

## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 18, 2023

CONTACT: Suzanna Cisneros, [suzanna.cisneros@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:suzanna.cisneros@ttuhsc.edu)  
(806) 773-4242

**After More Than 50 Years of Service, Last Founding TTUHSC Faculty  
Member Retires to Teach How the Brain Learns**

John Pelley, Ph.D., joined the Texas Tech School of Medicine at its inception in 1972 to teach biochemistry and begin a research program in biochemistry. However, his career path was destined to be influenced by the nature of a new medical school. As he points out, “I arrived with research interests in biochemistry and I’m leaving with research interests in education. I’ve had at least three different careers all under one roof.”

During one of those “careers,” he confronted a situation that biochemists are not trained to manage: failing medical students. This piqued an interest in the science of how people learn and led to his self-description as a “biochemist who was distracted by education.”

In the early days at Texas Tech University’s Drane Hall, the original location of the TTUHSC School of Medicine was often referred to as “across the tracks,” referring to railroad tracks now long ago removed.

After hearing about insights from the Myers Briggs Type Indicator, Pelley began to look further into how the brain learns. His work through the years has garnered him recognition as an expert in how people learn. He currently has a website,