

The College of Human Sciences will sponsor a Texas Tech graduate's presentation, *Driving Distractions: Dangers of the Cellphone*, on Friday at the Merket Alumni Center.

Terry V. Bouchard, an investigator for the New Jersey Department of Transportation, received his undergraduate degree in family studies from Tech in 1988. Afterwards, he received his law degree from the Texas Tech School of Law.

"Statistics show that talking on a hands-free cellphone while driving can be just about as dangerous as talking on a hand-held phone," Bouchard said. "That is one of the main points I am going to stress in my talk this week."

Between 2008 and 2011, people using hands-free phones were involved in 4,530 crashes, according to the New Jersey Department of Transportation. The number of accidents caused by the use of hand-held phones was only 18 percent higher.

Bouchard believes that driving while using any cellphone is worse than drunk driving because although you appear to be only listening, your mind is processing information and formulating a response which is taking your attention away from the road.

Helping to organize the event is third-year law student Jon Smitherlee, from Mexia, Texas.

"The problem is not the device," Smitherlee said. "People need to reassess their priorities."

If you're interested in hearing Bouchard's thirty-minute presentation, contact the college at (806)555-9821.