

Satellite provides world of information

by Irina Maistrenko

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The world of international news and entertainment soon will be available to the Texas Tech and Lubbock community via a new satellite program—SCOLA.

"SCOLA is a redistribution service designed to capture broadcast programs from 40 countries and license them to different interested organizations," said Phade Vader, director of Tech's Language Learning Laboratory.

The Language Learning Laboratory currently is installing the satellite dish and video equipment to provide the new service directly in the lab and in classrooms by the end of the semester, Vader said.

Eventually, Tech students can access the service from their campus residence hall rooms, he said. Licensing of the service cost \$32,000, and \$20,000 was invested in the equipment, which includes a satellite dish, a control center, monitors and VCRs.

Access to SCOLA will be available to the Lubbock community through a new cultural center now under construction, Vader said.

Four channels recently were added to the SCOLA system to offer more



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View this: Phade Vader, left, director of the Language Learning Laboratory, and Karissa Greathouse, assistant lab director, use equipment to test a video.

information, he said.

Channel one provides 24-hour continuous news from native countries in their native languages, Vader said.

Channel two offers documentaries, entertainment and programs for children.

Channel three will be used for long

distance education and raising the level of worldwide understanding, he said. Channel four is dedicated to less commonly taught languages such as Swahili, Arabic or Hindi, which are becoming important in the world of global communication.

The service provided by channels three and four will offer a live student teacher interaction.

One of the benefits of the program is Tech will be able to teach languages internationally by using authentically produced programming, Vader said.

"It is obvious that SCOLA has a direct application in the foreign language teaching, but beyond that it has so many aspects where the only limit is imagination," Vader said.

Richard Peterson, Tech geosciences department chairman, said he thinks in addition to language learning, which makes students more competitive worldwide in the era of internationalization, the service will provide research opportunities.

Another valuable aspect of the SCOLA program is it will allow Tech students and faculty, and the Lubbock community to receive the perspective of the news from the country directly involved with the news, said Idris Traylor, executive director of the Tech Office of International Affairs.