

FACULTY NEWS



Dr. Jaclyn Cañas

Dr. Jaclyn Cañas (Co-PI) and **Dr. Stephen Cox** (senior personnel) along with colleagues in the Departments of Mathematics (Brock Williams (PI), Jerry Dwyer (co-Pi), Sophia Jang (co-PI) and Biology (Nancy McIntyre, Co-PI) were awarded \$1,457,733 for 5 years from the NSF to implement the RMR-TTU (Recruitment, Mentoring and Research in Mathematics in Science) program. The program will provide research, academic, and financial opportunities to encourage 60 students, primarily underrepresented students, to pursue and complete degrees in the mathematical and biological sciences. Students will work closely with faculty on a variety of projects integrating mathematics and biology.

Dr. Jaclyn Cañas was recognized at the National SACNAS (Advancing Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science) Conference in Anaheim, CA in September for her Service to the Society in leading the efforts of TTU staff and students to host the 2010 Southwest Regional SACNAS Conference at Texas Tech University in February 2010. Ninety-five regional conference attendees from three states participated in poster sessions as well as professional development sessions.

“Advances in Biological and Chemical Terrorism Countermeasures” was awarded a President’s Book Award from the Office of the President of Texas Tech University, for 2009-2010. Editors are Drs. Ron Kendall, Steve Presley, Galen Austin, and Phil Smith.

Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar was invited by the Confederation of Indian Industry, Trichy Unit and Karur Exporters’ Association, India to conduct an interactive session on technical textiles in Karur, South India.

During August, Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar gave invited presentations on the application of cotton nonwovens in oil spill situations in B.S. Abdur Rahman Deemed University- Crescent Engineering College, Chennai, St. Joseph’s College of Engineering, Chennai and IGP Industries, Chennai.

Dr. Ramkumar was elected as a Board of Director for the Safety and Technical Products Division of Industrial Fabrics Association International for a 3 year period ending in 2012.

Dr. Ramkumar was invited to present two lectures at the NATO Advanced Study Institute on Defense Related Intelligent Textiles and Clothing for Ballistic and NBC (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) Protection held in Split, Croatia from April 6–16. He also served as the member of the organizing committee and served as a session chair. During this trip, he also delivered an invited presentation at the prestigious University of Zagreb, Croatia.

Dr. Ramkumar has received continued support for his cotton nonwovens research. Texas State Support Program of the Cotton Incorporated has continued support for two small projects totaling \$15,000 for the calendar year 2011. Texas Department of Agriculture continued two projects for FY 2011 totaling \$40,000.

Dr. Ramkumar has received continued funding from The CH Foundation for his Fibertect nonwovens research. He will receive \$55,000 for his work in 2011. Fibertect is currently taken into market place by Virginia based First Line Technology and manufactured by Waco based Hobbs Bonded Fibers. He also received approval for \$54,323 funding from the USDA through the International Cotton Research Center in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Sciences.



Dr. Philip Smith



Dr. Steve Presley



The Institute of Environmental & Human Health

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VISION STATEMENT
 We will be a leader in research and education on integrating environmental and human health sciences. Our institute will contribute innovative solutions to environmental problems by embracing disciplinary diversity, creating partnerships and committing to excellence.

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The Institute of Environmental
 & Human Health
 TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER



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FALL 2010

TIEHH’s Green Initiative

The Institute of Environmental and Human Health has recently embarked on a Green Initiative in order to be an ambassador for the University in its quest to be environmentally friendly in all facets possible. In this effort, the TIEHH Student Association has coordinated with the Green Queens, a local recycling service, to eliminate the disposal of any recyclable materials. With recycling bins dotting the Institute,

TIEHH’s waste has decreased significantly. In addition to the increased recycling efforts, TIEHH has taken other steps to prioritize the environment, such as the planting of drought-tolerant plants and purchasing items made from recycled materials. As we continue to improve upon these strategies, we are sure to be the leaders of the Green Initiative at Texas Tech University.

