



Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 1, 2013

CONTACT: Jeff Sammons, jeff.sammons@ttu.edu
(806) 742-3451

150 High School Students Compete in Regional Robot Championships

WHAT: FIRST® Tech Challenge (FTC) Panhandle-Plains Championship Tournament

WHEN: Saturday (March 2)
8 a.m. – Practice matches begin
1:05 p.m. – Opening ceremony
1:15 p.m. – Qualifying matches begin
4:15 p.m. – Elimination matches begin
5:30 p.m. – Final matches begin
6:30 p.m. – Awards and closing ceremony

WHERE: Texas Tech Student Union Building, Ballroom

EVENT: Teams of 9 – 12th graders from across the western third of the state will participate in the FTC Panhandle-Plains Regional Championship Tournament for an opportunity to win statewide recognition for design excellence, sportsmanship and teamwork and to advance to the World Championship in St. Louis.

FTC is a challenging mid-level robotics competition designed for high school students who want a hands-on learning experience to develop and hone their skills and abilities in science, technology, engineering and math.

Teams of up to 10 students are responsible for designing, building and programming their robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. The robot kit is reusable from year-to-year and is programmed using a variety of languages. Teams, including coaches, mentors and volunteers, are required to develop strategy and build robots based on sound engineering principles.

For more information, visit the [FIRST® Tech Challenge website](#).

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

CONTACT: Alan Barhorst, professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Whitacre College of Engineering, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3563 ext. 241 office or (806) 577-5137 mobile, or alan.barhorst@ttu.edu.



Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 1, 2013
CONTACT: Dailey Fuller, dailey.fuller@ttu.edu
(806) 742-0057

Chancellor to Announce Sole Finalist for Texas Tech President

Revised announcement, time and location

WHAT: News conference to announce a sole finalist for the Texas Tech University presidency

WHEN: 3:30 p.m., today (March 1)

WHERE: City Bank Room
United Spirit Arena
(1701 Indiana Ave)

EVENT: Chancellor Kent Hance will announce the sole finalist for the Texas Tech University presidency and be available to answer questions from the media.

-30-

CONTACT: Robert Giovannetti, Office of Communications & Marketing, Texas Tech University System, (806) 742-0057 or robert.giovannetti@ttu.edu.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Friday, March 1, 2013

CONTACT: Dailey Fuller, dailey.fuller@ttu.edu

Nellis Named Sole Finalist for Texas Tech University President

M. Duane Nellis has been named the sole finalist for the presidency of Texas Tech University after a meeting of the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents on March 1.

Chancellor Kent Hance and the members of the Board of Regents announced Nellis for the position after interviewing candidates identified through a nationwide search and presented by a search and an advisory committee.

“Texas Tech University has never been in a better position and calls for an esteemed president to further the university’s extraordinary growth and recent achievements,” Hance said. “Duane Nellis is a visionary leader with an outstanding record of accomplishment in higher education. I am confident Dr. Nellis will advance Texas Tech University and look forward to working with him.”

Nellis is the current president of the University of Idaho, the state of Idaho’s premier land-grant research university and flagship institution. Nellis has secured record student enrollments, enhanced the university’s research profile and spearheaded the university’s largest fundraising campaign, since he began in July 2009.

“It is an honor to be selected as sole finalist for the Texas Tech University presidency,” Nellis said. “Texas Tech University is one of the nation’s rapidly-emerging public research universities, and I am grateful to be a part of the university’s exciting and promising future.”

Previously, he served as provost and senior vice president at Kansas State University. He also served as dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University, the institution’s largest academic college.

An authority in higher education, Nellis has served as a commissioner for the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities, one of the eight nationally-recognized bodies that determine whether higher education institutions are accredited. He also was appointed as a commissioner of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, which coordinates higher education efforts for 15 western states.

“Dr. Nellis’ distinguished background and proven ability to lead makes him well suited for this position,” said Mickey Long, chairman of the Board of Regents. “We

Office of Communications and Marketing

are excited to welcome Dr. Nellis to Texas Tech University and anticipate he will accomplish great things.”

Nellis earned his bachelor’s degree in earth sciences/geography at Montana State University, where he met and married his wife, Ruthie. He received his master’s and doctoral degrees in geography from Oregon State University. Throughout his career, Nellis has authored more than 100 articles and reports, 17 books and book chapters and has been funded by more than 50 sources such as NASA, the National Geographic Society, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Nellis succeeds Lawrence Schovanec, who has served as interim president of Texas Tech University since former President Guy Bailey resigned from the position in August 2012. State law requires 21 days must pass before final action is taken by a university governing body for the appointment of a president.

About the Texas Tech University System

The Texas Tech University System is one of the top public university systems in the state of Texas, consisting of three component institutions and operating at 12 academic sites and centers. Headquartered in Lubbock, the system has an annual operating budget of \$1.5 billion and approximately 17,000 employees focused on advancing higher education, health care, research and outreach.

In 2012, total research expenditures approached \$200 million and total enrollment exceeded 43,700 students for the first time in the system’s history.

CONTACT: Robert Giovannetti, associate vice chancellor, Office of Communications and Marketing, Texas Tech University System, (806) 742-0057, robert.giovannetti@ttu.edu

EDITORS NOTE: Visit the URL listed below and enter the login information for access to video and audio files from today’s announcement.

URL: communications.ttumedia.com

Media Login (case sensitive): Username – ttucomm; Password – Raiders!!



Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 1, 2013

CONTACT: John W. Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

**Texas Tech Political Science Team To Train U.S. Army Reserve Civil Affairs
Battalion on Customs, Challenges in South America**

WHAT: One-day training session for 40 members of an Austin-based U.S. Army Reserve Civil Affairs Battalion to prepare for upcoming South American deployment.

WHEN: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday (March 4)

WHERE: Scottish Rite Temple, 1101 70th St.

EVENT: The Department of Political Science at Texas Tech University will conduct a one-day training session for members of an Austin-based U.S. Army Reserve Civil Affairs Battalion in preparation for an upcoming deployment.

The Civil Affairs Battalion's deployment will encompass multiple geographic locations within the U.S. Southern Command's area of responsibility.

Political Science faculty will provide sessions to include culture, local government, population relations and U.S. national security strategy as it relates to the region.

"This civil affairs battalion will be representing the United States as they carry out their mission, interacting with local populations in the host countries where they are stationed," said Dennis Patterson, department chairman and concentration director for the university's interdisciplinary graduate program in international studies. "We want to help them prepare for this mission by providing them with essential information about these host countries, local governments and the various cultures they will encounter."

Faculty conducting the training include Col. (retired) Dave Lewis, strategic studies director; Tom Martin, former Lubbock mayor and visiting instructor in public administration; Patterson and Garry Wright, a doctoral candidate from the Department of History.

For interviews, the best time to catch participants is between 11:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. during a lunch provided by People's Bank of Lubbock.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

CONTACT: Dennis Patterson, chairman of the Department of Political Science, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-4050 or dennis.patterson@tiehh.ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 4, 2013

CONTACT: Cory Chandler, cory.chandler@ttu.edu
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Alumni Honored During Ninth Annual Law School Gala

Texas Tech University School of Law celebrated its Ninth Annual Law School Gala March 1.

William Dawson ('75) and The Honorable Sue Walker ('86) received Distinguished Alumni Awards. Kevin Glasheen ('88) received the Distinguished Service Award.

The awards recognize professional and personal commitment to excellence, and contributions to the law school and legal community. More than three hundred guests, including local attorneys and judges, students, faculty and staff, attended this year's event.

William Dawson

Dawson is a partner in the Dallas office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, where he provides high-profile representation of accounting firms in professional liability disputes, leads trial teams in patent infringement and technology licensing disputes around the country. He has experience in energy industry lawsuits, white-collar criminal matters and securities litigation.

Dawson received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Texas Tech University before graduating with highest honors from the law school.

Dawson was named *Best Lawyers'* Lawyer of the Year for Bet-the-Company Litigation – Dallas in 2011, and has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Bet-the-Company and Commercial Litigation from 2003-2013. He has been named one of seven Leading Individuals in Texas Dispute Resolution by Practical Law Company's *Which lawyer? Yearbook*, was recognized as a Super Lawyer from 2003-2012 and named a Local Litigation Star in Texas for IP, Securities Litigation, Energy Law and Professional Liability by Euromoney's *Benchmark Litigation*. He was also named to the *International Who's Who of Business Lawyers* in commercial litigation in 2006 and 2008.

He is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He is an active member in the American Law Institute, currently serving as an adviser on the Restatement of the Law Third Torts: Liability for Economic Harm. He is a member of the Fifth Circuit Bar Association and of the Board of Trustees for The Center for American and International Law. He is past-chair of the Science and Technology in the Courts Committee of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Sue Walker

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Walker was elected to serve on the Second Court of Appeals in 2001. Before her judicial service, Walker was a solo practitioner in civil and criminal appellate law. She is a former adjunct professor of law at Texas Wesleyan School of Law where she taught criminal appellate procedure. In her early legal career, Walker served as a briefing attorney and a staff attorney at the Fifth District Court of Appeals.

Walker attended Texas Tech Law after graduating with high honors from the University of Texas in Austin.

In 2012, the Texas Chapters of the American Board of Trial Advocates honored Walker by selecting her Jurist of the Year. Walker was also named the 2010 Judge Charles J. Murray Outstanding Jurist. She served on the Texas Supreme Court Task Force to Ensure Judicial Readiness in Times of Emergency. She has served as president, counselor and treasurer of the Eldon B. Mahon Inn of Court. In 2009 the Eldon B. Mahon Inn of Court elected her to the Serjeant's Inn of the Dallas and Fort Worth Inns of Court. Walker is also a fellow of the Advanced Science & Technology Resource Center in Washington, D.C, and the Texas Bar Foundation.

Walker is a member of the American Law Institute. She served as second vice president and as director of the Tarrant County Bar Association. She is a member of the Appellate Practice and Advocacy Section of the State Bar of Texas, the Appellate Section of the Tarrant County Bar Association, the College of the State Bar of Texas, a charter and sustaining fellow of the Tarrant County Bar Foundation and an emeritus member of the Eldon B. Mahon Chapter of the American Inns of Court.

Kevin Glasheen

Glasheen is an attorney at Glasheen, Valles & Inderman LLP and president of the Texas Tech University School of Law Alumni Association, which he was instrumental in reviving in 2012.

Glasheen attended Texas Tech Law after receiving an undergraduate degree in economics from Texas A&M University.

He opened his own law office immediately out of law school and began handling personal-injury cases. In his first civil-jury trial, Glasheen won a \$1 million verdict against Ethicon in San Angelo – a record verdict in Tom Green County. He was lead counsel in two of the largest railroad crossing accident cases in Texas, one resulting in a \$65 million verdict and one resulting in a \$46 million verdict.

Glasheen represented the family of Timothy Cole, who was wrongfully convicted of a 1985 rape at Texas Tech and died in prison before he was exonerated. Glasheen represented Cole's family and helped them receive compensation. Since then, Glasheen has represented 12 other clients who were wrongfully convicted like Cole. Glasheen has now teamed up with Bob Pottroff of Kansas to represent victims of a Union Pacific train accident during a parade honoring wounded veterans in Midland.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Glasheen was named a Super Lawyer by *Texas Monthly* from 2004-2010. In 2005, a poll of Lubbock attorneys selected Glasheen as best plaintiff's personal injury lawyer. Glasheen serves on the Board of Directors of the Texas Tech Law School Foundation and the Board of Directors of the South Plains Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Find more information about Texas Tech University School of Law at www.law.ttu.edu.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

CONTACT: Cory Chandler, communications coordinator, Texas Tech School of Law, (806) 742-3990 ext. 249, or cory.chandler@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 4, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
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Free Car Clinic Scheduled for Wednesday

Texas Tech University Transportation & Parking Services holds the first Free Car Clinic of the year 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday (March 6) in the C17 parking lot, located at the intersection of Indiana Avenue and Texas Tech Parkway. All Texas Tech students, employees and visitors are welcome to attend the free event and have their vehicles checked before their spring break travels.

The clinic features a free checkup of each vehicle's fluids, belts and other basics by professional mechanics from Scott's Complete Car Care. Transportation & Parking Services provides free hot dogs and soft drinks plus a drawing to win a free ePermit for Texas Tech students and employees.

Saddle-Up Motorcycle Training, which offers course discounts for Texas Tech students and employees, will provide course information and a look at the motorcycles used for the courses. Technicians from Injury Prevention Coalition of the South Plains can fit children's car seats to vehicles and children for interested attendees.

Representatives from Texas Tech's Parent & Family Relations, Help End Auto Theft and the Texas Tech Federal Credit Union also will attend. Participants can take a Segway for a test-drive at no cost.

The Free Car Clinic, originally called the Spring Break Free Car Clinic, began in March 1999 as a Student Health Services program to educate students on enjoying a safe spring break. The event covered not only a vehicle check, but also driving and personal safety. During the past 14 years, Transportation & Parking Services began hosting the event, which now occurs three times per year and draws up to 300 attendees.

Transportation & Parking Services provides guidance and assistance to the campus community and public on Texas Tech transportation and parking-related needs. For more information on the Free Car Clinic or parking on the Texas Tech campus, contact Transportation & Parking Services at (806) 742-PARK.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu.

CONTACT: Stacy Moncibaiz, marketing coordinator, Transportation & Parking Services, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-7275, or stacy.moncibaiz@ttu.edu.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 4, 2013

CONTACT: John Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

New Version of Texas Tech's Fibertect® Proves Better at Decontaminating Nerve Gas Surrogate in Lab Testing

A new version of Fibertect®, a nonwoven decontamination wipe created by researchers at Texas Tech University, has proven itself more viable at cleaning up a nerve chemical surrogate than the decontamination substance currently used by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), which is currently being phased out.

Seshadri Ramkumar, lead investigator on the project and inventor of Fibertect®, said that when compared to the powdered decontaminant called M-291, the all-cotton version of nonwoven wipe paired with an activated carbon center cleaned up not only the chemical surrogate to the nerve gas soman, but also adsorbed its vapors five times better.

The results were published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Engineered Fibers & Fabrics*, by INDA – Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry. Experiments in the research were conducted by Utkarsh Sata, a co-investigator on the project.

“The basic structure is still Fibertect®,” Ramkumar said. “This is an improved reiteration of Fibertect®. This is just two nonwoven cotton layers with the carbon in between. The cotton composite takes liquid up very quickly and can adsorb vapors more efficiently than the powdered decontaminant.”

Part of the added benefit of this new Fibertect® is that it contains biodegradable cotton, Ramkumar said. A problem with the powdery form is that it leaves dirty residue.

“That is why the U.S. Department of Defense wants to get away from the powdery form,” he said. “Fibertect® is a fabric. It is skin-friendly. When it comes to adsorbing the surrogate nerve agent’s vapors, it just works better. So the powdered decontaminant will be phased out.”

In 2005, Ramkumar and his team at the Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) at Texas Tech studied the absorbent capabilities of cotton to create the Fibertect® wipe that can adsorb and neutralize gases and liquids that might be used in chemical warfare.

“Fibertect contributes to our national security and helps with the safety of our first responders,” Sata said.

The process to make Fibertect® has received a patent and has been validated for use as a low-cost decontamination wipe for the U.S. military and the Department of Homeland Security. Also, the wipe's qualities were re-engineered to create a better absorbent material to pick up the oil slicks inundating Gulf Coast beaches following the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010.

Ron Kendall, a co-investigator on the project, said the creation of Fibertect® began as a need to develop a decontamination wipe system for the human skin, which was a top priority for the Pentagon at the time.

This has resulted now in the invention of Fibertect®, a patent and now commercialization.

“The powdered form is very difficult to handle and to apply toward decontamination purposes,” Kendall said. “And it is so much easier to handle and apply toward decontamination needs than M-291 carbon system. We’re learning more and more of absorption capabilities of cotton-carbon composite.”

