



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 1, 2013

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### **Recent Graduate Receives Fulbright Award**

A recent graduate from Texas Tech University received a scholarship from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

Zachary Haskin will travel to Brazil to work as an English teaching assistant at a federal university from March to December 2014. He graduated in May with degrees in International Business and Spanish and is from Wichita Falls.

"We congratulate Zachary on this prestigious honor and are proud to have him represent Texas Tech University as he engages students in Brazil and collaborates with other students and researchers at an international level," said Texas Tech President M. Duane Nellis. "Our students' successes in the classroom and fields of research should not go unnoticed. Moving forward we will diligently pursue on behalf of our students distinguished scholarship opportunities through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program and Rhodes, Udall, Truman, Goldwater and Marshall scholarship organizations."

Haskin said teaching English in Brazil is a positive investment for his personal growth and development, especially as a graduate looking for international business experience.

"I enjoy teaching and thought it would be exciting to live in a different country and teach my native language," Haskin said. "Fulbright does a fantastic job connecting its grantees with positions as English teaching assistants or researchers throughout the world."

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program awards grants for individual research projects or for English Teaching Assistantships. During their grants, Fulbright recipients work and live with people from the host country.

"Fulbright has designed the program in a way that allows the grantees to share their culture while learning about the host country's culture at the same time," he said. "I look forward to teaching English and about American culture, but I am just as thrilled to develop my Portuguese and learn more about Brazil's diverse culture."

Haskin said after he attended a Fulbright presentation by Tanja Karp, Fulbright program advisor and associate professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, he knew he would apply.

“Zach put a lot of effort into his application,” Karp said. “He impressed the Texas Tech Fulbright Committee with his personal statement, as well as how he presented his chess experience as preparation for teaching. He was offered the opportunity to go to Brazil at a short notice and I am impressed that he jumped on it. He is a well-deserving candidate and will be an excellent representative of Texas Tech and the United States.”

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 5, 2013

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### **Congressional Interns Selected for Summer**

Texas Tech University named 11 students to serve as congressional interns during the summer.

Students participating in the program observe government functions from an inside point-of-view and play an important role in the offices of various senators and representatives. The Office of the President at Texas Tech coordinates the internship program and provides scholarships for the students.

“We are very proud of our summer interns and the opportunities this program gives to our students. These students not only represent Texas Tech on the national level, but also gain perspective on how our government works and the hours invested behind the scenes to get the job accomplished,” said University Counsel Ronald Phillips. “These students and the many that have walked the halls before them continue to exemplify excellence in Washington, D.C. and make us eager to continue providing resources for this program.”

Texas Tech interns are selected through an extensive interview process and have the opportunity to intern at either the federal or state level.

#### **Summer 2013 interns include:**

Katelin Kelly, a junior electronic media and communications major from Lubbock, works in the office of U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway.

Jacquelyn Kimmey, a graduate student in history of U.S. Cold War diplomacy from Keller, works in the office of U.S. Rep. Kay Granger and Michael McCaul.

Joseph Kmetz, a sophomore energy commerce major from Amarillo, works in the office of U.S. Rep. Pete Olson.

Kern Kumar, a nutritional science major from Fort Worth, works in the office of U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee.

Brooklyn Moore, a junior energy commerce major from Breckenridge, Texas, works in the office of U.S. Rep. John Carter.

Joel Obiri, a senior finance and economics major from Mansfield, works in the office of U.S. Rep. Gene Green.

Megan Ortegon, a junior English and history major from El Paso, works in the office of U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke.

Jennifer Rhima, a senior international business major from Fort Worth, works in the office of U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson.

Khaki Scrivner, a sophomore energy commerce and agricultural communications major from Turkey, Texas, works in the office of U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry.

Erin Van Pelt, a junior honors and letters major from Las Cruces, N.M., works in the office of U.S. Rep. Michael C. Burgess.

Shelby Wilson, a political science major from Austin, works in the office of U.S. Rep. Roger Williams.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 8, 2013

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### Commissioning for New Wind Research Facility

- WHO: Department of Energy (DOE), Sandia National Laboratories, Texas Tech University, Vestas Wind Systems and Group NIRE
- WHAT: Commissioning of wind turbines at the new DOE/Sandia Scaled Wind Farm Technology (SWiFT) Facility
- WHEN: 9:15 – 11 a.m. Tuesday (July 9)
- WHERE: SWiFT Facility site at Reese Technology Center, 9801 Reese Blvd.  
([Driving directions by Google Maps](#))
- EVENT: This event marks the official announcement of DOE's newest initiative to build wind plants of the future, which will include a series of game-changing projects focused on wind plant performance and optimization.

The SWiFT Facility is the only one of its kind in the world and gives the U.S. a significant advantage in the reduction of costs of wind energy associated with underperformance, much of which can be attributed to turbine-to-turbine interaction and other phenomena.

With three highly instrumented turbines installed, SWiFT is capable of analyzing component-scale and turbine-scale phenomena for the improvement of wind plant performance.

**IMPORTANT: No individual cars may travel to or from the event site. For your convenience, valet parking is available at 8<sup>th</sup> & Gilbert Drives, with transportation via shuttle bus.**

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 8, 2013

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### **Feelings of Fullness, Satiety Affected by Fat Composition**

Foods rich in certain fatty acids can have different effects.

For people focused on eating healthy, science traditionally touts foods rich in monosaturated fatty acids (MUFAs), like olive oil, avocado and varieties of nuts, as being a better alternative to foods rich in saturated fatty acids (SFAs), like cream cheese, butter and fatty meats.

However, as those who consume MUFAs regularly may attest, these foods may not fill them up for very long. Now, there's some evidence to back that up.

A team led by a Texas Tech University researcher is looking at how dietary fats affect satiety and feelings of fullness.

In a recently completed study, the team determined that polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) and SFAs lead to greater satiety than MUFAs.

"Because MUFAs lead to greater heart health than do PUFAs or SFAs, it might be helpful in terms of satiety for people to eat something in addition to foods containing MUFAs, such as a lean protein," said Jamie Cooper, assistant professor in the Department of Nutritional Sciences.

The study was completed by comparing how meals rich in PUFAs, SFAs or MUFAs affected the satiety hormone, peptide YY (PYY) in normal weight females.

Meals rich in PUFAs and SFAs had a greater response than those rich in MUFAs on PYY levels in research subjects. Research subjects also reported greater feelings of fullness after meals rich in SFAs than those rich in PUFAs or SFAs.

However, Cooper explained maintaining a diet rich in MUFAs still is important for overall health.

Despite feelings of fullness, Cooper said it's important not to overeat foods rich in SFAs because they can have negative health consequences.

Cooper said the research is good evidence that people should be eating more foods rich in PUFAs, such as almonds, walnuts and salmon, in addition to taking fish oil pills.

Cooper's team will follow up this research with a similar study on obese female subjects.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 9, 2013

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### **Texas Tech, Department of Energy, Sandia, Vestas, Group NIRE Commission New Wind Research Facility**

**[Editor's Note:** For an online media kit that includes related stories, hi-res photos and videos click [here](#).]

A new wind research facility at Texas Tech University was commissioned today (July 9). Officials from Texas Tech, Department of Energy, Sandia National Laboratories, Vestas and Group NIRE were present at the new Scaled Wind Farm Technology (SWiFT) facility to mark the occasion.

SWiFT is a unique facility that gives the U.S. an opportunity to address wind farm underperformance, much of which can be attributed to turbine-to-turbine interaction. "Some estimates show that 10 to 40 percent of wind energy production and revenue is lost due to complex wind plant interaction," said Jon White, Sandia's technical lead for the project.

White said the SWiFT facility allows for rapid, cost-efficient testing and development of transformative wind energy technology, with specific emphasis on improving wind plant performance. The facility's advanced testing and monitoring will help researchers evaluate how larger wind farms can become more productive.

The site includes two V27 research turbines deployed by the Department of Energy and Sandia, and a third V27 turbine belonging to Vestas, a leading wind turbine manufacturer.

"The completion of the SWiFT facility marks a new and exciting chapter of wind research at Texas Tech University," said Kent Hance, chancellor of the Texas Tech University System. "Research generated from this venture will enhance the capability of wind turbines, help develop wind power systems of the future and further Texas Tech's position as a leader in the wind energy industry. We are grateful to our multiple partners who helped make this important project a reality."

The SWiFT facility could eventually expand to include nine or more wind turbines, which would allow researchers to further examine how individual turbines and entire wind farms can become better "citizens of the grid" and how to be more productive and collaborative.

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“Our researchers at Texas Tech University are working to better understand and enhance methods to harness wind energy, and it is vital we forge ahead and discover the full impact this energy source can have on our society,” said Texas Tech President M. Duane Nellis. “Today’s commissioning ceremony of the Scaled Wind Farm Technology facility is a testament to the commitment of the university and its partners to standing at the forefront of wind research, nationally and globally.”

Sandia announced in July 2011 that it would move its wind energy test facility to Lubbock, funded by the Department of Energy’s Wind and Water Power Program.

In April 2012, Vestas and Group NIRE, a renewable energy development company, signed a Memorandum of Understanding that allows use of the facility for collaborative and proprietary research, depending on the research need.

“For Vestas, the commissioning of SWiFT marks the realization of a technology-acceleration vehicle,” said Anurag Gupta, who works for Vestas Wind Systems’ product integration team. “With its intersection of scale and design, this vehicle provides both cost-effective accuracy as well as the ability to bridge fundamental and applied research at the power plant level. This will help Vestas to quickly drive organic and partner innovations to market.”

Revenue generated from the energy produced by the Vestas turbine will be directed toward a Vestas Wind Research Program through Texas Tech’s National Wind Institute (NWI). Revenue generated from the energy produced by the Sandia turbines will be directed towards supporting NWI graduate students conducting Sandia wind research projects.

Sandia National Laboratories is a multi-program laboratory operated by Sandia Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lockheed Martin company, for the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration. With main facilities in Albuquerque, N.M., and Livermore, Calif., Sandia has major R&D responsibilities in national security, energy and environmental technologies and economic competitiveness.

Vestas has research and development offices in Texas, Massachusetts and Colorado that work with the company’s technology centers in Asia and Europe to improve existing wind turbines and develop the wind power systems of the future. Since 1979, Vestas has supplied more than 46,000 wind turbines in 69 countries and employs more than 3,000 people in the United States in technology research, manufacturing, sales and service.

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This release can be found in the USGS Newsroom at: <http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3638>.



## News Release

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# Lesser Prairie-Chicken Nest Survival May Decline by 2050



Lesser prairie-chicken nest survival may decrease to a level considered too low to sustain the current population by 2050, according to a new report by Texas Tech University and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The publication assesses the effects of temperature and precipitation change on lesser prairie-chicken reproduction on the Southern High Plains. The authors noted that these findings do not suggest that the prairie chicken will become extinct, but rather indicate potential for population declines in New Mexico and West Texas if no actions are taken. The study can be used by resource managers to identify and offset effects of changes in climate on the lesser prairie-chicken.

Scientists looked at modeled predictions of climate change and reproductive data from lesser prairie-chickens from 2001-2011 to determine how weather conditions affect reproductive success in the Southern High Plains. Scientists focused on prairie chicken habitat in the southwestern part of their distribution in New Mexico and West Texas. The study assessed the potential changes in number of eggs laid in a nest, incubation start date and nest survival for 2050 and 2080. The full peer-reviewed report is available [online](#).

"Results from this study are based on current climate projections, and it doesn't necessarily mean that lesser prairie-chickens *will* experience a population decline," said Blake Grisham, Texas Tech University scientist and lead author of the study. "It is very possible that improving connectivity and quality of existing habitats over the next few decades may offset the negative effects of a changing climate."

Scientists conducted 1,000 model simulations using future weather variables to predict future reproductive parameters for this species. Climate forecasts indicate that the Southern High Plains will become drier with more frequent extreme heat events and decreased precipitation. Increased temperatures and reduced humidity may lead to lesser prairie-chicken egg death or nest abandonment. The research showed that warm winter temperatures had the largest negative effect on reproductive success. Scientists suggest that above-average winter temperatures were correlated with La Niña events, which were ultimately a good predictor of drought that reduced available nesting cover in the spring.

"Lesser prairie-chicken survival relies on the combination of habitat and climate, and larger areas of habitat provide more opportunities for them to survive a difficult climate," said USGS scientist and study co-author Clint Boal. "Larger expanses of habitat means that more chickens will live and nest there, allowing for better odds that some nests will be successful."

The lesser prairie-chicken has experienced widespread declines in abundance and distribution, with some estimates suggesting greater than a 90 percent decrease of the population. The species is currently proposed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and is a priority species under the Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

This is the first study to examine how seasonal weather affects reproductive conditions of the lesser prairie-chicken. One aspect that was not incorporated into this modeling is predicted future frequencies of extreme weather events. This model uses average temperatures and does not take into account how a record hot or cold day might affect nest survival.

