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. In 2003, he re-assumed the role of Interim President.

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 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 $6.3 million together with the university resources dedicated to the program by Dr. Haragan and his successor Dr. David Schmidly, 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. As a first step in assuring the continuation of this series, Dr. Haragan himself established the President Donald R. Haragan Lecture Series Endowment. Should you wish to donate to this fund, please contact Todd Rasberry, Senior Development Officer, College of Arts & Sciences, 806-742-3833.
About the Speaker

Kenneth R. Miller, a professor of biology at Brown University, is a preeminent evolutionary scientist and the author of the most widely used high school biology textbooks in America.

Miller was the lead witness in the recent Pennsylvania “intelligent design” case that began in September 2005. On the stand, Miller noted that virtually every prominent scientific organization in the United States has upheld Darwin’s theory of evolution as an unshakable pillar of science and that “intelligent design” is “a form of creationism.”

Miller is the author of the acclaimed book, Finding Darwin’s God: A Scientist’s Search for Common Ground Between God and Evolution, a lively and cutting-edge analysis of the key issues that seem to divide science and religion. He contends that, properly understood, evolution adds depth and meaning not only to a strictly scientific view of the world, but also to a spiritual one. Miller is a firm believer in evolution: he is one of America’s foremost experts on the subject, but he also believes in God—and he doesn’t think the two beliefs to be mutually exclusive. Francisco Ayala, the Donald Bren Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of California, Irvine says that, “Finding Darwin’s God is an artfully constructed argument against both those who deny evolution and those using science to justify a materialist worldview. Yet it is a book for all readers. I know of no other that would surpass it in being mindful of different views, while still [being] forceful.”

Bruce Alberts, the president of the National Academy of Sciences, says that Miller “convincingly argues that science and religion offer different, but compatible, ways of viewing the world.” Miller has written major articles for numerous scientific journals and magazines, including Nature, Scientific American, Cell, and Discover. He has also appeared on PBS as a scientific commentator. He currently lives in Rehoboth, Massachusetts.

Haragan Lecturer Kenneth Miller, Ph.D.

Wednesday, March 29
6:30 p.m.  Reception Texas Tech University Frazer Pavilion, (corner of Boston and Drive of Champions) (heavy hors d’oeuvres)

Wednesday, March 29
7:00 p.m.  “Why Darwin Still Matters: Intelligent Design and the Battle for America’s Classrooms”.

8:30 p.m.  Book signing

If you require special accommodations in order to participate in any of these events, please contact Lynda Durham at 742-1998, ext. 424, no later than 24 hours prior to the event.

RSVP to Lynda Durham at: lynda.durham@ttu.edu no later than Friday, March 24.

Dr. Donald R Haragan, President Emeritus
Interim Chancellor