Society of Environmental Journalists

Texas Tech University will host the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) for its 2012 Annual Conference. The SEJ decided to hold its annual meeting here after being in close contact with TIEHH director, Ron Kendall. Dr. Kendall became interested in the Society of Environmental Journalists after reading an announcement about the recent conference at Virginia Tech, his alma mater. The SEJ board visited Dr. Kendall and his faculty in January to discuss the opportunity, and after seeing the city, interacting with the community, as well as the faculty and administration across Texas Tech University, and engaging in a lively environmental debate that Dr. Kendall and his staff arranged, the board unanimously decided to hold their 2012 conference at Texas Tech University.

This conference will bring over 700 journalists, public policy makers, scientists, and educators, among others, to hold sessions about environmental

reporting and significant issues of the region. In a press release about the Conference, President Guy Bailey stated that the fact Texas Tech is hosting such a prestigious conference is a testament to the kind of university we are becoming.

“Not only is it a great opportunity for Texas Tech and West Texas to showcase what we do here, but also it will have a positive economic impact on our region as these reporters are learning about us. We are proud to host such a venerable group – especially in light of the current environmental issues Texas Tech is investigating with regard to the oil spill in the gulf,” said Bailey.

The Conference will be held October 3-7, 2012, just a month before presidential elections, which in and of itself will bring more importance to the tenor of the meeting.

TIEHH NEWS



Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar

TIEHH collaborated with Avinashilingam Deemed University, India, and organized an International Conference on Prospects of Technical Textile Sector on August 16, 2010, in Coimbatore, India. Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar and Professor Vasugi Raja of Avinashilingam Deemed University served as the organizing secretaries for this international event. This event received wide media coverage in the prominent newspaper, THE HINDU.

TIEHH co-hosted a nonwoven training workshop in collaboration with the Association of Nonwoven Fabrics Industry, USA and TecniTex Nonwovens, Pvt. Ltd, India. This event was held in Coimbatore on August 12-13, 2010. Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar and Mr. Mallyah Marimuthu, Executive Director, TecniTex Nonwovens coordinated the event. Dr. Ramkumar served as course tutor.



During the week of September 20-24, Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar hosted a number of industry leaders from India, Pakistan, Australia and USA to discuss research collaborations and showcase the nonwovens and advanced materials laboratory capabilities. Dignitaries included the Joint Secretary and Textile Commissioner, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Assistant Director General of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research,

President and Vice President of the Cotton Association of India, Chairman and the Managing Director of Cotton Corporation of India, Chairman of the Indian Society for Cotton Improvement and Chairman of Kotak & Company, Ltd, Chairman and members of Bajaj Steel, Ltd (Ginning machinery maker), Dr. Paul Sawhney,

Lead Scientist, ARS-USDA, New Orleans, Chairman of Karachi Cotton Association, Pakistan, Alfred Deakin Professor Xungai Wang, Director, Center for Material and Fiber Innovation and Dr. Rangam Rajkhowa of Deakin University, Australia. These dignitaries visited the nonwovens laboratory and interacted with students on research and product development.

The Institute of Environmental and Human Health was awarded the "2010 Future Workforce Award" from South Plains Workforce in April. TIEHH was chosen as a result of the research and development of a manufacturing method utilizing cotton and other natural fibers for use in emerging technologies which in turn created a skilled labor pool.

During summer, applications of Fibertect evolved beyond the military sector. Cotton-Carbon Fibertect was found to absorb crude and motor oil. Oil absorbing Fibertect was featured in CNBC, NDTV-India, Texas Farm Bureau video and mentioned in CNN twice. Major news media such as THE HINDU, Nonwovens Industry Magazine, and Specialty Fabric Review featured Fibertect prominently.



In October, Texas Tech and TIEHH were visited by a delegation of Iraqi government officials for a symposium, "Science and Technology Capacity Building in Iraq". The purpose of the visit was to assist the Iraqi government with redevelopment of higher education and reconstruction of science, technology, and engineering capacity.

