

2008 Presidential Lecture Series begins today

By **MIKE GRAHAM**
STAFF WRITER

Author David Callahan will kick off the 2008 fall semester's Presidential Lecture & Performance Series at 3:30 p.m.



CALLAHAN

Monday in the Student Union Building Allen Theatre.

Callahan graduated from Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass. and

then received a Ph.D in political science from Princeton University, according to his Web site. He formerly wrote about American public policy before shifting his writings towards ethics in American society.

"I got bored after 15 years of writing about public policy," Callahan said. "I wanted to start writing about ethical

issues that are closer to home."

Callahan said his most recent book, "The Cheating Culture," is based on his theory that the dog-eat-dog economic culture of the past 20 years forces people to cheat to get ahead of their competition.

"I looked around at businesses like Enron, people cheating the tax system, students cheating in school and athletes cheating in their sports," he said. "I wanted to answer the question, 'Why do people cheat?'"

Prior to speaking in Allen Theatre, Callahan will meet with the Student Government Association from 9 to 11 a.m. Callahan will then meet with the Texas Tech ethics committee from noon to 2 p.m., followed by a book signing in the Student Union Building From 2 to 3 p.m.

"I'm always eager to share my ideas on ethics," Callahan said. "This is a great opportunity to share my ideas with students and the community."

Callahan's lecture is the first of four events in conjunction with the Presidential Lecture & Performance Series, according to the Presidential Lecture and Performance Series Web site. KOHM's program "From the Top" host Christopher O'Riley will host a performance and recording of young musicians from Lubbock and the South Plains on Sept. 16 in the Allen Theatre. The recording will air on the radio nationally at a date to be determined.

The Presidential Lecture & Performance Series was established in fall 2006 and has hosted many academic speakers, according to the Web site. Mark Bowden, the writer of "Black Hawk Down" spoke in the fall of 2006 and Chris Gardener, who's life was portrayed by Will Smith in "The Pursuit of Happyness" spoke in the spring of 2007.

"Our programming is connected to our academic programs," said Mary Jane Hurst, a professor of English and special assistant to the president. "We try to get our speakers involved

with the Tech and local communities. When Mark Bowden came, he spoke to creative writing students and when Chris Gardener was here, he spoke to students in the business school. When the Santa Fe Opera visited in spring 2007 and 2008, we bussed in 2,000 Lubbock Independent School District students to see them perform."

Hurst said the selection council of the Presidential Lecture & Performance Series tries to avoid people seen on TV daily.

"You can see those people all the time," Hurst said. "We want people who people wouldn't ordinarily see in West Texas."

While the Presidential Lecture & Performance Series has not finalized its 2009 spring semester calendar, historian and social commentator Sarah Vowell is expected to speak on March 3 and poet and fiction writer Amy Castillo is expected to speak on April 9. More speakers, performers and events for the 2009 spring semester are to be determined.

» michael.graham@ttu.edu

Auto industry request \$50B in loans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Auto industry allies hope to secure up to \$50 billion in government loans this month that would pay to modernize plants and help struggling car makers build more fuel-efficient vehicles.

With Congress returning this coming week from its summer break, the industry plans an aggressive lobbying campaign for the low-interest loans. The situation is growing dire after months of tumbling sales, high gasoline prices and consumers' abandoning profitable trucks and sport utility vehicles.

Lawmakers authorized \$25 billion in loans in last year's energy bill to help the companies build fuel-efficient vehicles such as hybrids and electric vehicles. With credit tight, automakers and suppliers now want lawmakers to come up with the money for the program — and expand the pool of money available to \$50 billion over three years.

Industry leaders have argued that the loan guarantees are not a government bailout because it would hasten production of fuel-efficient

vehicles. It would be difficult for the companies to borrow money at affordable rates. Chrysler, which has been heavily dependent upon truck sales, has been privately held since last year and faces similar problems accessing capital.

"This industry could fall down, literally, or be absorbed if they don't get something in place very soon. I think it's that severe," said Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Mich. "Something has to happen pretty quickly because they can't compete paying 15 to 20 percent (interest)."

Industry lobbyists pressed the issue at the recent presidential conventions in Denver and St. Paul, Minn., and members of Michigan's congressional delegation have talked to legislative leaders and the Bush administration about the program. Discussions surround a three-year plan that would make \$25 billion in loans available in the first year, followed by \$15 billion the second year and \$10 billion in the third.

To provide \$50 billion in loans, Congress would need to set aside about \$7.5 billion to guard against