This study was conducted by the Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit in collaboration with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Plus Consulting, Grasslans Charitable Foundation, the Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, the Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative and the Nature Conservancy.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# Advisory

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July, 12, 2013

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### **Texas Tech Independent School District Summer Camp for International Students**

- WHAT:** Texas Tech University Independent School District (TTUISD) hosts a three-week academic camp.
- WHEN:** July 14-Aug. 4
- WHERE:** Lubbock, San Angelo, Junction, San Antonio and Austin
- EVENT:** TTUISD and the Texas Tech University Office of the Provost hosts their second annual summer camp for 148 international high school students and 17 school coordinators from multiple locations in Brazil.

The purpose of the camp is for students to travel to different parts of Texas, study Texas history through the TTUISD curriculum and learn more about Texas Tech, its programs and varied academic opportunities.

The camp gives students a taste of university life and the opportunity to visit Texas Tech campuses and explore different fields of study, particularly science, medicine and law, through the Shake Hands With Your Future and Junction academic camps.

For the first eight days of the camp, students will visit Texas Tech campus and stay in a residence hall. Students will visit various places, including the Rawls College of Business, Jones AT&T Stadium, Health Sciences Center and the Recreation Center for activities. Students also will enjoy shopping, dining and entertainment within the Lubbock community.

While in Junction, students will interact with college students at the campus, participate in academic and recreation activities.

Students will then travel to San Antonio and spend three days touring the Alamo and other historic Texas landmarks.

The last four days of the camp will be in Austin where students will tour the state's capital and several museums. Students will have the

opportunity to shop, explore Austin, relax at the pool and gain a better understanding of the state's heritage.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

# Advisory

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 16, 2013

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### **U.S. Vietnam Memorial Researcher to Speak at Texas Tech**

- WHAT:** The Vietnam Center and Archive Guest Lecture Series with Patrick Hagopian
- WHEN:** 3 p.m. Thursday (July 18)
- WHERE:** Formby Room, Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library,  
15<sup>th</sup> Street and Detroit Avenue
- EVENT:** Hagopian is a senior lecturer in History at Lancaster University in the United Kingdom and is the author of “The Vietnam War in American Memory: Veterans, Memorials and the Politics of Healing,” an in-depth examination of the development of many of the Vietnam War memorials in the United States and the vital role the Vietnam Veteran community played in their creation.
- Hagopian traveled around the country as he researched and collected materials on Vietnam War Memorials and how the veteran community contributed to their development. He will donate the papers relevant to this project to the Vietnam Center and Archive. He also will speak about the collection and his experiences.

The talk and collection viewing is free and open to the public.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 17, 2013

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### **Texas Tech Ranked Among Top 50 Schools for Hispanic Baccalaureate Degrees**

Texas Tech also selected for participation in Hispanic Quiz Bowl

Texas Tech University recently was recognized by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education Magazine* as one of the nation's top 50 producers of Hispanic baccalaureate recipients.

The ranking was compiled using data from the 2010-2011 academic year.

The magazine focuses on matters of access and opportunity in higher education for all. Its mission is to build educational, cultural, social and economic structures to allow individuals to reach their full potential.

"As we know, the Hispanic population in the state of Texas is significant, and we strive to provide a top-quality education for students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences," said Texas Tech President M. Duane Nellis. "I am proud of Texas Tech's recent ranking among the top 50 Hispanic Bachelor's Degree producers, and I am confident our Quiz Bowl showing will represent the university well."

Senior Vice President and Vice Provost Juan Munoz said he is pleased with the accomplishment due to Texas Tech's distance from a sizable metropolitan area, making this recognition a significant success.

"Texas Tech continues to serve as a national model for fostering a university climate that supports and promotes academic achievement, multicultural competence, social development, civic engagement and the retention of all students," Munoz said.

Interim Provost Lawrence Schovanec echoed these sentiments.

"Texas Tech has made great efforts to recruit and retain students from diverse backgrounds," he said. "Our placement in the top 50 among Hispanic bachelor's degree producers in the country is evident of our success in this area. Thanks to a continued effort by the university to grow opportunities and resources for Hispanic students, Texas Tech is quickly becoming a leader for diversity initiatives among educational institutions."

Texas Tech was also ranked 47th for total American Indian Bachelor's degrees and 88th in total minority Bachelor's degrees for 2010-2011.

### **Hispanic College Quiz Bowl**

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Texas Tech also has been selected to participate in the 2013 Hispanic College Quiz Bowl show. The show is held in September, which is Hispanic Heritage Month, and features college students from different universities to answer questions on Latino history.

The series consist of four half-hour quiz shows that will air across the country. Angela Barrera, senior public relations major from Rio Grande City, will represent Texas Tech at this year's event.

“Texas Tech’s designation as the nation's 47th top degree producer for Hispanic bachelor’s degrees and the selection of one of our students to participate in the Hispanic Quiz further highlights the university’s commitment to inclusive excellence,” Munoz said.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 19, 2013

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### **Electrical & Mechanical Engineering Students Win Contest for Seventh Time** Semaphore Man leads Texas Tech to another microelectromechanical victory.

For the seventh time, Texas Tech University electrical and mechanical engineering students won this year's Educational Design Contest of the Sandia MEMS University Alliance Design Competition for microelectromechanical systems (MEMS).

Their winning design, the Semaphore Man, is an interactive educational tool that teaches science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) concepts. The device acts as a flagger that moves his arms and legs to display a message, therefore students must learn to send the correct electrical signals to display the correct message.

"Semaphore Man can be used to teach number systems, variable bit rates, and the transmission of unique signals via multiple signaling schemas," the students wrote in the project description. The device is about one-thirty-second of an inch tall.

The competition was hosted by the Southwest Center for Microsystems Education at the University of New Mexico and sponsored by Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) and SPIE (formerly known as the Society of Photo-optical Instrumentation Engineers). The competition promotes interest in the design and manufacture of MEMS devices. It is part of an ongoing effort to share technology developed at SNL by students with faculty mentors. There are 30 colleges participating in this alliance.

MEMS technology is often overlooked due to its small size, but it is an integral part of many widely used items, such as smartphones.

The Texas Tech MEMS group was led by Tim Dallas, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering. Lead designer Bryan Kahler and team members Courtney Pinnell, Steve Mani and Philip Henry designed the Semaphore Man.

"The students came up with a creative and engaging concept that will eventually be used for engineering demonstrations for K-12 students, as well as incorporated into Texas Tech's MEMS courses," Dallas said.

Texas Tech and Carnegie Mellon University, winner of the Novel Design Category, will both see their designs birthed in Sandia's microfabrication facility, one of the most advanced in the world.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 19, 2013

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### **Texas Tech Students Head to Wal-Mart to Present ‘Store of the Future’**

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. (Wal-Mart) may be the biggest retail corporation in the world, but that won’t stop seven Texas Tech University graduate students from entering corporate headquarters Monday.

With the help of Deborah Fowler, advisor for the master’s program in Hospitality & Retail Management, the students have been designing Wal-Mart’s “store of the future,” and will present their research and recommendations for a new store prototype to corporate leadership early next week.

“It’s really a unique challenge,” Fowler said. “No other university will have this opportunity. It’s unprecedented.”

Six of the students—Halie David, Taylor Fields, Patrick Bubenik, Jangwoo Jo, Sara Rieke and Callie Worthen—are each working on a master’s in hospitality and retail management. Rahul Kanungoe is a doctoral student in economics.

The students have worked on the project throughout the spring and summer semesters, compiling data provided by Wal-Mart and analyzing research on stores’ productivity (sales per linear foot of shelf space). The group also has done research on marketing tactics, trends within the retail industry and how the layout of the store ensures certain departments can maximize productivity.

“It’s important that we can determine what trends are likely to stick around for a long time and which trends are more of a fad,” Bubenik said.

For this particular prototype, the students said it was important to take into consideration the concept of “flexible fulfillment,” in which consumers seek a quick and easy shopping experience.

“Consumers want to get in and get out,” David said. “They tend to shop more often each week, and the shopping trips aren’t necessarily planned in advance.”

The prototype designed by the students reflects this trend, providing consumers with easier access to certain departments.

Looking at general trends in retail gave the team an idea of where to start, but in order for the students to understand the productivity needs of Wal-Mart, they used four years' worth of sales data provided by the retail giant.

"We had to look at productivity on several levels," Rieke said. "Which size of store is most productive, and then which departments were increasing or decreasing in productivity."

After determining what the productivity needs of the future store would be, Worthen and Kanungoe used a software program to design a 3-D layout of the store's interior.

The software program, called JDA Floor Planning, was provided to Texas Tech through a \$3 million in-kind gift from JDA. The software provides the students with a unique perspective on retail planning that is unparalleled at the university level.

"We have a 3-D layout of the old store, and we can go through the layout for our store and show the differences," Worthen said. "I really have enjoyed working with the software, it's so interesting."

In addition to providing a complete layout for a new store, the team also has looked at how Wal-Mart can use advances in technology to increase its marketing potential. "Devices like smart phones and LED lights have already been implemented in other parts of the world," Jo said. "We have several proposals that would help Wal-Mart save money in the long-term and increase marketing potential."

The students leave Saturday for Bentonville, Ark., and will present their research to more than 200 people at the Wal-Mart corporate headquarters early next week.

For the students, the project is likely to benefit them even if Wal-Mart does not select the prototype or proposals.

"Wal-Mart has hired many of my students who have gone through this class," Fowler said. "If the students can survive the process, nothing can compare to the experience this gives them."

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 22, 2013

CONTACT: Moriah Beyers, moriah.beyers@ttu.edu  
(806) 742-2805

### **Agriculture Programs Bring Youth to Texas Tech Campus**

Selected high school students attend a program focusing on agricultural studies.

Starting today (July 22) through Wednesday the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech University will be highlighted during two summer programs offered to high school students who excel in their 4-H clubs.

Texas Tech has partnered with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to offer the Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Short Course to students. The program takes a look at different opportunities available in higher education for those interested in studying livestock and animal sciences.

“It’s exciting because we get to have the cream of the crop visit our facilities and see what we have to offer in the animal science program here at Texas Tech,” said Moriah Beyers, the coordinator of meat science programs.

The ambassador program is offered at both Texas A&M and Texas Tech with 25 students invited to participate at each campus. The 4-H’ers attend classes and seminars designed to enhance knowledge and skills to become ambassadors for animal science and the livestock industry.

During the course, students are exposed to college level animal science curriculum and discuss topics such as food safety, nutrition, reproduction and animal well being. Beyers said students also get the opportunity to interact with Texas Tech students to learn more about the animal science program.

After the three-day course, students earn the title of ambassador and are required to log at least 30 hours of service annually helping with 4-H projects and educating fellow students.

This summer, for the first time, Texas Tech will simultaneously host the second part of the ambassador program called the Advocacy Academy. Students who attended the ambassador program the previous year are eligible to apply for the 25 spots open in the Advocacy Academy.

The academy looks deeper into lessons taught in the ambassador program while also covering communication and marketing topics such as media training and how to effectively use social media to promote agriculture.

Beyers said their program is excited to educate the next generation of agricultural industry leaders.

“Texas Tech will benefit from getting exceptional prospective students on campus to meet our faculty, staff and students,” Beyers said. “Hopefully these students will consider attending Texas Tech University when they decide where to further their education.”

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at [www.media.ttu.edu](http://www.media.ttu.edu).

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 23, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, [callie.jones@ttu.edu](mailto:callie.jones@ttu.edu)  
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### **Texas Tech Researchers Examine Facebook Infidelity in New Research**

Thanks to a new study by Texas Tech University researchers, treating infidelity among couples may change due to the unique aspect of social networking sites, specifically Facebook.

Using data from [Facebookcheating.com](http://Facebookcheating.com), researchers found that although the stages of coping with online infidelity are unique, the infidelity itself creates similar emotional experiences for the partner who was cheated on.

“This is very important because there is a line of thought that if the infidelity was discovered online, or confined to online activity, then it shouldn’t be as painful,” said Jaclyn Cravens, a doctoral candidate in the Marriage & Family Therapy Program and lead author of the study.

During her master’s program clinical work, Cravens discovered many of her clients’ relationship issues stemmed from online infidelity thanks to an increasing number of people using social media sites, especially Facebook.

“Facebook already has changed the dynamics of relationships,” Cravens said. “We see when our ‘friends’ are getting into a relationship. We say a relationship isn’t ‘official’ until it’s ‘Facebook-official.’”

She found that many of her clients had discovered instances of their partner exchanging suggestive messages with a third party on the social networking site, even though the two were supposedly in a monogamous relationship.

Cravens found that outside of issues like porn addiction, there hadn’t yet been much research to back treatment for these kinds of relationship problems confined to the Internet.

Surprised at the lack of information about a topic so pervasive in society—Facebook had more than 1 billion users as of March 2013—Cravens decided to pursue the topic for a qualitative methods course project, along with the help of Kaitlin Leckie, who also is a graduate student in the Marriage & Family Therapy Program and Jason Whiting, an associate professor in the program.

“We used Facebookcheating.com to determine the coping process for people who have discovered a partner’s infidelity on Facebook,” Cravens said. “We discovered several main themes and were able to create a process model that moves through different stages of the ways people deal with the information.”