TIEHH has launched a monthly E-newsletter that highlights recent TIEHH events. If you are interested in receiving this, please email tammy.henricks@tiehh.ttu.edu.

STUDENTS NEWS



Jennifer Cole

Jennifer Cole has accepted the position of Vice-Chair for the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry North America Student Advisory Council (SETAC NASAC). She will provide input to help direct student initiatives and activities, as well as liaison with other committees. Jennifer is working towards her doctoral degree under the direction of Dr. Celine Godard-Codding.

Jennifer also participated in the Komen Race, presented a paper at the SETAC Regional Meeting in Junction, Tx, and participated in Primary Education Outreach at area elementary schools.

Muralidhar Lalagiri, a doctoral student working under direction of Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar, was featured in the Lubbock Avalanche Journal on September 26, 2010. Muralidhar is using the state of the art TSI Particulate Filtration Tester to evaluate the fine particle filtration capacity of many nonwoven fabrics. His research currently involves the development and evaluation of Nano Fiber-Cotton Fabric Composites.



Muralidhar Lalagiri

Greg Zychowski, a Master's student under the advisement of Dr. Godard-Codding, has been



Greg Zychowski

New Students – Fall 2010

Master's:

Hawa Abdi
Lisa Arneson
Kevan Athanasios
Samuel Hawkins
Tamara Luna
Matthew Trawick

Doctoral:

Derek Faust
Juliet Kinyua
Jessica Oates
Cait Ryan
Sarah Webb
Wenbin Zhu
Zhonggang Li



Anna Gibson

TIEHH Graduates

August 2010

Raga Avanas
Adcharee Karnjanipiboonwong

M.S. Todd Anderson, advisor
Ph.D. Todd Anderson, advisor

December 2010

Changxia Shao
Roland Eshiet
Christena Stephens

Ph.D. Weimin Gao, advisor
Ph.D. Ernest Smith, advisor
M.S. Steve Presley, advisor

awarded a contract to perform with the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra. Greg is a very talented violinist and competed against graduate music majors, among others, to secure one of two contracts.

Congratulations to Kim Wooten, Lisa Arneson, Darcy Chase, Derek Faust, Bryson Finch, Kaylyn Germ, Anna Hoffarth, David Kimberly, Juliet Kinyua, Jessica Oates, Stephanie Plautz, Caitlin Ryan, Kristyn Urban, Scott Weir, Samuel Westbrook, Morgan Willming, and Shuangying Yu for helping raise \$1265.00, for the 2010 Komen Lubbock Area Race for the Cure.

Jennifer Cole, Scott Weir, Anna Gibson, Stephanie Plautz, Darcy Chase, Bryson Finch, and Kim Wooten participated in education outreach to 38 students and chaperones at a local church in July.

Congratulations to the following students for placing at the SETAC South Central Regional meeting held in April 2010: Adcharee Karnjanipiboonwong, 1st place poster, Darcy Chase and Dave Kimberly, tied for 2nd place poster, Anna Hoffarth, 2nd place platform, and Sandy Wiggins, 3rd place platform.

Kathryn Brausch, who obtained her Master's under the guidance of Dr. Jon Maul, has been awarded a Texas Tech University Outstanding Thesis Award. In addition, two papers from her thesis have been accepted for publication in Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.

Elissa Hernandez, a sophomore at Americas High School in El Paso, Texas, recently spent a week at TIEHH in Todd Anderson's lab. Elissa was working on a science fair project on PAHs in seafood following the recent Gulf Oil Spill.



