

# the VIEW

SNAPSHOTS OF LIFE AT TEXAS TECH

PHOTO BY MIKE MEISTER



*Susan Saab Fortney*

## THE TRIALS OF ATTORNEYS

Long hours at the office and away from their families are driving attorneys toward the exit.

Texas Tech University School of Law professor Susan Saab Fortney did a survey and reported answers from 700 managing and supervised attorneys in law firms, government offices and corporate legal departments. She turned up some surprising numbers:

Seventy percent of supervised attorneys reported moderate to major problems handling health, household and family needs.

Forty-one percent of supervised corporate attorneys reported they would take less money if they could work fewer hours. Nearly half of supervised firm attorneys said the same.

Two-thirds of supervised firm attorneys reported they are forced to sacrifice fulfillment outside of work to advance their careers.

Almost half of all supervised attorneys reported feeling stressed and fatigued most of the time.

Fortney's research, funded by the National Association of Law Placement Foundation, identified practical steps that employers can take to improve working environments. The report identifies several economically feasible initiatives including flex-time and events that include family.

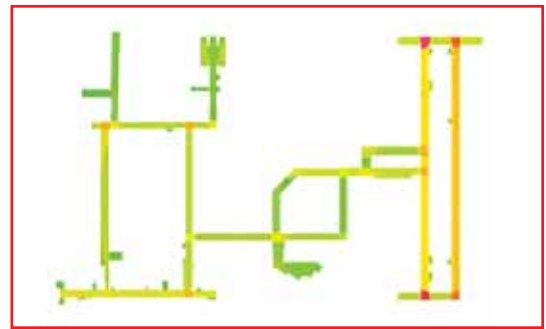
## LEANER, QUICKER NASA

Space missions will get longer and more complex when NASA sends astronauts to the moon and Mars. Software will need to be more rapidly developed and deployed during these dangerous missions.

Texas Tech computer scientists are working with NASA guidance, navigation and control engineers. They are coming up with a computer language that will more cheaply and quickly develop abort system prototypes for the Crew Exploration Vehicle that will replace NASA's aging shuttle fleet.

## BUILDING TERMINAL 3-D

Saif Haq, an assistant professor in Texas Tech's College of Architecture, is using 3-D technology to find whether places like hospitals and airports can be designed more user-friendly. Such structures often rely on signs to point the way.



*computer study of a building's traffic patterns*

Using volunteers to steer through a re-creation of the Crawford Long Hospital in Atlanta, Ga., Haq sought answers to how a building's layout and other features affect people's ability to navigate it. His findings could eventually be applied to other scenarios, such as identifying promising retail sites in cities or locating lost children.

## LESS MUSS, MORE MUTTON

U.S. sheep production is slipping even as niche markets clamor for leather and meat products. The Department of Agriculture is hoping hair sheep – a non-wooly breed – will boost inventories.

Using meat, hide and leather studies performed at Texas Tech, USDA Rural Development is hoping to entice farmers back into the sheep business by proving that profitable markets exist. These include niches such as restaurants, luxury car manufacturers and military suppliers.

Yearly USDA sheep and lamb counts skidded by

more than 2.6 million head from 1995 to 2003. Hair sheep are easier to maintain than their woolly peers and produce tasty meat and luxurious leather, as Texas Tech researchers demonstrated.

## MOBILE HOME LAWS CHANGING

Officials in tornado-ravaged Evansville, Ind., have developed more stringent regulations on mobile home installation based on work done at Texas Tech.



PHOTO BY LARRY TANNER

Larry Tanner, a member of the Wind Science and Engineering Research Center, documented damage in a mobile home park where the majority of people died in a Nov. 6 tornado that killed 22 people. He found that most of the manufactured houses moved or destroyed by the tornado were either unanchored or improperly secured.

Officials in Evansville and Vanderburgh County asked Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels to strengthen state requirements on anchoring and bracing new mobile homes.

## NEW HOPE IN PANAMA

Texas Tech architecture professor Michael Mussotter is awaiting a green light from government officials in Panama. He and architecture students want to implement an urban renewal proposal aimed at revamping the impoverished city of Colón.

The project would apply renewal strategies and housing studies that students originally developed for El Chorrillo, a destitute neighborhood in Panama City, during a summer study-abroad program.

Mussotter submitted the proposal to Panama's ministry of housing. He also pitched the proposal to government officials and local residents during three major public presentations there.

The multi-phase plan originally focused on El Chorrillo, the neighborhood that once served as the headquarters of General



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MUSSOTTER

*Shanty towns in Colón, Panama*



*Image from Texas Tech's proposal to the government of Panama*

Manuel Noriega. Panama's housing ministers have instead asked that the professor and his students apply their plan to Colón, a seaport city that sits near the mouth of the Panama Canal.

The plan would unclog traffic corridors and provide resident-friendly housing. Mixed-use buildings would stack apartments above retail and work spaces to bolster foot traffic. Vibrant colors would be used to reflect Panama's culture and prevent alienation. Residents would help construct their own apartments as a way to foster community buy-in.

The proposal has met with interest. Texas Tech's efforts have enjoyed lavish coverage from two of the city's most important papers: "El Panamá América" and "La Prensa." Mussotter hopes the collaboration will boost relations between Panama and the United States.

— ARTICLES BY CORY CHANDLER AND MICHAEL CASTELLON

### CORRECTIONS FROM FALL 2005 VISTAS

Page 3: The photo of Andy Swift was taken at the American Wind Power Center.

Page 28: In the introduction, "ensellamos" should be "enseñamos."