

McDonald-Mehta Lecture Series Continues with Renowned Speakers

The McDonald-Mehta Lecture Series continued in the Spring months with visits from two wind science and energy experts.

The first visit was by Canadian wind researcher, Dr. Gregory Kopp, professor and Canada Research Chair in wind engineering at the University of Western Ontario. His topic was "Wind Effects on Houses: Recent Research at the Three Little Pigs project."

The second visit was by Dr. Jamie Brown Kruse, former Chief Economist and Senior Advisor for the Social Sciences at NOAA, who covered the topic of "Social, Behavioral and Economics Sciences at NOAA."

The lecture series invites nationally-known scientists and experts in wind-related industries to speak about ongoing research around the world.



Dr. Gregory Kopp from the University of Western Ontario answers questions after his presentation as part of the ongoing McDonald-Mehta Lecture Series in February.

Multiple Media Outlets Visit WiSE Research Facilities

Several television stations across Texas have recently paid visits to the WiSE research facilities at the Reese Technology Center. Meteorologists from Wichita Falls (KAUZ-TV) and the Dallas/Fort Worth area (KXAS-TV) have visited to let their viewers know about the research happening at WiSE.

In the recent past, WiSE has hosted more than 15 research facility tours from different media outlets from across the country. It takes dedication from the WiSE faculty, staff and students to maintain the high level of professionalism that WiSE continues to present. Thanks to all who are involved in this task.



Ben Walnick with KAUZ-TV, the NBC affiliate in Wichita Falls, TX, listens as Dr. Darryl James (right), professor in mechanical engineering, explains the mechanism of the VORTECH tornado simulator.



WiSE Hosts Hopeful Ph.D. Candidates for Next Academic Year

This year's crop of WiSE Ph.D. candidate applicants take a break between interviews and presentations during their Spring visit to TTU Lubbock campus. On the left in red: Dr. Kishor Mehta, Horn Professor and Graduate Program Director; on the right in red: Kelsey Seger, Ph.D. Academic Program Coordinator.

West Texas Mesonet System Continues to Grow

The West Texas Mesonet project continues to spread its wings across Texas as it opens station #61 at Caprock Canyons State Park near the city of Quitaque in the Texas Panhandle. The station elevation is 2650 feet and is located south of Lake Theo and on flat pasture-land in the bison reserve. The project was started in 1999 to provide free real-time weather and agricultural information for residents of the South Plains region of West Texas.

The project currently consists of 61 10-meter tall meteorological stations covering 41 counties in the Texas Panhandle, South Plains, Rolling Plains, Permian Basin, Concho Valley, Big Country and eastern New Mexico. There are currently three new stations nearing completion, with two located in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas and with the other station located two miles from the Oklahoma border in Wilbarger County. All new stations will sample data at one-second intervals and report using one-minute time intervals.

Currently, weather information from each surface station is transmitted every five minutes back to our base station at Reese Center (12 miles west of Lubbock). Agricultural data (including soil temperature and moisture information) are transmitted every fifteen minutes. All real-time data collected from the surface stations are easily available at the Mesonet website: www.mesonet.ttu.edu.



The most recent West Texas Mesonet station #61 in Caprock Canyon State Park near the city of Quitaque. (Photo credit: Wes Burgett.)

Reasons to Give to the Texas Tech University Wind Science and Engineering Research Center (WiSE)

The WiSE Center continues to build upon its history by conducting exceptional wind-related research and offering unique educational opportunities. Through our one-of-a-kind Ph.D. program, we are dedicated to developing the next generation of scientists and engineers to serve as leaders in the areas of wind energy and windstorm mitigation.

Graduate studies and research excellence are intrinsically linked, but both demand a steady stream of funding to develop and maintain a robust program. The WiSE Center depends on you to continue our excellence. Please consider making a contribution. Select funds are listed below:

- Kishor and Mary Ann Mehta Graduate Scholarship
- Alumni Scholarship
- Wind Science Fund for Excellence

Alternatively, there is opportunity for you or your company to establish a named scholarship, endowment or fellowship. If you are interested, please contact us for more information at Carolann.stanley@ttu.edu.

Checks should be made out to the "Texas Tech Foundation." Please note that the WiSE fund you are interested in donating to on the memo line or generically list "WiSE" and we will direct the funding towards the greatest need.



It can be mailed to:
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WindWiSE Everything *wind.*



(L-R): Dr. John Schroeder, Director of WiSE, receives a check from Peter Griffith of State Farm at the annual Severe Weather Awareness Day held each Spring.

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Save the Date:

- Last Day of Classes: May 3rd
- Commencement: May 14th

WiSE Students and Faculty Teach High School Students about the StickNet Project

Dr. Eric Bruning, assistant professor in ATMO, along with Joseph Hill (ATMO student) and Rich Krupar III (WiSE Ph.D. student) were all involved in a presentation to high school students at New Deal High School just outside Lubbock recently.

Approximately 15 students were in attendance, and according to Dr. Bruning, Rich should be commended on a "very nice job describing StickNets and [his] research with them." Dr. Bruning also adds that it was evident among the student audience that they were interested. Good job!



Rich Krupar III, WiSE Ph.D. student, demonstrates the use of StickNets to a class of students at New Deal High School.

State Farm Gives Donation at Severe Weather Awareness Day Event

State Farm Insurance, a long-time supporter of the Wind Science and Engineering Research Center (WiSE) at Texas Tech University (TTU), recently donated a \$55,000 check to support WiSE programs and research.

"State Farm shares with WiSE the goal of mitigating the impact of severe winds on society," said Dr. John Schroeder, Director of WiSE. "These funds will assist WiSE in performing research focused on severe storms and hurricanes."

"State Farm is pleased to provide \$55,000 to help support Texas Tech University's Wind Science and Engineering Research Center and its efforts to raise awareness of the likelihood of severe weather and the inherent risks associated," said Cody Garrison of State Farm. "We believe the work taking place at Texas Tech University will result in safer communities for us all."

The donation was made at the Fifth Annual Severe Weather Awareness Day event, held each Spring at Lubbock's Science Spectrum. The event's goal is to

educate the community about weather, an important message as we begin the tornado season on the South Plains.

A large group of TTU WiSE and Atmospheric Science students volunteered at the event, hosting various booths with family-friendly activities. According to organizers, more than 1500 people attended this year's event, a number that grows each year.

The event was co-sponsored by State Farm Insurance, the National Weather Service office in Lubbock, the student chapter of the American Meteorology Society at TTU, KCBD-TV News Channel 11, and the Science Spectrum and OMNI theater.

Many thanks to all who volunteered to make the event a success.

