professor Amy Boren, another adviser in the program, echoed Mendu's sentiments about the passion for learning from these students.

"I have found the sense of purpose in my BHEARD student is very strong," Boren said. "She knows what impact she wants to have on her home country and my job is to help her make that happen. I think the program could become quite successful here at Texas Tech, not only because of the committed faculty but also because the OIA provides such wonderful support to us and to our students."

Boren's student, Cheryl Williams, an agricultural education and communication candidate from Liberia, said the BHEARD program has given her the opportunity to fulfill a lifelong dream of studying abroad that she might not have had otherwise.

"I want to contribute to the development and training of young scientists in Liberia so, together, we can sensitize the public on the utilization of food for nutrition security," Williams said. "The BHEARD program offered a great opportunity, which I seized.

"I am to contribute to the body of knowledge in the country and collaborate with other national, regional and global researchers to boost the Liberian agricultural sector and transfer knowledge to young and upcoming scientists in the country."

Misra said with the success students at Texas Tech have already shown in a short period of time, he is confident the 2016-17 class of BHEARD students could reach an additional seven or eight coming to Texas Tech.

"This program is not going away," Misra said. "Given what we've seen so far and what the faculty interested in the program have seen, and that Michigan State is pleased with what we have done and what we can do, we hope to continue to grow this program, and that comes with dollars that strengthens our research enterprise."

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Web Only

**Texas Tech Law Professor Growing Interest in Emerging Area of Space Law**

Currently an online course, Horn professor Vickie Sutton is planning to make space law a full-time course through the Texas Tech Law School in Spring 2017.

By George Watson

The television and movie franchise Star Trek called space "the final frontier." Space was considered the last untapped expanse of human exploration.

In terms of business opportunities, that's not science fiction. For many companies looking to gain a foothold beyond the Earth's atmosphere, space exploration and business ventures are a reality as the U.S. space program has transitioned from government control to private enterprise.

That expansion into space also presents the opportunity for up-and-coming lawyers to get in on the ground floor of space law. They'll be responsible for determining the laws and regulations that will guide free enterprise in space, from international treaties to even state law.

Only a few law schools across the globe offer graduate degrees dealing with space law, and a handful of others offer courses in space law. Vickie Sutton with the Texas Tech University School of Law is adding to that list.

Sutton, a Paul Whitfield Horn professor of law and the director of the Center for Biodefense, Law and Public Policy, is offering a short course online entitled "Business Opportunities for Space Law for Now and the Future" with plans on creating a full course that will be offered through the Texas Tech Law School beginning in Spring 2017, known as Space Law.

"This is kind of a little experiment," Sutton said. "I'm using this short course as a way to interest people in space law."

As it is now, space law is a segment of the main courses Sutton teaches about emerging technologies such as nanotechnology, law and science, law and biotechnology and cyber security law. The current online course on space law covers its basics and details the business opportunities available in space.

The course covers the development of activities in space and the basic laws and regulations that regulate those activities. It also explores the international asteroid defense program, the emergence of asteroid mining as well as space tourism and how those areas will be regulated as well.

But as Sutton worked through developing the online version, she understood the need to make this a full-time, three-hour course and began expanding its scope with the goal of getting it added to the curriculum about a year from now.

“We’ve planned to develop and bring this course online over time,” Sutton said. “Space law was proposed this fall and was approved by the faculty. I think this will be a successful course because we’ve spent a great amount of time preparing and thinking through how to present it.”

**Turn of the century**

Sutton said the first discussions of space law occurred as far back as the 1800s, well before the world’s inhabitants were flying in airplanes, much less spaceships.

But lawyers and policy makers were already aware of the need to regulate aspects of traveling to outer space. Even as aviation laws came along, the need for different laws regarding space was recognized.

“You’re not going to have jurisdictional boundaries in space like you do for aviation where you take off and land and fly through air space and can regulate that,” Sutton said. “That’s not possible in space law where you’re passing through at a distance and not landing. It created a whole other territory for jurisdictional, substantive law.”

It created space law, and the need for space law courses like the one Sutton is developing. The short, online course now available will navigate those interested through the legal aspects of space travel and development to give those interested a clearer picture of emerging business opportunities and how to navigate the basics of space law.

