The Dawning of a New Era
President F. Dominic Dottavio begins his tenure at Tarleton

Tarleton Banks Billions of Dollars for Taxpayers
New program halts crop insurance fraud

Texan Football Team Brings Home Another Title
Record-setting game clinches Division title

The Grapes of Rathburn
Research persistence to yield disease resistance
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Inspiration is a word I have thought a lot about since becoming Tarleton’s 15th president. It’s been on my mind because I have been inspired by the talented, friendly and dedicated faculty and staff members with whom I interact, by the beautiful campus grounds on which I walk and by the energetic and bright students whose presence reminds me of why being the president of this great institution brings me a sense of joy every day.

This daily inspiration helped to shape the shared vision for the university expressed by our “4Es.” If you have not already heard about the “4Es”, they are: Excel in scholarship, teaching and learning; Expand our horizons; Encourage leadership, service and student success; and Extend our reach. It was my hope that the “4Es” would provide focus for the future and for what we do as a university on a daily basis. It didn’t surprise me (although it did delight me) when the Tarleton community embraced the “4Es,” creating programs and plans throughout campus to broaden our vision, enrich the learning and leadership experiences of our students and reach out to our Tarleton friends wherever they may be.

I am grateful that so many on campus have been inspired to adopt the “4Es” to achieve remarkable accomplishments, and will undoubtedly continue to do so. Accomplishments like the magazine you are reading at this very moment. “The University Magazine: Tarleton” is a new voice for Tarleton reaching out to all of our alumni and friends, as well as the world through our online version found on the university’s homepage at www.tarleton.edu.

As you browse through these pages, you will see articles describing just a few of the creative projects being conducted by our talented Texans. Projects like researching a disease plaguing Texas vineyards, conducting water research nationally and internationally, engaging in the battle against crop insurance fraud and building a new dairy center which will house up to 600 head of milk cows and be home to valuable research aimed at protecting the environment and creating new energy sources.

Tarleton truly is an inspired university with a bright future filled with exciting projects, partnerships and potential. As a member of the Tarleton family, we welcome you to join us on this journey of inspiration!
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Alumni Ambassadors, 2009 Silver Bugle Hunt
Presidential Inauguration

By Alyson Chapman, communications specialist

“Ours is a unique institution whose history, traditions and character offer strategic advantages among 21st century universities. Tarleton combines the best of both public and private institutions of higher education.”
President F. Dominic Dottavio, Ph.D., was officially and warmly received into the Tarleton State University family during an inauguration and investiture ceremony held Oct. 2, 2009. Faculty, students, staff and Stephenville community members packed the Clyde H. Wells Fine Arts Center Auditorium for the event.

While at Tarleton, Dottavio will oversee more than 1,000 employees, provide 9,000 students strategic direction at sites in Stephenville, Fort Worth, Granbury and Thurber and manage an average annual budget of $110 million. He is leading the university in streamlining and implementing its strategic goals, which focus upon the theme of the 4Es—Excel, Expand, Encourage and Extend. He has also overseen the groundbreaking of Tarleton’s state-of-the-art dairy research facility, as well as the new nursing building that will open in fall 2010 and provide the necessary space to expand the baccalaureate nursing program and offer a master’s degree in nursing.

Also participating in the ceremonies were Texas A&M University System Regent Gene Stallings, Texas A&M University System Chancellor Mike McKinney, Heidelberg University Board of Trustees Chair Sondra Libman and former Tarleton Presidents Barry B. Thompson and Dennis P. McCabe.

Dottavio came to Tarleton from the presidency of Heidelberg University, where he had served since 2003. He and his wife, Lisette, have two grown children, Aaron and Adrea, who live in Montgomery, Texas.

Excerpts from the president’s inaugural speech can be read at www.tarleton.edu/~president/inauguration.html.

“We are ready to take our place as a great regional research university with distinctive undergraduate programs that integrate the liberal arts, professional programs and co-curricular activities with real-world challenges and opportunities.”
Students and faculty from the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences (COAHS) recently trekked to beautiful Croatia to study differences and similarities in agricultural production between the southeastern European country and the United States.

Led by Sandra Graham, Ed.D. and COAHS associate professor, and Wilmara Harder, Ph.D. and assistant professor in COAHS, the students spent two weeks immersing themselves in the culture.

“It was an excellent trip,” Graham said. “People hate to get me started talking about it because then I’ll never stop. It was my second international trip and it was incredibly eye opening for me as well as the students.”

The students kept journals during their time abroad and recounted several new and rewarding experiences.

“The agriculture was a shock to me,” wrote Jill Tomlinson. “I knew what we would see would be much smaller and not have near the technology that we have here in America, but to actually see it was amazing. I loved how even if they didn’t have a farm, the locals were still in agriculture in some way or form, from family gardens to growing flowers.”

The students, many accustomed to large U.S. operations, were taken aback by the simplicity of Croatian farming. But, according to Harder, in the simplicity lies the key to understanding the culture.

“True agriculture is not forgotten in their country,” she said. “Whether for beauty or for production, they take real pride in what they have.”

In June, Harder, Graham and a new group of students will travel to Brazil. Students and faculty from the College of Business Administration (COBA) are also among the well traveled in the university. Janis Petronis, Ed.D. and associate professor in COBA, has led many of the trips abroad.

Petronis was the driving force behind the Business and International Education Initiative (BIEI), a program that allowed for much of the travel. The BIEI resulted from a U.S. Department of Education grant awarded to Petronis and Tarleton in 2006.

Petronis asks her students to step out of their comfort zones and embrace new experiences.

“We’re there to learn, not to teach,” she emphasized. “I encourage my students to go with an open mind. We try to soak up all the culture we can in the short time we’re there.”

Open-mindedness came in the form of interesting food choices for student Jessica Gruetzner, who recently traveled to China.

“I learned that I don’t really like traditional Chinese food,” she said. “But I tried everything. We had goose liver, sheep lung and yak everything—yak cheese, yak yogurt, yak steak.”

Encounters with exotic foods aside, Gruetzner chalks the trip up as a positive adventure.

“I learned a lot about history and religion,” she said. “I even learned to speak a little Mandarin. It was a lot of fun and a really great experience.”

“Experience” seems to be a common word when relating stories of time spent abroad.

“I haven’t had another experience that could compare to this while in school.”
—Amanda Spoon, nursing major

Students and faculty have since traveled to India, China, France, Vietnam, Brazil, Chile, Argentina and the United Arab Emirates to learn about global business practices and to provide local businesses with opportunities to become involved in global commerce.

“The locals like to hear us talk and have their photos made with us,” Petronis said. “I’m proud of my students for being friendly and having a willingness to learn and grow. Hopefully, that is the impression we leave behind.”

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“I haven’t had another experience that could compare to this while in school,” said Amanda Spoon, referring to the time she spent in London studying nursing’s history.

Tarleton is the only school in The Texas A&M University System to offer study abroad programs for nursing students. Marilyn Duran, Ph.D. and assistant professor of nursing, chose London for its history of medicine and the impact it had on nursing in America.

The students were able to compare, firsthand, international differences in nursing.
“We in the profession have a common bond,” Duran said. “Patients in need of nursing care are the same everywhere you go. It doesn’t change from culture to culture. It makes me feel like more of a kindred spirit with the world.”

Spoon’s time spent in London has already begun to help her back at home. “Every single job interviewer has asked to hear about my time in London,” she said. She recently graduated and accepted an internship with Medical City Hospital in Dallas.

Duran said that hearing about Spoon’s job interviews was like an “aha” moment. “I hoped that the students were finding out that employers find international experiences to be an asset,” Duran said. “The employers are interested in the applicants with more depth of experience.”

It’s easy to see how time spent traveling the globe has had a positive impact. Time and again, those who traveled abroad described it as “amazing experience” and “thrill of a lifetime.”