Other researchers included Eugene Wilusz of the U.S. Army Natick Soldier RD&E Center, Steve Mlynarek of the University of South Florida and Gopal Coimbatore of Texas Tech.

The research was funded in part by DoD, Cotton Inc., the International Cotton Research Center, Texas Department of Agriculture, The Cotton Foundation and The CH Foundation.

For a .pdf copy of the research, contact John Davis or click [here](#).

CONTACT: Seshadri S. Ramkumar, associate professor, The Institute for Environmental and Human Health, Texas Tech University, (806) 885-0228 or s.ramkumar@ttu.edu, Ron Kendall, professor and special assistant to the president, Office of the President, Texas Tech University, (806) 885-0238 or ron.kendall@tiehh.ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Mar. 5, 2013

CONTACT: Allison Matherly, allison.matherly@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

TechAlert! and Siren Test Scheduled

WHAT: Test of the Texas Tech University TechAlert! System and Outdoor Sirens

WHEN: 10:50 a.m., Mar. 5 (Tuesday)

EVENT: Texas Tech will test its TechAlert! emergency communications system used to alert the university community of emergency situations, class cancellations or delays. This test will also include audible outdoor sirens.

To update cell or home phone information, visit emergency.ttu.edu.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 5, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Student Housing Hosts Recyclemania Event

WHAT: Texas Tech University Student Housing will host an event to promote Recyclemania, an on-going recycling competition among universities nationwide.

WHEN: Wednesday (March 6)

WHERE: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the area between the Student Union Building and the Library

EVENT: As part of Recyclemania, which continues until March 30, University Student Housing is hosting an event to promote the competition.

Two Bon Jovi tickets and a \$25 gift card to Chimys will be given away as part of a raffle. To enter, students must bring one bag of recyclables in a grocery bag. Each bag counts as one entry, so the more bags a student brings, the more chances there are to win.

Free t-shirts will be given away to each person who brings a bag of recyclables, and a free recycle wristband will be given away to anyone who brings any recyclable.

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CONTACT: Melanie Tatum, unit manager, University Student Housing, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-1570, or m.tatum@ttu.edu.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 5, 2013

CONTACT: Moriah Beyers, moriah.beyers@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Wins Houston Meat Judging for the Ninth Consecutive Year

Texas Tech University's meat judging team walked away with first place honors March 3 at the Houston Livestock Show's Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest. This is the ninth consecutive year the Red Raiders have won the competition in Houston.

Eleven universities competed for the title. Texas Tech's black team finished first and posted a total score of 4,199 points. They were followed by the Red Raider's red team in second. Oklahoma State University, Texas A&M University and Kansas State University finished third through fifth, respectively.

The Texas Tech teams won the beef grading, beef judging, lamb judging, overall beef, specifications and placings divisions.

"I'm very proud of the commitment of these students this spring," said Mark Miller, Horn Professor and San Antonio Livestock Show Distinguished Chair in Meat Science. "We are very blessed to have such a large and deeply competitive team this year."

Individually, the Red Raiders dominated as well, securing eight out of 10 high individual overall spots.

- Austin Langemeier, a sophomore from Marion was top high individual
- Colton Campbell, a sophomore from Artesia, N.M., was second
- Kylan Carson, a sophomore from Olton was third
- Nick Hardcastle, a junior from Wheeler was fourth
- Clayton Krause, a junior from New Braunfels finished sixth
- Greg Howard, a junior from Bremen, Kan., was awarded seventh
- Kassandra Ognoskie, a sophomore from Orting, Wash., was ninth
- Bailey Joe Pennington, a sophomore from Sonora was 10th

Additional team members include:

- Brittany Blum, a sophomore from Howe
- Taelar Childers, a sophomore from Nevada
- Colton Coker, a sophomore from Roby
- Aaron Faulkner, a junior from Lenapah, Okla.
- Trey Garza, a sophomore from Edinburg
- Mallory Jones, a sophomore from Anson
- Kirby Kennedy, a sophomore from Lampasas

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- Kristen Knight, a sophomore from Shallowater
- Jacob Mikel, a junior from Vicky, Mo.
- Tyler Neuman, a sophomore from Hondo
- Luke Sellers, a junior from Denver City
- Christy Woerner, a sophomore from Fredericksburg
- William Wunderlich, a sophomore from Fredericksburg

The team is coached by graduate student Loni Woolley along with Miller.

This was the last contest of the spring for the 2013 team. Next fall they will compete at four more contests. The team will also host contests and workouts this spring and summer at Texas Tech for 4-H and FFA students from across the United States.

CONTACT: Moriah Beyers, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2805 ext. 248, or moriah.beyers@ttu.edu.



Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 5, 2013

CONTACT: John W. Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech's New Free Market Institute to Host Robert Lawson for Lecture on Rise, Decline of Economic Freedom in the U.S.

- WHAT:** Free public lecture on The Rise and Decline of Economic Freedom in the United States
- WHEN:** 4-5 p.m. Wednesday (March 6)
- WHERE:** Grand Auditorium Room CR105 at the Rawls College of Business on the Texas Tech campus
- EVENT:** Texas Tech's new Free Market Institute will feature a free public lecture covering The Rise and Decline of Economic Freedom in the United States. The event will feature Benjamin Powell, director of the new institute, who will introduce Robert Lawson, who holds the Jerome M. Fullinwider Endowed Centennial Chair in Economic Freedom in the O'Neil Center for Global Markets and Freedom in the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University.

Lawson is co-author of the widely cited Economic Freedom of the World annual reports, published by the Fraser Institute, which present an economic freedom index for more than 140 countries.

Powell was editor of "Making Poor Nations Rich: Entrepreneurship and the Process of Development" and co-editor of "Housing America: Building Out of a Crisis." He has written more than 50 scholarly articles and policy studies. He primarily studies economic development, Austrian economics and public choice.

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CONTACT: Benjamin Powell, director of the Free Market Institute, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-3097, or benjamin.powell@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 6, 2013

CONTACT: Megan Shudde, m.shudde@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Associate Professor elected Sigma Delta Pi Vice President of the Southwest

Texas Tech University College of Education's associate professor has been elected to serve as the Regional Vice President of the Southwest for Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, for the 2013-16 triennium beginning in July.

Comfort Pratt will assist institutions in the southwest region with membership, recruitment, chapter reactivation and general consultation. She will also serve as a member of Sigma Delta Pi's National Executive Council.

"This is very important to me and our chapter," Pratt said, "because I will now be a member of the National Executive committee which is the decision-making body of the society nationwide. This means Texas Tech will now play a very important role in the society."

Pratt currently serves as advisor of the Texas Tech chapter of Sigma Delta Pi and as director of the organization's national graduate research grant competition.

The society not only serves as a form of recognition for academic achievement, but also allows students to use their knowledge and skills to foster literacy and cultural enrichment in the Texas Tech community.

Sigma Delta Pi, established in 1919 at the University of California, Berkeley, honors those who have completed three years of study of college-level Spanish, including at least three semester hours of a course in Hispanic literature or Hispanic culture and civilization with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in all Spanish courses taken. Candidates must also rank in the upper 35 percent of their class and must have completed at least three semesters of college work.

For more information on Sigma Delta Pi visit <http://www.sigmadeltpi.org>.

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CONTACT: Comfort Pratt, associate professor, College of Education, Texas Tech University, (806) 834-5710, or c.pratt@ttu.edu.

Expert Pitch

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 6, 2013

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, leslie.cranford@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Expert: Largest Corn Planting since '30s Could Have Adverse Effect on Cotton U.S. farmers are preparing to plant the most corn in nearly eight decades.

According to a recent Bloomberg Commodities News article, American farmers are set to plant the most acreage of corn since 1936. Much of last year's crop was ruined by drought, and adverse weather conditions have affected crops for the past three years.

Texas Tech University agricultural economics expert, Darren Hudson, said that since the demand for corn is still high, and drought conditions have subsided somewhat, producers anticipating a high price for the 2013 corn crop have shown an eagerness to plant as many acres as possible. But, he said, the larger amount of corn acreage could affect the cotton industry down the road.

Hudson is a professor and Larry Combest Agricultural Competitiveness Endowed Chair as well as the director of the Cotton Economics Research Institute in the [Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics](#).

"In places where corn crops can substitute for cotton planting, it will definitely take away cotton acres," Hudson said. "We've already seen very low intentions for planted cotton acres this year."

Hudson said if the planting season pans out the way this article predicts, one of the biggest effects will be on the cotton industry's related infrastructure, such as gins, mills and seed companies.

"If the corn acres are actually planted, if they do continue on this path, the impact around cotton will be felt in this area in the late fall, after cotton harvesting," Hudson said.

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CONTACT: Darren Hudson, professor and Combest Chair of Agricultural Competitiveness, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, Texas Tech University; (806) 742-1921ext. 272, or darren.hudson@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 6, 2013

CONTACT: Cory Chandler, cory.chandler@ttu.edu
(806) 742-3990, ext. 249

Texas Tech Law Named One of Nation's Most Transparent

Texas Tech University School of Law is among 23.6 percent of law schools listed as fully transparent in a recent consumer information study conducted by Law School Transparency.

In its *Winter 2013 Transparency Index Report*, Law School Transparency listed Texas Tech Law as one of only 47 of 199 American Bar Association (ABA) approved law schools that met its transparency criteria as of March 4.

Law School Transparency conducted a two-fold analysis of consumer information on law school websites, which included data submitted by law schools for ABA accreditation as well as recent employment data voluntarily disclosed by the schools.

Report authors found that Texas Tech Law was fully transparent in all 19 categories of placement data analyzed during the study.

“Texas Tech Law places a premium on ensuring that our students receive a high-quality legal education,” said Texas Tech Law Dean Darby Dickerson. “For that reason, it is important to provide prospective students with the information they need to make the best possible decisions about their future.”

[View the full report.](#)

Find more information about Texas Tech University School of Law at www.law.ttu.edu.

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Contact: Cory Chandler, communications coordinator, Texas Tech School of Law,
(806) 742-3990 ext. 249, or cory.chandler@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Mar. 6, 2013

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

**Texas Tech Personal Financial Planning Department Welcomes Three-Year Gift
from Schwab Foundation**

Following a ribbon cutting on Feb. 28 at Texas Tech University, the Charles Schwab Foundation today issued this news release (attached) as part of its continued support of the Charles Schwab Personal Financial Planning (PFP) Complex in the College of Human Sciences.

The results of a recent client relationship survey conducted with Texas Tech PFP students also are included.

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TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY.

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 6, 2013

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Texas Tech Researcher Discovers Plankton Adjusts to Changing Ocean Temperatures

Imagine trying to swim through a pool of honey. Because of their small size, this is what swimming in water is like for tiny marine plankton. So, it was often assumed they would be easy prey, especially in the dense viscosity of colder waters, but that is not necessarily so.

Texas Tech Associate Professor and Whitacre Endowed Chair in Mechanical Engineering Jian Sheng, along with biologists Brad Gemmell and Edward Buskey from the University of Texas Marine Science Institute, have discovered new information that explains how these tiny organisms overcome this disadvantage.

Their paper, titled “A compensatory escape mechanism at low Reynolds number” was published in the current issue of *Proceeding of the National Academy of Science*.

“The purpose of the study was in trying to determine the effects of climate change at the very base of the food chain,” Sheng said.

As one of the most abundant animal groups on the planet, many species, including many commercially important fish species, rely on planktonic copepod nauplii at some point during their life cycle. Understanding the ability of these animals to respond to changes in the environment could have direct implications into understanding the future health of our oceans.

By independently varying temperature and viscosity, Sheng recorded their movements with 3-D high speed holographic techniques developed by the Sheng lab at Texas Tech.

“At 3,000 frames per second, it was like tracking a racecar through a microscope,” Sheng said. “We were able to determine that the plankton adapted to changes in viscosity by altering the rhythm of its pulsing appendage.”

The response, built-in to its natural muscle fiber, was only triggered by changes in temperature, Sheng said. It could not compensate for changes in viscosity due to environmental pollution, such as algae blooms or oil spills.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 6, 2013

CONTACT: John Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech University Officials Announce Opening of Free Market Institute

Funded by a \$4 million gift, Texas Tech University officials will announce the opening of the new Free Market Institute designed to research and educate students, the Lubbock community and the nation on the benefits of free-market economics.

The opening begins at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday (March 6) during a reception celebrating the launch of the institute in the McCoy Atrium of the Rawls College of Business.

The new institute will be headed by Benjamin Powell, who is also a senior fellow at the Independent Institute, newspaper columnist and a visiting professor in the Rawls College of Business. He and Robert Lawson, co-author of the *Economic Freedom of the World Annual Report*, will make remarks during the opening.

Powell said the \$4 million came from an anonymous West Texas cattle rancher.

“The reason this donor wanted to fund this institute is because he thinks the country is going down the wrong economic path,” Powell said. “He thought what was needed was more teaching and knowledge of free markets, and he thought Texas Tech University would be a wonderful place to get this started. This institute will promote research on free-market economics and the teaching of that to Texas Tech students, faculty and the Lubbock community, as well as the country.”

Powell was editor of “Making Poor Nations Rich: Entrepreneurship and the Process of Development” and co-editor of “Housing America: Building Out of a Crisis.” He has written more than 50 scholarly articles and policy studies. He primarily studies economic development, Austrian economics and public choice.

His findings have been reported in more than 100 popular press outlets including The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times, Investor’s Business Daily, the Financial Times (London), the Christian Science Monitor, and many regional outlets. He has appeared on numerous radio and television shows including CNN, MSNBC, Showtime, CNBC and Fox Business’ “Freedom Watch.”

With Powell, associated faculty at the institute will include Michael Giberson, an instructor of energy commerce at the Rawls College of Business; Eduardo Segarra, chairman of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics; and Charles Long,

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who will serve as an economist and administrator for the institute. A national search for two more faculty members is underway, Powell said.

Michael San Francisco, interim vice president of research at Texas Tech, said the new institute will be housed under his office.

“Free-market economics represents one component of the spectrum of thinking in economics,” he said. “This area discusses and encourages debate on traditional and non-traditional economic activity and the roles of government and people in society in an economic context.”

Interim President Lawrence Schovanec said that Texas Tech was one of several universities that submitted proposals to house the new Free Market Institute.

“This is a major new initiative that will bring internationally recognized scholars to Texas Tech as permanent additions to our faculty or as distinguished guest lecturers contributing to the activities of the institute,” Schovanec said. “The Free Market Institute also will create new opportunities for collaboration among our current faculty and possibilities for securing new resources that will support both faculty and students.”

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 8, 2013

CONTACT: Megan Shudde, m.shudde@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Presents GREEN Award to Whiteface Elementary Teacher

Texas Tech University's International Center for Arid and Semiarid Land Studies (ICASALS) recently presented its annual GREEN award to an instructor from Whiteface.

The \$1,000 grant was awarded to Laura Wilbanks, science instructor at Whiteface Elementary School, and her project *Arsenic: It's What's for Dinner*. The students in Science Rocks U, a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) enrichment program, chose the impact of arsenic and the health of future generations as the environmental challenge they wanted to address.

The Environmental Protection Agency limits the amount of arsenic in drinking water, but in Cochran County, water has exceeded this limit for a decade. Rural residents who depend on well water do not test for arsenic, therefore the level is unknown. Latest studies have shown alarmingly high levels of arsenic in certain foods like vegetables and rice.

Wilbanks and her students tried 18 different approaches and actively have worked toward a solution since November 2011. Students established partnerships, gathered samples, evaluated arsenic levels and conducted an awareness campaign to help residents of Cochran County reduce their exposure. The elementary-age students will partner with Texas Tech and West Texas A&M University ecologists to conduct long-term research and experiments to discover a native plant that can hyper-accumulate arsenic. The long-term research and action plan attempts to find a solution to high arsenic levels for the entire West Texas region.

Wilbanks said the impact of this project is not only helping the environment but also helping her students learn more about STEM subjects.

"The work being conducted by Whiteface Science Rocks U students has been interesting to them and has given us multiple opportunities to interact with scientists across a broad range of fields," Wilbanks said. "It is the goal of the Science Rocks U program to inspire children to enter the STEM fields upon high school graduation."