Of course, the more detailed, three-hour course coming online in about a year will delve into those aspects in much more detail, which meant a different form of curriculum for the course. Sutton has written numerous textbooks and instructional publications on emerging technology, but had to design the course in a different way.

Part of that included how to teach the course. Law school students traditionally learn through classroom interaction with the professor, but there has been a push at Texas Tech for more online learning opportunities. Sutton’s challenge has been to meld the two learning methods while also making the class attractive to all students.

“I designed the course for non-law and law students,” Sutton said. “I think bringing law students together with science students or engineering students is really optimal for science and technology courses. The law student learns from the science student and the science student learns from the law student.”

Sutton is also bringing in experts to help with the class. Al Sacco Jr., the dean of the Whitacre College of Engineering, was a payload specialist aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia in 1995 and will serve as a guest lecturer for the course.

Sacco said learning about space law at this juncture is important because of the rise of space commercialization and the opportunities it provides students.

"Space law is already important in almost all our voice and video is through satellite links," Sacco said. "With the commercialization of space as the next frontier, for the right student, this information will be critical."

**Business opportunities**

Sutton said the timing of having the course come online is perfect not only with the State of Texas being a leader in space entrepreneurialism but also the push by private companies exploring opportunities in space. She cited as an example the growing interest in space tourism by companies like Virgin Galactic, which is developing a commercial spacecraft to provide suborbital spaceflights to tourists and launches for space science missions and small satellites.

"Anytime human beings are engaged in virtually any endeavor, whether on or off the planet, laws are critical to be a fair and equitable use of that resource," Sacco said. "This applies to oil and gas as well as space. So the reasons laws are drafted will be better understood and appreciated in general."

There's also the exploration of the mining of asteroids, which could provide for new sources of minerals and materials such as gold, silver and platinum. In late November, President Barack Obama signed the U.S. Commercial Space Launch Competitiveness Act into law, which clarifies the legal aspects of private development of space resources consistent to U.S. international treaty obligations.

There's also the aspect of personal legal claims. In the online course video, Sutton discusses a case where an individual claimed asteroid Eros 433 and tried to sue the federal government for damages for landing and parking a vehicle on the rock.

Those are just some of the areas explored in the current online course that will be covered more in depth with the full course next spring. It's an area Sutton says will only continue to grow in need and interest as the government moves away from space exploration and turns it over to private companies.

"So what we have now in the state of evolution of space is the private sector is thinking how they can take what has been developed and how entrepreneurs can make it into something profitable," Sutton said. "We're at that stage right now where it's not quite profitable, but it's getting closer.

"I think the course may introduce you to things you haven't thought about before. It will trigger the imagination if you want to get into business and be the new law firm associate who has a broader background in new and emerging technologies. If you want to do traditional law this is probably not the course for you, but if you want to change the world and explore the future, this is your course."

A link to the short course can be found here.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Web Only

**Texas Tech Professor Partnering with Israeli Technology Company to Study Wind Farm Efficiency using LiDAR Technology**

Carsten Westergaard and Pentalum Technologies will look into detecting and controlling the wake produced by wind turbines.

By George Watson

Driving across West Texas, it's impossible to ignore the multitude of wind turbines that dominate the horizon. Those turbines have gone from a few scattered units to thousands that are as much of the landscape of this part of the state as the Llano Estacado escarpment.

But what one might not notice when coming close to the wind turbines is the wake they produce through the air. Unlike an ordinary oscillating fan that produces a compact wake that is easily detectible, the wake of a wind turbine is not as obvious.

However, it is there, and it is significant, so much so that it tends to negatively affect the energy output of other wind turbines downstream. Limiting that waste from effects of the wake is one of the biggest challenges in maintaining the efficiency of wind farms.

A Texas Tech University professor and a company in Israel may be on the verge of changing all that.

Carsten Westergaard, a professor of practice in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and National Wind Institute affiliate, is partnering with Pentalum Technologies of Rehovot, Israel, to use light detection and ranging, or LiDAR, to measure the wake produced by wind turbines with hopes of eventually reducing that wake and making wind farms even more efficient.