Not only do the trips enable students to see new things and experience other cultures, but international travel also achieves a larger goal. “We speak of expanding horizons,” Duran said, referring to Tarleton’s strategic goals. “But when we travel abroad, the students have no choice. If they want to eat, if they want to get their clothes washed, if they want to shop—they have to learn to branch out, expand their horizons and become culturally competent.” Vital skills indeed, and ones that are sure to last for a lifetime.

Ag students at Pag Island in Croatia. The island is known for its desert landscape and unique culture. Photo by Wilmara Harder

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Impressive milestones were marked and academic barriers broken in 2009 as Tarleton State University’s faculty members received numerous recognitions and soared to new heights of achievement. The list of recognitions awarded to faculty is as extensive as it is varying in genres—a true testament to the range and level of the university’s outreach.

Pamela S. Littleton, Ed.D. and mathematics professor, received the Regents Professor award from The Texas A&M University System. This is the most prestigious award a faculty member can receive from the System.

Joe Christopher, Ph.D. and professor emeritus of English, saw the release of the 13th issue of “Windhover: A Journal of Christian Literature,” a journal in which he is one of two contributing editors. He also published several of his own creative works in 2009 including “A Suburb of the City of Dis” and “Perelandra Revisited.”

Joe Gillespie, Ed.D. and professor of kinesiology, was invited to speak at a convention in Austin about FITNESSGRAM, a collaborative fitness effort with the Stephenville Independent School District. The program measures the fitness levels of students and produces results to help parents and physical education teachers identify students whose poor fitness may compromise their health and education.

Diane Taylor, Ph.D. and associate professor of curriculum and instruction, as well as the coordinator of Tarleton’s special education program, was appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to serve on the Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education.

Richard Sale, Ph.D. and associate professor of human sciences, was honored with the Moore-Bowman Award from the Texas Council on Family Relations. The award is one of the organization’s highest honors and given annually to someone for his or her “Outstanding Service and Continuing Support of Families and Family Life in Texas.”

The Texas Nurses Association Districts Three and Four and the Dallas-Fort Worth Nurse Executives named Dokagari “Dok” Woods, assistant professor and coordinator in Tarleton’s nursing department, as one of the Great 100 Nurses for 2009. The honor is bestowed upon those “who exemplify excellence in the art and science of nursing.”

Kyle McGregor, Ph.D. and associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, was appointed as a member to the National Farm Life Insurance Company board of directors. McGregor also headed up the annual Delta Conference, which is held on campus for agricultural education teachers and was developed by the National FFA Organization.

Hennen Cummings, Ph.D. and assistant professor of agribusiness, agronomy, horticulture and range management, was presented with the Barry B. Thompson Service Award, which was created to recognize faculty members who go beyond the classroom in their dedication to the university and their students.

Sandra Beaty was named as the recipient of the Jack and Louise Ar-
thurs Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching. Beaty, an assistant professor in the English department, has been at Tarleton for 25 years.

Journalism instructor Dan Malone was inducted into the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association hall of fame. He also wrote “Immigration, Terrorism and Secret Prisons,” in “Keeping Out the Other: A Critical Introduction to Immigration Enforcement Today,” edited by David C. Brotherton and Philip Kretsedemas (Columbia University Press, 2008).

Beth Riggs, Ed.D. and associate professor of mathematics, was named the recipient of the Timothy L. Flinn Faculty Excellence Award. This is the first time for the award to be given. It is designed to recognize a faculty member in the mathematics department for exemplary achievement in at least one of the following areas: teaching, scholarly activity and service.

The Stephenville Lions Club named Judye Cadle, assistant professor in the accounting, finance and economics department, “Lion of the Year.” The award was in commendation of her behavior, going above and beyond the regular call of duty and making a difference in the lives of those in the Stephenville and Tarleton communities.

Betty Jo Monk, Ph.D. and professor and department head for educational leadership and policy studies, has prepared to hold a session at the International Action Learning Conference, University of Reading–Henley on Thames in March 2010.

At the Texas Association of Agriculture Professionals awards banquet, Don Cawthon, Ph.D. and dean of the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences, received the government and extension service award for his work as the director of The Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center.

Dale Johnson, Ph.D. and professor in educational leadership and policy studies, received a service award from a regional branch of the American Educational Research Association. He coordinated and hosted two annual conferences of the Rocky Mountain affiliate at the Langdon Center, which attracted participants from New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas.

Michele Staples, Ed.D. and assistant professor of curriculum and instruction, presented and published “The Effect of Standardized Testing on Third Grade English Language Learners” at the International Conference on Education Research and Innovation in Madrid, Spain. She was one of 600 delegates from 60 different countries represented at the conference.

The A&M System Board of Regents named Don Beach, Ph.D. and professor in educational leadership and policy studies department, as a Regents Professor. Beach has been at Tarleton since 1981.

Steve Simpson, Ph.D. and professor of kinesiology, as well as director of sports medicine, was selected as the National Athletic Trainers’ Association’s 2009 College and University Head Athletic Trainer of the Year for Division II. This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of certified athletic trainers employed in the post-secondary school setting.
James Gentry, Ed.D. and assistant professor in the curriculum and instruction department, received the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus Award from Texas A&M University-Texarkana. This award recognized individuals who bring honor to the institution through their endeavors, integrity, stature and demonstrated ability.

Christopher Guthrie, Ph.D. and professor of history, recently published “Socialism in Microcosm: The Municipal Administration of Dr. Ernest Ferroul in Narbonne, 1896-1921.” Guthrie was also appointed as a member of the Executive Committee to organize an international colloquium to be held in France titled “Regards sur la Commune de 1871 en France: Nouvelles approches et perspectives.”

Leslie Spotz, D.M.A. and assistant professor in the fine arts department, recorded 65 musical pieces for piano solo. This five-CD recording is used by more than 3,000 piano students in Taiwan for preparation of their piano exams. Spotz was also appointed as co-editor and the American representative of IPPEC’s International Advisory Board, for “IPPEC Piano Technique and Scale Book”—2010-2012, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Randy Harp, Ph.D. and associate professor of animal sciences, has coached or supervised 11 National Championship Collegiate Judging Teams including the 2008-2009 National Champion Meats Judging Team. Dr. Harp has received such accolades as the Barry B. Thomp-son Service Award and O. A. Grant Teaching Award while at Tarleton.

David Drueckhammer, Ed.D. and head of the agricultural services and development department, is the 2009 Texas Association of Agriculture Professionals (TAAP) president and was also recognized for his service. TAAP is a professional organization for people who are interested in the development of agricultural interests and informing the public in matters concerning the development of Texas agriculture.

Tarleton’s Business and International Education Initiative (BIEI) recently finished out its grant period. The BIEI, created to help students and faculty become more globally aware, resulted from a U.S. Department of Education grant awarded to Janis Petronis, Ed.D. and associate professor of management, marketing and administrative systems, and Tarleton in 2006.

Four faculty members were recently recognized by the A&M System as outstanding faculty in the second presentation of the Teaching Excellence Awards. Those recognized from Tarleton were Kayla Peak, Ed.D. and assistant professor of kinesiology; Michele Staples, Ed.D. and assistant professor of curriculum and instruction; Jennifer Bow, instructor of kinesiology; and Vicky Johnson, instructor of music.

Richard Winton, Ph.D. and professor of mathematics, was presented with the Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award for his research in the fields of abstract algebra, topology, continua theory and cryptography. The award was created by the faculty senate to honor educators for their success in academic research and scholarly studies.

Recipients of the O.A. Grant awards were Kimberly Bellah, Ph.D. and associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences; Bowen Brawner, Ph.D. and associate professor in the College of Science and Technology; Boyd Collier, Ph.D. and professor in the College of Business Administration; Wendell Sadler, Ed.D. and professor in the College of Education; and Leslie Spotz, D.M.A., College of Liberal and Fine Arts.

Using a $129,000 grant from the Fort Worth architectural firm Huckabee and Associates, Mark Littleton, Ed.D. and professor of educational leadership, created the Tarleton Research Laboratory on Educational Facilities to research various aspects of school construction on student achievement.