The GREEN award program requires K-12 educators to submit a description of the environmental challenge the group is wishing to address and an outline describing how the solution to the challenge will be carried out. The winner is selected on the criteria that the project results are measurable, sustainable, has an impact outside of the classroom and the effective project execution and tracking of development during a semester.

For more information on the center or the GREEN award visit www.icasals.ttu.edu.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 8, 2013

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Texas Tech to Host 29th Annual Conference on Women in Higher Education

Texas Tech University is hosting the 29th Annual Conference on Women in Higher Education on April 4 and 5.

This year's theme, "Women and Global Change: Achieving Peace through Empowering Women, Part II" continues the conversations that began at the 2012 conference. The conference will explore the peace-building work of women that are the core of movements for social, political and economic change.

The conference kicks off with a film viewing of the documentary "Girl Rising" (2012) 6:30 p.m. April 4. in the International Cultural Center Auditorium located at 601 Indiana Ave (doors open at 6 p.m.) "Girl Rising" was directed by Academy Award nominee Richard Robbins and showcases the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world.

Events on April 5 begin at 8:30 a.m. with check-in at the registration table near the elevators on the upper level of the Student Union Building. Speakers for the day include:

- Yifat Susskind, executive director of MADRE, 9 a.m. in the Matador Room
Susskind works with women's human rights activists from Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and Africa to create programs in their communities to address women's health, violence against women, economic and environmental justice, and peace building.
- Yanar Mohammed, co-founder and president of the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI), 1 p.m. in the Matador Room
Mohammed is an activist for women's rights in Iraq. Her work, like many other human rights activists in the country, has been undertaken at great personal risk. In 2008, she was the recipient of the Gruber Foundation's Women's Rights Prize. She is the editor of the newspaper Al-Mousawat (Equality).

A pre-pay, ticketed luncheon will recognize the 2013-2014 Women's Studies Scholarship Award recipients beginning at noon in the Matador Room of the Student Union Building. Pre-registration is required to attend the luncheon.

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Registration for the conference is \$30 (\$15 for students) and is available online, in person or by phone. A completed form and payment (checks only) should be submitted by March 29 to Texas Tech University, Women's Studies Program, Attn: Conference Registration, Box 42009, Lubbock, TX. 79409-2009.

Visitors without a Texas Tech parking sticker can find parking information by entering from the 15th Street/University Ave. entrance to the campus. The traffic kiosk attendant will give directions to the SUB and nearest visitor parking location.

The Women's Studies Program is a part of the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement.

For more information, the complete conference program/schedule and the registration form, visit http://www.depts.ttu.edu/wstudies/AWHE_2013.php.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at <http://www.media.ttu.edu/>.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 8, 2013

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Texas Tech Undergraduate Students Prove They Are ‘Top Chefs’

Four undergraduate students from Texas Tech University’s Department of Animal and Food Sciences recently took the University Cook-off People’s Choice Award with their “Pork Wellington Bites” at the North American Meat Association (NAMA) in Las Vegas.

Undergraduate students from nine universities vied for the title, preparing dishes for conference attendees. The People’s Choice Award was determined by a ballot system after everyone had tasted each product.

The team was comprised of Tanner Adams, a junior from Sanger; Bo Hutto, a junior from Hondo; Trevor King, a junior from Hillsboro; and Heather Rode, a junior from Doss.

“It was a great opportunity for us to represent Texas Tech’s meat science program from a product development aspect,” Adams said. “It was very exciting to win. We put a lot of time and effort into planning and making this new, innovative product that hopefully many consumers enjoyed and will continue to talk about.”

Hutto, Rode and Dakotah Williams, a senior from Glenrose, also received scholarships at the convention, recognizing their outstanding academic performances and involvement in the meat science industry.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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Web Only

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 8, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
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The Professors of Pavement

Every morning, usually around 6 a.m., Jerry Dwyer arrives at 20th Street and Elgin Avenue. Anywhere from two to 15 people meet him there for at least a 5-mile run through the Tech Terrace neighborhood and Texas Tech campus.

The group, known as the “20th and Elgin Runners,” is made up of members of the Lubbock community and Texas Tech faculty and staff. They formed when Texas Tech Interim President Lawrence Schovanec first recruited Dwyer, associate professor of Mathematics, to Texas Tech in 2003.

Since then, they have formed a bond that provides health benefits—both physical and mental—and a unique camaraderie that goes outside the classroom.

“There’s a certain problem-solving approach to running that I think appeals to members in the academic profession,” Schovanec said. “Take a marathon, for example. There’s an optimization problem: you really don’t have enough energy stores to complete that race. And you have to be very strategic. You have to be concentrating, you have to be watching every mile, you have to watch your heart rate...running is a scientific process.”

Dwyer said he and Schovanec found a common interest in running after they began working together in the math department.

“We realized we were both runners, so we just started running together,” Dwyer said. “It was just the two of us for about a year, and then we met a couple of others.”

During the next several years, more faculty members joined Dwyer and Schovanec in the 20th and Elgin group, now part of the West Texas Running Club (WTRC). These faculty runners include Genevieve Durham, associate professor of dance; Paul Pare, professor of biochemistry; Malinda Colwell, associate professor of Human Development and Family Studies; Cynthia Sorrensen, assistant professor of human geography; Jennifer Snead, associate professor in English; and Lee Cohen, professor and chair of the Psychology Department.

Dwyer joked he would be listing half of Texas Tech’s entire faculty if he mentioned everyone who had joined the 20th and Elgin group for a run. However, the most regular members aren’t just recreational runners. At more than 10 hours and up to 80 miles per week, several faculty members could be considered elite athletes.

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Several have qualified for and run the Boston Marathon, the world's oldest annual marathon with arguably the most elite competition.

“We’ve probably had seven or eight people who have qualified this year,” Dwyer said, with a shrug. “The time isn’t terribly demanding for some people. I ran Boston when I lived in Boston.”

As casual as Dwyer and his colleagues treat their accomplishments, it may seem unusual that so many professors travel more miles by foot in a week than they travel by car.

For Dwyer, who serves as the group’s de facto leader and whom others point to as the most passionate toward running, the exercise benefits his time spent doing scholarly activities.

“I actually think you can ‘work’ on a run, especially on mathematics,” Dwyer said. “You can think about stuff, you can work stuff out if you run easily at the same time. You get an insight to things just by being out there.”

While the 20th and Elgin Runners also consists of people who are not affiliated with Texas Tech or academics, the bond many share as Texas Tech faculty members has helped make the group’s friendships especially strong.

“It is a great opportunity to combine exercise with brainstorming on teaching and research, group therapy sessions, political debate and updates on future running events,” Paré said. “And during the semester, we get it all done before heading off to an 8 a.m. biochemistry class.”

Cohen, who ran competitively in high school and college before taking more than 10 years off, returned to running by getting involved with the WTRC. With the encouragement of Dwyer and Schovanec, Cohen completed his first marathon: the Oklahoma City Marathon, which the three colleagues ran together. Cohen has since ran the Boston Marathon twice.

“As a faculty member it’s really neat,” Cohen said. “You don’t usually get a lot of interaction with people in other departments. But we get to be around people from math, dance, engineering, geosciences...there’s somebody in almost every discipline. And of course there are other people who run with us that aren’t related to Texas Tech, and that’s neat too. It just turned out to be a very interesting group to run with.”

The faculty runners, many of whom have positions in the sciences, point out that due to their professions they are often hyper-aware of the health benefits to running, and exercise in general.

Durham, a faculty member in dance, says that running is a natural complement to her profession.



“It helps to maintain a fitness level that supports what I do in terms of teaching, choreographing, and performing,” Durham said.

As a professor of biochemistry, Paré agrees, and points out that running provides mental benefits as well.

“I am very much of the belief that a healthy body compliments a productive mind,” he said. “An early morning run helps me be alert during the day and sleep well at night.”

While the faculty members see running as a health benefit, the task of waking up early every morning isn’t always easy, so it helps that most simply love to run.

“I run for exercise, but more importantly to start each day doing something I enjoy and that helps me clear my mind and think,” Colwell said. “My days go a lot more smoothly when I start them with a run.”

The love of running brings together the group each morning. But Dwyer’s enthusiasm for the sport keeps the group going even when temperatures fall below freezing and daylight saving time causes them to lose an hour of sleep. Dwyer says he once went 8 years without missing a single day of running, although he now skips the day after a trans-continental flight to or from his home, Ireland.

“For some people, it would be hard to get up and run every day,” Dwyer said. “It would be much more difficult for me not to run.”



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 11, 2013

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Lubbock, Home to Texas Tech University, Makes Top 20 for Best Cities for College Students in Small Metros

When it comes to the college experience, Lubbock, home of Texas Tech University, made the top 20 list for small metros, according to a new report done by the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER).

The Hub City came in at No. 11 in the AIER College Destinations index for small metros with 250,000 to 1 million residents, beating other cities such as Killeen, Santa Barbara, Calif., Lexington, Ky., and Honolulu. The brochure lists the top 75 best cities for college students broken into four categories according to size.

“Texas Tech University enjoys a wonderful relationship with the City of Lubbock,” said Interim President Lawrence Schovanec. “The quality of education we offer students on campus combined with the social and cultural opportunities of the city makes this a great place for those in pursuit of higher education. We often speak to graduates and they reflect fondly on the time they spent in Lubbock, and express the desire to return to Lubbock—either for work or as a place to raise their family.”

The institute based the designations on 12 performance areas, including student concentration; diversity; research capacity; degree attainment; cost of living; arts and leisure; city accessibility; creative class; earning potential; entrepreneurial activity; brain gain or drain and the unemployment rate.

“The characteristics that make up a great college destination often make a location ideal for business, retirement and tourism,” said Steven Cunningham, AIER director of research and education. “A top AIER College Destinations Index ranking should be just as important to the town or city as it is to the schools located there and the families and students attending or considering them.”

To see the listings, visit www.aier.org/article/7841-aier-names-75-best-college-towns-and-cities-2012-2013. For more on the brochure, visit www.aier.org/cdi.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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Web Only

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 11, 2013

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Texas Tech Student Goes from the Classroom to the Fashion Runway

While most Texas Tech University students prepare for Spring Break, Lindsay Viola-Vu already has spent her weekend in South Beach, Miami walking the red carpet with Giuliana and Bill Rancic, Lauren Conrad and Camilla Belle.

Viola-Vu, a Texas Tech Apparel Design and Manufacturing (ADM) student, was one of 10 students from across the country chosen to show off her winning design at Cotton University's first annual 24 Hour Runway Show. She entered the contest in November by submitting a design she created for Texas Tech's Denim Runway Project.

"One of my professors encouraged me to enter my denim design and I really didn't think anything of it," Viola-Vu said. "Then I got a call in January saying I was one of the 10 students picked for an all-expenses paid trip to Miami where my design would be modeled at a 24-hour runway show."

The event also featured 74 big-name fashion brands and designers, such as Guess, Lilly Pulitzer and Tommy Hilfiger, who also were part of the runway show. Viola-Vu said she was invited to the VIP tent where she had the chance to meet with these designers and other celebrities.

"It was a very humbling feeling getting the chance to be in this environment as student designers and see this side of our future world," Viola-Vu said. "Ultimately, it lined me up with a lot of great contacts for my future career and is something I will always remember."

Viola-Vu said since professors in Texas Tech's ADM program have very experienced backgrounds and graduated from bigger fashion schools, they prepare students for future careers in a more one-on-one setting and support them in any way they can.

"I've been promoting Texas Tech a lot because everyone at my internship in New York thinks it is strange how I am a fashion student coming from a college in West Texas," Viola-Vu said. "I got accepted into the bigger fashion schools, but after visiting Texas Tech, I fell in love with the studio and the fact we get a more hands-on experience."

Viola-Vu currently is taking the spring semester off to intern in New York for a designer named Yigal Azrouël. She works under the director of product development and production, who oversees all of Azrouël's production and design.

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This opportunity arose from a program through Marist College called Marist in Manhattan, which Viola-Vu applied for after seeing the flier posted on a bulletin board. Viola-Vu said she couldn't pass up the opportunity to build her resume and experience.

“My advice for any Texas Tech ADM student would be to take advantage of any contest that is offered because a lot of colleges don't offer experiences like that and it really builds your resume and skill level for the future,” Viola-Vu said. “I wouldn't be where I am now with my internship in New York and a job offer lined up after I finish my senior year if it wasn't for my professors and what the college has to offer.”

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 12, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Named to Community Service Honor Roll

Texas Tech University has been named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

"Here at Texas Tech, we strive for honor by encouraging opportunities for students, faculty and staff to get involved in the community and in service learning," said Interim President Lawrence Schovanec. "This honor is a reflection of that commitment in the classroom and beyond."

The Honor Roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities.

"Texas Tech is proud of being recognized as a national leader of exemplary community service and partnerships," said Juan Munoz, senior vice president for Institutional Diversity, Equality and Community Engagement. "As we prepare graduates to be ethical leaders in a globally diverse workforce, an understanding of effective community partnerships is a significant requirement of becoming a successfully engaged professional."

According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, Texas Tech's inclusion on the Honor Roll indicates its commitment to service and civic engagement on the campus and in the nation.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu or on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 12, 2013

CONTACT: John Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech School of Music to Present Gilbert & Sullivan's Comic Opera 'Iolanthe'

Texas Tech University's School of Music will present Gilbert & Sullivan's classic comic opera "Iolanthe."

The show opens at 7 p.m. March 22 and 23 in the Allen Theatre on the Texas Tech Campus. The show will travel to perform April 6 at the Wagner-Noël Center for the Arts in Midland.

"'Iolanthe' is an amusing tale of royalty, politics and fairies, showing librettist Gilbert's satiric humor and Sullivan's music in entertaining style," said Gerald Dolter, stage director and chairman of the vocal division. "The show was first produced in 1882 at the Savoy Theatre in London. The unfolding story offers hilarity and the opportunity for W. S. Gilbert to poke fun at the British government, law and the establishment. It is the seventh of 14 collaborations between Gilbert and Sullivan, whose comic operas have enjoyed international success and continue to be popular to this day."

The story begins with Iolanthe, a fairy, committing the capital offense of marrying a mortal and being banished from Fairyland for life. She also gave birth to the mortal's son, Strephon, who, as a result, is half mortal, half fairy. After the Queen of the Fairies, who was fond of Iolanthe, agrees to pardon her, Iolanthe announces that her son Strephon will soon be married to Phyllis, an Arcadian shepherdess.

Problems arise when it turns out that every member of the House of Lords is also in love with Phyllis. The lords and Phyllis happen upon a meeting between Strephon and his mother (who still looks 17) and the lords convince Phyllis that Strephon is being unfaithful. Spells, magic and confusion reign until reason and desire ensure a happy ending.

This production sports a large cast of undergraduate and graduate students. Most roles are double cast. John Hollins conducts the orchestra in the pit; Marta Harrison serves as chorus master; Sharon Holton designs costumes; Timothy Walsh designs the set; Nathan Rhoden serves as stage manager and Candice Aipperspach is assistant director.

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Tickets are available through Select-A-Seat and are priced at \$15 for the public, seniors - \$13, students and members of OLLI - \$10, and groups of 10 or more - \$12. These prices do not reflect the Select-A-Seat service charge.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 14, 2013

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Texas Tech Physicists Say Evidence ‘Strongly Indicates’ Presence of Higgs Boson
Though more studies are needed, the search for the “God” particle may in fact be over.

Members of Texas Tech University’s [High Energy Physics Group](#) working at the [European Organization for Nuclear Research](#), (CERN) said the particle collider charged with finding the most basic form of matter has most likely discovered the elusive “God” particle after all.

At this time, further analysis of evidence from an elementary particle found last July in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) “strongly indicates” that scientists finally have discovered the elusive [Higgs boson](#). Proof of its existence could finish work begun five decades ago, answer many questions about the universe and cement the Standard Model of Particle Physics.

