The Haragan Lectures honor
President Emeritus Donald R. Haragan

Donald R. Haragan began his long career at Texas Tech University as an Assistant Professor of Geosciences in 1969. He advanced through the academic ranks to Professor and served as Chair of the Department of Geosciences, Associate Dean for Research and Development in the College of Arts and Sciences, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research. In 1988, Dr. Haragan became Executive Vice President and Provost. On September 16, 1996, he became the twelfth President of Texas Tech University after having served six months as Interim President. President Haragan returned to the teaching ranks in 2000, becoming President Emeritus and Professor in the Honors College.

During his tenure as Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Haragan established the Office of International Affairs and the Office of Institutional Research. He was also responsible for reviving the University Honors Program and establishing the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology and the University Writing Center. His many accomplishments as President included the elevation of the Honors Program to an Honors College and the establishment of the Texas Tech study abroad center in Seville, Spain. The impressive academic improvements made at Texas Tech under his leadership have us well on the way towards attaining our goal of being the undergraduate institution of choice in Texas. In the midst of mentioning Dr. Haragan’s contributions, it should be noted that everything he does is with an enthusiastic good humor and unbounded and infectious optimism.

As President, Dr. Haragan committed significant university funds to the university’s 1998 proposal to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. This tangible sign of the university’s commitment was an important factor in Texas Tech receiving the second largest grant from the Institute in that competition. The Institute’s total funding since 1992 to Texas Tech of $4.3 million together with the university resources dedicated to the program have had a significant impact upon undergraduate education in the biological sciences and precollege science education in the local and regional schools.

Dr. Haragan is a passionate believer in the value, he would say necessity, of thinking across boundaries, those of disciplines as well as those of countries. Therefore, upon his retirement as President, it seemed an appropriate recognition of his distinguished service to establish this lecture series, which will feature speakers whose work crosses disciplinary boundaries. In what we hope is just the beginning of a long series, the TTU/HHMI Program, in cooperation with the other entities listed on the brochure cover, will sponsor four Haragan lecturers, one each in the Spring and Fall semesters of 2001 and 2002.
Steven Vogel is James B. Duke Professor in the Department of Biology at Duke University. He joined the Duke faculty in 1966, after receiving his doctorate at Harvard. While a biologist by training and inclination, he considers problems in which mechanical engineering underlies the structure and operation of organisms. The focus of his work has been on the ways in which biological design reflects fluid dynamic factors. He has, for instance, looked at the aerodynamic problems of especially small insects, at convective cooling of broad leaves in near-still air and at drag-minimization devices of the same leaves in storm-level winds, at ways in which organisms from sponges to burrowing rodents can use velocity gradients to induce flows through themselves or their domiciles, and at ways in which organisms such as squid and whales use flow-induced pressures to reexpand their mantle and oral cavities. In addition he has produced several books. These include a textbook on biological fluid dynamics (Life in Moving Fluids), a more general book on biomechanics (Life’s Devices), a less academic book on circulatory systems (Vital Circuits), and one comparing the mechanical technologies of humans and of nature (Cats’ Paws and Catapults). He is currently working on a book linking muscle physiology with the ways humans have used muscle as a source of force and power.

About the Speaker

If you require special accomodations in order to participate in any of these events, please contact Lynda Durham, Administrative Secretary, at 742-2883, ext. 5, no later than 24 hours prior to the event.