Larry Roderick, Ph.D. and associate professor of engineering technology, recently published, “It’s Bad Business to Injure Your Customer.” Roderick, an expert in safety engineering and product liability, drew on numerous research references and his experience as a forensics engineer in hundreds of personal injury cases to write the book.

Jeff Justice, Ph.D. and assistant professor of social sciences, presented conference papers at the annual meetings of the Southwest and Midwest Political Science Associations. Justice also had the article, “Conference No-Shows a Loss for Everyone” published in the Midwest Association newsletter.
For more information, please contact Tarleton’s Office of Development at (254) 968-9769.

Mike Milford, Ph.D. and assistant professor of communications studies, recently had an article titled “Neo-Christ: The Matrix and a Rhetoric of Allegory,” published in the “Southern Communication Journal.”

Jennifer Edwards, Ed.D. and assistant professor of communications studies, published an article titled “Perspectives of racial integration as perceived by historically white sorority members and historically black sorority members,” in “Oracle: The Research Journal of the Association of Fraternity Advisors.” Edwards also received the year’s Outstanding Dissertation Award from Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators.

Craig Clifford, Ph.D. and professor of social sciences, co-wrote “Sport and Character: Reclaiming the Principles of Sportsmanship.”


Laura Butler, artist in residence, sold paintings through her gallery and private commission sales. She gave several interviews with the media that resulted in published articles. Butler also held a one-woman show in the Clyde H. Wells Fine Arts Center Gallery.

T. Lindsay Baker, Ph.D. and professor and director of Tarleton’s W.K. Gordon Center in Thurber, delivered the keynote address for the Mountain/Plains regional meeting of the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums. Baker also presented scholarly papers at the Texas State Historical Association’s and the West Texas Historical Association’s annual meetings in April.

Painting by Laura Butler

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE
In just a few months, Tarleton State University will be the only college in Texas that can answer the question “Got milk?” with a resounding “YES.” This is because one of the most anticipated construction projects on campus will soon open its doors to the public and the world.

The university’s Southwest Regional Dairy Center was designed as a model dairy and will serve as “the” dairy of research and learning for The Texas A&M University System.

Not only will the center fill the need for a premier learning and research dairy for Texas, but it will also serve the southwest region of the United States and be able to accommodate numerous teaching, research and demonstration projects.

“We plan to open the dairy center up to other universities in the region so that they may also be able to use it for research and learning opportunities,” said Barry Lambert, Ph.D. and dairy science specialist. “We worked vigorously with others in the design phase so that it would be useful to other universities and other groups, including industry.”

The dairy will be completed in several stages and construction is underway.

“There will be more than one phase to the dairy,” said Don Cawthon, Ph.D. and dean of the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences. “The first phase will include the milking parlor, several teaching labs, a classroom, a few offices and a 300-cow capacity.

The second phase will include bringing the herd capacity up to 600 cows and building a creamery that can produce dairy products such as cheese, milk, ice cream and more.

Key points in the innovative design of the center include a rotary parlor, auto animal ID and multiple energy recovery systems.

In addition to traditional dairy science research, other research applications that will be conducted at the center include business, finance, engineering, medical, animal behavior, labor management and environmental sciences. It will also serve as a center for agricultural undergraduate research.

Perhaps one of the most exciting
research projects scheduled for the dairy are the energy recovery systems deriving bio-energy from agricultural wastes.

A start-up company in Waco, Texas, already has plans to build a demonstration plant at the center that will be able to turn manure into ethanol. Other industry partners are developing plans for methane, algae, biodiesel and additional innovative energy conversion technologies.

“Eventually, we would love for energy recovery systems at the dairy to help offset a portion or all of the facility’s electrical costs,” Lambert said.

Although that is a long-term goal, it’s a distinct possibility. Because of its location in the Bosque River watershed, much effort is being made to make the facility as environmentally friendly as possible.

A group of researchers at the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research is working to produce bio-energy from different types of algae growing in the dairy’s lagoons. The plan is for this model to have zero waste products, so that the “waste” produced will be used as a feedstuff for various species of livestock.

“Restrictions are different in this watershed than others,” Lambert said. “Our environmental engineers are working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to make sure the dairy has the minimal environmental impact that science currently allows.”

Future research and development will further refine and enhance the technology to lessen the center’s environmental impact.

Heifers for the facility were purchased and bred last fall and milking is scheduled to begin in June. The first classes and labs at the new dairy will be held in the fall 2010 semester.

It won’t be long now before Tarleton’s dairy is producing milk mustaches throughout America.
By Ann Pawlak, grant writer, and Chandra Andrew, media relations manager

It’s not often a government program is known for saving money. But one government-funded program at Tarleton is taking savings to a whole new level—to the tune of $1.5 billion.

‘Spyder’ helps stop web of deceit

The Center for Agribusiness Excellence, housed on Tarleton’s campus, helps detect and prevent crop insurance fraud, waste and abuse. Photo by Jeremy Enlow
The Center for Agribusiness Excellence (CAE) was founded on Tarleton's campus to address a section of the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000. It directed the Secretary of Agriculture to use data mining and data warehousing to improve integrity and compliance in the Federal Crop Insurance program.

“Congress was concerned about fraudulent claims and other waste or abuse that might be occurring under the crop insurance program,” said Bert Little, executive director of CAE. “We have since found that fewer than 1 percent of farmers were involved in suspicious activities, but at that time, there was no way to track or count those who were filing false claims.”

The crop insurance program is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Risk Management Agency (RMA). RMA was created in 1996 to administer the government’s crop insurance programs, as well as other non-insurance-related risk management and education programs that support U.S. agriculture.

The crop insurance program works similarly to car or homeowner’s insurance. Farmers pay a premium to purchase crop insurance and receive disaster benefits when crops are affected by natural disasters, mostly weather.

RMA provides farmers with tools to help estimate their monetary losses based on a crop’s given size. Adjusters are also used to assess damage incurred through natural disaster. Unfortunately, it’s physically impossible and not economically feasible to visit every farm that files a claim.

The main method CAE uses to detect and prevent any fraud, waste or abuse is through its Spotcheck List. The Spotcheck List is an actual list of producers who, through their own actions, become subject to increased compliance oversight through anomalous behavior.

CAE staff and researchers created the Spotcheck List by comparing claims from farmers in the same county growing the same crop and using the same practices (irrigated versus non-irrigated). Using that as a starting point and pairing it with valuable field experience, CAE designs data mining algorithms to detect potential fraud.

Any potential fraud schemes are analyzed thoroughly before a farmer is placed on the Spotcheck List. Once on the list, the USDA’s Farm Service Agency will send a letter to the producer notifying them of their placement on the list and that they will receive two growing season inspections during the crop year.

“Most producers on the Spotcheck List react to the FSA letter by refraining from any contemplated abusive activities,” Little said. “The result is a visible, measurable reduction in indemnities paid. Simply put, growers change their behavior as a result of knowing that they are being scrutinized.

“Before they were on the Spotcheck List, this subgroup of producers had loss ratios that were several fold higher than their neighbors in their own counties. But after being informed they were on the list, their loss ratios fell to the county averages. Importantly, this effect of reduced indemnity lasts several years among more than two-thirds of those on the Spotcheck List.”

The list is just one of more than 100 research products CAE uses to prevent crop insurance program abuse. Other products include the Spyder and Mapping tools.

The Spyder tool shows relationships among farmers and insurance agents. It can help identify situations where several people may be collaborating to file fraudulent claims.

The Mapping tool displays visual information about specific pieces of land, indemnities paid to farmers and geographical land reports.

Not all products CAE has created are used to deny claims. In some cases, the products have been used to overturn denied claims.

One such analytical tool is NEXRAD, which is a searchable, stored archive of radar reports. Because data is stored, weather reports are available for research at any given time and location.

“To our knowledge, CAE maintains the only such active system of NEXRAD data maintained over a period of years,” Little said. “For example, two farmers filed claims on hail damage that were denied because the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration couldn’t verify that a hail storm occurred on the day in question.