Higgs is the last particle of this theory left to be discovered.

“I do not think there is any doubt that the data, about 2.5 times more of it since the July 4th announcement last year, suggest existence of a Higgs-like particle,” said Nural Akchurin, a professor of physics at Texas Tech and member of the High Energy Physics Group. “Additional data help constrain its properties, for example, its spin and parity. As expected in the Standard Model, its spin seems to be zero with positive parity. Finding Higgs shows that our understanding of the Standard Model of Particle Physics was and is correct. That’s a big deal.”

Akchurin has served in leading roles in one of the two major experiments at CERN that is called the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS). He is an expert in calorimeters, a detector that measures the energies of fundamental particles that serve as “catcher’s mitts” to grab evidence of Higgs.

With today’s announcement, scientists believe most recent measurements of the particle discovered last July are consistent with the Standard Model Higgs boson, but further studies still are needed to confirm this.

Other possibilities, while less likely, can’t be ruled out yet. These include a supersymmetric Higgs, a composite Higgs, or even something not Higgs-like, such as a graviton.

Hints of Higgs

Scientists at CERN announced July 4 that they may have found evidence of the Higgs boson.

First imagined in the early '60s and since dubbed the "God" particle, physicists believe the Higgs boson is responsible for giving mass to particles – basically nature's smallest building blocks. They make a pencil a pencil or a rock a rock instead of loose energy floating around in space.

In July, researchers with the High Energy Physics Group said they and other scientists discovered forensic evidence – a shadow or an impression – of the elusive Higgs boson.

To find Higgs and answer other physics questions, scientists accelerate opposing beams of protons to near the speed of light in the 17-mile, circular Large Hadron Collider, which lies underground near Geneva, Switzerland and is considered one of the great engineering milestones of mankind. As these protons are shot around the circular tunnel, the CMS catches what is created when these protons crash into each other.

Somewhere in the melee of these particles' high-energy collisions, researchers have watched for evidence of the Higgs boson that can be identified by the products of its decay.

"It is a unique adventure to explore new territory in physics, and this comes with some trepidation," Akchurin said. "But, I never doubted that the experiment would fail to perform as desired."

Akchurin and three other Texas Tech professors were responsible for designing and building the calorimeters that have contributed to these historic discoveries sure to usher in a new age of physics. The only ones like them in existence, the calorimeters now collect data and hunt for many different phenomena as well as the Higgs boson as collisions occur.

In a decade and a half, they and more than 10 post-doctoral and doctoral students from Texas Tech have joined a phalanx of about 3,000 international scientists probing the bounds of mass and matter and answer some of the universe's most mind-blowing riddles.

"Some of us invested large portions of our scientific careers into this exploration," Akchurin said. "I must admit the July 4th announcement last year was special for me in more ways than one. Discoveries tend to be like a flash of light: They are exciting, but last a fleeting moment. In this case, I think the excitement is still with us. There is more work to do, more questions to answer. The more we learn, the more questions appear."

Since 2009, the international group of scientists has hoped the \$8 billion Large Hadron Collider and Compact Muon Solenoid would prove the existence of matter's smallest



building blocks as well as dark matter, the secrets of black holes and how the universe began.

Ideas included in this “new physics” brand of particle science can boggle the mind. Some theories suggest there are actually 11 dimensions instead of four. Another theory says we live in a multiverse instead of a universe. Proof of these theories may come as the experiments continue and more data is analyzed.

In Higgs theory, Akchurin said, there must be some mechanism through which you give mass to electrons, quarks and other fundamental particles. Perhaps Higgs gives mass by holding the void of space together with strands of energy. Finding that mechanism could close the loop in assigning known masses.

“If you have Higgs, you can explain everything – or nearly most things,” he said. “This is much bigger than the atom bomb. If this project finds nothing but Higgs, that’s huge. Whatever comes out of this will be interesting.”

Crash Analysis

On Thursday, (March 14) Sung-Won Lee, an associate professor of physics at Texas Tech, was discussing recent Higgs results at the Higgs Quo Vadis conference at the Aspen Center for Physics in Colorado.

“People here at the Higgs conference look very happy,” Lee said. “This is an exciting moment. It’s truly amazing to see such spectacular and beautiful results using full LHC data. So far, everything is statistically compatible with Standard Model Higgs, but all measurements still statistically limited. We really need to make sure that the particle we observed is either the Higgs boson of the Standard Model or something completely different in the context of the beyond Standard Model.”

Lee watches the calorimeters and hopes to catch Higgs and other particles. As data accumulate and different analyses are put together by different groups of scientists, a clearer picture starts to emerge.

The process is arduous, and requires the work of many dedicated scientists from around the world, he said. Discovery in this experiment belongs to the many, not just a few. But scientists still need to double-check their work, Lee said.

“In order to give a final answer, these beautiful results should be checked precisely and further precision measurements on Higgs properties like couplings and spin/parity should be performed,” Lee said. “I believe the era of precise Higgs measurement has just started, and we will very soon make a transition from discovery to measurement.”

About a year ago, the CMS scientists published a paper that described where Higgs wasn’t. As more data was collected, Higgs had less and less room to hide and now the data suggest that this significant excess in lighter mass region may be the Higgs boson.

There may be more than one Higgs hiding among the collision wreckage, Lee said. The theory of supersymmetry suggests there could be up to five different mass-giving particles.

“There are too many physics processes in the context of the Standard Model that look like Higgs,” Lee said. “So, the searching for Higgs is one of the most sophisticated efforts in the LHC physics program. There are huge amounts of statistical data, understanding the other physics processes, and understanding our detector also.”

The team also searches for evidence of other new phenomena, such as dark matter. Researchers believe up to 30 percent of the universe may be made of dark matter, but as of yet, it hasn't showed either.

“Texas Tech is well integrated into this international research effort,” Lee said. “We play a leading role in that part. I'm happy to say we've done a good job over many, many years. I believe that Texas Tech's High Energy Physics Group at CERN has excellent teamwork, and that is why we've done so well for many years.”

Finding Higgs may have answered one question, but many more remain, Akchurin said.

“Though another accelerator may be needed to probe the bounds of the new particle, the LHC has served its purpose as a discovery machine that still will be useful to finish uncovering what already has been discovered and perhaps more,” he said.



Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 15, 2013

CONTACT: Megan Shudde, m.shudde@ttu.edu
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Rawls College of Business Hosts “Navigating Your Way to Business Success”

- WHAT:** Texas Tech University’s Rawls College of Business Chief Executives’ Roundtable Speaker Series
- WHEN:** 11:30 a.m. Thursday (March 21)
- WHERE:** Lubbock Country Club, 3400 Mesa Road
- EVENT:** Texas Tech’s Rawls College of Business hosts Kathy Freeland, president, CEO and entrepreneur, presenting “Navigating Your Way to Business Success: An Entrepreneur’s Journey.”

Freeland is president and CEO of A-TEK Inc. Prior to acquiring A-TEK, she was the founder and former CEO of RGII Technologies, Inc., an information technology, systems integration and engineering solutions company whose customers included nine presidential cabinet agencies of the federal government.

Freeland recently wrote, “Navigating Your Way to Business Success: An Entrepreneur’s Journey,” which highlights the steps of starting a business and provides insight to people who want to begin the entrepreneurial process.

Freeland will sign copies of her book following her speech.

Texas Tech brings industry leaders to Lubbock through this speaker series to share insight and experiences to the Rawls students, faculty and the business community.

For more information on the Chief Executives’ Roundtable Speaker Series please visit <http://cxr.ba.ttu.edu/>

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

CONTACT: Alice Oles, Chief Executives’ Roundtable coordinator, Rawls College of Business, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3188 or alice.oles@ttu.edu.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 15, 2013

CONTACT: John Davis, john.w.davis@ttu.edu

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Texas Tech School of Art Presents Master's Thesis Art Exhibitions

Texas Tech University School of Art will present the spring semester's Studio Art Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibitions. These one-person shows spotlight a graduating master-level student's primary and secondary studio artwork.

Gallery hours are 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Saturday and noon- 4 p.m. Sunday. The Art Building is located at 2802 18th St. (near the corner of Flint Avenue). On Mondays through Fridays, paid parking is available on the fourth floor of the Flint Avenue Parking Facility. Parking is free on weekends. Admission is free.

The exhibitions, speakers and related programs at Landmark Arts and the Texas Tech University School of Art are made possible, in part, by grants from the Helen Jones Foundation and The CH Foundation. Additional support comes from cultural activities fees administered through the College of Visual & Performing Arts.

Exhibits are:

Johnnie Thurston (photography)

March 18-23

Studio Gallery, Texas Tech Art Building

Zach Tate (ceramics)

March 22-April 19

Buddy Holly Center, 1801 Crickets Ave.

Juanita Exiga Wyatt (printmaking)

March 25-30

Studio Gallery, Texas Tech Art Building

Adam Redd (ceramics)

6-8 p.m. April 5

CASP Gallery at 5th Street and Avenue J

Michael Glenn (printmaking)

April 8-13

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Studio Gallery, Texas Tech Art Building

Megan Dill (painting and drawing)

April 14-19

Studio Gallery, Texas Tech Art Building

Tom Turner (photography)

April 22-27

Studio Gallery, Texas Tech Art Building

Rebecca J. Hopp (jewelry design & metalsmithing)

6-9 p.m. May 3

Satellite Gallery at LHUCA (5th Street at Avenue J across from LHUCA)

Ryu-Hee Kim (jewelry design & metalsmithing)

April 29-May 4

Studio Gallery, Texas Tech Art Building

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 18, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Celebrates Women's History Month

WHAT: The Women's Studies Program will host two events to commemorate Women's History Month.

WHEN: Women in Combat Forum: 4 p.m. March 20
"Miss Representation" film screening: 6 p.m. March 25

WHERE: Both events will be held at the Escondido Theatre at the Student Union Building.

EVENT: The Women in Combat Forum is held in conjunction with the Military Veterans Program along with several Texas Tech professors. The forum will focus on women's history in the military as well as current positions held by women. Additionally, the panelist will discuss the most recent executive order announced from the Pentagon.

The film screening of "Miss Representation" is hosted by the Women's Studies Program and the members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. The film exposes how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America and challenges the media's portrayal of women and girls.

These events are free and open to the public. Visitor parking is available in the Student Union parking lot.

For more information visit www.depts.ttu.edu/wstudies or on Facebook by searching "Texas Tech University Women's Studies Program" and Twitter @TTUWSP.

The Women's Studies Program is a part of the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 18, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Changes Date of Celebrate Diversity Banquet Featuring Soledad O'Brien

Texas Tech's Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement has moved the date of the Celebrate Diversity Scholarship Banquet, which was originally scheduled for April 6.

The banquet, which features CNN journalist Soledad O'Brien, will be held Sept. 26 at the McKenzie-Market Alumni Center.

For more information or to obtain tickets, contact the Division of Institutional Diversity at (806) 742-7025 or by email at diversity@ttu.edu.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu or on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

CONTACT: David Abercia, Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-7025, or david.abercia@ttu.edu.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 18, 2013

CONTACT: Moriah Beyers, moriah.beyers@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Sweeps Houston Livestock Show's Three Judging Categories

Texas Tech University's [meat judging team had already walked away with first place](#) honors March 3 at the Houston Livestock Show's Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest, the ninth consecutive year the Red Raiders have won the competition in Houston.

Then last week the Livestock Judging Team and the Wool Judging Team took similar honors, making it only the second time in school history that the three teams swept all of the judging at the annual event, the first time in 2008.

"All three teams have put in many long hours of practice and travel, have worked so hard preparing for their competitions, and have performed well throughout the year," said Leslie Thompson, chair of the Department of Animal and Food Science. "We knew going into Houston all three teams had the capability to win there, but so many things can happen, you just never know. It is truly a thrill to have a Red Raider 'three-sweep,' for the Livestock, Meats and Wool Judging Teams all to be crowned champions at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo this year. They are an outstanding group of students academically, as well as, being tough competitors. I am so proud of these kids. They have represented the Texas Tech in an outstanding manner."

The livestock team took first place with a score of 4819, had three of the top ten high individuals and was first in the cattle and reasons divisions. They are coached by Ryan Rathmann and graduate student Brady Ragland.

Livestock team members include:

- Nick Rieke, a junior from LaOtto, Ind., first-high individual
- Lane Halfmann, a junior from Garden City, third-high individual
- Jordan Richburg, a junior from Deltona, Fla., ninth-high individual
- Logan Mason, a junior from Lazbuddie, high Individual, Alternate Division
- Caetlyn Avant, a junior from Copeville
- Dan Crownover, a junior from Italy
- Blake Davis, a junior from Paragould, Ark.
- Bo Hutto, a junior from Hondo
- Emily Jackson, a junior from Waco
- Valerie Manning, a junior from Mabank
- Tanner Martin, a junior from Roscoe
- Kaitlyn Meyer, a junior from Temple
- Kevin Murnin, a junior from Miles City, Mont.

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- Stephanie Neuhaus, a junior from Dora, N.M.
- Matt Savage, a junior from Seminole
- Isaac Wenzel, a junior from Hamilton

Texas Tech's wool judging won with a score of 2260 and had five of the top ten high individuals. The team is coached by Aaron Jennings, an instructor in the Department of Animal and Food Science and undergraduate Brittany Thompson.

Wool Judging team members include:

- Laramie Priest, a freshman from Lorena, high individual
- Colton Fritz, a freshman from Fredericksburg, second-high individual
- Cade Hall, a freshman from Artesia, N.M., fifth-high individual
- Victoria Andrews, a freshman from Pflugerville, seventh-high individual
- Reggie Halfmann, a freshman from Garden City, ninth-high individual
- Drew Dunlap, a freshman from Plainview
- SyAnn Foster, a freshman from Lockney
- Deshea Hanagan, a freshman from Artesia, N.M.
- Garrett Lam, a freshman from Burkburnett
- Taylor Shackelford, a freshman from Gunter
- Taylor Stockton, a freshman from Lubbock
- Hayden Thorp, a freshman from Mertzon
- Chad Vander Linden, a sophomore from Muscatine, Iowa
- Calvin Welper, a freshman from Shallowater
- Tylee Jo Williams, a freshman from Memphis

Houston is the last contest of the spring semester for the livestock and meat judging teams and the last contest for the wool judging team, which does not compete in the fall.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 19, 2013

CONTACT: Karin Slyker, karin.slyker@ttu.edu
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Expert: Turning up the Heat... in Miami.

Professor crunches numbers for NBA record of consecutive victories.

Pitch □ □

With a 23-game winning streak behind them, the only thing still ahead for the Miami Heat is the NBA record. They are second, only to the 1971-1972 Los Angeles Lakers, a team who won 33 consecutive games more than four decades ago.

Alan Reifman, a professor in Texas Tech University's Department of Human Development and Family Studies, who studies sports streakiness and conducts "hot hand" research, can speak to sports trends and statistical probability. His blog can be found at <http://thehothand.blogspot.com/>.

Reifman is also the author of the forthcoming book "[Hot Hand: The Statistics Behind Sports' Greatest Streaks](#)."

Expert □

Alan Reifman, professor, Human Development and Family Studies, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3000 ext. 274, or alan.reifman@ttu.edu.

Talking Points □ □

- LeBron James' performance at the buzzer
- Number of minutes James played during the streak
- Charted field-goal and free-throw attempts
- Margins of victory □



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 19, 2013

CONTACT: Megan Shudde, m.shudde@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Global Lens Film Series Continues

- WHAT:** Texas Tech University's College of Media & Communication
- WHEN:** 6 p.m. Thursday (March 21, March 28, April 4 and April 11)
- WHERE:** Room 083, College of Media & Communication building, 15th Street and Flint Avenue
- EVENT:** The Global Lens 2013 film series continues during March, April and May 2013. Admission is free.