The model includes the following five stages:

1. Warning signs: the partner who was cheated on notices gut feelings and/or suspicious behavior on the internet, such as minimizing windows, habitually clearing out browser history and adding passwords.
2. Discovering infidelity: the individual either takes it upon themselves to investigate the warning signs, or the individual accidentally discovers the infidelity.
3. Damage appraisal: the individual determines whether the discovered acts was or was not a violation of the relationship.
4. Acting on appraisal: If the individual determines that the act or acts were a violation of the relationship, he or she either confronts or avoids the partner. Sometimes the individual decides that the evidence wasn’t concrete enough to be able to approach partner. Others retaliate, which typically includes posting messages online or sending a message to the third party, or the third party’s partner.
5. Making a relationship decision: based on how the individual decided to act, they tend to make a decision about the relationship. Some end the relationship because trust was violated, others use monitoring behaviors to ensure it doesn’t happen again, and some are uncertain about what next step should be.

“For many couples, step three can be very difficult because couples often don’t have clearly established rules about online behavior,” Cravens said. “They aren’t totally sure whether or not something can count as cheating.”

Regardless, Cravens said the emotional impact for the party who has discovered online acts of infidelity is no less severe than acts committed in-person.

“People have ability to be more vulnerable online, which facilitates a greater emotional response,” Cravens said. “This can be just as devastating if not more devastating than an offline response.”

For a clinical setting, Cravens explained that the research can help counselors treat marital problems that have root causes in online infidelity.

“It’s important from our perspective to be able to find out what has been violated,” Cravens said. “We need to be able to recognize the emotional experience and process emotions for both partners.”





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Cravens currently is a visiting lecturer at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas. Her research was published in “Contemporary Family Therapy.”

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 23, 2013

CONTACT: Megan Ketterer, [megan.ketterer@ttu.edu](mailto:megan.ketterer@ttu.edu)  
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### **Texas Tech Terry Transfer Scholars Announced**

Soon after Texas Tech University Honors College announced the names of 32 freshmen receiving Terry Scholarships, 24 transfer students also learned they are receiving the first transfer scholarships from the foundation.

Together the number of scholarships awarded makes Texas Tech the fastest-growing school in the foundation's 25 year history. No other university has grown in number of scholars as quickly.

"We congratulate the outstanding students who were awarded with distinguished Terry Foundation scholarships," said Texas Tech President M. Duane Nellis. "One of the fastest-growing universities in the foundation's history, Texas Tech represents the rich academic tradition of the foundation and offers these students the opportunity to receive their education here."

The inaugural 2013 class of transfer scholars will be awarded a projected \$576,000. The university received more than 200 applications for the highly prestigious scholarship.

The Terry Foundation provides transfer students a scholarship for up to three years and incoming freshman with four-year scholarships for Texas residents attending certain universities in Texas. Terry Scholars are selected from a highly competitive applicant pool of incoming freshmen and transfer students who demonstrate exceptional leadership, character, financial need and scholastic ability.

"Texas Tech University is currently home to 93 Terry Scholars," said Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance. "These individuals represent the best and the brightest, and this year's outstanding number reflects the world-class education and programs offered here at Texas Tech. We are proud of the students receiving the Terry Scholarship, and I am confident that as our university continues to grow and advance we can look forward to welcoming many more students of this quality."

The [Terry Foundation](#) was established in 1986 by Houstonians Howard and Nancy Terry. The foundation's goal is to strengthen the state of Texas by identifying, developing and supporting Texas high school graduates and to help young people help themselves.

"Texas Tech is one of the fastest-growing schools in the history of our program," said Ed Cotham, president of the foundation. "Every time we visit the campus we are amazed at

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the world class facilities and the energetic faculty and staff. We continue to be impressed with the students and look forward to a long and successful partnership with the university to develop the future leaders of Texas.”

Recipients of the scholarship are:

- Simon Bainbridge, Houston
- Rocky Brashears, Garland
- Alex Burts, League City
- Leonardo Castaneda, Friona
- Austin Crissman, Bells
- Kenneth Gillespie, Mineral Wells
- Jacqueline Guerra, El Paso
- Ashley Harris, Granbury
- Jeri Holubec, Lubbock
- Alex Johnston, Levelland
- Cody Karp, Lubbock
- Arturo Loya, El Paso
- Chelsea Malone, Hallsville
- Kelly McCune, Liberty Hill
- Mehgan Murray, Wylie
- Dustn Perez, Lubbock
- Shannon Prieto, Morton
- Thomas Raulston, Blum
- Lorenzo Salazar, North Richland Hills
- Emily Sanchez, San Antonio
- Lucely Santillan, Garland
- Devon Shackelford, Comanche
- Jessi Stafford, Levelland
- Ana Vaquiz, Fort Worth

For more information on Texas Tech’s Terry Scholarship Program, visit <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/honors/Terry/>.

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# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 24, 2013

CONTACT: Karin Slyker, [karin.slyker@ttu.edu](mailto:karin.slyker@ttu.edu)  
(806) 742-2136

### **Texas Tech Engineering Student Receives \$225,000 to Start Business**

A Texas Tech University student set to earn a doctorate in chemical engineering in August, recently was awarded a \$225,000 National Science Foundation Small Business Technology Transfer ([NSF STTR](#)) grant to help commercialize his doctoral work that could take years off biomedical and pharmaceutical trials, and thereby save lives.

Jeevan Maddala came to Texas Tech in the fall of 2009 hoping to develop new technology and commercializing it through a startup company. He developed an interest in microfluidic devices – tiny plumbing systems with “pipes” the size of human hairs that are frequently used to transport fluids at very high speeds. This allows scientists to speed up the drug discovery by processing large amounts of chemicals.

Currently, microfluidic devices are manufactured in prolonged trial-and-error processes with many physical mockups. Maddala’s idea is to create a computer program to create those mockups virtually, which would allow him to fine tune and speed up the process. The software also would enable Maddala to develop very complex and large devices, and then manufacture them with a three-dimensional printer.

Collaborating with chemical engineering professors Raghunathan Rengasamy and Siva Vanapalli, Maddala developed a set of algorithms that would allow him to build the software, and virtually create hundreds of microfluidic-device designs that meet the specifications of the user. Each of the designs are analyzed and modified by the algorithms, resulting in thousands of design possibilities in a relatively short amount of time.

Maddala knew it was time to seek funding when a software prototype showed great promise.

“Texas Tech provided me with the right environment to pursue my dreams,” Maddala said. “My background in engineering helped me prepare the technical part of the proposal for the National Science Foundation; the challenge was in writing the business plan.”

He approached the [Texas Tech Office of Technology Commercialization](#) (OTC) and the [Texas Tech University Small Business Development Center](#) for help. Through the OTC, Maddala and Rengasamy filed a patent for his technology.

“We need more graduate students, like Jeevan, to have an entrepreneurial mindset and to focus their research on solving real world problems,” said Ryan Reber, a technology licensing specialist in the OTC. “The end goal is to actually transfer this innovation to the market. We are still a long way from doing that, but by filing for a patent and beginning to develop a business plan with Jeevan’s team and the Small Business Development Center, our office has taken steps to expedite the commercialization process.”

Meanwhile, the NSF grant allows Maddala to focus on the development and demonstration of the software system. If successful, he will move forward with further enhancements and the development of prototypes. He hopes to eventually build a fully automated system that will design and physically construct highly complex droplet-based microfluidic platforms, starting from just a design concept of a user.

These new complex devices could eventually lead to the discovery of materials for pharmaceutical and biomedical applications including protein crystallization, stem cell growth, and drug screening. Additionally, these devices could be designed for biological applications such as the separation of cancer cells from healthy cells.

Further information on the project titled “Development of a Computational Tool for Modeling, Simulation and Design of Next Generation Discrete Droplet Microfluidic Systems” is available [here](#).

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 25, 2013

CONTACT: John Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu  
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### **Texas Tech Researchers Find Surprising Result when Looking Into Effects of Carbon Nanotubes and Soil Sorption of Toxicants**

When it comes to carbon nanotubes (CNTs) in the soil, recent research at Texas Tech University shows that the new materials do not affect the sorption of the toxic part of oil called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Scientists at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health say that's one very small piece in a very large puzzle in trying to understand the possible environmental impact of CNTs – a new material with myriad uses, yet unregulated at the nano-scale by the regulatory agencies. The research was the featured cover article in a recent edition of the peer-reviewed journal, *Environmental Science: Processes & Impacts* (previously known as *Journal of Environmental Monitoring*).

The results surprised Shibin Li, lead researcher on the study and a former doctoral student at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health who used his findings for his dissertation.

“Even at a high concentration, carbon nanotubes did not significantly change PAH sorption behavior in soil,” Li said. “My original guess about the outcome was that carbon nanotubes could largely affect the PAH behavior in soil because of their strong adsorption capability of hydrophobic contaminants. That didn't happen.”

A carbon nanotube is made of graphene – the world's strongest known substance. Graphene is a super-thin sheet of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal “honeycomb” pattern. Conventional pencil graphite is simply many layers of graphene stacked together.

When rolled into a tube, graphene forms a CNT, a fiber 100 times stronger than steel and six times lighter. This new material could pave the way for remarkable technology, from improved computer chips, flexible computer screens or body armor, to health applications, such as bone healing and cancer treatments, and agricultural products, such as smart-delivery pesticide and fertilizer applications.

But with the growing uses for the new material, concerns also grow that these novel nanomaterials may have negative or unintended effects on organisms and the environment, Li said.

“As one of the most largely produced nanomaterials, nanotubes could be released into the environment through various scenarios, such as release from textiles, during incineration or leaching from landfills,” he said. “History tells us that fully understanding a newly synthesized material will guarantee its long-term and safe use in the society. Hence, investigations of carbon nanotube fate and toxicity are needed. Similar to conventional contaminants, the fate of nanomaterials in the environment could change their bioavailability, and has a large impact on their ultimate toxicity.

To study the effect, Li worked with Jaclyn Cañas-Carrell, an associate professor in the Department of Environmental Toxicology, who with Micah Green, an assistant professor of chemical engineering at Texas Tech, [recently developed a method for detecting CNTs in the soil using microwaves](#).

In the experiment, Cañas-Carrell said researchers put nanotubes and PAHs in the soil and looked at basic sorption tests. They used PAHs because much is known about how these chemicals bind to soil.

“You can tell about how bioavailable a certain chemical will be by how sorbed it is to the soil,” she said. “The higher the sorption, the less bioavailable it is to animals that live in the soil, or eat the soil. You want it to stick to the soil to reduce toxicity. We found no effect of carbon nanotubes in the presence of PAHs, which was strange, since PAHs are good at sorbing to organic compounds. We thought maybe we’d see an increase in sorption. That wasn’t the case. It was a neutral effect.”

Both Cañas-Carrell and Li say this finding is a very small piece of a very big puzzle, and it’s hard to draw major conclusions from the finding yet. However more studies should be done to understand the effect this new technology may have on the environment.

“This is a lesson learned from history,” Li said. “People didn’t worry about the adverse effects to the environment and human beings with lots of the traditional contaminants, such as PAHs, PCBs and asbestos. Regulations needed to catch up after people realized the soil, water, air and themselves get adversely affected by these materials. For materials in a nano-scale, their toxicity, generally related to their physicochemical properties, might get enlarged simultaneously. It is the toxicologist’s responsibility to address this issue to the public. It is worthwhile to note that, it does not necessarily mean that they are toxic because they are studied. Again, what we are doing now is to have a better understanding of their toxicity, either toxic, or non-toxic.”

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

# WEB ONLY

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 29, 2013

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### **Anticipating Communication of the Future; Training the next Generation**

Predicting what students will need in the future presents a challenge for new dean.

In describing his intended course as the new dean of the College of Media and Communication at Texas Tech, David Perlmutter cited hockey-great Wayne Gretzky. He said the secret to hockey is to know where the puck is going to be and skating there, rather than skating to where the puck is; as a college, they have to anticipate the future, invent the future and be the future.

Perlmutter, who was the director of the School of Journalism & Mass Communication in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at the University of Iowa since 2009, started his new position July 1. He replaced Jerry Hudson, who retired after 35 years at Texas Tech.

He said having a unified college of communication, such as Texas Tech's, is of utmost importance because students, no matter what their major or interests, are going into a world of converged and open-ended media. Perlmutter said they may work for a couple years at a retail company doing social media, then at a newspaper and then they get a job at Pixar; the old world –training for one job title in one career – is over.

“I think a diverse college such as ours allows us the flexibility of preparing students not just for a job on graduation, but for a life of reinventing themselves, and pressing the restart switch in many different careers,” Perlmutter said.

Second, Perlmutter said Texas Tech's College of Media and Communication is an institution deeply respected in the field.

“Jerry Hudson built a wonderful house here,” Perlmutter said. “This faculty and staff are known as being both very productive in terms of ideas – whether it's research or professional practice or artistry; but also being very dedicated to the students. I picked up on that early, not only from faculty, but from students and alumni, that they really felt cared for and cared about here. And that's not always true everywhere. So there's a special relationship that exists in these walls.”