“But by using our NEXRAD system, we were able to identify an isolated, very heavy storm that produced the damage. As a result, the farmers’ claims were verified, and they could be paid the indemnity they deserved.”

Although CAE has many valuable tools already in their arsenal, the group isn’t resting on its laurels.

Its next step in revolutionizing the crop insurance process is to add satellite information to the data warehouse. The satellite information is being obtained through CAE’s collaboration with the Stennis NASA Space Center Applied Sciences Division.

The collaboration allows CAE researchers to measure the intensity of green light reflected by the chlorophyll molecules in plants, which illustrates the biomass present.

“In the future, CAE hopes to incorporate in our system the Common Land Unit (CLU) data held by USDA’s Farm Service Agency,” Little said. “With CLU data, we will be able to assess biomass or vegetation health at the field level using satellite data and quantify its direct relationship with crop production.”

This will enable RMA to monitor crop health throughout the growing season—thus saving the agency and taxpayers even more time and money.
Many universities strive to solve problems through science. But an on-campus research institute at Tarleton State University achieves more than that—its research produces solutions to problems.

The Texas Legislature established the Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER) in 1991 and designated Tarleton as its home. Not only does TIAER influence the state of Texas, but its impact also extends throughout the United States, as well as worldwide.

For many years, TIAER was an anomaly on campus. The biggest misconception people had was that TIAER focused strictly on water and water policy issues.

“Although our researchers work extensively on water issues in Texas, that is only a part of the many fantastic things we are working on,” said Dan Hunter, the institute’s executive director. “TIAER and its potential influence is so great that I get excited every time I visit with someone about the things we are doing.”

The legislature created TIAER to work with local, state, federal and international constituencies to help solve problems through solid science. The institute achieves this by conducting applied research, economic inquiry and institutional, statutory and regulatory analysis to address pressing environmental issues facing the state and nation. TIAER also assists public entities in developing and implementing policies that promote environmental quality while maintaining a viable economy.

“TIAER recognizes that the U.S. economy must remain strong in order to have a healthy Earth,” said Congressman John Carter. “The institute operates in an entrepreneurial manner. TIAER has no permanent funding. Therefore, the institute must address issues that are seen by TIAER clientele as pertinent and useful in addressing problems and issues they face.”

To accomplish its mission, TIAER’s staff works to develop tools and programs that allow for agriculture security and viability while still protecting natural resources.
Creating a healthy Earth

One such method is through watershed modeling. This constantly changing field is viewed worldwide as an effective arsenal in understanding stream management.

Another method is through the Comprehensive Economic and Environmental Optimization Tool (CEEOT)—TIAER's flagship computer modeling system. CEEOT provides a platform for fully integrated evaluation of single policy and practice scenarios or multiple combinations of such scenarios. CEEOT currently integrates field and watershed-scale economic models.

The platform for much of the modeling work comes from using baselines developed through TIAER's work in the Bosque River Watershed.

In addition to the watershed in TIAER's backyard, the institute is also working on others throughout the country. For example, the institute is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop a market-based trading within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

"Not only are we working in the very sensitive Chesapeake, but we are also in the Ohio River Valley and in Oregon in the important Willamette River Watershed," Hunter said.

Using data and monitoring experience from TIAER's outdoor laboratory is also leading to the development of the Nutrient Trading Tool. This work will be the foundation for full implementation and applicable to any watershed across the country.

The institute has already developed and calibrated new technology using knowledge acquired in the Bosque River. This technology allows people from around the world the ability to access a computer program running on Tarleton's campus. Developing viable watershed programs and policies positively impact all constituencies and will save significant federal dollars by addressing emerging issues today before they become catastrophic issues tomorrow.

TIAER is also extending its reach globally. It is working to place projects in Kurdistan and Ethiopia and actively working in watersheds in Canada. There are projects being proposed and moving forward at different stages to work in Ethiopia and Iraq.

The Iraq project will take what TIAER has learned in Texas and apply it in the Kurdistan region to assist farmers in water management. TIAER will also be working with other universities to develop a sustainable agricultural system in parts of the world that are reaching out for help.

The project in Ethiopia is scheduled to have an initial assessment trip in early 2010. The first activities will be funded by a Tarleton alumnus, with the idea of bringing the U.S. Agency for International Development on board as a strategic partner for the main part of the effort.

The goal is to conduct work in the Ethiopia highlands, which are the headwaters for the Blue Nile River (the major source for the Great Nile River). The project aims to enable the Ethiopian people to manage agronomic productivity while improving the supply and integrity of their aquatic resources. Many of the techniques that will be implemented were part of the early research done in the Bosque River Watershed.

Another project being developed is a multifaceted activity that will help agricultural producers address nutrient management issues and work to address critical energy needs the United States is facing. Researchers are hopeful that this project will develop a system that uses algae in wastewater lagoons as a means to control nutrient runoff into watersheds. At the same time, the type of algae used may prove to be a source for bio-fuel production—an alternative energy source to fossil fuels.

"Even though our work and activities at TIAER have grown tremendously in the last 19 years, we still have a basic goal of solving problems through good science," Hunter said.

What the institute has learned in working with local, state and international groups will continue to be applied to projects in Texas and beyond. Work will continue in many watersheds in Texas including the Pecos, Brazos, Bosque and Trinity rivers. On a national and international level, projects will continue in Maryland, Ohio, Oregon and Canada.

The institute will continue to solve problems as it excels in addressing issues that impact the environment. Regardless of how far its reach extends beyond the university's gates, TIAER's mission will remain the same—find solutions for global challenges, near and far.

While its presence is felt all around the globe, TIAER will always have a home at Tarleton.
The grapes of Rathburn

Harold Rathburn (left) and Jeff Brady have been working on research to fight Pierce’s Disease, which kills grape plants. Photo by Chad Wright
Unfortunately, there’s bacteria carried by small insects that has wreaked gigantic havoc on the industry, both here and in California, the country’s top wine-producing state.

While the problem is widespread, the battle to protect this booming industry’s future is being fought right here in Stephenville.

Harold Rathburn, Ph.D. and associate professor of biology, along with Jeff Brady, Ph.D. and assistant research scientist at Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Stephenville, are helping researchers eliminate the disease plaguing vineyards.

“One of the most serious limiting factors of grape cultivation is Pierce’s Disease (PD) caused by the bacterium Xylella fastidiosa,” Rathburn said. “The largest concentration of vineyards at risk for PD in Texas are located in the central part of the state. This situation provides an excellent opportunity to study the disease and insect vectors.”

Rathburn and Brady became involved in the venture with Dr. Forrest Mitchell, an entomologist with AgriLife Research in Stephenville, and have been working on the project for three years. Mitchell was one of the first Texas scientists to begin working on PD in 2001.

From a greenhouse and a vineyard, located just off U.S. Highway 281, Rathburn and Brady study the disease.

“We have plants in the greenhouse that we’ve inoculated with the bacterium to study the disease and plants in the field that have PD due to natural causes,” said Brady, a Tarleton alumnus. “We are using both to study the disease and look for possible management tactics.”

Newton Barris Pierce, a plant pathologist from California, discovered the bacterium that causes the disease growing inside the grape plant’s water-conducting vessels called xylem.

“Basically, the plant dies because it can’t transport enough water to its leaves,” Brady said. “But this is where things get complicated.

**The sharpshooters**

The bacterium is spread by a half-inch-long, muddy-brown insect most people don’t even know about—the glassy-winged sharpshooter.

“During feeding, the insects unwittingly inject the bacterium into the xylem,” Rathburn said. “In grapes, the bacterium slowly reproduces and eventually the xylem vessels become blocked resulting in dehydration-like symptoms, and the grape plant succumbs.

“This may take three to five years from the time the plant was infected to death, which is just about the length of time for grape stock to become productive.”