Upcoming films include:

- March 21- "The Fantastic World of Juan Orol" (Mexico, directed by Sebastian del Amo)
- March 28- "Life Kills Me" (Chile, directed by Sebastian Silva)
- April 4- "Modest Reception" (Iran, directed by Mani Haghighi)
- April 11- "The Parade" (Serbia, directed by Srdjan Dragojevic)

A panel of interdisciplinary scholars from the Texas Tech faculty will follow each screening and will encourage discussion and remarks from the audience.

For more information about the Global Lens film series and Global Film Initiative programs, please visit: <http://www.globalfilm.org>.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 19, 2013

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, leslie.cranford@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Professor Appointed to National Committee on Food Safety

The Secretary of Agriculture has appointed a Texas Tech University professor to a national committee that will provide recommendations on microbial criteria of food.

Guy Loneragan, an epidemiologist and professor of food safety and public health in the Department of Animal and Food Science, will serve on the [National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods](#), providing information to the secretaries of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services.

“It is an incredible honor and responsibility to be appointed to this committee,” Loneragan said. “Moreover, this appointment highlights the level of prominence of the internationally respected food safety program that Texas Tech receives. Texas Tech has assembled and invested in a collaborative team of researchers. This appointment represents the combined accomplishments of this successful team.”

The committee provides impartial scientific advice to federal agencies to use in developing integrated food safety systems from farm to table and to ensure food safety in domestic and imported foods. This advice is used by the agencies to develop science-based policy that will improve the safety of the food that U.S. consumers buy and feed to their families.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 19, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
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“The Big Bang Theory” Star to Speak at Texas Tech

Texas Tech University will host actress Mayim Bialik at 8 p.m. March 28 in the Student Union Building’s (SUB) Allen Theater. Bialik is known for her current role as Amy Farrah Fowler on CBS’s “The Big Bang Theory” as well as her former role as the title character on NBC’s “Blossom.”

The event is brought to Texas Tech by the Honors College, University Student Housing and the Tech Activities Board.

Bialik, who has a doctorate in neuroscience, will speak about the work of the brain, behavioral development, her life as an actress and scientist and the relationship between “The Big Bang Theory” and its audience.

“We are thrilled to be able to host Mayim Bialik,” said Heather Medley, director of Admissions and Alumni Relations for the Honors College. “Combining a successful career in the entertainment business with a Ph.D. in neuroscience from UCLA, Bialik provides a fantastic combination to really make science cool and funny.”

Tickets for the event are \$12 for the public and can be purchased through any Select-A-Seat outlet or at www.selectseatlubbock.com. Student tickets are free and can be picked up at the SUB information desk with a student ID.

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CONTACT: Heather Medley, Honors College, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-1828, or heather.medley@ttu.edu; Jon Mark Bernal, associate director, Student Union & Activities, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-4708, or jm.bernal@ttu.edu.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 20, 2013

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Faculty Honored at Professing Excellence Awards

Ten professors recognized for outstanding teaching and student impact.

Texas Tech University Student Housing hosted the 11th Annual Professing Excellence awards ceremony Tuesday (March 20) to recognize faculty members for their impact on the academic success of students living in the residence halls.

Created in 2002, the awards are given to outstanding faculty who go above and beyond, both inside and outside the classroom, to impact their students' learning and academic success.

All award recipients were nominated by students residing on campus and selected by a student committee. This year's honorees are:

- Tiffanie Brooks, Department of Animal and Food Sciences
- Scott Burris, Department of Agricultural Education and Communications
- Lauren Gollahon, Department of Biological Sciences
- Bruce Hermann, Department of Theatre & Dance
- Thomas Kimball, Community, Family, & Addiction Services
- Daniel Nathan, Department of Philosophy
- Brenda Rodgers, Department of Biological Sciences
- Richard Verrone, Department of History
- Austin Walden, Department of Political Science
- Brock Williams, Department of Mathematics & Statistics

At the ceremony, recipients were introduced by a video of their student nominator explaining why the professor deserves this award.

Ryan Thoroman, graduate assistant for Residence Education & Academic Programs, helped coordinate the awards ceremony. He said the number of nominations tripled from last year with 68 faculty members being nominated.

When he notified the professors they won, Thoroman said their response was overwhelming. He said they understand the significance of the award and take a lot of pride in receiving it.

Kyle Clark, vice president of Administration and Finance, gave the opening remarks during the ceremony and congratulated the award recipients.

“We’re proud of the faculty we have here at Texas Tech,” he said. “These awards provide further recognition of the excellence of our faculty, not only for their knowledge, research and service, but also for their teaching and proficiency in communicating their subjects to their students.”

Clark said the key to Texas Tech’s success is everyone working together for the good of the university, which is exemplified by the partnership between Student Housing and Academic Affairs.

Thoroman also values the partnership Student Housing has with faculty and all the colleges.

“We believe learning takes place all around campus, and some of the most important learning takes place in the residence halls,” he said. “That’s why we work hard to develop strong relationships with our faculty.”



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 20, 2013

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Moot Court Team Claims Texas Tech Law's 26th National Championship Third-year students tackle energy and sustainability issues.

A team of Texas Tech University School of Law students won the Third Annual National Energy and Sustainability Moot Court Competition in Morgantown, W.Va. to claim the law school's 26th national championship.

In Texas Tech Law's first trip to the tournament, hosted by West Virginia University College of Law, third-year students Tanner Hartnett of Dallas, John McIntyre of Canadian and Neal Spradlin of Lavon tested their brief-writing and oral advocacy skills against 23 other teams. To best their competition, they had to navigate complex and cutting-edge issues related to hydraulic fracturing.

The team unanimously defeated Florida State University College of Law in the final round, which was argued before one federal circuit court judge, two federal district court judges, the former Chief Justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court, and the head of the appellate section in the Washington, D.C., office of Jones Day.

"This win was significant in two respects – not only is it an affirmation of our award-winning advocacy program, but it also shows our strength in the particular subject matter of natural resource law," said adjunct professor Robert Sherwin ('01), who coached the team along with professor Chris Kulander and adjunct professor Rickie Redman ('09).

"The final-round panel was one of the most distinguished I've ever seen at any moot court competition," Sherwin continued. "Most lawyers will go their entire careers without appearing before a group like that. For our students to be able to argue their case and hear those judges' critiques and compliments is a real testament to the value of law school advocacy competitions."

Professor Brie Sherwin ('01), Texas Tech Law alumna Laura Pratt ('10) and the Environmental Law Moot Court Team of second-year students Cara Brewer and Stephen Higdon helped prepare the team in practice rounds.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 20, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Hosts Study Abroad Photo Exhibit

- WHAT:** The Office of International Affairs Study Abroad Photo Exhibit and Reception
- WHEN:** Reception: 4:30 p.m. Thursday (March 21)
Photo exhibit is on display until April 26.
- WHERE:** The photo exhibit and reception is at the International Cultural Center, located at 601 Indiana Ave.
- EVENT:** The Study Abroad Photo Exhibit is a juried competition featuring the best images shot by students during Texas Tech study abroad programs.

A reception for the photographers will be held Thursday and features 64 photographs taken from around the world.

Photographers include: Josh Abel; Marie Ainsa; Kris Anderson; Abigail Arroyos; Reece Baggs; Alyssa Bolin; Sarah Borden; Daniel Budke; Aaron Campbell; John Charbonneau; Yung-Hsuan Chou; Victoria Clark; Shannon Clay; Paul Cranford; Robert Crites; Cullen Dunkerson; Steven Ebeling; Arin Ensor; Jacob Fisher; Vania Franco; Emily Furillo; Ian Goldberg; Lauren Grainger; Amanda Griffin; Kathryn Hiatt; Kiley Howard; Cayla Jordan; Gabrielle Keys; Megan Lesmeister; Jesse Latimer; Kelley Martin; Amanda McCatherine; Eloisa McGill; Joseph Mihoin; Luke Milone; Sarah Miller; Matthew Niebeling; Hillary Nobles; Justin Polk; Gilbert Perez; Hannah Pham; Katiea Plyler; Ashmita Roy; Benjamin Rahman; Kelsey Roberts; Cassidy Ross; Andy Russell; Emily Salas; Scott Schreiber; Kelsey Sheridan; Alexa Smith; Hannah Smith; Kendra Snelson; Jared Strange; Parsa Tahamzadeh; Mason Tang; McKenzie Tate; Rahel Tekola; Madison Townsend; Aaron Vazquez; Loni Woolley; Scott Russell Wooten; Cecilia Zepeda and Ethan Zepper.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

CONTACT: Jane Bell, director, International Cultural Center, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2974, or jane.bell@ttu.edu

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 20, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Hosts Wounded Warrior Project Benefit Concert

The Texas Tech University Residence Halls Association, Student Government Association, and Military and Veterans Programs are hosting the first annual Wounded Warrior Project Benefit Concert at 5 p.m. Saturday (March 23) at Memorial Circle. Performers include the Bentley Massey Band, the Hogg Maulies, and Brandon Adams and the Sad Bastards.

The concert is free for students, faculty, staff and community members.

Wounded Warrior Project is a nonprofit organization geared toward raising awareness about the needs of injured service members, and working to help meet those needs through unique programs and services. Their mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors and they donate millions of dollars to assist veterans every year.

Raffle tickets are available for \$5 and prizes include wireless speakers, Josh Abbott Band merchandise and VIP tickets, AT&T products including a Samsung GSIII, and autographed Lady Raider Basketball merchandise. All proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

Sponsors and Donors of this concert include Texas Tech University Student Housing, Texas Tech Hospitality Services, Best Buy, AT&T, Josh Abbott Band and Lady Raiders basketball.

For more information, email rha@ttu.edu.

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Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 20, 2013

CONTACT: Jeff Sammons, jeff.sammons@ttu.edu
(806) 742-3451

Texas Tech Students Unveil Formula One-Style Race Car

WHAT: Texas Tech Formula SAE Race Car Unveiling

WHEN: 3:30 p.m., Friday (March 22)

WHERE: Room 101, Livermore Center, Texas Tech University
(Located next to the Chemical Engineering Building and southeast of the center field wall at Dan Law Field.)

Students from the Texas Tech Formula SAE Team have built a formula one-style race car from scratch to compete in an international competition against 120 other schools in May at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich. The team will unveil this year's new race car to sponsors, supporters and friends of the team, as well as the engineering college's staff and faculty.

Formula SAE is a student design competition organized by SAE International. The Texas Tech Formula SAE Team includes students from a variety of college majors. Each year, the students work together to design, build, test, and then finally race a formula one-style race car against top schools in the world.

The Formula SAE Team at Texas Tech has competed for the last two years in international competition. This year, the team has focused on improving the vehicle and building the car more quickly to allow additional time for testing and improvements before the competition.

For more information, visit the [Formula SAE Team website](#).

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CONTACT: Matthew Candler, president, Texas Tech Formula SAE Team, (432) 638-7318 or matthew.candler@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 21, 2013

CONTACT: Sydney O'Drobinak, sydney.odrobinak@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Raider Roadshow Heading to San Antonio

- WHAT: Raider Roadshow 2013
- WHEN: 2:30 p.m. Sunday (March 24); check-in is at 1:30 p.m.
- WHERE: Omni at the Colonnade, 9821 Colonnade Boulevard, San Antonio
- EVENT: Texas Tech University deans, associate deans and other representatives from academic colleges will attend the Raider Roadshow to describe the traditions, spirit and campus activities awaiting students.

After check-in, members from the Office of the President will have a welcoming ceremony. During the event, students will work with admissions, financial aid, housing and hospitality, campus life and academics to navigate the transition to Texas Tech. Mascot Raider Red will make a special appearance.

The event is open to high school seniors to complete their applications or attend a breakout session if they have already been admitted; juniors to start exploring their futures; transfer students to help make the transition to Texas Tech a successful one; and parents to meet other parents to find out what makes Texas Tech special.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

CONTACT: Julian Olivas, manager, Austin Regional Center, (806) 834-5738, or julian.olivas@ttu.edu.

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 22, 2013

CONTACT: Cory Chandler, cory.chandler@ttu.edu
(806) 742-3990, ext. 249

Hispanic Law Organization Hosts Statewide Bar Association Conference

- WHAT:** 2013 Mexican American Bar Association Texas Law Student Conference
- WHEN:** 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday (March 23)
- WHERE:** Texas Tech School of Law Lanier Auditorium, 1802 Hartford Ave.
- EVENT:** Texas Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman will provide the keynote address at this conference hosted by the Texas Tech Law Hispanic Law Students Association.

Law students and attorneys from across Texas will attend the conference and participate in programming on professional development and Hispanic issues featuring high-caliber judges, attorneys and academics.

Guzman's address will take place during a luncheon at 12:40 p.m.

Guzman was appointed to the Supreme Court of Texas by Gov. Rick Perry in 2009. Before her appointment, she served as an associate justice on the Houston-based Texas Fourteenth Court of Appeals and as a trial court judge on the 309th Family District Court.

Guzman was named one of the 101 Most Influential Latino Leaders by *Latino Leaders* magazine. The Hispanic National Bar Association named her Latina Judge of the Year in 2009. The Mexican American Bar Association of Texas Foundation awarded her its 2009 Judge of the Year award.

Find more information about Texas Tech University School of Law at www.law.ttu.edu.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 22, 2013

CONTACT: Megan Ketterer, megan.ketterer@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Holi Hindu festival comes to Texas Tech campus

WHAT: The Texas Tech South Asian Student Association and the Cross-Cultural Academic Advancement Center host the sixth annual Holi Festival of Colors.

WHEN: 5 p.m. Saturday (March 30)

WHERE: Texas Tech Student Recreational Center Fields

EVENT: At the Holi Festival of Colors, family and friends throw colored powders at each other to celebrate the coming of spring. This event includes cultural performances, music, free food and t-shirts. Traditional Hindu dress asks people to wear white to the event. Free white Holi t-shirts will be available at the festival.

Holi is an annual festival celebrated on the day after the full moon in the Hindu month of Phalguna (early March). It celebrates spring while commemorating various events in Hindu mythology.

The Festival of Colors is free and open to the public.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 22, 2013

CONTACT: Jaryn Jones, jaryn.jones@ttu.edu

Nellis Named President of Texas Tech University

As recommended by Chancellor Kent Hance, the Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System approved M. Duane Nellis on Friday (March 22), as the new president of Texas Tech University.

After a nationwide search conducted by regents and system officials, Hance named Nellis as the sole finalist on March 1, working in consultation with a search committee. Nellis succeeds Lawrence Schovanec, who has served as interim president of Texas Tech University since former President Guy Bailey resigned from the position in August 2012.

“After an extensive search for qualified applicants, Dr. Nellis is the clear candidate to build upon Texas Tech University’s recent success,” Hance said. “I am proud to introduce him as president, and I look forward to an exciting new chapter for our university.”

Nellis is the current president of the University of Idaho, the state of Idaho’s premier land-grant research university and flagship institution. Serving as president since July 2009, Nellis has secured record student enrollments, enhanced the university’s research profile and spearheaded the university’s largest fundraising campaign.

“I am honored to accept the position of president at Texas Tech University,” Nellis said. “The current momentum is truly impressive, and I look forward to working with our students, faculty, staff and community to continue the university’s progress and growth.”

Nellis will begin his duties as president June 15.

Previously, he served as provost and senior vice president at Kansas State University. He also served as dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University, the institution’s largest academic college.

An authority in higher education, Nellis has served as a commissioner for the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities, one of the eight nationally-recognized bodies that determine whether higher education institutions are accredited. He also was appointed as a commissioner of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, which coordinates higher education efforts for 15 western states.

Nellis holds a bachelor’s degree in earth sciences/geography at Montana State University and received his master’s and doctoral degrees in geography from Oregon State University.

Office of Communications and Marketing

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



Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 22, 2013

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

Ordinary Wars: Dance Concert Inspired by Real Women's Lives

- WHAT:** Re-presentation of social science data through dance, featuring choreography and performances by Flatlands Dance Theatre.
- WHEN:** 7 p.m., Saturday (March 23)
- WHERE:** Lab Theatre, located on west side of Texas Tech University Maedgen Theatre on 18th Street, between Boston and Flint Avenues
- EVENT:** The performance is an innovative transdisciplinary project, using data from two social science research projects performed by Elizabeth Sharp, an associate professor of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Human Sciences.

