

AcademiCast Transcript
Texas Tech University
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Pierce: This is AcademiCast—Texas Tech University’s podcast series from the Office of the Provost. I’m Rachel Pierce, and I’ll be covering the top academic and research stories on campus. Later in the program, we’ll spotlight Student of Integrated Scholarship Juan De Loera. First, the news...

Texas Tech University Press recently highlighted its top titles at its annual Literary Lubbock benefit. One of its featured authors was Dean Smith, whose life served as inspiration for the book “Cowboy Stuntman.” AcademiCast sat down with Smith to hear more about the book in his own words.

Smith: My mom said don’t ever be afraid to try something, and I guess that’s why I became a stuntman. On Saturday I’d always go to the movie theaters and see the cowboys on the silver screen. And I guess, as a boy growing up, I fantasized that I would get to ride on that silver screen someday. So, I’ve been very fortunate I was a good athlete. And I went to California to play for the Rams, but in the back of my mind, when I signed that contract, I was trying to figure out: “How am I going to get in the movie business?” Well, I got in the business and started working in November 1957.

Pierce: You can learn more about Smith and his book. Just visit our website at academicast.ttu.edu, where we have a link to Texas Tech University Press.

Turning to other news.

Texas Tech is strengthening its interdisciplinary offerings in wind studies. The university created the National Wind Institute to better support its educational and research initiatives in the areas of wind science, energy and engineering. The move also aims to promote collaborations across other disciplines. By creating the institute, the university centralized the operations of its Texas Wind Energy Institute and the Wind Science and Engineering research center.

A new dean is picking up the reins at the College of Media and Communication. David Perlmutter will become dean of the college beginning July 1st. He steps in following the retirement of Jerry Hudson, who dedicated 35 years of service to Texas Tech.

Texas Tech’s influence continues to reach around the globe. University administrators hope to foster new partnerships in education and recently welcomed delegates of more than a dozen Ethiopian universities. Among those in attendance was Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen. Mekonnen explained that raising the bar in his home country’s higher education system is critical, especially in the area of medical education.

Mekonnen: Having such partnerships with established universities is very important. It’s a mutual approach, from Ethiopia to Texas and from Texas to Ethiopia. We focused on the medical center, health center because one of our priorities is to produce a number of doctors.

Pierce: Along with a commitment to academics, Students of Integrated Scholarship pursue a course of lifelong study through their involvement in active learning experiences. Modes of active learning include internships, service learning, undergraduate and graduate research, and opportunities to study abroad. In this edition of AcademiCast, Provost Bob Smith spotlights law and medicine doctoral student Marta Hoes.

Butler: Marta Hoes is a student shaped by her experiences. She knew that medicine was her professional calling from an early age, and she realized her interest in law as an undergraduate at Texas Tech. Additionally, she says her time spent traveling broadened her worldview, enriched her education, and stirred her to think about the intersection of law and health care.

Hoes: I have always been interested in medicine. I've wanted to be a doctor since I was a little kid. And I really like the science of medicine. And I also really like the idea of being able to help people so directly. So I've always wanted to do that. But then when I was an undergrad, I was studying a wide variety of courses, and I started to see there were a lot of places that law and medicine overlap that I found really interesting. Right before I started taking law classes, I did a semester-long internship in Germany. And I worked with just a group of physicians, and they showed me around and so I got to experience what their health care system was like and what their health care law is like—and that was a really interesting difference. It was really neat to see. And then I just got to live like a European for a semester, which was also fun!

Butler: As an undergraduate at Texas Tech, Hoes realized her interest in law and decided to remain at her alma mater because of its distinct JD/MD dual-degree program. In fact, Hoes was the first candidate admitted to the program, which spans six years and allows accepted students to pursue both legal and medical educations.

Hoes: I've been pleasantly surprised at how much studying science helped me when I was taking law classes. And now that I'm in medicine, taking all those law classes has really helped me. I'm more comfortable, more disciplined, speaking is a little easier, being on my toes is a little easier—law really helped with all that. And then, just the knowledge base is great.

Butler: The program also engages its students in a number of active learning experiences. Hoes has interacted with the community through her Early Clinical Experience course as a medical student, helped to resolve disputes in the School of Law's health care mediation clinic and served on the school's Administrative Law Journal. Additionally, Hoes has contributed to the discussion in health care law through research with professor Jennifer Bard and writing about her research interests.

Hoes: I had a research background from undergrad. I did a lot of stuff, psychiatry related, mostly with girls and eating disorders. So when I got here I was still really interested in psychiatry. And so through the Administrative Law Journal, I got to write a paper on post-traumatic stress. In that paper, we mostly looked at Texas veterans and what it's like for them when they come home, what support systems do we have in place, and just the shortage of psychiatric help that there is for them—and they really need it. And then in addition to that, Professor Bard and I worked together on a really interesting little niche in psychiatric law that we found. We were basically asking the question of: If a psychiatrist has a patient come in, and the patient makes a threat against a third party, does that psychiatrist then need to go warn the third party? And so, we found out that Texas is kind of unique and changing in that area. It's really neat research.

Butler: Hoes says maintaining her focus on long-term goals and evaluating priorities has been critical to her education. And Hoes believes that Students of Integrated Scholarship would likewise benefit from this practice.

Hoes: I think it's just so important to keep in mind the big picture all the time, and not to get hung up on one little thing. But just keep your mind open, and reflect and see where your priorities are. It's such a good use of your time every once in awhile to step back and see where your time is going, where your money and energy are going. And to think if that's really what you want, if that's what you're going to be glad you spent time on a year from now, or 10 years from now. So I think it's important to set your priorities straight and go from there.

Butler: As for her career plans, Hoes says she looks forward to exploring the many opportunities available at the intersection of law and medicine. At AcademiCast we are proud to announce the addition of Marta Hoes to its distinguished group of Students of Integrated Scholarship.

Pierce: If you would like to learn more about Texas Tech's Students of Integrated Scholarship, visit our website at academicast.ttu.edu.

That concludes this edition of AcademiCast. Join us again in two weeks as we spotlight academic and research news from Texas Tech University, as well as profile Student of Integrated Scholarship Marta Hoes.