The glassy-winged sharpshooter is native to the southeastern United States and northeastern Mexico. According to Rathburn, Texas has a large, native population of the insect.
The glassy-winged sharpshooters are more aggressive flyers and travel greater distances than native sharpshooters. The insect can fly more than a mile, creating widespread destruction for vineyard owners.

“Because sharpshooters can feed on many different plants, these alternate host plants in uncultivated borders around a vineyard may harbor X. Fastidiosa,” Brady said. “It is then a simple matter for sharpshooters to vector the bacterium from beyond the vineyard to the grape plants.”

**The bacterium**

Although Pierce discovered the disease, he was unable to determine the cause. According to Rathburn and Brady, it was not until the 1970s that scientists were able to identify the bacterium and prove it caused the disease.

Scientists have discovered that several strains of the bacteria exist, which has affected not only grapes, but also citrus, almonds, oleander and certain shade trees such as oaks, elms, maples and sycamores.

**The symptoms**

The first sign of trouble is a sudden drying and scalding of the outer edges of the grape plants’ leaves. On the cane or stem, the bark matures unevenly, showing brown bark surrounded by green.

In spring, infected plants are delayed in growth and, in the later season, plants have dwarfed vines and shrunk and dried fruit. Other symptoms are the collapse of grape clusters and death of the vine and surrounding vines.

**The impact**

PD has caused significant losses to vineyards in Texas and other southern states. The disease is the single greatest limiting factor for commercial grape production in some growing regions of Texas.

“Wine and grape production are multi-billion dollar industries in the United States, and they continue to expand,” Rathburn said. “The grape and wine industry in Texas also has increased in the last decade. In 2007, roughly 280 Texas commercial vineyards were cultivating 2,900 acres.

“However, despite the new vineyards, the Texas grape industry has not achieved its potential. One of the major limitations to growth is Pierce’s Disease.”

According to Rathburn, the disease is prevalent and limiting in East Texas, but is also found in other parts of the state.

“Although once thought to be absent on the high plains of West Texas, it recently has been found there, as well,” he said. “In Central and North Central Texas, Pierce’s Disease may destroy one vineyard and be rare in another only a few kilometers away.”

In California, the first significant infection was discovered in August 1999 when more than 300 acres of grapevines were infested with the glassy-winged sharpshooter and were destroyed by PD. The University of California reported that the disease destroyed more than 1,000 acres of grapevines in northern California between 1994 and 2000, causing approximately $300 million in damages.

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Once Pierce’s disease sets in, the bark matures unevenly showing brown bark surrounded by green. Photo contributed by Jeff Brady
The bacterium causing Pierce’s disease is spread by a half-inch-long, muddy-brown insect called the glassy-winged sharpshooter. 

The first sign of trouble for grape plants with Pierce’s disease is a sudden drying and scalding of the outer edges of the leaves. 

Photo contributed by Jeff Brady

According to researchers, PD also has been found along the Red River in Texas and as far north as Kentucky. It is suspected to be found even farther north.

The disease affects European grapes, such as Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot and Cabernet, which are used for winemaking. Although the grapes’ roots date back to Spain, Italy and France, the grapes have been cultivated around the world.

Grapes native to Texas, called Muscadine grapes, have a natural resistance to PD, according to Rathburn.

“Muscadine can have the bacteria, but not suffer from Pierce’s Disease,” he said.

Research is being done to determine why native grapes have this resistance.

The only known treatment for PD is to destroy the infected vines to keep it from spreading to the entire vineyard.

The research

Researchers are working to find the answer to this pesky problem.

There are three factors in the disease research—the grape vines, the bacteria and the insects.

Brady and Rathburn are studying all three.

“We are looking for genetic associations between the bacterium, insect and plant to find DNA markers for bacterial/host relationships,” Brady said. “We’ve also made some glowing bacteria by putting jellyfish fluorescent protein genes into the bacterium. This allows us to more easily monitor bacterial proliferation in the plant and the insect.”

Rathburn said their research is complicated by several factors, including an abundance of insect species, possible alternate hosts for insects and bacteria, multiple bacterial subspecies and varying vineyard management practices.

Rathburn and Brady are not alone in their research of PD. Texas and California grape producers, state and federal agencies and universities are collaborating efforts to address this great threat to the wine industry across the country.

For example, a Texas AgriLife Research facility in Fredericksburg is dedicated to research on PD in Texas vineyards.

The 3,200-square-foot facility, which opened June 2007, includes a main building, greenhouses and a 1-acre research and demonstration vineyard.

The facility was built with funding and the strong support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, federal, state and local officials, academics and private individuals.

Research and educational efforts center around host plants, disease movement, transmission, detection and control.

In California, the Department of Food and Agriculture has a Pierce’s Disease Control Program.

“There are a lot of people working on this research,” Rathburn said. “We just hope to contribute.”

While work continues across the country, the solution to this national problem may be solved right here in Stephenville.

Now, that’s an impact.
The Langdon Center’s cultural event schedule continues into its 13th year. The spring 2010 lineup includes:

Feb. 12—“An Evening of Johnny Mercer” with Heatherton Hardy-Wilson, Peggy Bott-Kirby, Janice Horak and Selden Short

Feb. 27-28 and March 1—“Chopin Festival” featuring Darrell Rosenbluth (piano) and Wendy Morton (cello) at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 27; Leslie Spotz (piano) at 3 p.m. on Feb. 28; and Tarleton piano majors and alumni at 7:30 p.m. on March 1. All performances will be held at Acton United Methodist Church. Cost per concert is $10 or $25 for all three.

March 26—“Forté Strings” at 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Admission is $10.

April 18—“Concert on the Lawn” will take place at 3 p.m. on the Langdon Center Lawn.

April 29—“Piatigorsky Foundation Concert” will feature Evan Drachman on cello and Richard Dowling on piano. The performance will take place in the Concert Hall. The event is co-sponsored by the Cross Timbers Fine Arts Council and admission is $10.

A full lineup of community education courses are also scheduled for the spring semester. Classes include:

**FILM AND THE HUMANITIES**

Carriage House, $40 for all 4 sessions, Instructor Ann Mitchell

Feb 2—Citizen Kane
Feb 9—Film Noir/Art Deco Overview
Feb 16—Casa Blanca
Feb 23—Film comparison

**WRITING DOWN THE BRAZOS—CONFERENCE ON WRITING AND PUBLISHING**

Langdon Center
March 5 & 6

**WINES TASTING**

Concert Hall, Instructor Ray Raney

Feb. 14—Romantic Reds, 2 p.m., $45
March 7—You Be the Judge, 2 p.m., $45
April 11—Area Winery Tour, 1 p.m., $60
May 9—Women Winemakers, 2 p.m., $45

**ARTFUL ADVENTURES**

Coordinator Kathi Sale

**COMPUTER TRAINING**

Instructor Jon Back

**SOCIAL NETWORKING: GETTING WITH THE TIMES**

**DESKTOP PUBLISHING**

**CREATING EFFECTIVE WEB PAGES**

**MICROSOFT EXCEL**

ucked away on a picturesque block in the historic district of Granbury, Tarleton’s Langdon Center offers cultural, educational, artistic and fun-filled activities for all ages. Founded in 1996 after a generous donation by the Chrysalis Foundation and its benefactor, Dora Lee Langdon, the center began to grow steadily as an educational and cultural hub for an ever-expanding community.

To support the ongoing programs of Tarleton’s Langdon Center through the Partners for Enrichment Society or to attend any class or event, visit www.tarleton.edu/langdoncenter. Contact the Langdon Center at (817) 279-1164 or langdoncenter@sbcglobal.net.
It all began in a back room of Davis Hall over coffee and doughnuts. A group of faculty, too busy to gather any other time of day during the 1988-89 academic year, met early in the mornings to bring life to an idea that would benefit public schools within Tarleton’s service area.

The Effective Schools Project (ESP) was born from that encounter, and Jim Boyd, then dean of the College of Education and Fine Arts, led the charge. The project has since been renamed the Jim Boyd Effective Schools Project, in honor of the man who led those early morning meetings.