The research examines women's lives and ideas about femininity. One focused on 18 young women (ages 18-32) and their reflections of their wedding days and first years of marriage. The second is based on the experiences of 35 single women (ages 25-39) who did not want to marry or have children.

Dance titles include:

- I Was Happy in the Pictures
- A Thin Line
- Dressed
- With Doubt
- The Cowboy, The Lawyer, and the Stork
- To Find My Voice
- Brave

The project is sponsored by the Texas Tech University Office of the Vice President for Research, Texas Tech University College of Human Sciences Seed Grant and the Anthony Marchionne Small Grants Foundation.

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Web Only

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 22, 2013

CONTACT: Sydney O'Drobinak, sydney.odrobinak@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Alumni Association Honors Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

The Texas Tech Alumni Association honored the 2013 Distinguished Alumni of Texas Tech University at a reception and dinner today (March 22) at the McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center.

This year's honorees are anchor and managing editor of the "CBS Evening News" and correspondent for the CBS news magazine "60 Minutes," Scott Pelley; Rear Adm. (Sel) John D. Alexander; and Robert J. Salem.

Nominations are accepted throughout the year from members and friends of the Alumni Association, and Texas Tech faculty and staff. Attendance at Texas Tech is a requirement to be eligible for nomination, although receiving a degree is not necessary.

The dinner and awards are designed to recognize and honor alumni who have made significant contributions toward furthering the excellence of Texas Tech through outstanding accomplishments, careers and/or through extraordinary measures of service. A video biography of each honoree was shown during the evening.

Rear Adm. (Sel) John D. Alexander is the assistant commander of Navy Personnel Command for Career Management. He has completed numerous sea duty assignments, most recently as commander of the USS Abraham Lincoln. The Port Neches native was commissioned in December 1982 and designated a naval flight officer in November 1983. He graduated from Texas Tech with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Robert J. Salem, M.D., FACS is a noted general and vascular surgeon and researcher. He is currently chief medical officer emeritus of Covenant Health and clinical professor of surgery at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) in Lubbock. Salem founded SWAT Surgical Associates in Lubbock and pioneered peripheral vascular surgery in West Texas. In 1970, he developed the first open-heart surgical program at Methodist Hospital in Lubbock. When the medical school at TTUHSC opened, Salem became the first chairman of the Department of Surgery.

Scott Pelley began his journalism career long before he enrolled at Texas Tech. At age 15, the San Antonio native worked as a copy boy at the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal newspaper. He eventually worked at KSEL-TV in Lubbock, KXAS-TV in the Dallas/Fort

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Worth Metroplex and WFAA-TV Dallas/Fort Worth. Pelley's career with CBS began in 1989 in New York City. Pelley joined "60 Minutes" in 2004. Since then, half of all the major awards won by that broadcast were by Pelley's team of producers, reporters, photographers and editors.

For images and full bios of each honoree, please [click here](#).

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Web Only

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 22, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Hosts Graduate Expo

The Graduate School at Texas Tech University is hosting its first Red Raider Graduate Expo April 6 across the Texas Tech Campus.

“We are hard at work to make the graduate experience at Texas Tech the richest that it can be, and to provide opportunities that we hope will make a real difference in students’ quality of life,” said Interim Dean Dominick Casadonte.

The Texas Tech Graduate School offers 103 master’s programs and 59 doctoral programs within 65 specialized research centers and institutes. Texas Tech was elevated to National Research University status by the Texas State Legislature in 2012 and offers teaching and research opportunities to its graduate students.

The Red Raider Expo will allow potential students to get an in-depth preview of the offerings available at the Texas Tech Graduate School. Representatives from the nine colleges as well as Graduate School Admissions, University Housing, Hospitality, International Affairs, Student Health, Human Resources, the Graduate Student Association and other student academic service groups will be present.

A schedule is as follows:

- 8:30 a.m.-Check-in
- 9 a.m.-Welcome from university president and dean of graduate school
- 10 a.m.-Campus tour
- 11 a.m.-Academic tour and information session
- 12:30 p.m.-Lunch
- 1:30 p.m.-Resource fair
- 2 p.m.-Optional tours, options include the Library, Housing, Wellness Center, Recreational Center

Scholarships, grants and fellowships are currently available for the fall 2013 semester. Forbes magazine and the Fiske Guide to Colleges recently ranked Texas Tech among the best buys in American higher education.

“Whether you are pursuing an MBA degree, working on advancing quantum dynamics or solving the global energy problem, we believe that at Texas Tech you will find a home to

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do your best work,” said Interim President Lawrence Schovanec and Casadonte in a joint statement.

To register for the expo or to obtain more information about the Graduate School, visit <http://www.ttu.edu/gradexpo> or email Shannon Samson at shannon.samson@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 22, 2013
CONTACT: Dailey Fuller, dailey.fuller@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech President Duane Nellis Introduced

WHAT: News conference to introduce Dr. Duane Nellis as the 16th president of Texas Tech University

WHEN: 2 p.m., Monday (March 25)

WHERE: City Bank Room
United Spirit Arena
(1701 Indiana Ave.)

EVENT: Chancellor Kent Hance will introduce Duane Nellis as the 16th president of Texas Tech University. Nellis will make remarks and be available to the media.

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



Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 22, 2013

CONTACT: Sydney O'Drobinak, sydney.odrobinak@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech to Host Retail Symposium and Honor Local Store Owner

- WHAT:** Texas Tech University Retail Symposium and Networking Reception
- WHEN:** 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. Tuesday (March 26)
- WHERE:** Skyviews Restaurant, Texas Tech Plaza Sixth Floor, 1901 University Ave.
- EVENT:** The Texas Tech College of Human Sciences will host a Retail Symposium to engage the community on different topics within the retail industry. The event will include speed interviews and panel discussions with Donna Bender, president and CEO of The Donna Bender Company; Stacey Gorman, communications manager at The Cotton Board; and Max Ludwig, senior director of prototype development for Wal-Mart U.S.

A networking session will follow the symposium to honor John B. Malouf, owner of Malouf's, with the Retail Leader Award. Malouf has been in business for 64 years and is still active with his store location in Lubbock.

This event is free, except for meals, and open to the public. To register for the symposium events, please [click here](#). Registration will also be available the morning of the event.

Schedule of events:

9:30 a.m. – Networking Coffee and Registration

10 a.m. – Welcome and Introduction of Speaker
Max Ludwig, Senior Director Prototype Development, Wal-Mart

10:30 a.m. – Break

10:45 a.m. – Speaker: Amy Bafford
University Career Center Break Out Sessions

11 a.m. – Speaker: Donna Bender

The Donna Bender Company: Branded Marketing and Promotional Strategies

11:30 a.m. – Speed Interviews

12 p.m. – Lunch

1:15 p.m. – Panel Discussion

1:45 p.m. – Speed Interviews

2:15 p.m. – Introduction Stacey Gorman, communications manager, The Cotton Board

2:45 p.m. – Break

3 p.m. – Panel Discussion

3:30 – Conclusion

6 – 8 p.m. – Networking Reception Retail Leader Award

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CONTACT: Deborah Fowler, master advisor, Retail Management, College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-3068, or deborah.fowler@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Web Only

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 25, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Incoming President Duane Nellis Brings Leadership to Texas Tech

Duane Nellis was introduced today as the 16th president of Texas Tech University by Chancellor Kent Hance.

“This is a great time to be associated with Texas Tech University,” Nellis said. “This is an institution that is on the move in a very positive way. My wife Ruthie and I feel it is a great opportunity to be at this emerging national research university.”

Nellis comes to Texas Tech from the University of Idaho, where he has served as president since July 2009. There, he secured record student enrollments, enhanced the university’s research profile and spearheaded the university’s largest fundraising campaign.

Hance and Board of Regents Vice-Chairman Larry Anders recognized Texas Tech Interim President Lawrence Schovanec and the search committee. Anders said the quality of candidates in the search for the new president was extraordinary.

“Our search committee yielded an extraordinary amount of talent,” Anders said. “I’ve been involved in three searches in my time on the Board of Regents here at Texas Tech and it’s probably the best search overall that I’ve had the privilege of participating in. The quality of candidates that came through that pool was absolutely incredible.”

Nellis and his wife Ruthie have worked in higher education for more than 25 years. Among his plans for Texas Tech include continuing to increase enrollment figures by recruiting and retaining quality students, creating opportunities for synergy within the university and with the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, and maintaining Texas Tech’s reputation as a student-centered institution.

“There is a great tradition here at Tech of being very student-centered and we’re going to continue to build on that,” Nellis said. “It’s a great part of what it means to be here at Texas Tech: a great campus, we have great faculty, great staff, great infrastructure to support our faculty, staff and students, and a great product with that degree from Texas Tech University.”

Nellis also said he wants to cultivate athletics and work with the Big 12 conference to foster student-athlete success.

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“Athletics, in many ways, is the front-porch of the institution,” Nellis said. “I want to have competitive athletic programs. We have a great athletic director in Kirby Hocutt, and we want to be very supportive of our athletic programs as well.”

Nellis supports the Texas Tech strategic initiatives and said that he will work to grow Texas Tech’s reputation as a premier national research university. He said that with the investments Texas Tech has made within the last several years, it is primed to become one of the foremost research universities in Texas.

“We certainly need to continue to look creatively, to be more entrepreneurial, to maximize our resources as we move the institution forward,” Nellis said. “Twenty-first-century universities like Texas Tech are moving in a new direction. Texas Tech needs to be on the cutting edge of that—to be more engaged as an institution, to be more entrepreneurial, to be more globally connected, to be more interdisciplinary, as well as more diverse. I think we have the ingredients here to help move that forward in a very very positive way.”

Nellis and his wife Ruthie were introduced to the Texas Tech community during a reception at the Frazier Alumni Pavilion.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 25, 2013

CONTACT: Leslie Cranford, leslie.cranford@ttu.edu
(806) 742-2136

Texas Tech Experts: Research documents Lesser Prairie Chickens

Texas Tech University scientists have been at the forefront of research on the lesser prairie chicken (LPC), a prairie grouse native to the West Texas landscape, for more than three decades.

Now their research and that of other universities could be square in the middle of an ongoing debate whether to protect the bird as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to hold another public comment period this spring before voting on the issue Sept. 30.

Along with their Texas based studies on breeding, predation, survival and microclimate, Texas Tech researchers also collected more than a decade's worth of data from New Mexico.

Additional research out of Oklahoma and Kansas has indicated lesser prairie chickens have an aversion to tall vertical structures, such as wind turbines and power lines, findings that could affect the oil and gas industry as much as farmers and land owners.

Pieces of the puzzle

The researchers' part of this complicated puzzle is to provide information on the status of the species, not comment on policy, said Clint Boal, professor in the Department of Natural Resources Management and assistant leader of the USGS Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. He has been involved in LPC research since 2007; prior to that, Dave Haukos, a former Texas Tech professor now at Kansas State, had been conducting studies at Texas Tech since the 1980s.

"We don't know exactly where they (the LPC) were 150 years ago," Boal said. "Our estimates are that the entire area they occupied has decreased during the past 100 years – both the area occupied and the number of lesser prairie chickens has decreased about 90 percent in the past 100 years."

The bird is now found only in restricted areas of five states in the southern Great Plains: Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas.

About tall structures, Boal explained the structures may provide perches for predators or the dislike is simply a response to a structure on landscape that wasn't there in their

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evolutionary history. Hence the prairie chickens tend to stay away from areas where there are tall structures.

Blake Grisham, a post doctoral research associate working with Boal, said in terms of wind farms, companies already have been trying to do the right thing by staying away from known habitats.

“We’ve been lucky in terms of where wind farm hot spots are located,” Grisham said. “Those spots do occur, where they overlap with the distribution of the lesser prairie chickens; we’ve been fortunate that the wind energy companies have identified these places as potential problems and have tried their best to avoid these areas.”

Disturbed Landscape

Boal said other aversions for LPC are manmade structures and landscape changes. Nesting hens will avoid nesting near manmade structures and disturbances in habitat, from roads to buildings, to the conversion of native grasslands to cropland. Boal said prairie chickens for example, are not very likely to use cotton fields to nest in or for lekking (places where males aggregate to try to attract females to mate with).

“Prairie chickens have evolved in this landscape,” Boal said. “They have a breeding strategy that is suited to this landscape, a boom-and-bust kind of cycle where they have high survival from year to year but reproduction is highly variable; if you have a good year for reproduction, enough new birds enter the population and have a survival rate that carries them through three or four bad years before they have another good year.

But, Boal said part of that equation is a landscape where the chickens have a lot of habitat. If the prairie chicken has a bad year, they may have to expand their home range and forage over a greater area. The problem is, in the current landscape, compared to 50 or 100 years ago, they don’t have all that area to flow over. A lot has been converted to agriculture. Much of that area has been taken completely out of what has been habitat for them.

“You have some of those areas that, because of petroleum extraction, stockyards, or other human activity, the chickens just won’t use,” Boal said. “Because we’ve pieced up the habitat so much, I suspect that is no longer advantageous for them because they need to move around to look for more food, but there’s no place to look – unless they cross somewhere they perceive as a danger zone.

Weighing conservation vs. risk

“As we go forward with conservation plans and the relative risk that a species is facing, we need to look at those risks across its distribution, not just have a one-size-fits-all for the prairie chicken’s entire distribution.”

The importance of paying attention to species reduction, Grisham said, is really a much larger picture.



“The state of the lesser prairie chicken is an indicator of prairie health,” he said. “A general decline shows that the ecosystem as a whole faces uncertainty and that other species may be affected in the future.”

If the LPC is added to the threatened list, it will restrict some land uses, Boal said. However, if landowners and producers – farmers and ranchers – have previously entered one of many cooperatives established by state and federal wildlife conservation agreements– which are managed by Texas Parks and Wildlife, they can continue whatever practices are already in place and are protected from some of these restrictions.

“What people need to understand is that it’s not just prairie chickens. It’s really the interconnectedness of these biotic communities,” Boal said. “When we have indicators like a prairie chicken, and there’s something going wrong, that’s an indication of that biotic community as a whole. We need to think about, ‘what is the world we want to live in?’ When you talk to landowners around here, they rhapsodize about how they love the land, and the relationship they have with the land. They say they want to be good stewards of the land, and I believe them. Prairie chickens are an important component of that land, and their future depends on the quality of stewardship they receive.”

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

CONTACT: Clint Boal, professor, Department of Natural Resources Management, (806) 742-2851 or clint.boal@ttu.edu; or Blake Grisham, post doctoral research associate, (806) 742-2841 or blake.grisham@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 25, 2013

CONTACT: Megan Ketterer, megan.ketterer@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Graduate Student Receives Wallace Stegner Fellowship

Each academic year, 10 scholars interested in crafting their creative work toward a manuscript are selected to be a recipient of Stanford University's Wallace Stegner Fellowship.

Michael Shewmaker, a Texas Tech University English part-time graduate instructor and doctoral candidate, was one of more than 1,760 applicants in this year's pool of creative fiction and poetry writers to apply for the fellowship.

By showcasing his creative abilities in his application, Shewmaker's was one of the 10 selected for the 2013-2015 fellowship program.

"It means a lot - particularly the time to write and revise, revise and write, toward completing my first manuscript of poems while studying at Stanford University," Shewmaker said. "It also means being surrounded by people who care as much about the craft and art of poetry as I do."

After moving to California for the fellowship, Shewmaker will spend his days attending workshops, readings and events while perfecting his own work with the help of his colleagues. As part of the fellowship, he will participate in campus readings and host programs for Stanford undergraduate students.

The application process included submitting 15 pages of poems with a brief statement of plans. The selection committee then reads each application and selects 10 two-year fellows, five in fiction and five in poetry.

Attending Texas Tech was a priceless experience and aided in the creation of his poetic works, Shewmaker said.