Last, he said there's a Lubbock/West Texas attitude here that he likes. There's a story he tells about when he came to campus to interview.



“The chancellor was talking about winning, conquering and being number one so much, that I first assumed that he had been told I was interviewing for head football coach,” he said. “But he was talking about academics, and I like that. I like the idea of being number one, of winning, of doing the best possible job that we can. That is a very West Texas spirit.”

The college is No. 1 in the university in retention of undergraduate students. Perlmutter said that’s important, because if someone is able to get in to Texas Tech, he wants to keep them here and not let life circumstances or some academic bump in the road divert them from their dreams and their parents’ dreams.

Continuing to modernize and improve the curriculum is another important mission.

“There are big changes going on in the world of media hourly,” Perlmutter said. “Not only do we have to be attuned to them, but to some extent we need to be anticipating them. And that’s difficult – it means always rethinking what we do and evaluating every day if what we’re doing is effective for our students.”

However, he said, no school of anything anywhere can be great at everything. He said it is important to identify and invest in certain “signature programs, projects and ideas” that will be globally known as the great things going on at the College of Media and Communication at Texas Tech.

One example he gave is the college is well-primed for increasing and expanding its distance and extension offerings. Perlmutter said the world of media is changing so much so quickly, there are a lot of professionals who want to go back to school and refresh their knowledge base to stay current in their various industries.

The second example dovetails on Texas Tech being [named in the top 50 schools for producing Hispanic graduates](#); the college houses the Institute for Hispanic and International Communication ([IHIC](#)).

“Because of its geographic location and some of its programs – and we also house the *Journal of Spanish Language Media*, which is one of the key journals in the world – I think we’re well-positioned to be a center for research, study and practice on bilingual and Hispanic media and related issues,” Perlmutter said.

His bottom line, though, is that the students coming out of his college are legitimately prepared for anything.

“Our students are entering an era where they have to be one-man and one-woman bands,” he said. “They can’t just know one thing. Basically the answer to any employer question about ‘can you, or could you do this’ has to be ‘yes, send me in coach!’ That’s a huge demand on students, but it’s also a huge demand on an educational institution. We must prepare students with the techniques and technology, but especially for the mental rigor of the world they are about to enter.”



## Sidebar

A documentary photographer, David Perlmutter was always fascinated by the power of pictures—how people defined their lives, moments in history, great movements by iconic images. He is the author or editor of nine books on political communication and persuasion. His titles include [Visions of War: Picturing Warfare from the Stone Age to the Cyber Age](#); [Policing the Media](#); [Picturing China in the American Press: The Visual Portrayal of Sino-American Relations in Time Magazine, 1949-1973](#); [Photojournalism and Foreign Policy: Framing Icons of Outrage in International Crises](#); [Policing the Media: Street Cops and Public Perceptions of Law Enforcement](#); and [Blogwars: The New Political Battleground](#).

Previously a professor in the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Kansas, Perlmutter received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 1996. He earned his bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

At the University of Kansas he served as associate dean for Graduate Studies and Research and as a member of the University Press of Kansas Editorial Board Committee.

At Louisiana State University he was interim associate dean for Graduate Studies and Research, led the political communication track and won two faculty awards including the main campus-wide award for research, teaching and service.

Perlmutter has written dozens of research articles for academic journals as well as more than 200 essays for U.S. and international newspapers and magazines such as Campaigns & Elections, Christian Science Monitor, Editor & Publisher, Los Angeles Times, MSNBC.com, Philadelphia Inquirer and USA Today. He writes a regular column, "Career Confidential," for the Chronicle of Higher Education and blogs for that publication's "The Conversation."

He has been interviewed by most major news networks and newspapers, from the New York Times to CNN, ABC, and "[The Daily Show](#)."



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

# News Release

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: July 31, 2013

CONTACT: John Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu  
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### **Texas Tech Researcher: Terrorism Attacks Drive Voters to the Polls**

Policymakers and researchers often assume terrorist attacks are intended to have an effect beyond the physically targeted victims, and recent research co-authored by a Texas Tech University political science expert suggests they do.

The study found that terrorist attacks motivate citizens to vote, said Gregg R. Murray, an assistant professor of political science at Texas Tech. The findings were published July 12 in the peer-reviewed journal, *Journal of Peace Research*.

“Terrorist attacks are threatening and novel political events that induce anxiety,” Murray said. “We believe this anxiety leads people to scrutinize the political environment more closely and to place greater value on upcoming political events and activities, including elections and voting.”

The article, “Voters Versus Terrorists: Analyzing the Effect of Terrorist Events on Voter Turnout,” was co-authored by Joseph Robbins of Shepherd University, and Lance Y. Hunter of Georgia Regents University. The article focuses on the effect of terrorism on voting behavior via citizen emotions.

Traditionally thought of as an irrational basis for decisions, research shows that to the contrary negative emotion in particular often triggers psychological mechanisms that stimulate greater information-seeking and thoughtfulness about decisions to be made.

The researchers’ interest stemmed from traditional concern in political science with voter turnout and increasing attention in the research community to terrorism.

“Terrorism is a political tactic that has caused more than 65,000 deaths in about 28,000 attacks in 150 countries since 2001,” Robbins said. “As a result, political scientists have spent more time looking at terrorism. And given that violent political conflict can have a significant effect on public opinion, the connection with voter turnout is something that had to be investigated.”

To test their theory, the researchers conducted cross-national analyses. The analyses included 51 democracies and more than 350 legislative elections conducted for more than 30 years. It also used two geographically and definitionally distinct datasets of terrorist events. The results of the analyses indicate there are important electoral consequences of terrorist attacks.

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“We found that terrorism is associated with increased voter turnout,” Hunter said. “For instance, a terrorist attack in the year preceding an election is associated with about a 2-percentage-point increase in voter turnout. The effects seem to persist worldwide and regardless of whether we’re talking about international or domestic terrorism.”

If terrorists target democracies because they hope to produce political changes, as some research suggests, then increased voter turnout is an early indicator as to whether or not the attackers’ strategy is effective. Clearly, this study does not confirm that terrorist attacks produce their intended result; it does show, however, that voter turnout is impacted by terrorist events in a theoretically understandable manner.

For more details on the article, visit <http://jpr.sagepub.com/content/50/4/495.abstract>.

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## A Tuna Christmas

By John Davis

In a town called Tuna, Christmas couldn't go smoothly.

A "phantom" threatens to upset the Christmas lawn decoration contest. A mother fights to keep her delinquent and dysfunctional family together. A man is abducted by aliens, but willingly goes to escape his gun-loving, world-hating wife. And to top it off, two legendary Texas performers and playwrights portray the 22 characters in this slice-of-West-Texas comedy.

That's what makes "A Tuna Christmas," the second play in the four-part Tuna series so funny to audiences throughout the world. Now, co-creator and Texas Tech alumnus Jaston Williams brought the 24-year-old play to his alma mater for a workshopping event to see what the show would look like if a full cast played all the roles instead of just two actors.

"I have a strong friendship with the department chairman, Mark Charney," Williams said. "We met a couple of years ago and hit it off. Since we're (Williams and co-creator Joe Sears) not doing 'A Tuna Christmas' ourselves anymore, I always wondered what you could do with this show with more than two people. 'A Tuna Christmas' is the better of the plays, I think, and I just wanted to see if we could re-visualize it with a full cast. We're having a ball with it. It was really amazing."

The workshop was part of Texas Tech University Department of Theatre and Dance's new WildWind Performance Lab. This new summer program has replaced the traditional Tech Summer Rep and is based on Charney's experiences with the Sundance Playwrights Lab, the Wordbridge Playwright's Laboratory and The O'Neill Theatre Center.

Along with "A Christmas Tuna," students also are participating in developing two plays and working on a devised piece, which is a movement piece in which a director is present, but all performers have a say in developing the final product.

"The WildWind Performance Lab provides an education for students at Texas Tech that had them mixing with as many professionals as they could in one place," Charney said "We wanted to bring in 11 guests to work on everything from devised theatre to playwriting. So, we talked to Jaston about coming in and working on playwriting workshops and speaking to students one-on-one about their performance career. He just happened to remark that he had an idea of seeing what 'A Tuna Christmas' would be like with a full cast. I said, 'What if we have all these students involved as well as people from the community, since WildWind is also for the community, not just the students, and we did a staged reading. He was really excited about that. This turned out to be a magical experience. I knew it would be good."

Casting on a Tuesday, Williams and Charney filled roles with actors from Texas Tech as well as former alums and actors in Lubbock. After a Wednesday rehearsal day, the troupe performed a reader's theatre version of the show Thursday night in front of an audience.

Williams and Charney will workshop the show again the fall and in the spring of 2014, doing possible rewrites to compensate for the larger cast. If the pair and the faculty agree, Charney said he and Williams might launch a world premier of a full-cast version of the show at Texas Tech's Maedgen Theatre in the fall of 2014.

Williams said he loved watching other people's takes on characters he has played for years.

"I thought it worked out very well," he said. You have to take into consideration; we only read it once as a group. I didn't have the time to do much in the way of acting coaching, but I didn't really have to. People had an understanding of it. Richard Privitt was just amazing as Joe Bob. A number of the students did really thoughtful and beautiful work. When you see someone take a character and approach it with a completely different concept, it was wonderful because it worked. I especially saw that with the students. It was a good experience for me. We were just scratching the surface. These were just baby steps for something great in the future."

Kim Ansolobehere, who studied theatre at Texas Tech with Williams in the summer of 1970 and 1971, was cast as Tastee Kreme waitress Inita Goodwin with fellow Texas Tech alumna Susanne Wiley playing Hellen Bedd opposite.

She said she loved the experience of working with Williams again as well as seeing how this Texas Christmas classic might sound with a full cast.

"We were friends in college," she said. "When I come back to do summer rep, we got to be good buddies. I can just look at him and start laughing. We used to get into so much trouble all the time. I got an email from (Texas Tech audience relations specialist) Richard Privitt, and it said I've been asked to audition. Jaston is He's trying to reimaging 'A Tuna Christmas.'"

"Well, at the audition, I kind of wanted to play Vera Carp, but he wanted me to read for Inita. Then he said, Susanne, read Helen. We had a great time, and everyone laughed a bunch. Jimmy said, alright, y'all are going to be Inita and Helen. I just kind of played me with a tacky Texas accent. You think about all the people you've seen at the Dairy Queen, it's pretty easy."

Graduate student Randall Rapstine is currently enrolled in the MFA performance and pedagogy program with an emphasis in acting and directing. He said he enjoyed watching Williams in action during the workshop as he randomly assigned parts to the actors, then stop periodically and re-assign parts, attempting to hear each actor's voice and working to match them with the appropriate characters.

“It seemed to me that Jaston was going off his instinctive knowledge of what was right for each character, and matching it with the innate qualities of each actor,” he said. “When the actor and role clearly clicked, he would assign the part to that actor.”

Williams assigned Rapstine to play Aunt Pearl, the matriarch of one family with a surly-yet-sweet side as well as Thurston Wheelis, a radio personality from the town’s small OKKK station.

“I was thrilled to participate because I’m a ham who loves to act and I’m a huge fan of the ‘Tuna’ plays and have always longed to be a part of one,” Rapstine said. “I’m a professional actor, director and writer who has returned to school at Texas Tech to earn my advanced degrees. To be offered a chance to work with Mr. Williams on one of his hilarious scripts was too good to miss. My father, a Tech grad and Lubbockite, LOVES the Tuna shows. They are a reflection of the small-town existence most Texans are intimately familiar with. My Dad grew up in White Deer, in North Texas, so the play characters are almost like family to him. The same holds true for me.”

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It was not hard to figure out what he would want.

1970-71.

Charney, chairman of the Department of Theatre and Dance.

The team rehearsed on Wednesday for I was there all week. We started working on it on Tuesday. Worked wed in rehearsal. Performed Thursday. About 8 hours on the script if that. It was baby steps. I worked a lot more. 12-hour days. One-on-one interviews with students. As rewarding for me as it was for them. Reading performance. 20 people lined up in two rows. Had scripts in front of them on music stands. People doing scenes side-by-side. Very experimental very readers theatre.

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I felt like liger. You put it there. Every actor worth their salt can take a role and find make ti themselves. Suzanne Wiley Kim ansolobehere. Watching the two of them work toghtetr was magnificent. They've got their own ideasa of who they are. It was refreshing in that sense. They were marvelous. I could have watched them all night long. That kind of vibe throughout the



show. Pam Brown played Bertha, she made it her own. You would have thought she had months of rehearsal. Randal played Thurston. Pearl.

Like I said, you don't put too much weight on something I did this for 30 years. These people have done it for 8 hours. You're very tolerant and observant. Joe and I wrote them for ourselves. A lot of people say to us, a lot of people say you are so talented, we didn't right a role we couldn't do. You want to look good, control the subject.

