

IALC FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Texas A&M University Professor Lends Expertise to IALC

June 11, 2003 – Tucson, AZ – Texas A&M University-Kingsville Professor George Allen Rasmussen is lending his expertise to the International Arid Lands Consortium, a group devoted to arid lands research.

Dr. Rasmussen, Assistant Dean of the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences since 2002, has displayed a career long propensity towards sustainable development of land management, particularly rangeland management. Rasmussen received his doctorate in Range Science from Texas Tech University.

Kingsville is located in semi-arid, subtropical South Texas climate, and shares many of the same environmental (water/climate) challenges faced by developing countries in arid and semi-arid tropical and subtropical settings. As a result, some Texas A&M faculty members have developed considerable expertise in disciplines related to this physical geography, including wildlife and range, climate and environmental engineering.

“If I was looking for the most beneficial way to apply my expertise in rangelands, it would be through the IALC. Their mission of supporting international scientific exchange should be utilized by more organizations because it provides a unique forum of information sharing,” said Dr. Rasmussen.

Prior to his appointment at Texas A&M, Dr. Rasmussen worked at Utah State University for 13 years, where he progressed from Assistant Professor to Acting Department Head Associate Professor to Department Head. He had a dual role as a tenured Extension Range Specialist while he was Assistant Professor and Acting Department Head Associate Professor.

During his time at Utah State, Dr. Rasmussen found the time to submit and publish scores of articles in his area of specialization. He has also been awarded the honor and duty of serving as a principle investigator and co-principle investigator on over 25 grants and funding proposals.

He belongs to the Society of Range Management, International Society for Wildland Fire and the Society for Ecological Restoration among others. While in the company of these societies Rasmussen has been the recipient of many awards, including the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Society for Range Management in 1999, and the Award of the Year, in 1996, from the Sonora, Mexico Cattleman’s Association.

Dr. Rasmussen's expertise is in high demand as he has sat on committees for Texas A&M (College of Agricultural and Human Sciences, University) and Utah State University (Departmental, College of Natural Resources, College of Agriculture, Extension, University, State & Local and National & Regional) that span different strata of environmental action. Also, he has been invited to speak in states from Texas to Utah to Nevada, where his advice is particularly relevant.

However, Dr. Rasmussen's commitment to environmental rangeland practices has extended beyond the classroom, beyond theory, to application. For two years before he started working for Utah State University he was a consultant and owner of the Vegetation Management Consulting & Cherokee Creek Seed Company.

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The International Arid Lands Consortium (IALC) is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to exploring the problems and solutions unique to arid and semiarid regions. IALC promotes cooperative research and practical application of new knowledge to develop sustainable ecological practices. The member institutions share a mission to enable people of arid lands to improve the quality of life for future generations. IALC members include the University of Arizona, Desert Research Institute – Nevada, Higher Council for Science & Technology – Jordan, The University of Illinois, Jewish National Fund, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation – Egypt, New Mexico State University, South Dakota State University, and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.