"My time at Tech has been invaluable," he said. "I can't adequately stress how much it meant to me. The creative writing faculty is outstanding here. They are talented artists, gifted teachers, and, well, all-around good human beings. I'm certain many of the poems I submitted for the fellowship, or, at the very least, wouldn't be as compelling, if not for the careful attention of my mentors and my colleagues. I offer them my greatest gratitude."

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Shewmaker said although he will miss his Texas Tech colleagues, he is looking forward to the prospect of living in California and working on his manuscript.

“Generally, I’m looking forward to the adventure of moving to and living in California,” he said. “Artistically, though, I’m looking forward to finishing my first manuscript, to having the time to give it my full attention. And, of course, I’m also excited to participate in an artistic community with such a rich tradition. I hope to make my own mark.”

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 25, 2013

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

Texas Tech University to Announce Jack Maddox Distinguished Chair

- WHAT:** Chancellor Kent Hance to introduce Chau-Chyun Chen as the new holder of the Jack Maddox Chair in Sustainable Energy
- WHEN:** 11 a.m. Tuesday (March 26)
- WHERE:** McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center, 17th Street and University Avenue
- EVENT:** Chen will be introduced, along with remarks from Interim President Lawrence Schovanec; Al Sacco, dean of the Whitacre College of Engineering; and Jim Maddox, executive vice president of the J.F Maddox Foundation.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 25, 2013

CONTACT: Callie Jones, callie.jones@ttu.edu
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US Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch to Speak at Texas Tech

WHAT: United States Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch will speak at Texas Tech on “The Rise of China: Implications for U.S.-China Relations.”

WHEN: 5:30 p.m. Thursday (March 28)

WHERE: International Cultural Center Auditorium

EVENT: Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch, the first Asian-American to hold the rank of an ambassador in U.S. history and the founding president of the U.S.-China Education Trust, will explore the meanings and implications of the rise of China.

Bloch served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Nepal in 1989. Her previous roles have included vice president of the Bank of America; president and CEO of the United States-Japan Foundation; visiting professor and executive vice chair, American Studies Center, Peking University; and distinguished advisor, School of International and Public Affairs, and visiting professor, American Studies Center, Fudan University.

The talk is free and open to the public.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

CONTACT: Jane Bell, director, International Cultural Center, Texas Tech University, (806) 742-2974, or jane.bell@ttu.edu.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 26, 2013

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

Texas Tech University Announces Jack Maddox Distinguished Chair

Chau-Chyun Chen is one of three National Academy members on faculty at Texas Tech.

Chancellor Kent Hance of the Texas Tech University System has announced the appointment of Chau-Chyun Chen as the new holder of the Jack Maddox Distinguished Engineering Chair in Sustainable Energy.

Chen was introduced Tuesday at a news conference and reception at the McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center. The event also included remarks from Interim President Lawrence Schovanec; Al Sacco, dean of the Whitacre College of Engineering; and Jim Maddox, of the J.F Maddox Foundation of Hobbs, NM.

“On behalf of the Board of the J. F Maddox Foundation and the Maddox family, I would like to express my great appreciation to the university, Dr. Schovanec and Dean Sacco, for their commitment to excellence in the search process to attract Dr. Chen to Texas Tech,” said Maddox. “Jack Maddox (’29), our founder, would be extremely pleased to know the chair named in his honor will be held by such an outstanding researcher and leader in this field.”

Chen is one of three National Academy members on faculty at the Texas Tech’s Whitacre College of Engineering. Election to the National Academy is considered one of the highest professional honors among engineers. Chen was elected in 2005 for his contributions to molecular thermodynamics and process modeling technology for designing industrial processes with complex chemical systems.

“I am extremely proud to add another National Academy member to the Texas Tech University faculty,” said Kent Hance, chancellor of the Texas Tech University System. “This is one of numerous examples of the outstanding progress being made at our university, and I look forward to Dr. Chen’s contributions to our already esteemed engineering program.”

Chen received his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the National Taiwan University in 1973, and his master’s and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1977 and 1980, respectively. He has published more than 100 scientific articles, book chapters and patents.

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Previously, Chen served as vice president of technology at AspenTech, a company he co-founded. He was responsible for science and technology innovations in AspenTech's process modeling business area. He is best known for his development of the electrolyte NRTL activity coefficient model widely used for modeling electrolyte solutions.

Awards for Chen include the 2001 Computing Practice Award, Computing and Systems Technology (CAST) Division of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), and the 1984 Ted Peterson Student Paper Award also from CAST Division of AIChE. Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu and on Twitter @TexasTechMedia.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 26, 2013

CONTACT: Megan Ketterer, megan.ketterer@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech University School of Art Presents Matisse's Decoration as Postwar Remedy

John Klein, associate professor and director of graduate studies in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Washington University in St. Louis will visit Texas Tech University to lecture on "Matisse's Decoration as a Postwar Remedy" at 6 p.m. April 18. The event is located in Room 01 of the Texas Tech Art building basement.

Klein will discuss how culture following World War II could be viewed as a new beginning. He will explain how Henri Matisse looked for redemption rather than renewal. Matisse's postwar art maintained continuity with his earlier production styles, but by incorporating a new artistic tool- the paper-cut-out- his work was brought to a new level.

Texas Tech's Art History program and Landmark Arts are supporting the event. Landmark Arts and Texas Tech School of Art exhibitions, speaker events, and related programs also are made possible in part by grants from the Helen Jones Foundation and The CH Foundation. Additional support is generated from cultural activities fees administered through the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 28, 2013

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Texas Tech Chess Team Wins Double Title at Southwest Collegiate Championship

Texas Tech University Chess Program's "A" team repeated as Southwest Collegiate Team Champions, outscoring the University of Texas-Dallas and the University of Texas-Brownsville, both among the nation's top-ranked teams.

The event was held in March 23-24 in McAllen.

Texas Tech freshman Yaroslav Zhrebukh won the individual championship. The tournament included 15 internationally ranked players.

Texas Tech's four-person team, in board order, consisted of Grandmaster Zhrebukh, Grandmaster Hedinn Steingrímsson, Grandmaster Elshan Moradiabadi, and Faig Alasgarov. Grandmaster is the highest title given in chess and is awarded only by the World Chess Federation.

The Southwest Collegiate Championship is one of the final team championships of the regular school year. The Texas Tech chess team also took "Top College" at the World Amateur Team Championship in New Jersey in February.

The Texas Tech University Chess Program, part of the Division of Institutional Diversity, Equity & and Community Engagement, offers outreach programs to more than a dozen area schools and can provide teaching materials and other assistance on request.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 28, 2013

CONTACT: Megan Ketterer, megan.ketterer@ttu.edu
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Texas Tech Graduate Student Receives Wallace Stegner Fellowship

Each academic year, 10 scholars interested in crafting their creative work toward a manuscript are selected to be a recipient of Stanford University's Wallace Stegner Fellowship.

Michael Shewmaker, a Texas Tech University English part-time graduate instructor and doctoral candidate, was one of more than 1,760 applicants in this year's pool of creative fiction and poetry writers to apply for the fellowship.

By showcasing his creative abilities in his application, Shewmaker's was one of the 10 selected for the 2013-2015 fellowship program.

"It means a lot - particularly the time to write and revise, revise and write, toward completing my first manuscript of poems while studying at Stanford University," Shewmaker said. "It also means being surrounded by people who care as much about the craft and art of poetry as I do."

After moving to California for the fellowship, Shewmaker will spend his days attending workshops, readings and events while perfecting his own work with the help of his colleagues. As part of the fellowship, he will participate in campus readings and host programs for Stanford undergraduate students.

The application process included submitting 15 pages of poems with a brief statement of plans. The selection committee then reads each application and selects 10 two-year fellows, five in fiction and five in poetry.

Attending Texas Tech was a priceless experience and aided in the creation of his poetic works, Shewmaker said.

"My time at Tech has been invaluable," he said. "I can't adequately stress how much it meant to me. The creative writing faculty is outstanding here. They are talented artists, gifted teachers, and, well, all-around good human beings. I'm certain many of the poems I submitted for the fellowship, or, at the very least, wouldn't be as compelling, if not for the careful attention of my mentors and my colleagues. I offer them my greatest gratitude."

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Shewmaker said although he will miss his Texas Tech colleagues, he is looking forward to the prospect of living in California and working on his manuscript.

“Generally, I’m looking forward to the adventure of moving to and living in California,” he said. “Artistically, though, I’m looking forward to finishing my first manuscript, to having the time to give it my full attention. And, of course, I’m also excited to participate in an artistic community with such a rich tradition. I hope to make my own mark.”

Find Texas Tech news, experts and story ideas at www.media.ttu.edu.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 28, 2013

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Texas Tech to host the Third Annual Responsible Conduct of Research Conference

The conference will be from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. April 22

Registration for the Third Annual Responsible Conduct of Research Conference hosted by the Texas Tech University Ethics Center is now open.

The conference will be held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on April 22 at the Museum of Texas Tech, and the keynote speaker will be Stephanie J. Bird. The conference is free and open to anyone interested in responsible research practices, but preregistration is required. For more information please go to the Ethics Center website at www.ethics.ttu.edu

The topics of the conference include research with vulnerable populations, data management and image manipulation, lab safety, replication of data and ethical conduct of research.

“This year’s conference includes participation of TTU and TTUHSC faculty across a broad array of disciplines, exemplifying the growth of the responsible conduct of research (RCR) and ethics culture at Texas Tech,” said Marianne Evola, senior administrator for responsible research at the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR).

This event is again sponsored by the Ethics Center, OVPR, Museum of Texas Tech University and the Graduate School.

“Our ongoing collaboration allows this conference to target new areas of responsible research relevant to the wide range of research endeavors at Texas Tech,” said Alice Young, associate vice president of research.

“As Texas Tech continues to strive for AAU- like status it is important that our researchers be kept up to date on responsible research practices and to have a place to discuss ethical conduct of research,” said Justin Louder, assistant vice provost and director of the Ethics Center.

Bird is a laboratory-trained neuroscientist whose graduate work dealt with the effects of psychoactive substance on brain function. She has served as the special assistant to the provost and vice president for research at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). During her stay at MIT, Bird worked on the development of education programs that

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addressed professional responsibilities, ethical issues in science and ethical issues in engineering and research practices.

Her current research focuses on neuroethics and ethical, legal and social policy implications of research and technology in general. Bird lectures and consults on professional ethics, and the integration of the responsible conduct of research and ethics into science and engineering education and the development of training programs.

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 28, 2013

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Texas Tech, Arcadia Research Find Pirate Perch Probably Use Chemical Camouflage to Fool Prey

It's a nocturnal aquatic predator that will eat anything that fits in its large mouth.

Dark and sleek, it hides beneath the water waiting for prey. A Texas Tech University researcher says the target will never know what hit them because they probably can't smell the voracious pirate perch.

After careful investigations, William Resetarits Jr., a professor of biology at Texas Tech, and Christopher A. Binckley, an assistant professor in the Department of Biology at Arcadia University, found that animals normally attuned to predators from their smell didn't seem to detect the pirate perch. It could be the first animal discovered that is capable of generalized chemical camouflage that works against a wide variety of prey.

The team published their findings in the peer-reviewed journal *The American Naturalist*.

Thankfully, at five-and-a-half inches long, only insects, invertebrates, amphibians and other small fish need worry about the danger hiding near the bottom among the roots and plantlife, Resetarits said.

"We use the term 'camouflage,' because it is readily understandable," he said. "What we really are dealing with is some form of 'chemical deception.' The actual mechanism may be camouflage that makes an organism difficult to detect, mimicry that makes an organism difficult to correctly identify, or cloaking where the organism simply does not produce a signal detectable to the receiver."

Resetarits said pirate perch aren't really perch at all, but related to the Amblyopsid cave fish family. Fossils from this fish date back about 24 million years ago.

They make their homes in freshwater ponds and streams in the Eastern United States. Once considered for the aquarium market, the fish got its name because of its penchant for eating all tank mates.

"Pirate perch have some unique aspects to their morphology and life history, but they are generalist predators, and so should have been avoided by prey animals like all the other fish tested," he said. "For some reason, they weren't avoided at all."

To test their theory, Resetarits and Binckley ran a series of experiments in artificial pools housing 11 different species of fish, including pirate perch.

The fish were kept at bay at the bottom of the pools with screens so that they could not prey on the beetles and tree frogs that colonized the water.

When it came to choosing a pool, the beetles and frogs consistently steered clear of the water with other fish species in them, most likely because they could smell the presence of fish in the water. However, they had no qualms about moving into pools containing the pirate perch.

“We were incredibly surprised,” Resetarits said. “It took a while for us to pull this all together. When we first observed it with tree frogs, we were very surprised and puzzled. But when the same lack of response was shown by aquatic beetles, we were quite literally flabbergasted. We continued to do experiments with other fish and always got the same results. All fish except pirate perch were avoided.”

Exactly what the pirate perch is doing to hide isn't yet known, he said. Researchers want to determine how the pirate perch are either scrambling chemical signals or masking their odor. Once they have identified chemical compounds that might explain the behavior, they will return to the field to test with the same tree frogs and beetles as well as other organisms known to respond to fish chemical cues, such as mosquitoes and water fleas.

“We will also test whether this chemical deception works against the pirate perch's own predators,” Resetarits said. “Of course, other critical questions that we are working on include just how much advantage in terms of prey acquisition do pirate perch gain as a result of chemical deception. Does this phenomenon occur in closely related species, such as cavefish? Are there prey species that have found a way around the chemical deception? There are many questions now, and I think we have just scratched the surface.

“I think the most important aspect is not the bizarre, just-so story, but the fact that there is no reason to believe that chemical camouflage is less common than visual camouflage. Humans' sense of smell is just not very sophisticated, so we can't simply 'notice' examples of chemical camouflage the way we do visual camouflage. I think chemical camouflage is likely quite common. We are starting pursuit of the larger question, starting with close relatives of pirate perch.”

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 29, 2013

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Talkington Gallery of Art Opens at the Museum of Texas Tech University The Gallery Exhibition begins at 6 p.m. April 5 during the First Friday Art Trail.

The Talkington Gallery of Art, the newest gallery at the Museum of Texas Tech University, will be unveiled to the public for the first time at the inaugural exhibition of “AZ ↔ NM ↔ TX – 20th and 21st Century Art in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona,” at 6 p.m. April 5 during the First Friday Art Trail.

Peter Briggs, Helen DeVitt Jones Curator of Art at the museum, said the gallery exists because of the generosity of Margaret Talkington. She donated funds to the museum, which allowed museum staff to renovate several thousand square feet of gallery space.

“This gallery is an exceptional addition to the museum that offers the university and the Lubbock community opportunities to experience great art in a setting that suits the collections,” Briggs said.

The exhibition includes more than 50 pieces created by artists who worked in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. The exhibit is drawn entirely from the collections of the Museum of Texas Tech University, including works donated by Margaret Talkington.

“The Talkington collection consists primarily of paintings and watercolors,” Briggs said. “The majority of the Talkington collection consists of 20th century art by artists who lived or worked in the southwestern United States.”

Artists included in the exhibition are Georgia O’Keeffe, Fremont Ellis, Beatrice Mandelman, Gene Kloss, Edward Curtis, Mark Klett and many other well known artists.

“The gallery not only provides a clean, well-lit space to exhibit the museum’s art collections, but a public forum to explore the complexity, energy and brilliance of these art works,” Briggs said.

The Museum of Texas Tech University Association supported the development of the art collection, helping to acquire many art works.

The event is located at the Museum of Texas Tech University, located at Fourth I w Street and Indiana Avenue, where parking and admission are free. The exhibition will continue to be open to the public for the remainder of 2013.

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News Release

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DATE: March 29, 2013

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Three Texas Tech System Professors are Ranked as Top Professors in Texas

Two Texas Tech University professors and one Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center professor were named Top Professors in Texas according to rankings released by Online Schools Texas.