The idea was to bring at least 15 schools together with a prestigious speaker in the field of education for a day of professional development. Featured speakers would focus on the latest education techniques and practices designed to increase classroom learning and improve educators within their classrooms. This program is a benefit to many school districts, as they would not otherwise be able to afford to bring such distinguished speakers to their campuses on their own.

“ESP is a great opportunity not only to listen to new ideas, but also to share ideas,” Cervetto said. “In education, the target keeps moving and we need to stay in front of it.”

Henry, a nationally recognized authority on school improvement and school climate, is a former teacher, coach and school administrator with more than 40 years experience in education.

“Every year we add something that another school is doing, and we create new goals that are unique to our campus. I am not sure Tolar would be one of the best elementary schools in the area without this program.”

ESP is one of the nation’s long-running school-improvement programs and impacts 65 to 75 elementary, junior high and high schools annually. It is also one of the most unique education partnerships in Texas, possibly the United States. In a video documentary, the late Boyd said, “I’ve been asked by some people what is the single most important component about the Effective Schools Project, and I believe that in the end, it comes down to the fact that none of us is as smart as all of us.”

Dean Boyd, your vision lives on.
ressed in lab coats with stethoscopes in hand, the nursing students watch intently as the small body in the bed squirms, cries plaintively, hiccoughs and sometimes spews forth noxious-appearing liquids.

Some giggle nervously. Others display open fascination, while some gather the courage to touch the “child.” But all of the students eventually seek out their instructor. Fortunately for these future nurses, this is a fire drill and no action on their part is required.

Instead these students and their instructor are gathered around the hospital bed and computer screen to engage in a simulated patient care activity designed to stimulate critical thinking and response to traumatic situations without causing trauma to an actual patient.

In this case, the patient is a high-fidelity manikin that is programmed to mimic a myriad of health conditions. These high-tech pieces of equipment can simulate everything from surgery complications and breech births to teaching students to perform routine medical care such as taking blood pressure.

At first, students may regard the simulation process as lots of to do about nothing. After all, most stopped playing with dolls or action figures years ago.

However, the manikins available in Tarleton’s nursing skills lab provide a valuable learning opportunity. The improvement students demonstrate in testing over disease processes simulated with the manikins has impressed nursing faculty.

These simulated exercises also translate directly into the care of live patients.

Elaine Evans, Ph.D. and department head, has been instrumental in securing the funds through grant writing to purchase the manikins. One recent grant of $189,000 allowed for the purchase of multiple manikins.

The simulation manikins were purchased to allow nursing students to practice intricate skills in a risk-free environment. Tarleton’s family of manikins include SimMan™, SimBaby™, VitaSim™ equipment and Virtual IV™ stations. The newest additions are NOELLE™, an obstetric manikin that simulates giving birth to a baby, and HAL™, a pediatric manikin made in the image of a 5-year-old.

Each manikin in use is expensive and has a limited lifetime because of the continuous use by students and instructors. A search for funds to purchase this kind of technology is ongoing and may be supplemented by private donations to ensure the continuation of such innovative ways to enable nursing students the opportunity to learn.

In addition to providing students valuable real-world situations without injuring patients, the simulated learning experiences are taped so students can evaluate themselves. This enables students to learn from their own strengths and weaknesses.

Throughout the process, Tarleton’s nursing department stands ready to help its students step into real-world health care by providing them with experience through virtual reality simulation.

In the beginning, the students may look like excited puppies gathered around the manikins in the skills lab. But they emerge later from the simulation activities with an expanded knowledge base and confidence that allow immediate and meaningful engagement with live patients in multiple health care settings including hospitals, clinics, schools, home health care and other areas in need of nurses.

By Paula Faulk-Maness, MSN, RN

The human factor

Tarleton nursing student Laramie Robbins checks the blood pressure of her “patient.” Photo by Hal Graham
It's amazing how two different worlds can collide with the simple click of a button.

Without ever leaving Tarleton's campus, students are interacting with a professional graphic designer in the small coastal town of Valencia, Spain—more than 5,200 miles away from Stephenville.

For the last two years, Eugenio R. Garcia Orts has taught online classes of “Cartoons and Illustration,” “Graphic Design” and “Commercial and Advertising Art” to students.

“I try to teach the creativity, but also the idea behind the creativity,” Orts said. “What they have to do is communicate an idea in a creative way that will catch the eye at first glance—communicate the message immediately.”

Orts knows how to get messages across.

He has completed thousands of projects including children’s tales, magazines, puzzles, games and books, and his work has appeared in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, to name a few.

“Our students and faculty love him, and they appreciate the unique opportunity to study and work with such a talented graphic designer,” said Teresa Davidian, Ph.D. and head of Tarleton’s fine arts department.

For Orts, who has his own illustration and graphic design studio in Spain, working in advertising and graphic design makes for a balanced career.

“Advertising makes me feel alive and alert,” he said, “and I learn interesting things that I can also apply to illustration and cartoons.”

That’s the same message Orts wants to get across to Tarleton students who take his online classes. He realizes not all students will become professional graphic designers, but that it is still important students get the most out of the class.

His classes have been successful, and Orts attributes that to interactivity.

“I gave personal attention to each student to make sure each student was understanding the material,” he said. “I used open-ended questions and their responses indicated how well they understood the material. This is the hardest part of teaching online—to make sure the student understands.”

Through this type of learning, students do not attend class on campus but are required to meet deadlines online and encouraged to engage in group learning activities.

“The courses are very visual,” Orts said. “Image is so important, but so is theory and practice. Students have been very interactive.”

Orts also teaches courses in advertising art and graphic design on the campus of the Escola Politécnica de Gandia, University of Valencia in Spain. His teaching has made way for a partnership to develop between the two universities.

“What has resulted from Eugenio’s classes and workshops is an ongoing agreement between Tarleton and the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia,” Davidian said. “I am delighted that his online courses are actually the beginning of an exciting exchange of knowledge and ideas, and a lasting, mutually rewarding partnership.”

The experience of teaching students half a world away has impacted Orts professionally and personally.

“I have benefited tremendously from my experience teaching online for the fine arts department at Tarleton,” he said. “I have met and interacted with people who have enriched my life. I wouldn’t have missed this experience for anything.”

Eugenio R. Garcia Orts who lives in Valencia, Spain, has taught online classes to Tarleton students for the last two years. Orts is an artist and professional graphic designer. Photo by Alyson Chapman

By Alyson Chapman, communications specialist

The art of Orts

By Teresa Davidian, Ph.D.

With open-ended questions and responses, students can communicate ideas.

The online experience!

Graphic by Eugenio R. Garcia Orts
The Tarleton Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) received the inaugural Lone Star Conference SAAC Cup after placing first in the league-wide standings.

The Tarleton SAAC tallied 5,825 points to win the cup thanks to service projects, group meetings and fundraising for Make-A-Wish. Cameron University in Oklahoma finished second with 5,019 points while Texas Women’s University was third with 4,847.

“This brings great recognition to our student-athletes and the athletics department,” said athletics director Lonn Reisman. “Our student athletes, coaches and staff do a great job every year of getting involved in the community, and to be the first school to win this cup given by the LSC is special.”

Student-athletes Warren Webb and Shea McBrearty accompanied adviser Cristabell Mariner to the annual LSC SAAC retreat, held this year in Tahlequah, Okla. Fourteen of the 15 LSC schools were present at the retreat, and the group helped paint a house for Habitat for Humanity. During the three-day event, they also had the chance to take a fun side trip, which included rafting down the Illinois River.

The SAAC Cup will be awarded annually on points earned throughout the year based on the certain criteria. The winner will be the campus SAAC with the most points accumulated by the end of the academic year. The criterion includes LSC Community Service Month participation, Make-A-Wish participation, conference SAAC meeting attendance, campus SAAC meetings, SAAC legislative grids and community service not related to the LSC Community Service Month.