We just got to see one example of what it basically sounded like. That's what we were basically doing. This is what it sounds like. We had some people singing Christmas carols. Group sound effect for UFO extremely creative. The next time we do this or time after. Whole thing about tuna high school band opens up. We don't have to record that, let's go over to the music department. Old lady church fliers. High singing ladies in there. We're just discovering it. What does it sound like when you do it with 20 people. May do it with 5, 20-, 340 I don't know. We're just going to play with it. Mark Charney will direct it. It will be in his hands. I just want to sit back and watch it happen.

Working with playwriting students. When I was going to tech, it was a three person drama dept. with no doctorate program whatsoever. Now to see what's going on now, I'm so proud to have gone to school there and to see what they've been doing. I was amazed at some of the work in progress.

Kim Ansolobehere. What we did. First of all we are old friends. We were friends in college. When I come back and do summer rep. We got to be good buddies. I can just look at him and start laughing. We used to get into so much trouble. He doesn't forget one single thing you've said or done. That's what made him so good at what he does. We used to get into trouble all the time. He loves all my stories. I got an email from Richard Privitt, and said I've been asked to . Jimmy doing workshop Jimmy is doing this thing. He's trying to reimagine. They don't want to do it anymore. 30 years. They're tired. Plus Jimmy and his partner adapted Chinese kid. Terrible cleft palate. He more and more. He takes a lot of taking care of. Private school. LThey're trying to reimagine it as a multi-cast production. And it works. So Mark Charney asked Jimmy said why don't we do a reading formal reading of my play. What their plan is Christmas 2014 do it at tech and use multi-cast part of their season. Feelign around if things need to be re-written. Richard emails. Tuna Christmas. Some of his old friends to read good parts. Turned out it was interesting who he cast. Two rehearsals. Thursdya. Readthrough on Tuesday. Wednesday come and Ok let's have Pam Brown read Bertha Bumiller. Had people in mind. He also now y'all some of my old friends here are going to get good parts. They're going to fit in perfectly. I kinda wanted to play Vera Carp. I\*veda Goodwin. This is the only one that has the taste kreeme. Waitress. They have a great time together in this scene. Interact with Jobob Lipsye. These two midgets. Petey Fisk. Great scene. Then he said, Susan, read Helen. Everyone laughed a bunch. Jimmy said, alright, y'all are going to be Indeeta and Helen. Patti Campbell. Didi Snively. Happy to see. Bobbi Norton read Vera Carp. It was fun.

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# Web Only

## **Agriculture Programs Bring Youth to Texas Tech Campus**

Selected high school students attend a program focusing on agricultural studies.

Starting today (July 22) until Wednesday the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech University will be highlighted during two summer programs offered to high school students who excel in their 4-H clubs.

Texas Tech has partnered with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to offer the Texas 4-H Livestock Ambassador Short Course to students. The program takes a look at different opportunities available in higher education for those interested in studying livestock and animal sciences.

“It’s exciting because we get to have the cream of the crop visit our facilities and see what we have to offer in the animal science program here at Texas Tech,” said Moriah Beyers, the coordinator of meat science programs.

The ambassador program is offered at both Texas A&M and Texas Tech with 25 students invited to participate at each campus. The 4-H’ers attend classes and seminars designed to enhance knowledge and skills to become ambassadors for animal science and the livestock industry.

During the course, students are exposed to college level animal science curriculum and discuss topics such as food safety, nutrition, reproduction and animal well being. Beyers said students also get the opportunity to interact with Texas Tech students to learn more about the animal science program.

After the three-day course, students earn the title of ambassador and are required to log at least 30 hours of service annually helping with 4-H projects and educating fellow students.

This summer, for the first time, Texas Tech will simultaneously host the second part of the ambassador program called the Advocacy Academy. Students who attended the ambassador program the year before are eligible to apply for the 25 spots open in the Advocacy Academy.

The academy looks deeper into lessons taught in the ambassador program while also covering communication and marketing topics such as media training and how to effectively use social media to promote agriculture.

Beyers said their program is excited to educate the next generation of agricultural industry leaders.

“Texas Tech will benefit from getting exceptional prospective students on campus to meet our faculty, staff and students,” Beyers said. “Hopefully these students will consider attending Texas Tech University when they decide where to further their education.”

## **Eye on the Birdie: West Texas Quail Numbers Mysteriously Plummet in 2010 Prompting the Largest Quail Disease Research Project in the U.S.**

**By John Davis**

The well-worn, topless Jeep pulls out of the carport by the horse barn and starts down a dirt trail flanked by sage and mesquite.

As the wheels bounce over the sandy terrain of his 6,000-acre quail ranch in Stonewall County, Rick Snipes starts out seeking the familiar and iconic bird call. The ranch sits in an area known for some of the nation's best quail hunting.

Only 7:30 a.m., and already the air hangs heavy with heat on this bright, June morning in West Texas – a harbinger of the strangling temperature to come. Weathermen have warned to prepare for 105 degrees on this day, and Snipes wonders how lucky the group will be at tracking its quarry.

He pulls into a meadow and shuts off the engine. Sitting silent for a bit, the bird rings out and heads turn to detect its location.

“Bob-white!”

“That’s a beautiful sound,” Snipes says as he scans the ground. The call is close, and the brown-and-white bird appears from the grass close to the Jeep. Numbers have improved slowly this summer, both on his ranch and in other parts of the state. But they’re still nowhere near the anticipated bumper crop of 2010 that seemed to almost vanish prior to the opening day of hunting season.

In June of that year, Snipes said so many quail called in the mornings that he couldn’t even tell how many were in the area. For the past 20 years, the former insurance executive cleaned up his over-grazed patch of Big Country and sculpted it into the perfect quail habitat. It seemed all his hard work paid off, and he awaited an excellent hunting season by October.

That never happened.

By August, the silence was deafening. The bobwhite had evacuated Snipes’ feathered Eden. Stumped and concerned, he checked with other ranchers around him. They, too, had lost their birds. It made no sense, he said, because his carefully planned ranch had sustained so many bobwhites only a few months prior.

Soon, hunters, landowners and state officials realized they had a population crisis on their hands. Throughout the Plains region of Texas, Western Oklahoma and even into Kansas, quail had flown the coop. Some estimated between 70 and 90 percent of bobwhites had disappeared.

Not only did this mean bad news for the birds, but also rural areas that cash in during quail season would feel the negative economic impact. Quail hunters in Texas spent an average of \$8,600 dollars in pursuit of quail in 2010, and half of that was spent in the destination county, according to a Texas A&M Agrilife Extension survey of quail hunters in Texas.

The Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch (RPQRR), of which Snipes was a founding member and is now the current president, responded to the crisis. The ranch's foundation receives private donations from quail hunters and Park Cities Quail, a Dallas-based conservation organization.

The organization originally was conceived to fund science that would help landowners better manage the quail on their property. Then, studies done in 2009 and 2010 at the research ranch found high levels of parasitic worms prior to and during the population decline. That prompted the ranch's foundation to recruit scientists from Texas Tech, Texas A&M and Texas A&M-Kingsville Universities to discover other possible causes that might play a role.

This culminated in a historic effort to examine the role of diseases and parasites in the decline of quail.

Dubbed "Operation Idiopathic Decline" as a nod to doctor-speak for a decline of "unknown cause," the ranch's foundation has given a total of \$2.75 million to fund the project. About half the proceeds have gone to The Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) at Texas Tech.

Scientists began looking for answers on 35 ranches or wildlife management areas located in 25 counties in West Texas and 10 in Western Oklahoma, as well as at the RPQRR's 4,700-acre ranch near Roby. Project organizers estimate the total coverage area of this study includes about 19 million acres of land.

In the past two years, scientists have collected data from 1,240 birds. While the answer still remains elusive, some of the factors they discovered in the largest quail research project ever undertaken have surprised them and landowners alike.

The good news is that populations in most areas have appeared to make a small rebound during the summer of 2013, the scientists say. Results from this summer's collections and research could be the most telling of the three-year effort.

### **Love of the Hunt**

For Snipes, nothing beats quail hunting. Inside his home, photos and paintings of bird dogs line the walls. On one table, a lifelike carving made from one piece of wood portrays a hawk sitting on a fence post, quail in talon.

"Most of the people whose friendship I really value I met through a dog, a bird or a shotgun," Snipes jokes as he sits in the shade of his porch.

For him, it's not so much about the bird as it is about the hunt and the relationship between man and dog. Snipes also raises bird dogs and has a kennel with 10 pointers and one setter.

"The magic for a quail hunter is the dog," he said. "The bobwhite has an endearing characteristic, which is that it usually will hold for the dog. Bobwhites exist in a covey. So when you find one, you find 15 or 20, and they behave for a bird dog and that is what makes the bobwhite special."

Reared in South Carolina, Snipes grew up hunting quail. That was back when quail populated the state in numbers large enough to be hunted, though. Since that time, the birds have vanished due to human encroachment and habitat change.

That loss of habitat and hunting opportunity is what drove Snipes and his wife to buy a ranch in the Rolling Plains of Texas. Here, save for the barbed wire, cattle and loss of the buffalo, the land has remained relatively unchanged, and vast numbers of the birds thrived.

"The ranch, when we first bought it, was probably typical of West Texas ranches in the Rolling Plains in that it was characterized by 'subsistence agriculture,'" Snipes said. "It was radically overgrazed and overgrown with brush in certain places. But at the same time, birds were everywhere. What that tells you is that we were living in a rainy period. A nice rainy spring forgives almost all poor land management, it seems. What we did was look at the ranch and say, 'What can we do to make it a better habitat for quail and for people?'"

He started by taking every cow off the land for six years and allowed the native grasses to flourish. He thinned some of the brush, which in turn freed up more water for the grasses. Then, he kept a small herd of cattle to graze at high intensity for short periods to emulate buffalo.

The practices worked amazingly well, he said.

"The number of birds on this ranch defy belief most of the time," he said. "From 2001 to 2008, we averaged finding five coveys an hour in good weather or bad weather, and the birds were eating purely natural feed. That is remarkable in this day and time."

For 2010, it looked like an unprecedented crop of birds inhabited Snipes' ranch. Each morning the air rang with their calls, and Snipes couldn't wait for hunting season.

"By September, we had no birds to speak of," he said. "For every 100 birds we expected to have, we had four or five birds. So we said to ourselves, like anyone would, 'What in the world happened here?' Rather than just being quail hunters who owned a ranch, we were fortunate enough to be in the position to do some research. We knew for sure it wasn't habitat, we knew for sure it wasn't weather, so what was left was disease or parasites."

## **Call to Action**

Dale Rollins, director of the RPQRR and a professor with Texas Agrilife Research, sits in the back of the Jeep and mimics the distress call of a fledgling bobwhite.

The former national quail-calling champion waits less than a minute before a male comes to investigate. Puffing up to protect his young, the bird approaches the vehicle closely looking for the problem.

These birds aren't just specimens to him, but part of a way of life, he said. Rollins has researched the birds since 1978.

"I was raised in Southwestern Oklahoma," Rollins said. "One of my earliest memories of quail is when I was just 5 years old. We lived south of Hollis, and about this time of year, there was a bobwhite quail whistling its iconic song. My mother said, 'You hear that? That bird calls its name. 'Bob-white.' And it's been calling to me for the last 53 years. They were the only game we had in Southwestern Oklahoma at that time. So, my personal life and my professional life have been guided by quail and quail hunting. I find myself as a researcher that is a hunter first and researcher second. The same skills can make you a good hunter and researcher."

Sustaining quail populations in West Texas served as the impetus for creating the RPQRR, he said. Established in 2007 while quail numbers in the region were still high, the assembly of landowners and quail hunters realized the overall decades-long population declines from the Atlantic Coast to East Texas served as a cautionary tale.

In their 2007 State of Birds report, the National Audubon Society ranked the northern bobwhite quail at No. 1 on a list of common birds in decline, citing an 82 percent drop from 31 million birds in 1967 to about 5.5 million at the time.

In Texas, the bobwhite decline averaged 5.6 percent a year between 1980 and 2003, with a loss of 75 percent. Blue quail have declined 66 percent during the same period with a 2.9 percent loss per year.

Quail hunting and hunters in Texas also have declined precipitously with only 50,000 hunters bagging about 500,000 quail in 2010 compared to 98 million birds bagged by 321,000 hunters in 1960, according to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

The research ranch, formed in the nick of time it would seem, serves as a laboratory to devise and evaluate land management schemes aimed at enhancing bobwhite abundance.

When the RPQRR began operating, Rollins and others worked on the various factors that affect quail health. The team studied the impacts on quail caused by small mammal populations, insect populations, predators and other factors.

"We wanted to learn what happens to the quail system," he said. "When you pull on one of the quail 'strings,' what happens to the others? All of them are intricately interwoven. The research



ranch is unlike any other property in the U.S. because it is dedicated solely to the research of bobwhite quail. Everything here points to quail.”

Then the crash came, and the team was stumped. The drought in 2009 could have contributed to some decline, but the rains of 2010 seemed to have revived population counts. It did for a time, he said. Then the bottom dropped out. People began calling Rollins by December, saying they had found dead quail on their properties.

“Finding a dead quail out in the pasture is a little like finding a needle in a haystack,” he said. “They don’t last very long. I probably got 10 reports of folks finding a dead quail that December. That raised our antennae that maybe it was happening more than we think.”

