



ARTS & SCIENCES

2011 TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

SALLY DAVIS, LUCY KRANZ AND GINGER KERRICK
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TO THE FINAL FRONTIER

DR. GARY FISH
KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR OTHERS

NEAL YOUNG
FROM PLAINVIEW TO A NEW PLANIT

DR. BILL HASE
BRINGING GREATNESS TO CHEMISTRY AT TEXAS TECH

AMERICAS

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Dr. Thomas Barker spent the 2008-2009 year in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada doing research in public health communication for emergent disease threats. The focus of the research was on pandemic flu, a clearly recognized disease threat for which Canada and other nations have made extensive preparations. Alberta Health Services provided an excellent model of an integrated health system, serving more than 1.6 million health service consumers. The research was supported by the Alberta Health Services Office of Emergency Preparedness and the University of Alberta School of Public Health.

The goal of this research is to build a model of communication that includes agencies and the public in the same communication system. Important findings of this work include the realization that, while health agencies have well-designed communication programs, the general public is far less prepared than agencies perceive. In fact, many of the communication plans that agencies expect message recipients to have prepared are simply non-existent. These preliminary results indicate that an ongoing communication effort by public health agencies involving outreach, research and educational initiatives may lead to a more integrated model of communication than previous models.

GULF COAST

ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY

Texas Tech's Fibertect Absorbent Can Clean Gulf Oil Spill's Crude, Hold Toxic Oil



As workers battle the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, a Texas Tech researcher's product, Fibertect®, is ready to handle the dirty job. Dr. Seshadri Ramkumar said the nonwoven cotton carbon absorbent wipe can clean up crude oil and absorb vapors reportedly sickening oil spill clean-up crew members.

"Fibertect® has been approved for use as a sorbent by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," Ramkumar said. "It definitely has applications for cleaning up the oil spill. Our wipe material is unique in that it easily absorbs liquids, and it has vapor-holding capacity. No product to my knowledge has the capacity to do both."

Originally developed to protect the U.S. military from chemical and biological warfare agents, Fibertect® contains a fibrous activated carbon center that is sandwiched between layers. The top and bottom layers, made from raw cotton, can absorb oil while the center layer holds volatile compounds such as the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

PERU

CLASSICAL & MODERN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

Dr. Sara Guengerich's book project, "Indigenous Andean Women in Colonial Textual Discourses," argues for a revised understanding of Andean women's agency in the discursive arena of colonial Peru. Through an analysis of colonial narratives and archival documents, she reconsiders the role of victims that has been ascribed to indigenous women from the beginning of colonial relations. Indigenous women in 16th and 17th century Peru learned to use not only the Spanish legal system but also European preconceptions about gender and politics to their advantage. Colonial records show that Indian women progressively expanded their economic activities in urban centers such as Lima and Cuzco and surrounding pueblos for they faced fewer

gender-specific constraints on commercial or legal activities.

Her research suggests that Indian women were not passive victims of a patriarchal colonial society but rather actors with voices and agency, who contested power and authority in the midst of decentralized colonial control. The archival material reveals that the persuasive discourses of both elite and non-elite indigenous women convinced the royal authorities to grant them a variety of benefits. Furthermore, their own version of the historical events of the Spanish conquest and colonization provide more details about their experiences and thought processes than the information about them in colonial narratives.

CANADA

LUBBOCK

GULF COAST

MEXICO

PERU