Their collaboration is bolstered by a $900,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy's Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Energy program, which supports the federal government's efforts to combat climate change through the development of alternative energy sources.

"This is an area where there hasn't been very much fundamental experimental research done," Westergaard said. "We want to enhance the results from studies that have already been done and at the same time develop instrumentation to work on the wakes. This is an undiscovered mine of opportunity that has been fairly researched but not to the level of control we can do."

**Scope and scale**

With the technology provided by Pentalum, Westergaard's research will differ both on the scale on which it will be performed and the innovative devices that will be used.

Westergaard will collaborate with the wind and water program at Sandia National Laboratories and utilize the DOE/Sandia National Laboratories' Scaled Wind Farm Technology (SWiFT) research facility located at Reese Technology Center, which consists of numerous wind turbines specifically designed to study wind farm underperformance attributed to turbine-to-turbine interaction.

The SWiFT site allows researchers to perform cost-efficient testing on a large scale in a relatively short period of time. Westergaard, however, will be taking a longer time period to perform his experiments, between three and six months.

"Wind is never a constant, so a lot of the computations and experimentation done by others is done under controlled conditions or in a very short period of time," Westergaard said. "What we want to do here is take this and get and array of LiDARs that stays here for three to six months and collects data under all conditions of turbine operations in that time. We want to get a more real-world view of the effects of the wake."

The time frame is not the only significant difference with Westergaard's research, and that's where Pentalum Technologies comes in.

Westergaard was aware of Pentalum through his dealings with other startup companies that attempted to develop LiDAR in the U.S. Pentalum, however, seemed to have success developing the technology, so it became a natural fit to partner with them for this project through the BIRD program, which brings together researchers and technology companies through the Department of Energy and Israel's Ministry of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources.

What makes Pentalum's technology a great fit for Westergaard's project is the LiDAR itself. Most LiDAR, Westergaard said, is based on the Doppler principle, which projects laser beams into the air and dust or other particles in the air reflect them back, giving a specific signature.

Pentalum's LiDAR operates on the cross correlation method, where a beam is shot into the air and detects an object moving through it. Then, if the object moves through another beam, measurements are taken from the object moving between the beams.

"That's the correlation principle," Westergaard said. "You know where it went, and it's fundamentally different than Doppler. Essentially what it does is breaks down the cost of essential equipment and apparatus, and the cost of the apparatus is much lower than the other ones."

That lower cost will enable Westergaard to purchase and place multiple LiDAR units in the path of the wake produced by a wind turbine, measuring it in all different directions and speeds, and leave them there for several months to gather data in all types of weather conditions.

**Improving efficiency**

That's the first step, Westergaard said. The next step will be to determine where the wake is, the period of time it exists and what can be done to reduce it.

Past experiments using LiDAR has focused units from behind the turbine pointed into the path of the wake in order to reduce the wind load coming into the turbine. But research has shown with large wind farms that wind loading downstream is more severe than what was first being detected.

Facing LiDAR units forward is good for studying one turbine, but not for several standing together like is seen on wind farms.

“If we can understand where the wake is statistically and where we can measure from the nacelle on the turbine, then we can start looking at where the wake goes and how to take action to place it where we want it to be rather than waiting for it to go where it goes when the wind takes it. That’s the essence of it.

“There’s an opportunity to reduce the wind load on the turbine from the back, and also the opportunity to take charge of the wake and actually increase energy capture capabilities of the turbines downstream. The end game is to get that turbine downstream to produce more energy or the same as the front one.”

Initially, Westergaard was planning on using five LiDAR units for his research. But with the grant from the BIRD program, he feels he can double that number to 10 to increase the ability to take measurements, and that in turn will help Pentalum develop what will eventually be the instrumentation tool researchers will use in similar projects in the future.

Westergaard is hoping, with the help of Jon White with Sandia National Laboratories, to get the LiDAR units in place and operational by the end of the spring semester.

“There’s been a lot of effort in looking into this area with computer models, but this is an opportunity to really do some long-term data mining,” Westergaard said.