### **Forensic Findings**

With the number of birds plummeting, the RPQRR shifted gears and funded Operation Idiopathic Decline to discover some answers. In the project, researchers from TIEHH, RPQRR, Texas A&M and Texas A&M-Kingsville collect and share data with colleagues at other institutions.

Rollins said such a huge project could not have been accomplished without adequate funding, the academic expertise from the three universities and logistical support. Many landowners permitted scientists access to their lands for research. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation proved a valuable partner for study sites in the Sooner State.

Normally, when researchers study population decline, the mantra is to look solely at the habitat.

However, Snipes, Rollins and others suspected more than environment had caused the rapid decline. Not every part of the state experienced the same problems from the drought. On Snipes’ ranch, where every available resource quail need still abounded, habitat shouldn’t have been the problem. The team wanted to discover if disease or toxicants might have played a role.

Snipes and Rollins met with Steve Presley, an associate professor of environmental toxicology, and Ron Kendall, director emeritus at TIEHH and professor of environmental toxicology. After touring the facility and discussing the scientific talent base available, Snipes said if Texas Tech would build the lab, the RPQRR would fund the program, donating \$550,000 into the lab itself.

TIEHH’s unique attributes as a lab dedicated to environmental toxicology made it the perfect place to study what may be impacting the quail, Snipes said.

“The lab at Texas Tech was a seismic advance from where we started,” he said. “A centralized receiving lab where sampling could be coordinated and tissue samples could be collected, catalogued, archived and disseminated to the researchers was essential.”

With RPQRR’s funding and a staff of three faculty, three staff members, 11 full-time graduate students and 18 additional researchers from different colleges participating, Kendall and Presley

said the quail lab made Operation Idiopathic Decline more focused and capable of finding answers.

“The quail populations in West Texas, which has been very important as a species of interest for hunting, have dropped precipitously over the last few years,” Kendall said. “We do not think it’s entirely habitat- or weather-related. We think it’s some parasite, disease, contaminant or something to cause such a dramatic drop. In some parts of the Rolling Plains of West Texas, there may be up to 90 percent or more drop in populations. Historically, this area has been one of the great bastions of quail populations in the nation and in Texas.”

Presley, a zoonotic disease researcher in charge of the central receiving lab and disease studies at TIEHH, said researchers at Texas Tech haven’t found a silver bullet yet. But they don’t expect to find just one. In 2009, scientists at Texas Tech discovered some quail populations had exposure to West Nile and Newcastle disease viruses. He suspects many factors culminated the decline.

“With this funding, we’re going to expand the scope on our quail population screening for diseases spread by insects and ticks,” he said. “Diseases, such as West Nile virus, may compromise quail health enough that they don’t reproduce as well or can’t escape predators as well. We’re going to expand our research to determine if quail decline is related to arthropod-borne disease.”

Senior scientists and graduate students trap and collect a vast array of data from bobwhites during August and October each year, Presley said. Most are weighed, measured and have blood drawn and other samples collected. About a quarter of birds sampled are sacrificed and flash-frozen for complete necropsy back at the central lab in Lubbock.

“The central lab has a fleet of mobile laboratory trailers that we send out with the teams,” he said. “All of the samples have a code to identify where they came from and the date collected. Sacrificed birds are necropsied at TIEHH to assess general physical internal condition. All the organs are extracted, examined and weighed.”

So far, scientists have found interesting evidence of lead, mercury and pesticide residue in some of the tissues, Kendall said. Heavy metals in the bodies of the quail could cause lowered immune systems. That, paired with parasites and viruses, could be responsible.

“Lead in the femur bone and mercury is being seen in some of the quail muscle tissue,” he said. “In many of the birds, we see the residues of DDE, which is the residual of DDT. These are some of the early signals of the things going on. One of the most interesting things that we’ve seen is the presence of eye worms, which are parasites that occupy the eyes of quail. What is interesting is that we see a significant number of the quail in the Rolling Plains with eye worms. In South Texas, almost none are seen. There are various investigations going on to see what this means. We’re getting reports of quail flying into fences and flying into buildings or hitting cars and a lot

of times we're seeing eye worms. These worms could impair the birds' ability to escape from a predator or find food."

Rollins said scientists also found high numbers of cecal worms in the lower gut of the quail. While these parasites aren't thought to be overly dangerous, the unusually high numbers found in birds from the study could impair digestion, especially in the winter.

More science is needed, Presley said, though he thinks the data collected will be able to answer what has caused the recent drastic population decline and also may help scientists understand the decades-long slope in quail numbers

"Operation Idiopathic Decline's initial phase was a three year survey to go out and trap quail, analyze tissue and then move to another phase of research," he said. "The ultimate goal is to try to identify what is causing the decline, what is causing it over the past 20 years. We want to look at it and determine if disease is playing a role. When we find that, then we can take the next step which is how can we limit that disease, toxicant or parasite. Once you know what the problem is, you can address it."



# Web Only

## **Neha Marathe Graduate Profile** **By Lauren Koslovsky**

Doctoral student, Neha Marathe, an international student from Pune, India, has contributed significantly with her work in the area of wind and science engineering during her time here at Texas Tech University.

Neha's advisor, Andy Swift, has known her for two years and said she is very dedicated to her work and has the ability to handle several projects at the same time, making her an excellent student.

After completing her undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pune, she decided to further her education by completing her graduate research in mechanical engineering at Texas Tech in. Neha came to the U.S. to further her education because of the research options in science, technology and the potential opportunities it could bring ahead.

"While working on my master's, I learned about the Wind Science and Engineering Doctorate Program at Texas Tech and immediately realized that I wanted to pursue it," said Neha, who obtained her master's degree in 2009. "Understanding the energy crisis and a need for technological advance in sustainable sources of energy is why I chose wind energy to be a subject for my doctoral research."

Neha's focus is on low-momentum regions formed behind wind turbines, which are called wakes. Her research is to understand the power performance and behavior of the wakes of wind turbines under different types of wind flow and to discover ways of improving the performance of the entire wind farms.

"My analysis is based on observational data from Texas Tech's unique Ka Band radars and utility grade wind turbines, as well as high-end computational modeling," Neha said. "If proper operating procedures are established based on this research, it would mitigate the negative impacts of wind turbine wakes. It may also contribute toward making reliable predictions for power generation."

Apart from Neha's dissertation, she works for Group NIRE, where she assists with the development of research wind projects at the Reese Technology Center in Lubbock. She also works as a teaching assistant at Texas Tech National Wind Institute.

Not only has Neha experienced a Texas Tech education, but as an international student, she has been exposed to a new culture.

“As an international student, adapting to the culture here in Texas was not difficult,” Neha said. “The people here are really nice and the faculty I have worked with are diverse and knowledgeable, making this a great experience.”

Upon completing her doctorate, she intends to continue working in the research field, focusing on advances in wind energy and hopes to stay in the U.S.

“I strongly believe that the graduate program that I am currently enrolled in is very well organized, diverse and will help me pursue my professional, as well as personal goals,” Neha said.

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### **Ordering Business Cards Just Got Easier**

Printing Center launches new automated ordering system for stationery.

With more than a million business cards printed each year, saving people both time and money when ordering becomes a really big deal.

That's why the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Printing Center launched a new ordering portal for printing official business cards.

Not only is the new system a quick and easy way to design and order Texas Tech business cards, but they also are discounting online orders by 10 percent, said Garrett McKinnon, unit manager with the Printing Center.

"The automated system makes it easier for everyone," McKinnon said. "We really wanted to make it a service that makes it easier for people to order business cards. This system lets people see what it looks like before it's ordered and gives them a little more creative control over the whole process."

That process now takes around three to five days and is a big improvement over the manual process used before, he said. The new system allows customers to design their own business cards within the approved guideline and see what they will look like before submitting them to print.

The Printing Center offers two different designs for business cards. The traditional design features just the Texas Tech University logo using the Double T or shield. The modern design includes the name of the college, department or office to make it more personal, something McKinnon said many people prefer.

How to order business cards using the new system:

1. Visit [spol.ttuhscc.edu](http://spol.ttuhscc.edu)
2. Click the "Order" button at the top
3. Select your Institution or affiliation
4. Select the type of card you want (Traditional or Modern)
5. Select the logo you prefer to use (Double T or shield)
6. Fill in the appropriate information
7. Preview your card and submit



# Web Only

## **Propelled by Passion**

Texas Tech doctoral candidate keeps history alive.

By Karin Slyker

He grew up surrounded by military and historic aviation his entire life, so it was only fitting that he found an interest in aviation himself.

Interest in aerospace runs deep in Chris Trobridge's family. His grandfather was a World War II flight engineer on the B-24 Liberator bomber of the Pacific Theater. Trobridge's father followed in his own father's footsteps and worked in the aviation industry.

So when the Texas Tech University doctoral candidate had the opportunity to join Midland's American Airpower Heritage Museum (AAHM) in 1998, Trobridge knew it was something he wanted to do. The museum is affiliated with the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) to serve as its educational partner. The CAF travels across the country with rare aircraft.

"The Commemorative Air Force is an organization founded in 1957 to collect, preserve and operate the Allied aircraft of World War II to honor the men and women who built, serviced and flew these aircrafts," Trobridge said. "Today it has grown from a handful of men in the Rio Grande Valley to an international organization of more than 10,000 people and 150 aircraft."

Trobridge moved from Rhode Island to Midland, where he worked at the traditional museum for four years. He became active in the CAF's B-29 and B-24 Squadron and High Sky Wing. The CAF is structured into about 50 units around the world, many of which operate rare aircraft.

He moved to Lubbock in 2002 and in 2008, began pursuing his doctorate in history. The same year Trobridge was named the public information officer of the CAF, where he was editor of the unit newsletter and primary media contact as the squadron toured the B-29 Superfortress and B-24 Liberator around the country.

As public information officer, Trobridge often toured with the aircraft and had opportunities to fly down the Hudson River and circle the Statue of Liberty in the world's only flying B-29.

Trobridge resigned from the position six months ago to complete his dissertation in the Department of History, but continues to volunteer with the organization. His dissertation focuses on examining the cultural, technological and financial aspects of the introduction of commercial jet aircraft.

He also served as a flight engineer while aboard the B-24 and scanner on the B-29 Superfortress. Although he is not a pilot, the scanners and flight engineers are part of the flight crew to insure safe operation of the bombers.

“In addition to helping with the maintenance and operation of the aircraft, we tour the nation, making about 30 to 40 stops a year, during which we allow visitors to come to the aircraft, take a tour and learn the history of it,” he said.

The tours allow those working and volunteering with the CAF to travel around the country with the aircrafts. The squadron is composed of about 300 members many of whom volunteer for weeks at a time to travel.

Trobridge said during tours, the volunteers become educators and also meet the men and women who served in World War II.

“The most rewarding experiences are when World War II veterans and their families come and visit the aircraft,” he said. “We will have the veteran sit in his position and tell the family about their experiences. For some of the veterans it is the first time to have talked about what they did during the war.”

The purpose of flying the aircraft is to honor the men and women who built, serviced and flew the aircraft. Those involved with the CAF also fly over funerals of veterans whenever possible to pay them last respects.

“I have met a number of very special men during my time with the Commemorative Air Force,” Trobridge said. “Many of the men who flew these aircraft came home and put away their uniforms and continued on with their lives, so it is our responsibility to honor them and their service.”



## **Quail-Tech Alliance Seeks Answers to Increase Quail Populations**

By John Davis

About eight years ago, bobwhite quail started disappearing on the fabled Four Sixes Ranch near Guthrie.

Joe Leathers, the general manager of the ranch, said he and others noticed fewer and fewer of the birds as each year passed. While they knew that other parts of the country and even Texas had experienced the same disappearing act, he and owner Anne W. Marion wanted to do something to protect the coveys that still existed on the 208,000-acre ranch that was established in 1870.

“The people that own the ranch take a lot of pride in taking care of their country and the wildlife that lives on it,” Leathers said. “We saw an opportunity with Texas Tech to do something about the quail situation.”

In 2010, the ranch enrolled in the Quail-Tech Alliance, a five-year, \$1.25 million study. Scientists with this project hope to discover reasons for the area’s quail decline as well as develop new methods for landowners to use to stabilize, maintain and even increase quail populations, said Brad Dabbert, research project manager and an associate professor at Texas Tech’s Department of Natural Resources Management (NRM).

The Quail-Tech Alliance is a partnership between Texas Tech’s NRM and Quail First, a nonprofit organization.

“This project got underway because of the general decline of quail nationwide,” Dabbert said. “We were starting to see that decline creep across Texas. Quail-Tech was formed to try to learn what problems are involved with the decline to get in front of it as much as possible.”

Currently, the Four Sixes ranch is one of 26 anchor ranches in 19 counties covering about 1.6 million acres of land, he said. The organization hopes to grow into a 38-county research area in west central and northwest Texas – an area that encompasses more than 22 million acres or roughly 10 times the size of Yellowstone Park.

Other historic ranches already participating include the Pitchfork Ranch, W. T. Waggoner Ranch, Milliron Ranch in Collingsworth County and George Allen’s Circle A in Archer County.