Online Schools Texas has distinguished 39 professors from across a variety of Texas colleges to compile their Top 25 Women Professors in Texas list and the 14 Hispanic Professors Making a Huge Difference in Texas list.

Criteria for these lists include professors who recently have been awarded or recognized for their outstanding efforts in the classroom and who demonstrate dedication to their fields and students.

Elizabeth Trejos-Castillo

Trejos-Castillo, associate professor in the Texas Tech Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) department, was recognized as one of the Top 14 Hispanic Professors in Texas. In 2012, Trejos-Castillo was awarded the President's Excellence in Teaching Award from Texas Tech, the Certificate of Recognition in Education from the Hispanic Association of Women, and recognized as an Engaged and Integrated Scholar by Texas Tech's Office of Institutional Diversity and Community Engagement.

Dottie Durband

Durband, associate professor in the Department of Personal Financial Planning at Texas Tech, was recognized as one of the Top 25 Women Professors in Texas. She is the recipient of the Texas Tech University System Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award and College of Human Sciences Kathryn Burleson Faculty Service Award. Durband also is the founding chair of the Texas Tech Department of Community, Family, and Addiction Services.

Lori Rice-Spearman

Rice-Spearman also was recognized as one of the Top 25 Women Professors in Texas. She is an associate professor and program director at the Texas Tech University Health

Sciences Center. The Texas Tech University System Chancellor's Council awarded Rice-Spearman the Distinguished Teaching Award.

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E-Lusive Love Online

The computer has revolutionized how humans date and mate, but comes with hidden pitfalls

By John Davis

Notre Dame linebacker Manti Te'o says he believed that he had a year-long dating relationship online with a woman at Stanford who died of leukemia right after his grandmother also passed, then came back to life saying she faked her own death to escape drug dealers, only to discover that she wasn't real, and that he (Te'o) was the victim of a "sick joke" played by a "good friend" who was abused as a child by a family member and then told Dr. Phil all about it on national TV explaining that he enjoyed creating online personas to live in an alternate reality and feel like he was a good human being.

Whew.

It would take a playbook as big as Notre Dame's, play-by-play commentators, instant replay and lots of scratch paper to figure out all the truths, half-truths and lies involved in this particular web of love. But this begs the question: Is online dating always this weird?

According to statisticbrain.com, 40 million people in the United States have tried online dating, spending an average of \$239 a year on online dating sites. The industry rakes in \$1.05 billion annually.

It's changing the way we find a match, according to Texas Tech University relationship experts.

Sheila Garos, an associate professor and director of the Psychology Clinic, said dating websites have changed the way humans interact, and said some believe traditional courting is becoming obsolete.

"Group dates, hook-ups and hanging out have become the standard," she said. "What once took time, investment and effort now happens casually and instantly. Courtship was a process of getting to know someone over sufficient time to determine whether two people shared core values, common interests and to explore whether involvement with a person would evolve into a long-term, committed relationship. It is an intentioned disposition toward mate selection and intimacy that hook-ups and hanging out do not afford."

The draw to date online helps some to feel a sense of security and the opportunity to slowly build up their comfort levels with the other person said Narissra Punyanunt-Carter, an associate professor of communication studies. In other ways, online dating allows people with tight schedules or long distances to interact and find a partner.

"Some people are perfectly happy with a strictly online relationship, as it fulfills an emotional need for them," she said. "Online dating offers people the ability to communicate without holding back. Sometimes people will disclose very personal thoughts online because they don't have another set of eyes staring straight back at them. It allows them to truly express themselves. However, their comments

might be misinterpreted because the other person does not see all the subtle nonverbal cues that come with face-to-face interactions.”

Online dating has speeded up the dating process, and relationships develop and dissolve much quicker than they have before, said Patrick Hughes, associate vice provost for undergraduate education and an expert in relationship communication.

“Two decades ago, you found your relationship partner in college,” he said. “After that, your field of available partners significantly shrinks to the workplace and your neighborhood. Now, there is always someone available.”

While many people enjoy the ability online to be more frank than in person, this can also be a hindrance, he said. Typing online or only calling means people are missing part of the communication one receives from body language and voice inflection. This can sometimes lead to scammers using the online love experience as one more game for personal gain.

“The Internet forces someone to trust affective judgments,” he said. “Sometimes, liking the idea of the other person is so persuasive, especially in the face of lacking other information that they almost make what they want to be true into reality. The Internet can control information, and it limits a person’s ability to see what is true and what is not.

“If you want to lie to someone, do it online. We can’t make complex judgments very well online based on isolated bits of information doled out by another user in an online relationship.”

All experts said people should hold to the rules of reciprocity and avoid giving out more information about themselves when the interested party holds back. Dated photos, the reluctance to provide a photo or meet in person can all serve as red flags.

“You should never trust someone who wants to come over to your house or asks for money,” Garos said. “Watch for the use of hostile or angry remarks that seem to come out of nowhere or people claiming instant attraction or sexualizing the communication. These are just some examples. The bottom line is this: You have no way of really knowing who you are dealing with.”

The best way to avoid this communication gap associated with online romance is to move it into the real world as quickly and safely as possible, Hughes said.

“Once we’ve established the rules for interaction, the dynamics of a relationship have to occur in a variety of contexts to know the other person, just like when we let a significant other meet our family for the first time,” he said. “We learn about the person in broader and deeper ways. This is why it was so easy to deceive Manti Te’o. The Internet is a perfect deception tool, especially in personal relationships.”

Length of Service Awards Celebrate Employees
Faculty share stories about their 45 years at Texas Tech.
By James Hodgins

Three faculty members are being honored for 45 years of service, or exactly half the lifetime of the university, at the 2013 Length of Service Awards on Thursday (March 28).

Presented annually, the Length of Service Awards recognize staff and faculty members for their employment longevity with Texas Tech. This year's ceremony will be at 3 p.m. in the Hall of Nations at the International Cultural Center.

Overall, 257 employees will be recognized, ranging from 15 to 55 years of service. Robert Baker, Horn Professor of Biological Sciences, and Allan Kuethe, Horn Professor of History, both started at Texas Tech as assistant professors in 1967.

When deciding where he wanted to teach, Baker said it was important the university have a doctoral program. At the time, Texas Tech had doctorate students, but had never granted a doctorate in biology. He still remembers the first student who received a doctorate in his second year with the program.

In building the program, it was really a blank page to start from scratch in developing how to teach the classes to how to write research grants.

"I think you have to have a lot of faith that everything's going to be alright," he said.

Kuethe said he had choices when deciding where to become a professor, but Texas Tech seemed to have the best future as one of the elite universities in Texas. He said stayed at Texas Tech because he was fortunate enough to rise rapidly within the program, eventually becoming a Horn professor in 1990.

"There had only ever been one Horn Professor of History, so that was quite an honor," he said. "That is a memory I don't think I can ever duplicate."

Kuethe had trouble picking one favorite thing about his tenure at Texas Tech, but said he has always enjoyed students as well as support for his research.

"The students here are very well-mannered and easy to work with," he said. "It's a pleasure to teach here."

Baker also said the reason he's stayed at Texas Tech is because of the students. They always are excited to work toward their degrees and take pride in that effort. Baker said he is still friends with many of his first students.

“Seeing my students turn into successful and wonderful people, I think is one of my favorite things about being at Texas Tech,” he said. “College professors have the opportunity to point students in the right direction.”

Baker remembers one student who, after completing an undergraduate degree in biology, was going to work on airplane engines with his dad since he didn’t know what else to do.

Baker convinced the student to stay at Texas Tech and earn a master’s degree with him, and today, he has been the president of the American Society of Mammologists and created one of the most successful data mining businesses.

Over time, Baker received opportunities to go to other universities, but he said West Texas turned into his home and this is where he’ll spend the rest of his life.

“When I came to Texas Tech, I definitely knew I would only be here for two or three years,” he said. “I would just be here long enough to get some grants and build a record to compete for a better job.”

Even after 45 years, it’s easy to hear the excitement in Baker’s voice as he talks about the field of biology and how it’s constantly changing, and he expresses the same level of excitement about Texas Tech.

“I feel like we have a real pride in the university that wasn’t there in 1967,” he said. “People are now really all about red and black and there’s a real pride in being a Red Raider.”

To Kuethe, that school spirit is something he’s always noticed about Texas Tech.

“Perhaps because the students are, to some degree, isolated out here, they tend to develop a very strong attachment, much more so than students at urban universities where they don’t have that sense of community,” Kuethe said.

One thing Baker said has never changed is the value system at Texas Tech.

“I think we’ve always been committed to giving an excellent education and to working with students,” he said.

Kuethe said he has mixed emotions leading up to the awards ceremony recognizing him for 45 years at Texas Tech.

“The memories of when you first walked onto campus flash before you,” he said. “I can still remember the first class of students I taught, then suddenly you realize you’re getting close to the end. But I think it’s very nice and important that an institution observe these courtesies, and I’m pleased to be a part of it.”

DATE: March 28, 2013
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Library Calling for Entries for Faculty Exhibit
Deadline to submit research to FACE is May 27.

The Texas Tech Libraries is accepting submissions to the 2013 Faculty Academic Contributions Exhibit (FACE) through May 27. Held annually, the exhibit honors the innovation, talents and accomplishments of faculty.

Faculty from across campus are encouraged to submit any and all academic contributions that fall between May 1, 2012 and May 1, 2013, including work that hasn't been completed and, for only the second year, funded grants, said Kaley Daniel, director for Libraries Office of Communications & Marketing and chair of the FACE committee.

"It's truly a push for all disciplines to submit their entry so that we can recognize them," Daniel said. "It's all about celebrating what faculty are doing in their discipline and for Texas Tech in their research endeavors."

Faculty can [submit their work online](#), and Daniel said they streamlined the process to make it even easier for faculty this year by removing questions and simplifying the website and submission form.

To submit their work, faculty must fill out basic contact information and provide a brief summary of their work that will be used in the digital exhibit. Faculty also can request their work be included in [ThinkTech](#), the library's online publishing and archival service. Finally, they need to upload their actual contribution.

Since the exhibit is entirely electronic, Daniel said the library can help digitize contributions through scanning or taking a 3D picture of a physical object.

The exhibit's theme, "Seeds of Knowledge," is an award-winning concept from a previous year that the FACE committee decided would represent the exhibit going forward, Daniel said.

"We gave a new face to FACE," she said. "We decided from here on out, FACE is going to have a consistent brand."

FACE provides the opportunity to spread knowledge, Daniel said, and the opportunity to, in return, receive others' knowledge. It also is a good opportunity to have research exhibited publicly and online.

More importantly, Daniel said FACE gives faculty the opportunity to see other research being conducted at Texas Tech across colleges and disciplines and possibly find new avenues for collaboration.

The exhibit opening will be Oct. 2, and for the first time, Daniel said they are selecting the keynote speaker for the event from among the entries. She said they are looking for a broad-reaching topic with the most interest that is relatable across faculty, staff and students.

DATE: March 13, 2013
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New Course Reserves to Help Faculty with Class Materials
Library holding training sessions on how to use new system.

This fall, the Texas Tech University Library will launch Ares, an all-new course reserves system to help faculty create and manage course materials. To prepare for this new system, the library will hold one-hour training sessions starting next week.

Sessions will be held at 2 p.m. each Wednesday and Thursday in Library Lab 150 from March 20 through May 23. Faculty also can request a special departmental session at their location. These trainings will show faculty how to use the new system and answer any questions.

Ares is a new course reserves management system from the same company that developed the Inter-Library Loan (ILL) system the library currently uses. Faculty should already be familiar and comfortable with the layout, as it's nearly identical to the existing ILL and Document Delivery forms, said Ryan Litsey, assistant librarian.

Right now, faculty members have to make a special trip to the library and meet with a reserves specialist in person and scan their own documents. The new system is web-based, meaning faculty can use it from off-campus and even abroad, Litsey said. Students also can access the reserves anywhere with an Internet connection.

"It's designed to give faculty more flexibility with how they use the reserves," he said. "We're giving them more control over how they use course reserves and the opportunity to manage them at whatever level they choose."

After submitting the form online, faculty members are notified through email when the documents are available. They also can check the status of the process online.

The system better integrates with courses thanks to new features such as a discussion forum and chat room for students as well as a course archive so previous materials are saved and can be used again in future courses. Faculty also can tag items by week so students know when to finish each reading or control when items become available.

The current system was not designed for course reserves, Litsey said. Ares was specifically designed to handle course reserves, so it's a much more tailored approach to the process.

"As we move more toward digital classrooms and electronic materials, Ares offers us the compatibility to present those materials," Litsey said. "It's the library's responsibility to find these new technologies and new ways to help faculty better interact with students."

Litsey said anyone who is an instructor would benefit from the new course reserves. He said this system eliminates the reason to create course packets, as it's now much easier to make an electronic document.

“We want to make the transition as smooth as possible,” he said. “Up until the systems goes live in the fall, the library is going to do whatever it can to help faculty be ready for it. It's here to make their lives easier, not harder.”

For more information or to sign up for a training session, contact libraries.reserves@ttu.edu.

DATE: March 27, 2013

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Online Image Gallery Provides Photos for Campus Communicators

This free resource is available for all official university publications and websites.

Looking for a good shot of the campus for your website? How about a picture full of Red Raider spirit for an ad? The Texas Tech University image gallery lets you view and download a wide variety of official campus photos.

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Starting Down the Road to Reaffirmation Texas Tech begins the process to retain accreditation.

Texas Tech University has been an accredited institution since 1928. For the next year, the Office of Planning and Assessment is working to continue that accreditation with the Road to Reaffirmation.

Reaffirmation looks at all areas of the institution, from fiscal stability to policies and student learning outcomes, said Jennifer Hughes, director of the Office of Planning and Assessment. Schools must demonstrate compliance with each of the core requirements, comprehensive standards and federal regulations as described by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

SACS is a regional higher education organization that grants accreditation to institutions in the southern states based on shared values and practices. Schools must be accredited in order to provide federal financial aid, so Hughes said the stakes are quite high.

“We’re in really good shape,” she said. “We have a steady plan in place that if we follow it, there’s no reason why we shouldn’t have a very successful reaffirmation.”

Every school must go through the reaffirmation process. Hughes said this process is a big deal for the university as they only get the opportunity to go through reaffirmation once every ten years.

“We really view it as a professional development opportunity and as a chance to feature everything Texas Tech is doing so well,” she said. “It’s pretty exciting.”

Currently, the Office of Planning and Assessment is giving a Road to Reaffirmation presentation around campus to any department who agrees to receive it. The presentation covers the process and importance of reaffirmation.

In order to be more organized and efficient, Hughes said they divided the effort into ten teams comprising faculty, staff and in one case, even students. Each team has started meeting recently and is responsible for one specific area in the process.

“We are organized appropriately with people who have a lot of institutional knowledge and experience,” she said.

Ultimately, these teams will help draft the Compliance Certification Report (CCR) with evidence that the university adheres to all 150 standards. The CCR must be submitted to SACS by Sept. 1, 2014.

As part of the CCR, each institution seeking reaffirmation of accreditation is required to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that engages the wider academic community and addresses one or more issues that contribute to institutional improvement. The QEP, Hughes said, is one particular area that Texas Tech gets to focus on that addresses issues related to enhancing student learning.

“We have to ask ourselves ‘what’s one particular area that needs to be remedied with this plan,’” she said. “As an institution, we get to decide on what that problem area is and develop a plan to fix it.”

The office will be sending out a selection survey this month to all Texas Tech faculty, staff and students to collect ideas for the QEP. Topics at other institutions across the country range from physical fitness to retention to community engagement, Hughes said.

At the previous reaffirmation ten years ago, Texas Tech developed the QEP around academic integrity and ethics, which led to the creation of the Texas Tech Ethics Center. Hughes said they completed that QEP in 2010 and Texas Tech was commended by SACS for the assessment of the plan.

“Reaffirmation is an opportunity for us to showcase what a great institution Texas Tech is,” she said. “We’re doing a lot of really good things here, so it’s going to be easy to highlight that.”