

**AcademiCast Transcript**  
**Texas Tech University**  
November 2, 2011

**Tarpley:** Welcome to *AcademiCast*. My name is Troy Tarpley. This is Texas Tech University's biweekly podcast series from the Office of the Provost. I'll be covering the top academic stories on campus. Later in the program, Provost Bob Smith will spotlight Integrated Scholar Vaughn James, a professor in the School of Law.

And now for the news...

The Rawls College of Business ranks among the top business schools in the US and abroad. Its wide course selection, helpful faculty and staff, and flexible MBA programs for working professionals earned Rawls a place in the Princeton Review's guide of the *Best 294 Business Schools*. The Princeton Review surveyed students and collected statistics from universities to compile the 2012 edition of its business school reference book.

At Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, professors are boosting the social media savvy of beginning farmers and ranchers. The college is working with researchers in Illinois, Georgia and Kansas to provide marketing training with an online media emphasis. Their efforts are largely targeted to producers of alternative crops and livestock. The training is funded through a \$600,000 grant from the US Department of Agriculture.

The College of Education is eager to expand its TechTeach teacher preparation program. Texas Tech's program was launched this fall for middle-level teacher candidates. The program helps to strengthen teaching skills through co-teaching experiences in classrooms. The TechTeach program will be introduced to elementary and secondary teacher candidates in the spring. Texas Tech College of Education dean Scott Ridley rolled out a similar training program when he was associate dean of the teachers college at Arizona State University.

For many, life can be thought of as a journey of learning. And that is especially true for educators like School of Law professor Vaughn James. His journey has taken him from the West Indies to Manhattan & upstate New York before finally bringing him to Lubbock. Along the way, he has impressed others with his teaching, research & outreach efforts. This has earned him recognition as an Integrated Scholar at Texas Tech. Provost Bob Smith shares professor James' story.

**Smith:** Professor Vaughn James was born in a small fishing village in the Commonwealth of Dominica, an island nation located in the Caribbean. His family later moved to the US, settling in New York, where Professor James attended school. He was also educated in Michigan & the Virgin Islands. A bright young man, James graduated from college at the age of 16 & began teaching in Dominica—first in elementary school & then up through high school.

**James:** *Teaching is fun. I've been teaching for a long time. I have found out over the years that you shape minds through teaching. And that happened a lot when I taught high school.*

**Smith:** Taking a detour from education, Professor James established an accounting practice in New York City. He then became involved in investment banking & rose to an executive-level position at a bank. It was there on Park Avenue that Professor James found himself at a crossroads.

**James:** *One day I was sitting in my office looking at the East River and figured, "where will I be 20 years from now?" I was vice president of the bank then. I figured 20 years from now I would be vice president of the bank. I needed to do something different with my life. So I thought and thought and said, "Law school, I have always wanted to go to law school." From since I was like 16 years old I wanted to go to law school. ... I applied, got accepted and went to Syracuse.*

**Smith:** After graduating from the Syracuse University College of Law, Professor James re-established himself in New York City—this time as a tax attorney. Not long after, his alma mater came calling.

**James:** *I got a call from the dean at Syracuse saying, "We have an opening, please come teach." And I said, "Sure I'm on my way." So I went to teach at Syracuse, abandoned New York City & went upstate to Syracuse.*

**Smith:** While he was teaching at Syracuse, Professor James was courted again. This time by Texas Tech!

**James:** *I came down to visit Lubbock for the interview. I found I liked the people, and so I said I'd come. ... I came here to teach tax law. I teach income tax, international tax, estate and gift tax. I'm the director of the tax clinic. You mention tax and I do it. That's my field and I actually love it.*

**Smith:** Professor James has taught tax law at Texas Tech over the past ten years. His legal scholarship has led to writings on elder care, tax issues & critical topics in the Caribbean and developing world. His book *The Alzheimer's Advisor* has won two awards & the attention of national media outlets like CNN and *USA Today*. Outside of the classroom, Professor James is director of Texas Tech's tax clinic, and he works on cases through Legal Aid of North West Texas. He also leads the School of Law Cricket League. And, if that is not enough, he is a talented calypso & reggae musician. Although his days are demanding, Professor James feels his teaching, research & service projects are highly worth the time & effort.

**James:** *If you're going to do good research, good teaching, good service, it is time consuming. That's one thing I found, that it is very time consuming. Forget about*

*working eight hours a day. That won't cut it. The idea of coming in at eight o'clock and thinking that I'm going to leave at five won't work.*

**Smith:** Professor James says availability is key for faculty who want to be involved in service projects.

***James:** You have to meet the people when they are available, and that's after hours. If you have to go speak at the PTA meeting, the PTA meeting is most likely going to be in the afternoon. That's when parents and teachers come together, whatever you have to do. So think of that, after hours; think of traveling a lot; and think of being flexible because anything can change. And if something changes, you have to change with it.*

**Smith:** Those are solid words of advice from a man who has spent many years teaching & learning during his life's journey. Professor James' commitment to education as well as his emphasis on research & service set him apart as an Integrated Scholar at Texas Tech.

Thanks for listening! I'm Bob Smith.

**Tarpley:** Thanks, Dr. Smith!

And finally, *AcademiCast* would like to recognize the Texas Tech Meat Judging Team for winning its fifth consecutive contest. The team finished first in beef judging and overall beef at the American Royal Meat Judging Contest in Nebraska. The team also placed second in beef grading and reasons as well as took home individual awards.

That concludes this edition of *AcademiCast*. Join us again in two weeks for more academic news from Texas Tech University. See you next time!

Rawls College of Business Honored By Princeton Review

<http://today.ttu.edu/2011/10/rawls-college-of-business-honored-by-princeton-review/>

Researchers Secure \$600,000 Marketing Grant to Assist Farmers and Ranchers

<http://today.ttu.edu/2011/10/researchers-secure-600000-marketing-grant-to-assist-farmers-and-ranchers/>

Meat Judging Team Wins Fifth Consecutive Contest

<http://today.ttu.edu/2011/10/meat-judging-team-wins-fifth-consecutive-contest-2/>