“It is organized so that basically the ranches pay a fee to be in the organization and get some deliverables, such as quail counts and consulting on how to take care of their lands,” Dabbert said. “We also have on-the-ground research at the ranches at various times. Their fees are paid to Quail First, the charitable foundation. Those funds are then sent to Texas Tech.”

Protecting the West Texas quail-hunting legacy is what the project is all about, said Charles Hodges, Quail-Tech board member, co-founder of Quail First and chairman of Hodges & Associates Architecture in Dallas.

The Texas Tech alumnus said he spent most of his life following his father around during quail hunting season, and he wanted to preserve that tradition for future generations.

“That legacy my dad gave me was one that brought me to start the program and return quail hunting to its prominence in West Texas,” Hodges said. “Someone had to do it, so we got everyone together at the Omni Hotel in Fort Worth to bring this to forefront. We had Dr. Dabbert and Dr. Sosebee build a program, and it’s turned into one of the largest in the country in terms of acres enrolled.”

Organizers envisioned working ranches enrolling in a program to become a laboratory for quail research, Hodges said, as a practical way to get the research accomplished. He and others went to ranch owners to explain the program.

“The vision is really continuing to evolve,” he said. “In the beginning, I think there was a great lack of real-world science. There were a lot of theories as to what was happening with the quail, but not a lot of practical application. We found there are lots of external factors – some natural and some man-made. So we thought we’d go down the checklist to see what was affecting the quail populations and get to the source of the decline so we could educate and intervene with anyone that’s a landowner or quail hunter.”

So far, researchers have done genetic analyses of quail to look at integrity and diversity of the birds in different areas as well as screen for some diseases, such as West Nile virus. In the northern Panhandle areas, researchers have studied how scaled quail might be competing for food and space with bobwhites and how the differences in each species’ reproductive capabilities may play a role in the decline.

Scientists also have worked on ways to raise wild birds from eggs with surrogate parents while in captivity, he said, since captive-raised birds tend to not learn what they need to survive in the wild. They also have tried to relocate populations from high-density areas of South Texas, which seems to be faring better than the rest of the state’s populations, into areas where bird numbers have significantly decreased.

“In my opinion, one of the most important projects has been supplemental feeding,” Dabbert said. “Supplemental feeding in the past meant putting feed into some sort of barrel feeder or broadcasting feed onto road surface. There have been several studies that have shown neutral or temporary effects. We’ve been broadcasting sorghum into the habitat so that birds don’t have to go to one specific spot, such as a feeder, or expose themselves on open road. It’s been pretty satisfying to get something like that to work.

“In two years, we’ve seen 15 percent to 30 percent higher annual survival in areas where supplemental feeding took place. The negative is the feed’s not cheap. We’re about to restart that study and see if we can make it more economical.”

During the dry year of 2011, Dabbert said only 15 percent of females tried to nest when they had to find their own food. That's compared to 85 percent of supplement-fed birds that tried to nest the same year.

Leathers said a little quail hunting goes on at the Four Sixes Ranch, although no hunting has taken place in the past two years, and none will take place this year.

He hopes that researchers will continue finding useful information to share with landowners to keep their coveys intact.

"Anne's interested in cattle, but also with the wildlife as well," he said. "We work so cattle and wildlife can cohabitate and thrive. I've been extremely pleased with the research, and the students from Texas Tech have been very diligent and done an extremely good job with this project."

For more information on the Quail-Tech Alliance, visit [www.quail-tech.org](http://www.quail-tech.org).

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**Raider Research University to Help Staff Manage Grants**  
SPAR creating six new courses focused on sponsored project funding.

Staff members will soon get some help with managing grants thanks to Raider Research University (RRU), a new comprehensive education program created by SPAR.

RRU will train department research administrators and other support staff to be more effective, efficient and compliant when administering sponsored project funding.

Sherrelle Vaughn, assistant managing director of SPAR, said the office currently is working on implementing six courses, which begin in September. Courses cover everything from the basics of cost policy to proposal development and submission and award management.

These courses directly affect faculty and staff involved with sponsored research at Texas Tech with funding from federal, state or private agencies.

“Currently, Texas Tech offers limited training for those involved with grants, and the RRU program is our remedy to this,” Vaughn said. “In the future, we plan to introduce a level two program with additional courses covering more specific topics of research. However, we are just beginning with these six level one courses for now.”



# Web Only

## **Student Spotlight: Business Student Joins Under Armour Team** **By Megan Ketterer**

Name: Kacie Phillips

Hometown: Tipp City, Ohio

Major: Marketing & Management

Classification: Junior

Internship: Digital Sport Marketing and Product Engagement Intern, Under Armour World Headquarters

### **1. How did you find out about this internship?**

I was initially contacted by Under Armour's talent acquisition team last October. The recruiter found my profile through LinkedIn and reached out to gauge my interest in the company. Needless to say, I was very excited about pursuing such an amazing opportunity. I have always had an innate desire to combine my passions of sports/fitness and marketing/social media.

### **2. What was the application and interview process like?**

Since the recruiter reached out to me in early fall, I had several initial conversations with him. After sending my application, I followed up with recruiters to touch base and keep my application top-of-mind. In mid-March, I learned I made it through the initial screening and went on to the next round: a phone interview. During spring break, I had my phone interview and moved to the final round — a Skype interview with my potential hiring manager a few days later. After being one of more than 5,000 applicants, I was so honored and humbled to be offered the position the following day.

### **3. What kind of work do you do for your employer?**

I am interning with the Digital Sport team at Under Armour. I work collaboratively with the brand team — including the brand categories, public relations, digital/social, events, and retail/account marketing — to tell the [Armour39](#) story through our traditional channels. In order to sustain the conversation, I am building on these channels to develop disruptive, creative marketing. My position incorporates not only traditional marketing, but also social media strategies and grass-root events through our athletes, employees and key influencers.

### **4. How has Texas Tech prepared you for this opportunity?**

Texas Tech and the Rawls College of Business are a huge proponent in my success. Through influential faculty members, various leadership positions and rigorous coursework, I have gained the work ethic, confidence, and know-how to earn this position and excel in the process.

**5. What have you learned from this experience?**

From the beginning, I dove in to learn about Armour39, develop an understanding for how Under Armour marketing leverages social media and grass-root movements, and build out a plan to activate across every project. I have developed a comprehensive understanding of the best practices to market and communicate the “Brand” image.

Every day I take on new challenges and learn from the candid and critical feedback of my manager and coworkers. Through immersing myself in the atmosphere of such an exciting, fresh and fast-paced company, I have learned invaluable skills and competencies to carry throughout my education and career.

**6. How will this experience help you in your future career?**

In terms of my future career, I would love to come back and work at Under Armour. This company offers an amazing opportunity to not only pursue my passion, but also to feel empowered to create and innovate along the way. Through hard work, determination and the empowerment of an organization, I know I can make a difference and add value wherever I go.

**7. What advice would you give to other students about the internship experience?**

An internship is an invaluable experience. It gives insight into a potential career path, while developing skills and knowledge along the way. Absolutely no amount of coursework compares to tangible work experience.

Get out there, get your feet wet and challenge yourself. I walk into work each and every day with a smile on my face and just enough nerves to challenge myself to improve, excel and add value to my company. No matter what you do or where you go, stay humble and stay hungry.

**8. What do you hope to do in the future?**

In the future, I want to combine my sports/fitness with marketing/social media passions — just as I have been able to do over the summer. While it has always been a dream of mine to pursue a career in professional sports, I am keeping an open mind, a smile on my face and a desire to make a difference wherever my path may lead.



# Web Only

## **Student Spotlight: Journalism Student Learns Her Way Around CBS Newsroom By Grace Acuña**

Name: Alicia Keene  
Hometown: Austin  
Major: Journalism  
Classification: Senior  
Internship: Intern, CBS News in New York

### **1. How did you find out about this internship?**

CBS News had the program description on its website. I am on the College of Media and Communication's Dean's Council, and Dean Jerry Hudson (who has since retired) reminded journalism majors at one of the meetings to keep CBS News in mind for internships because Scott Pelley, the CBS Evening News anchor, is a Texas Tech journalism alumnus.

### **2. What was the application and interview process like?**

The application was actually pretty simple. It was a one page form asking for general information. I had to turn in a copy of my transcript, two professor reference letters, and a letter of credit. I also forwarded my application packet to Dean Hudson, who forwarded it to Scott Pelley. A week later, I received an email from the internship director requesting a Skype interview with me. About two weeks after the interview, I received an email with my acceptance letter.

### **3. What kind of work do you do for your employer?**

It just depends on the day and time I am scheduled to work because each shift requires different work to be done. Essentially, I do a lot of behind-the-scenes work. The only thing I am not allowed to do is film work or make video edits, due to union rules in New York. I go out on shoots with reporters and cameramen to observe and help. For example, I recently got to attend the annual New York City Pride Parade. I was given a media pass and allowed to go inside the barricades so I could watch the reporter and cameraman in action. On smaller stories, sometimes they have let me go out on my own with a cameraman and serve as the reporter. I write scripts for videos and research stories to prepare a producer or reporter for an interview. I had the opportunity to do a phone interview with Vince Vaughn about his movie, "The Internship," and I got to sit in on a video interview of Seth Rogen and Jonah Hill.

**4. How has Texas Tech prepared you for this opportunity?**

Regarding the technical aspect, I would have been completely lost without terminology I learned in the journalism program. The three most important aspects Texas Tech taught me are the importance of writing well, working hard and journalism ethics. If you ask anyone here, they will tell you the most important quality to have in this business is good writing skills, and my internship requires a lot of writing on a daily basis. The journalism program at Texas Tech is very focused on building its students' writing skills.

**5. What have you learned from this experience?**

All in all, it is one thing to hear about a newsroom, but it is another to actually experience one and become immersed in it. There is so much more to the newsgathering and production process than I thought. Each person at each station in each network must work together and play a role in keeping news production alive efficiently.

**6. How will this experience help you in your future career?**

Most people don't get the opportunity to see the business at the national network level, and a national network is vastly different than a local station. I have an overall understanding of how the business works, and I have made contacts that I will remain in contact with after I graduate.

**7. What advice would you give to other students about the internship experience?**

Always be positive -- you want to contribute to the atmosphere, not detract from it. Be outgoing and communicative to help find mentors to teach and guide you. Take advantage of the internship and learn as much as you can to better yourself.

**8. What do you hope to do in the future?**

I thought I wanted to be a reporter or correspondent because those people are generally associated as the news providers, but I am discovering there are other ways to be part of the action, such as being a producer. I would like to work in a larger market like Dallas, Houston, Austin or possibly even New York.





# Web Only

## **Student Spotlight: Management Information Systems Student Joins Omnifone By Lauren Koslovsky**

Name: Jacob Fedosky

Hometown: Rowlett

Major: Management Information Systems

Classification: Junior

Internship: Application Design and Business Development Intern, Omnifone London.

### **1. How did you find out about this internship?**

I found out by leveraging my network. Since I've been at Texas Tech, I have made a point of getting a business card from every professional that I have come in contact with. My network has grown tremendously and nearly everyone I have met has been eager to help further my career.

### **2. What was the application and interview process like?**

I submitted my résumé online and interviewed via Skype.

### **3. What kind of work do you do for your employer?**

I primarily work with the app-development team. Omnifone is a music subscription company, but they don't have a customer-facing business. Instead, they provide licensing services to companies like Spotify, Rara and Sirius XM. They also provide consulting services to their customers by assisting in app-development, which is where I work.

### **4. How has Texas Tech prepared you for this opportunity?**

The Rawls College of Business has prepared me in many ways. Through my coursework I have learned the necessary skills to succeed in a number of roles. In addition, I have learned to be comfortable in a variety of situations. Working in a different country, even England, is significantly different than working in the U.S., but thanks to Texas Tech, I have not felt out of place.

### **5. What have you learned from this experience?**

I have learned how businesses operate abroad. It is obvious to me that the world is shrinking. Technology has made it very easy for companies to conduct business on a

global level, and my internship has allowed me to see that first-hand. I communicate with individuals in the U.S., Australia and Japan on a daily basis.

**6. How will this experience help you in your future career?**

I hope to land a career in technology consulting. Consultants are often expected to work with international clients and I think my previous international experience will help my résumé stand out from the other candidates when applying for a job.

**7. What advice would you give to other students about the internship experience?**

Take advantage of it. Internships often lead to a full-time job and it's such a relief to have a career lined up before graduation. The university offers career fairs to help students land an internship or job. Even if you aren't in need of a job right away, go to the career fair and get to know the employers. The connections you make may help you in the future.

**8. What do you hope to do in the future?**

Next summer I have an internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers as a technology consulting intern. If all goes well, I hope to get an offer at the end of my internship and start my career as a technology consultant.



# Web Only

## **Texas Tech Alumnus Ventures in the Shrimp Industry** **By Lauren Koslovsky**

After a 20-year career in real estate, Texas Tech University alumnus Andrea Hance had a change of heart.