A total of 24 student athletes, cheerleaders and student athletic trainers meet throughout the year and assembles to provide insight on the student-athlete experience. The SAAC also offers input on the rules, regulations and policies that affect student athletes’ lives on NCAA member institutions. NCAA’s mission for SAAC is to enhance the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunity, protecting student-athlete welfare and fostering a positive student-athlete image.
Jacob Rowe, a third-year letterman, was selected as one of 22 football players in the nation to be honored by the 2009 Allstate/AFCA Good Works Team. Photo contributed by Joey Roberts

Being an Impact
By Joey Roberts, sports information director

Most young men come to college expecting to be impacted. Few come expecting to be the impact. However, Tarleton Texan football player Jacob Rowe has just that in mind every day he wakes up and gets ready.

Rowe was selected as one of 22 football players in the nation to be honored by the 2009 Allstate/AFCA Good Works Team not for his efforts on the field—though they are good, too—but more for his impact off the turf.

The Good Works Team is sponsored by the Allstate Insurance Company and the American Football Coaches Association to honor dedicated and hard-working student athletes for their off-the-field achievements and selfless contributions to their communities.

“This is such an honor to be selected to this team,” Rowe said. “When I looked into the history of the team and saw the Manning brothers names along with so many other celebrities, I thought, there is no way I will get this award when I was asked to apply. But Coach [Sam] McElroy and Coach [Cary] Fowler wanted me to apply, so I did.”

McElroy was not surprised his defensive end was named to the team.

“This is a great honor for Jacob, our football team and our University,” McElroy said. “There are a great number of kids that do things throughout the year to help others, and for Jacob to be singled out as one of the best means a great deal to us. He certainly deserves this award, and the things he does to help others are wonderful. We know he will continue to serve because that is who Jacob is.”

The son of Eric and Eva Rowe is also brother to Max and Hannah. He is a helper to many and a foe to few—at least off the field.

The third-year letterman has been very active while attending Tarleton. Rowe is a member of College Life, Refuge and Core while also holding student-athlete Bible studies. He regularly helps hand out meals to the elderly and disabled in Stephenville with other members of the Texan football squad via Meals on Wheels. In addition, he has helped with activities such as the Tri-Star Games, Foster’s Home for Children, Disciple Now, Vacation Bible School and the Tarleton Student Government Association. Rowe also sponsors a child through Compassion International and is an active member of a mentoring program.

His achievements on the field are impressive, as well. He has helped lead a defense and a team to its 10th straight winning season—and a share of the Lone Star Conference and LSC South Division titles.

Rowe represented Tarleton on the Allstate/Good Works Team at the Allstate Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1, 2010. There he was honored as an individual who gives more than he takes.

“It makes me feel weird when people try to put me in the spotlight,” Rowe said. “I feel weird for being treated special even though I am doing what I am supposed to be doing. I am just doing what God said to do when he told us to help people.”
Season for the Record Books

By Joey Roberts, sports information director

When the season kicked off last August, the Tarleton Texan football team had several goals on its agenda:

- Win a Lone Star Conference (LSC) Championship.
- Win a LSC South Division title.
- Make the playoffs for the first time since 2003, with the hopes of competing for a national title.

The Texans finished the season 10-3 overall and 4-2 in the LSC South. The team also tied to claim the school’s second LSC championship and its fifth division title since 2001.

In the first round of the NCAA Division II playoffs, Tarleton pulled off a thrilling upset over Texas A&M University-Kingsville in double overtime.

Tarleton trailed by three in the waning moments of the fourth quarter before Texan kicker Garrett Lindholm hit a 64-yard field goal as time expired to send the game into overtime. The kick set several records—one for Tarleton, a new one for NCAA Division II postseason action and was the second-longest kick ever made by a Division II student athlete.

In the first overtime, both teams settled for field goals before the Javelinas scored a touchdown and an extra point in the second extra session. Facing fourth down and five from the 20-yard line, Texan quarterback Scott Grantham ran for a touchdown after breaking several tackles and jumping over the final defender.

Head coach Sam McElroy decided to go for two, and Grantham decided the game with a keeper through the right side. Tarleton won 57-56.

Earlier in the season, Tarleton trailed Midwestern State when Lindholm kicked a 36-yard field goal with 12 seconds left in the game to tie the score at 28. After the Texans forced a fumble on the ensuing kickoff, Lindholm nailed a 55-yard field goal to set a school record that lasted just five weeks.

The Texans claimed the program’s third 10-win season in school history and secured the Texans’ 10th straight winning season. The Texans were ranked No. 12 in the final regular season American Football Coaches Association poll and finished No. 5 in the Super Region Four final poll.

Leading the Texans was Grantham who, after the loss at Central Washington, announced he would not return for his senior season. The quarterback graduated in August with his bachelor’s degree and has since been working on his master’s degree. Grantham is Tarleton’s new record holder for touchdowns thrown, with a total of 57—after throwing 19 touchdowns this year. He completed 205 passes for 2,985 yards in 2009.

Devin Guinn is the new receiving touchdowns leader with 26 catches, after completing 70 passes for 1,019 yards and eight touchdowns this season. Jahmeel Hobson was second on the team with 57 catches for 1,046 yards and seven scores.

Evan Robertson led the team in rushing with 170 carries for 894 yards and seven touchdowns, while Roderick Smith had 142 carries for 775 yards and nine scores.

The Texans were among the leaders in the LSC in scoring offense, scoring defense, total offense and total defense. Tarleton averaged 386.2 yards per game on offense, including 143.3 yards rushing and 242.9 yards passing, while allowing opponents to average 323.4 yards of offense, including 107.3 yards on the ground and 216.1 yards through the air. Overall, the Texans outscored opponents this season by an average of 31.2 to 20.9.

By Joey Roberts, sports information director

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Head coach Sam McElroy decided to go for two, and Grantham decided the game with a keeper through the right side. Tarleton won 57-56.

Earlier in the season, Tarleton trailed Midwestern State when Lindholm kicked a 36-yard field goal with 12 seconds left in the game to tie the score at 28. After the Texans forced a fumble on the ensuing kickoff, Lindholm nailed a 55-yard field goal to set a school record that lasted just five weeks.

The Texans claimed the program’s third 10-win season in school history and secured the Texans’ 10th straight winning season. The Texans were ranked No. 12 in the final regular season American Football Coaches Association poll and finished No. 5 in the Super Region Four final poll.

Leading the Texans was Grantham who, after the loss at Central Washington, announced he would not return for his senior season. The quarterback graduated in August with his bachelor’s degree and has since been working on his master’s degree. Grantham is Tarleton’s new record holder for touchdowns thrown, with a total of 57—after throwing 19 touchdowns this year. He completed 205 passes for 2,985 yards in 2009.

Devin Guinn is the new receiving touchdowns leader with 26 catches, after completing 70 passes for 1,019 yards and eight touchdowns this season. Jahmeel Hobson was second on the team with 57 catches for 1,046 yards and seven scores.

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Sports with a Heart

By Joey Roberts, sports information director

Outside the lines of competition, Tarleton’s athletic department believes in giving back to its fans, campus and community.

In 2009, student athletes were seen promoting blood drives, washing cars, serving food, interacting with elementary students, picking up trash and raising money for charitable organizations, just to name a few. But being seen wasn’t the point.

“We want to be a change-agent in our community and involved with projects that help promote the quality of life,” said Tarleton athletics director Lonn Reisman. “If recognition comes along with the service, we’ll take the exposure for our programs. However, our first priority is giving back to the great fans and community that loves Tarleton State University.”

The Texan football team regularly participates in Meals on Wheels, as well as cooking meals for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Fort Worth.

Student athletes are so involved in the community that the Tarleton Student-Athlete Advisory Committee received the first-ever Lone Star Conference SAAC (Student Athletic Advisory Committee) Cup, which was given to the university that helped with the most service projects and fundraisers.

The women’s softball team collected several hundred pair of eyeglasses for the Lions Club and the men’s basketball team took donations for the Erath County United Way.

