**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

# National Wind Institute

**Friday, February 12, 2016**
**3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
**Experimental Science Building 120**
**Reception to follow**

**The McDonald-Mehta Lecture Series Presents:**

## Discoveries made while researching . . .

**Joseph E. Minor, Ph.D.**
Paul W. Horn Professor Emeritus, Texas Tech University

**Abstract:** The founders of the wind engineering program at Texas Tech University uncovered many interesting and significant surprises during the course of 45 years of research into the wind and its effects on buildings. In the early days following the great Lubbock Storm of 1970 they discovered that the wind speeds in tornadoes are not astronomical, that if you throw a rock at a window it will break, that the building industry did not need four major model building codes, and that a person can, in fact, build a safe place that will survive a direct hit from a severe tornado. These perhaps innocuous advancements, and others, contributed significantly to the science of meteorology and the advancement of engineering practice in the arenas of hazard mitigation and protective constructions. Dr. Minor will revisit several of these landmark findings that proved both fascinating and entertaining as Kiesling, Mehta, McDonald, and Minor made their marks in the annals of Texas Tech wind science and engineering.

**Short Biography of Speaker:** Dr. Minor joined the faculty at Texas Tech University in 1969, coincident with the University name change and a commitment by the administration to becoming a first tier research university. He came from Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio where he had met Dr. Ernst W. Kiesling who had taken the Chair of Civil Engineering at Texas Tech the previous year. While conjecturing with new Ph.Ds. Mehta and McDonald as to what research pursuits should be undertaken, their ship came in - in the form of the Lubbock Storm. Dr. Kiesling offered the vision and support, and the young faculty members parlayed the opportunity into the internationally recognized research enterprise that is visible today. Dr. Minor attained the Ph.D. in 1974 and pursued a career interest in the behavior of architectural glazing systems in windstorms. He was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholarship to Australia in 1978 where he studied Australian practices in natural hazard management and subsequently became internationally known in the field of wind engineering.

Dr. Minor was awarded the title of P. W. Horn Professor in 1984. He left Texas Tech University in 1988 to become Chairman and Thomas Reese Professor at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. In 1995 he left Missouri and moved to Rockport, Texas where he continues to teach, research, and consult in the wind engineering field.