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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Pre-Columbian Artifacts Featured in New Gallery at the Museum of TTU

LUBBOCK, TX—The Museum of Texas Tech University is very pleased to announce the opening of a new installation of the *Diekemper Gallery of Pre-Columbian Art* on May 17, 2005. The gallery will be available for public viewing beginning at 10am in the Museum's DeVitt wing. Admission to the Museum is free and ample free parking is available in the north and west Museum lots at 3301 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

When Columbus set sail from Spain in 1492 searching for a trade route to the East Indies, he chanced upon lands previously unknown to Europeans—the New World.

The Diekemper Collection comes from a region between Mexico and Columbia, and part of Ecuador, called the Interlying Region. The area was a well-traveled trade route that brought together many of the most fascinating elements of Pre-Columbian cultures.

Most of the area between Mesoamerica and Peru consisted of comparatively small units ruled by chiefs. In the later stages, the people lived in large villages with temples. Without the use of written language, preliterate people transmitted cultural ideas, beliefs, and values through the use of symbolic metaphors and images. The use of representative shapes is basic to cultures in all regions of the New World.

Time and the environment have eroded many of the objects left by the early civilizations of Central and South America. However, the remaining artifacts continue to offer a vivid account of various traits of these peoples' daily lives.

Gary Edson, the Museum's executive director, commented, "The *Diekemper Gallery of Pre-Columbian Art* offers our viewers an encounter with the artifacts and images of past civilizations, and helps them understand and appreciate the values that all Americans, ancient and modern alike, hold in common."

For more information about the Museum of TTU or to request special assistance, call (806)742-2442, or email to [museum.texastech@ttu.edu](mailto:museum.texastech@ttu.edu). Stay current on Museum exhibitions and events at [www.museum.ttu.edu](http://www.museum.ttu.edu).

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