When the tsunami hit American Samoa—an event which hit close to home for two people in the athletics department—student athletes held a clothing drive.

“I am truly blessed to have people around me who care to give back to my country,” said Tarleton football player Ben Taifane, a native of Pago Pago, American Samoa, whose village was destroyed by the tsunami.

Tarleton assistant volleyball coach Christabell Mariner, also a native of America Samoa, was moved, as well.

“I can’t explain how happy I am,” Mariner said. “It means a lot to know that people care about each other, especially people they don’t even know.”

Photo contributed by Joey Roberts
The celebration started early in the week of Oct. 19, 2009, with the traditional Silver Bugle Hunt. Festivities continued on Wednesday evening as a packed house rocked Wisdom Gym during the Yell Contest, and former students were called home with the ceremonial beating of the drum. By the time alumni began to return to campus and the bonfire burned, student energy levels were at their peak, possibly from the thousands of purple pancakes consumed at Midnight Breakfast.

As it has since the 1920s, the steadfast beating of the drum announced the kickoff of Saturday’s homecoming game. After a day of reuniting with old friends, alumni and students were treated to an exciting victory over Abilene Christian University.
Distinguished Honorees

Recently, the Tarleton Alumni Association working with Tarleton’s Office of Alumni Relations held the Distinguished Alumni Gala. During the Gala, outstanding individuals were honored in five categories—distinguished alumnus or alumna, distinguished friends, distinguished faculty, outstanding young alumnus or alumna and distinguished staff.

Here are the 2009-2010 honorees:

Distinguished Alumnus: Bill Casner ’72

Outstanding Young Alumnus: Mark Smith ’92
Mark Smith was an outstanding basketball player at Tarleton from 1988-1992. After graduating from Tarleton, he attended law school at The Ohio State University and now serves as the General Counsel for Delivery Agent, Inc. in San Francisco, Calif.

Distinguished Faculty: Weldon Newton, Ph.D.
Weldon Newton, Ph.D., joined the Tarleton faculty in 1974 as head of the agriculture department. In the 1970s and 1980s he was responsible for adding new courses, developing new graduate programs and dividing the agriculture department into three updated departments. He retired in 1996 as Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture and was recognized as Professor Emeritus of The Texas A&M University System.

Distinguished Staff: Donna Haynie
Donna Haynie joined the staff of the Student Activities Department in 1990 and assisted in developing many of the student programs that continue today. In 1995 she transferred to the administration and planning department of physical facilities where she was instrumental in the development of construction projects and master plans until her retirement in 2009.

Distinguished Friends: Dwain and Carolyn Bruner
The Bruners have been in the automobile business in Stephenville for more than 40 years, beginning with the establishment of Bruner Chevrolet in 1969 and continuing with the addition of other dealerships over the years. They have supported many of the academic, fine arts and athletic programs at Tarleton and have been especially generous with the funding of the Dwain and Carolyn Bruner Endowed Scholarships.

Homecoming
1960s Luncheon
Military Alumni
Midnight Breakfast
Yell Contest
Alumni Updates

Calling all former Tarleton students! Whether it’s working to make homecoming or other events successful, the Office of Alumni Relations’ mission is to engage our 60,000-plus former students. To do so, we need to hear from you. Please keep us posted on the important events in your life. Here’s how to contact us:

E-mail: alumni@tarleton.edu
Phone: (254) 968-9074
Mailing address:
Tarleton State University
Office of Alumni Relations
Box T-0060
Stephenville, Texas 76402

Births

Garrett Cooper Pierce was born Aug. 13, 2009, to Sara Bonds Pierce ’03 and Dustin Pierce ’02 of Fort Worth. He weighed 8 lbs., 15 oz. and measured 21 inches long. Garrett was proudly welcomed by big brother, Tanner.

Kaitlyn Elaine Parker was born Oct. 8, 2009, to Laura Parker and 2nd Lt. Johnathon Parker ’08 of Killeen. She weighed 7 lbs. and measured 21 inches long.

Silver Taps 2009

“Silver Taps” recognizes students, alumni, faculty and staff who passed away during the previous year. A formal ceremony is held each spring on campus. The ceremony is a cooperative undertaking of the student body, Office of Alumni Relations and Tarleton’s ROTC program. The roll call and candle lighting ceremony culminate each year with a procession and the placing of flowers at the base of the Tarleton State University Military Memorial. The 2010 ceremony will be held April 15 at 7:15 p.m. at Tarleton’s Heritage Oaks Park.

LOST TO US IN 2009:
Linda Beauchamp
William Floyd Berryman, Jr.
Gerald Glenn Brazzle ’72
Charles H. Brown ’38
William “Billy” Ernest Brown, Jr. ’87
Gen. John H. Buckner ’38
William Robert Cain, Jr.
Ilafae “Faye” Carr
Beatrice R. Carter
Cheryl Lynette Chastain ’70
Marie Chisum
Gwendolyn Marie Oxford Clayton ’30
Bernard Walter Clegg ’38
Mack E. Cook ’68
George “Tom” Crockett, Jr. ’81
Bert Fleetwood Dimock, Jr.
Margaret Henderlite Donovan ’43
Willis Stalsby Dunks ’79
Mary Esslinger
Thelma Brown Eubanks ’34
David Evans
Margaret Greer Evans
Geneva Fisher ’34
William H. “Bill” Flint ’56
Donald Fowler
Annie Jo “Ann” Allen Freeman
Grover Cleveland Gibbs, Jr. ’42
Lilley Ivey Gibson ’33
George Michael Green ’68
Bunelle Hall Gresham
Patricia Irene McVier Grubbs
Manuel Guerra, Jr.
M.G. “Cookie” Hansen
Yuba Sutherland Hearne
Sam Hilburn
Lonnie Floyds Holder
Renee Danielle Horton
John Russell Ingram, Jr.
Johnnie Mae “Lightfoot” Jones
Karen Keith ’86
Thomas Kelley III
Alta Maurine King-Brenner
Tracy L. Lambour ’90
Robert Escar Langham
John D. Latham
Jerry Jacob “Jaktie” Laughlin ’58
Larry Wayne Ledbetter ’74
Mark Lee Love
Nancy Lee Henson Mahan ’77
James Martin ’52
Virginia Matassa
Dr. W.R. “Will Roy” Matthews ’37
Dr. Edwin J. Mays ’39
Kenneth Jay McDaniel ’82
Gary Owen McEntree
James McGuffee
Gary Roger Mitchell
Olive Ruth Nabors ’41
Alois Latham Neely ’38
Dr. Robert “Bob” Netherland
Vernon Newson ’71
Charles Ray O’ Daniel
Neil Kinser Overstreet
William A. “Bill” Owen
Billy Frank Parnell
Dan Peacock
Bobby Melvin Phillips
Frances Loretta Scheerer Piper
Kelly E. Reimers
Robert “Bob” Merrill Ruff ’35
Donald Yeager Salter
Alicia Maria Parker Schmidt ’02
Verne Albertson Scott, Jr. ’43
Susie I. Sefzik ’41
Brad Setzler ’88
Scott Allen Smith ’02
Joe Long Sneed, Jr. ’47
Lea Rene Spradling ’94
Willie Gail Stephens ’59
Cheryl Ann Vandagriff Tagoras ’86
Mary Lou Thurman ’41
Henry Truett “Torg” Torgerson ’43
Davis E. Waggener ’51
Robert Howard Walker ’50
Harold H. Walton
William “Bill” Remmel Watson
Regina Williams
Donald N. Winn ’42
Ray Wood
Scholarship funds play an important role in changing lives through education. Increasing this role is the fact that more than 80 percent of Tarleton students receive some form of financial aid. Without these funds, a college education might not be a reality for many students.

Providing scholarship funds to deserving students is just one way you can experience a personally satisfying return on your investment. Not only will you create a lasting legacy in your own life, but also in the lives of the students you help and in the lives of the countless others their lives will touch.

For more information, please contact: Sabra Guerra at (254) 968-9770
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