



BRAZOS VALLEY
MUSEUM of Natural
History

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Deborah Cowman, Executive Director
Telephone: 979/776-2195
Email: dcowman@brazosvalleymuseum.org

Start date: ASAP
Kill date: June 2, 2010

New Exhibition
“Enduring Transformation:
The Kazakh People in a Changing World”
at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History
February 18-June 2, 2010

Opening Lecture and Reception 5:30 pm, February 18

BRYAN, TX --- The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, in cooperation with the Department of Anthropology at Texas A&M University, and David Edwards Photography, presents **“Enduring Transformation: The Kazakh People in a Changing World”, February 18-June 2, 2010**. The exhibit will premiere at **5:30 pm, Thursday, February 18**, with a free reception open to the general public. This event will feature a fascinating presentation by Dr. Cynthia Werner of TAMU's Department of Anthropology and Dr. Holly Barcus of Macalester College's Department of Geography, originators of the research upon which the exhibit is based.

In Western Mongolia, immigrant Kazakh peoples represent 80% of the population. This extraordinary circumstance has made Mongolian Kazakhs a fascinating case study in expatriatism. **Enduring Transformation** celebrates unique aspects of Kazakh culture within Mongolia, where a small but distinct group of ethnic Kazakhs maintain their cultural identity. Many still practice a nomadic way of life and other fascinating customs such as hunting with eagles. However, modern global processes, the influence of Islamic missionaries, and the introduction of new technologies are bringing change to this long-established group. The exhibit features stunning photographs by David Edwards, *National Geographic* photographer, and items demonstrative of traditional Kazakh material culture, including two authentic yurts, complete with furnishings.

This exhibit was made possible in part through Hotel Tax Revenue funded from the City of College Station through the Arts Council of Brazos Valley and through underwriting provided by the William Knox Holt Foundation and the National Science Foundation.

The Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History is open to visitors Tuesday-Saturday from 10 am-5 pm. The admission fees: adults \$5; seniors/students/children \$4; children 3 and under are free. For more information about this exhibit and other displays, events, programs and activities, please contact the Museum at 979-776-2195 or visit us on the web at www.brazosvalleymuseum.org.

###