



Texas A&M Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS)
<http://tias.tamu.edu>

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: June 7, 2012

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The launch of TIAS will add to vibrant community of scholars at Texas A&M

COLLEGE STATION – This summer the Texas A&M University Institute for Advanced Study (TIAS) will invite up to ten top researchers and scholars from sister institutions from around the world to collaborate as TIAS Faculty Fellows with faculty and student scholars at Texas A&M. Funding is in place to support ten Faculty Fellows for the first year of operation beginning in September 2012. Dr. John L. Junkins has been named the founding Director of TIAS. The TIAS Faculty Fellows will hold appointments for up to a year and will be selected through a faculty-led nomination process designed to attract pre-eminent thinkers from throughout the nation and abroad. During their stay at Texas A&M, the Faculty Fellows will engage Texas A&M faculty and students in ways intended to enhance the University's intellectual climate and to deepen educational experiences for students, as well as provide the Faculty Fellows extremely attractive opportunities for advancement of their scholarship.

"The establishment of TIAS is an outstanding example of Texas A&M's commitment to foster excellence in research and scholarly activities," says R. Bowen Loftin, president of Texas A&M. "This Institute will provide our faculty and students the invaluable opportunity to collaborate with extraordinary leaders in their fields and will advance our continued rise among the nation's top public universities."

TIAS directly relates to Texas A&M's 20-year roadmap, *Vision 2020*, for attaining status as one of the nation's top 10 public universities. It is anticipated that when TIAS is fully funded, 25 TIAS Faculty Fellows will be appointed each year, joining the University's Nobel Laureates, Fields Medal Laureates, National Academy members, and internationally recognized intellectual leaders across a wide range of disciplines. Endowments are also in place to support 20 Ph.D. researchers who will team with the Faculty Fellows.

TIAS was authorized by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents in December 2010 and was launched recently with the appointment of Distinguished Professor John L. Junkins as the founding Director. Junkins is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and holds the Royce E. Wisenbaker '39 Innovation Chair in the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M.

"TIAS has been warmly embraced by the faculty and University leadership, and, given the enthusiastic and overwhelming positive response of the academic community, I see TIAS is on a course to achieve our goal: Make TIAS the premiere advanced study institute among public universities," says Junkins. Junkins further notes that "TIAS is structured to recognize excellence in all of her guises and to provide opportunities for the 'mother of all sabbaticals' for distinguished scholars'."

The wide-ranging areas of advanced study in TIAS include, but are not limited to, architecture; arts, humanities, and social sciences; business; education; engineering; physical, geophysical, agricultural, and life sciences; public and foreign policy; and across multiple disciplines.

About research at Texas A&M University: As one of the world's premier research institutions, Texas A&M is a leader in making significant contributions to the storehouse of knowledge in many fields, including rigorous scientific and technological disciplines. Research conducted at Texas A&M represents an annual expenditure of over \$700 million; the university research funding ranks 3rd nationally among all U.S. universities without a medical school, and 20th overall, according to the National Science Foundation. The quality and volume of our research has improved dramatically over the past decade. To learn more, visit <http://vpr.tamu.edu>. Learn more about the *Texas A&M Institute for Advanced Study* at <http://tias.tamu.edu>

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