Elissa Hernandez



Anna Hoffarth



Adcharee "Fa" Karnjanipiboonwong



Kim Wooten

STUDENT AWARDS

Since April, 2010, the following students have received awards, grants, fellowships and/or scholarships:

Name	Degree	Advisor	Award
Vinay Allagadda	MS	Dr. Greg Mayer	Jhamandas Watumull Fund
Sadia Almas	PhD	Dr. Stephen Cox	Paul Whitfield Horn Fellowship (TTU)
Brett Blackwell	PhD	Dr. Phil Smith	ARCS Foundation, Helen DeVitt Jones Graduate Fellowship (TTU)
Kathryn Brausch	MS	Dr. Jonathan Maul	Outstanding Thesis Award (TTU)
Darcy Chase	MS	Dr. Todd Anderson	Graduate School Water Conservation Research Fellowship (TTU), Funding to Aid Interdisciplinary Research (SETAC South Central)
Lixia Chen	PhD	Dr. Weimin Gao	TTU Graduate School Summer Thesis/Dissertation Award
Jennifer Cole	PhD	Dr. Celine Godard-Codding	Cash Family Endowed Fellowship (TTU), Funding to Aid Interdisciplinary Research (SETAC South Central) TTU Graduate School Travel Award
Richie Erickson	PhD	Dr. Stephen Cox	ARCS Foundation, Helen DeVitt Jones Graduate Fellowship (TTU), EPA Star Fellowship
Bryson Finch	MS	Dr. Phil Smith	Preston and Ima Smith Endowed Graduate Scholarship (TTU)
Anna Gibson	MS	Dr. Steve Presley	ARCS Foundation James "Gus" Foyle Memorial Scholarship, Texas Mosquito Control Association
Nikitha Gutha	MS	Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar	Jhamandas Watumull Fund
Nanditha Jasti	MS	Dr. Kamaleshwar Singh	Jhamandas Watumull Fund
Sudheer Jinka	PhD	Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar	Industrial Fabrics Foundation
Fa Karnjanipiboonwong	PhD	Dr. Todd Anderson	TTU Graduate School Summer Thesis/Dissertation Award
Venkata Kolli	PhD	Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar	Jhamandas Watumull Fund
Les McDaniel	PhD	Dr. George Cobb	ARCS Foundation
Rasesh Shah	MS/MBA	Dr. Todd Anderson	TTU Graduate School Summer Thesis/Dissertation Award, Jhamandas Watumull Fund
Changxia Shao	PhD	Dr. Weimin Gao	Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research
Babina Shrestha	PhD	Dr. Jaclyn Cañas	Funding to Aid Interdisciplinary Research (SETAC South Central)
Vinitkumar Singh	PhD	Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar	Industrial Fabrics Foundation
Jiafan Wang	PhD	Dr. George Cobb	Funding to Aid Interdisciplinary Research (SETAC South Central)
Sarah Webb	PhD	Dr. Celine Godard-Codding	The CH Foundation Doctoral Fellowship (TTU)
Sandy Wiggins	MS	Dr. Celine Godard-Codding	SETAC/EA Engineering Jeff Black Award
Greg Zychowski	MS	Dr. Celine Godard-Codding	TTU Graduate School Travel Award



Dr. Ron Kendall

Oil Spill

In the wake of the April 20, 2010, Deepwater Horizon Gulf of Mexico oil spill, researchers at TIEHH made multiple trips to the coasts of Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, and Mississippi to collect samples of sea life and oil.

Dr. Ron Kendall has given dozens of interviews and has appeared on numerous radio and television shows, including ABC's Good Morning America, Nightline and the World News and NPR. In August, he appeared before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, where he spoke to the committee on potential impacts the oil spill will have on wildlife, their habitats, and the environment, particularly as related to the heavy use of dispersants.

New Textbook

"Wildlife Toxicology: Emerging Contaminant and Biodiversity Issues" is a new textbook released in May 2010 by CRC Press/Taylor & Francis Group. Edited by Drs. Ron Kendall, George Cobb, Stephen Cox, and Tom Lacher (Texas A&M University), the book brings together a distinguished group of international contributors and provides a global assessment of environmental stressors and their impacts on wildlife populations. On CRC Press web page (crcpress.com) the book is already featured as an international best seller.