A 1992 graduate of the College of Agricultural Economics, Hance and her husband started a shrimp business in 2008. Four years later, she recently was named executive director of the Texas Shrimp Association.

“My husband's family has been in the shrimping business for more than 30 years, so we decided to purchase our first fishing vessel in 2008,” said Hance. “Needless to say, everyone thought we were crazy as the gulf shrimping industry has been steadily declining since 2001.”

This leap of faith now has Hance overseeing the Texas Wild-Caught shrimp industry. In her role, she works with the Texas Shrimp Association developing strategies to educate consumers, lawmakers, press, environmental groups and the public about the importance of protecting and growing wild-caught gulf shrimp.

“This position allows me a platform to educate consumers on the difference between wild-caught and imported farm-raised shrimp,” Hance said. “Not specifically the taste of the shrimp, but the overall economic impact of the gulf shrimp industry and what effect it has on the Gulf Coast.”

Since she and her husband entered the shrimp industry, they have been through many obstacles such as record-high fuel prices, a spike in imported shrimp, which dropped prices to a 40-year low, and an oil spill. However, Hance said shrimp prices currently are up approximately 30 to 40 percent and she is optimistic about the future.

Along with her success in the shrimp industry, Hance said her biggest accomplishment is finding balance in her life. Not only did she drastically change her career, but she also reached new heights in her field of work.

“I am married to a wonderful man and together we have successfully managed our real estate investments, cattle operation and are currently expanding our shrimp business,” Hance said. “We are parents to three beautiful dogs and take time to travel and see the world.”

### **Why did you choose Texas Tech?**

My older brother is a Texas Tech alumnus. I remember visiting him while in school and I instantly fell in love with the town, the friendly people and the beautiful campus. I visited several other state universities, but Lubbock is where I felt at home.

**What is your favorite spot on campus?**

The Student Recreation Center. I couldn't wait to show it to my nieces, one of whom will be an incoming as a freshman. I was shocked to see that it had completely doubled since I was a student.

**What is your favorite Texas Tech Tradition?**

The Masked Rider. I tried out for the Masked Rider in 1990 and was blessed to have the opportunity to ride Double T during tryouts.

**What do you love most about being a Red Raider?**

The memories and friends I made while in Lubbock are invaluable. Just being a part of Texas Tech's traditions and still enjoying those traditions 20 years after graduating is amazing. I can't imagine my life without experiencing those four years in Lubbock. My degree is the first thing I hung on my office wall.

**What is one word to describe yourself?**

Open minded. I never form an opinion about anything until I am fully aware of all the variables.

**What is your favorite Texas Tech memorabilia or article of clothing?**

As a die-hard football fan, I would have to say is my Kliff Kingsbury football jersey that I still wear during every Texas Tech football game.

**What advice would you give to current Texas Tech students?**

Make yourself aware of all organizations, clubs and affiliations Texas Tech offers. Be involved, but most of all enjoy and treasure the time spent in college.



# Web Only

## **Texas Tech Graduate Student Aimee Cloutier**

By Lauren Koslovsky

Graduate student Aimee Cloutier is described by her advisor as creative, hard working and an independent thinker. For her line of research in mechanical engineering, these are vital qualities to make her successful and change future prosthetics.

Cloutier, originally from Denton, currently is working on her doctor degree in mechanical engineering at Texas Tech University. She has been at Texas Tech since her undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering and will continue her research for the next three years.

Cloutier was interested in human and medical research as an undergrad, which is what led her to her graduate research. James Yang, assistant professor and director of Human-Centric Design Research Laboratory, has worked and advised Cloutier for three years. Yang influenced her to stay and continue her education at Texas Tech.

“Her case inspired me that Texas Tech does have a lot of excellent students,” Yang said. “She has the motivation to be a professor.”

Cloutier has spent the last year of her program researching prosthetics and what has already been done in the field. Her major research interests are in the field of neurorehabilitation, specifically the design of robotic devices to assist with physical therapy, activities of daily living and restoration of natural sensorimotor function.

“I am currently working on design, control and sensory feedback for a prosthetic hand. The goal is to create a hand which is adaptive to more types of grasp than current designs,” Cloutier said.

Her time at Texas Tech has not only been fulfilling, but rewarding in ways she never thought of.

Cloutier said she has enjoyed her graduate experience at Texas Tech. She encourages students to conduct their research here because of the knowledgeable faculty and high level of research methods that she has learned.

“The classes I have taken in graduate school have been the best for my research,” Cloutier said. “I enjoyed learning from my professors because they really prepare you well for what you will be doing.”

Cloutier received funding through the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program to conduct research on the design of prosthetic hands. The funds will

also help her create outreach programs to increase involvement in science and engineering from minority and female students, and collaborate with international researchers in Italy, where she will continue her research.

“We haven’t nailed down a specific project yet, but what we think we will be doing in Italy is trying to design a sensorized fingertip to get softer and closer feel to a human finger than a robotic finger, then applying it to prosthetics hands that researchers in Italy have already been working on,” Cloutier said.



# Web Only

## **Texas Tech Staff Gets ‘Grilled’ for National Grilling Month**

Bradley Price, Mark Miller, Debra Reed and Dewey McMurrey share their expertise for the grill.

By Grace Acuña

July is National Grilling Month. Although not an official holiday, backyard summer cookouts have been a tradition since caveman times.

To celebrate, Texas Tech University experts shared their knowledge of preparing, cooking, and serving meat for this grilling season.

### **Beef Up!**

The first step of grilling is selecting the protein of choice, said Brad Price, director of Raider Red Meats.

“Before the grilling skills come into play you must start with a good piece of meat,” Price said. “You also need a grill that cooks evenly to create an excellent eating experience.”

Price said the best cut of meat really depends on a person’s preference.

“There are grills out there that fit every kind of meat based on desired grilling method,” he said. “Make sure you understand your grill, know how it cooks and know that hot spots exist.”

While working at Raider Red Meats, Price said he hears from customers who want to purchase meat that will taste the same every time they grill.

“I think that one of the most important things is to learn where you’re shopping for your protein,” Price said. “Learn how protein performs each time from these stores so you can ensure you’re getting a great steak every time.”

Raider Red Meats are sold at on-campus restaurant, COWamungus in the Animal and Food Sciences building, and all proceeds help fund scholarships for students within the Department of Animal and Food Sciences and Texas Tech’s nationally ranked judging teams.

### **The Heat is On!**

Mark Miller, a Horn professor of meat sciences, food processing and preservation, believes grilling is one of the safest ways to prepare food.

“Cooking your food with that kind of temperature, smoke and heat ensures any bacteria on the surface of the meat you’re cooking will be killed,” Miller said. “So it’s a very safe process.”

Although the grilling process is an overall safe one, the cook still needs to be careful of cross contaminating food. Miller said there needs to be separate plates for raw and cooked meats. A mistake people make is putting cooked meat in the oven for more than 20 minutes to keep warm while preparing their plates because it could ruin the flavor.

“You want to prepare everything else, all your other sides, have everything ready,” Miller said. “So when your steaks are ready, all the food can go immediately onto the plates and have everyone eating a couple minutes.”

### **Palate Pleasing!**

Debra Reed, a nutritional sciences professor and Helen DeVitt Jones Chair, said when it comes to healthy grilling there are three things to watch out for: overcooking the meat, portion control, and including more vegetables and fruits.

Overcooking the meat can produce compounds that can lead to cancer. Instead, Reed suggests cooking meats at a lower temperature or pre-heating them in the microwave before grilling to reduce cook time.

“Overcooking, charring, and burning can create production of cancer-causing compounds,” she said.

Reed recommended grilling fruits and vegetables for side dishes and dessert as a healthy option.

“Grilling brings out the sweetness; even people who don’t like fruits and vegetables may like the flavor.” Reed said. “Fruits and vegetables add lots of color and nutrients to our plates.”

According to the [My Plate](#) website half a plate should consist of fruits and vegetables. Reed suggests shish kabobs as a perfect dish to practice portion control and include some fruits and vegetables.

Reed said she has found different grilling recipes such as [Grilled Chicken Tenders](#) or [Blue Cheese Portobello Burgers](#) that are delicious and healthy.

By making sure plenty of plant-based dishes are served and meat is cooked at perfect temperature, Reed believes grilling can be a great low-fat option for preparing food.

### **How to Score!**





## TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

“I think as long as fire has been around we’ve been grilling with it,” said Dewey McMurrey, the executive chef of operations at Texas Tech Hospitality Services. “You would just stick meat over fire, but it’s come a long way from that.”

McMurrey can list more than seven types of grills and many different grilling techniques to make a dish taste and look like it’s from a five-star restaurant.

Using the grill to make grill marks on the meat, McMurrey said, can make a plate look aesthetically pleasing. He said the key is to have the grill as hot as possible before adding the meat to seal in the flavor.

“The faster you sear it, the more flavors you’re going to catch inside and the juicier and the more tender it’s going to become,” he said.

Indoor grilling also has become popular over the years and McMurrey said it’s possible to have the same outdoor grilling taste while indoors.

“Just wrap foil around water soaked woodchips and place in the bottom of the oven,” McMurrey said. “Stick it in the oven and you will get the same flavor.”

McMurrey said he encourages first-timers to be creative while grilling.

“Don’t be afraid to experiment,” he said. “The more you do it, the more comfortable you’re going to be.”

### Chef’s Choice: Korean Barbecue Sauce

Dewey McMurrey shared his favorite grilling recipe, Bulgogi Korean Barbecue Sauce Steak.

“The difference between our barbecue and Korean barbecue is that they soak it in this very thin sauce,” McMurrey said. “By the time they cook it, the sauce crystallizes around the meat.”

#### Ingredients:

2 cups	Water
2 cups	Low-sodium soy sauce (Chinese)
2 cups	Sugar (granulated)
6 each	Garlic cloves, minced
2 Tablespoons	Ginger, minced
4 Tablespoons	Sesame seed oil
3 Tablespoons	Black pepper
1 each	White onion, grated

Method:

1. Whisk all ingredients together until the sugar dissolves and pour marinade over meat of choice.

Note: Marinate red meats overnight, poultry a few hours and seafood for about an hour. Pre cook meats should be treated like seafood. Sauce will develop on meat as it cooks.

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## **Top 10 Things to Know For Annual Insurance Enrollment**

What's changing and what's staying the same?

Open enrollment, which starts next week, is a time when employees can change their benefits without needing a qualifying life event. Below are the 10 things Texas Tech employees should know before it begins.

1. You have a two-week period to make your annual enrollment changes. For all Texas Tech University employees the open enrollment period is **July 22 – Aug. 8.**

Any changes you make will take effect starting Sept. 1 and continue through Aug. 31, 2014.

2. Under new state law, you must certify whether or not you and your covered dependents use tobacco, even if no one in your household uses tobacco.

If you and/or your dependents use tobacco or fail to certify that you don't use tobacco, you will pay a maximum of \$90 more per month for your health insurance premiums.

You can certify your tobacco use by logging into the ERS website.

3. The annual maximum you can contribute to the TexFlex flexible savings account for health care is \$2,500. Due to new IRS regulations, this has been decreased from \$5,000.

You will automatically be re-enrolled in TexFlex unless you make a change. If you previously pledged more than \$2,500 to health care and make no changes, your contribution automatically will be reduced to \$2,500.

4. There's a new third-party administrator for our short-term and long-term disability insurance. Aon Hewitt Absence Management takes over Sept. 1. The plan is now called the Texas Income Protection Plan, or TIPP.

There's a slight increase to short-term disability premiums for plan year 2014, from six cents to 30 cents per \$100 of your monthly salary. Long-term disability premiums will remain the same.

5. Evidence of Insurability (EOI), sometimes called proof of good health, is needed during annual enrollment to apply for short- and long-term disability as well as optional and dependent life insurance.

You can now fill out your EOI applications online by signing into your ERS account, selecting the desired coverage and following the prompts on screen. You will receive information from Minnesota Life about your EOI application.

6. Your health insurance premium will continue to be paid at 100 percent for you and 50 percent for your dependents by Texas Tech University if you are a full-time employee.
7. Beginning Sept. 1, if you work at least 30 hours a week, you will be considered a full-time employee with regard to health insurance coverage.
8. Health insurance premium contributions increase on Sept. 1 as part of the annual premium review process. The higher premiums help cover higher health care costs.

If you are covering any dependents on your health insurance, your premiums will increase since you pay 50 percent of the cost for their coverage.

[Click here to view the plan rates for 2013-2014.](#)

9. Every health plan available through ERS offers a variety of health and wellness programs, many at no cost to you.

Depending on your plan, these might include:

- Nutrition counseling
- Smoking cessation
- Discounts on gym, massage therapy, acupuncture and vitamins
- Weight-loss coaching

10. If you need further information, you can contact ERS by:
  - Accessing your online account through the ERS website at [www.ers.state.tx.us](http://www.ers.state.tx.us)
  - Contacting the Texas Tech Employee Service Center at 806-742-3851
  - Calling ERS at 1-877-275-4377

ERS also has a dedicated phone number specifically for questions about insurance enrollment, 866-399-6908.