

AcademiCast Transcript
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Tarpley: A little eavesdropping could make some birds safer...

Hello, I'm Troy Tarpley and this is AcademiCast, brought to you by Texas Tech University.

Texas Tech researchers have found that some birds eavesdrop on their enemies, and use the information to find safe spots to build their nests. The study was published recently in the British Ecological Society's Journal of Animal Ecology.

Oven Birds and Veerys both build their nests on the ground, running the risk of losing eggs or chicks to neighboring chipmunks that prey on the birds. Nesting birds use a range of cues to decide where to build their nests. Doctoral Candidate Quinn Emmering and Biological Sciences associate professor Kenneth Schmidt wondered if the birds eavesdrop on the chips, chucks and trills chipmunks use to communicate with each other. Dr. Schmidt says they chose chipmunks because they are loud and very vocal.

***Schmidt:** And what we found after two years was that both the Veery and the Oven Bird, which is a strict ground nester, they build these little domed shaped nests, both responded by placing their nests further away on average from the chipmunk playback sites relative to either control. The distance that they moved away between the two types of treatments was twice as far in Oven Birds as it was in Veery. So they both seem to be reacting, but the reaction is much stronger in the Oven Bird than the Veery.*

Tarpley: Schmidt isn't sure why – but he says the Veerys may have preferred nesting spots and are unwilling to move far away. Or, it may be the chipmunk is a more important predator to the Oven Bird than the Veery.

The Quail population in Texas is disappearing and researchers at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health at Texas Tech recently received 846 –thousand dollars to fund three studies to find out why. The Bobwhite population has been decreasing for the past 20 years. Last fall the numbers declined by as much as 80-to-90 percent. Texas Tech researchers believe disease or a combination of disease and contamination may be the answer to the problem. With this new funding they will expand the scope on their current quail population screening for diseases spread by insects and ticks such as West Nile virus. The funding is part of 1-point-9-7-million allocated to Texas Tech and Texas A&M University by the Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation.

Texas Tech history professor Ron Milan has received a Core Fulbright Scholar Award. He will travel to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in the spring of 2012 to teach a course in America's Historical Role in International Relations at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Teaching is a passion for this episode's Integrated Scholar – marketing professor Debbie Lavarie. Her dedication to her students has prompted her to embrace service learning and undergraduate research. Provost Bob Smith has more on Dr. Lavarie and her work in the Rawls College of Business Administration.

Smith: Professor Debbie Laverie, a faculty member in the Texas Tech Rawls College of Business, is a well rounded & accomplished professional. First, she is an outstanding teacher who has been recognized through membership & leadership appointments in the Texas Tech Teaching Academy. Secondly, she is the recipient of the University's Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching and President's Excellence in Teaching Awards, along with the Academy of Marketing Science Outstanding Teaching Award. Additionally, in 2010, Professor Laverie was awarded one of only 15 statewide Piper Professorships, which acknowledge superior teaching at the college level.

If that were not enough, Dr. Laverie has also served as Director of the University's Teaching, Learning & Technology Center. In short, Professor Laverie's primary passion is teaching, & the variety of the business courses she teaches are seemingly limitless...

Laverie: *I teach a wide variety. I like teaching large undergraduate classes, so I teach the Intro to Marketing that all business majors take on a regular basis. I teach our Promotions, which is kind of our marketing capstone course, where often I use service-learning, and students design a promotional campaign for a local non-profit. Most recently, I've been teaching a doctoral seminar in consumer behavior, and then I also teach a doctoral seminar for the entire college called the Practicum in Higher Education, which is basically to teach our doctoral students how to teach well.*

Smith: Speaking of service learning—it's one of Professor Laverie's preferred learning methods, & she has integrated this approach into many of her classrooms. She also notes that there are resources on campus that help foster service-learning programs...

Laverie: *It's the most rewarding teaching experience I've ever had, because students deal with real-world problems. They deal with clients. But, you also can instill the sense of giving back to the community, so I think it's just a rich learning experience. I think the TLTC has been invaluable in being able to help people understand service learning and pursue the scholarship of teaching and learning related to service.*

Smith: The Teaching Academy, developed in 1997, is meant to demonstrate, support, promote & recognize teaching excellence at Texas Tech. Professor Laverie is an active supporter of the academy & the University's Teaching, Learning & Technology Center, which provides numerous resources & learning opportunities for faculty & students alike...

Laverie: *I was an associate professor here at the time I became heavily involved in the Teaching Academy, and through the Teaching Academy I got to know the folks at the TLTC and worked on a number of scholarly projects about teaching with the American*

Association of Higher Education and the Carnegie Foundation. Through that involvement I became more involved with the TLTC and started as the associate director and then became the director.

Smith: Besides her notable abilities & contributions to teaching at Texas Tech, Professor Laverie devotes a great deal of effort to directing undergraduate & graduate student research, which has led to the publication of many research papers in leading journals in her field of marketing.

In 2010, Professor Laverie was appointed senior associate dean in the Rawls College of Business, where she is offering a new level of service to Texas Tech & the world of academic business administration. Reflecting on her new combination of roles, Dr. Laverie says it is expected that faculty actively teach & do research—all while finding time to incorporate service into the mix. All three components, she says are very important...

***Laverie:** I think today you really need to do all of those things. I think years ago you were able to specialize in teaching, or research, or maybe service, but today there's the expectation you do all of those things. So, I think you need to learn to be efficient at all of them. Taking advantage of the TLTC that can help with your teaching, and peers in your department to help bring you along. I think it's really important.*

Smith: We would like to congratulate & thank Professor Debbie Laverie for all the great work she does at Texas Tech. Thanks for listening! I'm Bob Smith.

Tarpley: Thanks, Dr. Smith. Texas Tech will soon become one of a select group of universities designated as a Mother Friendly Workplace. The Texas Department of State Health Services has made Texas Tech a pilot location for worksite lactation support. Juan Munoz, vice president of Institutional Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement, says the up to \$70 – thousand-dollar grant will be used to renovate at least five rooms across campus by Jan. 1st for lactation support purposes.

***Munoz:** Mothers can do this in a room that is designed and dedicated to the comfort and their privacy. It's quite consistent with the culture of the campus.*

Tarpley: Munoz says the grant addresses an issue found in a campus study done in 2008 by the university Gender Equity Council. A task force will be formed to oversee the grant.

Until next time, I'm Troy Tarpley for AcademiCast.
