The Breeze

## Hammock Club

**FOR RELEASE**

Tarrant State University

Public Relations Department

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Few rules, little activity, not much purpose, just a place to spend time. That’s the mantra of the TSU Hammock Club——a registered student organization co-founded by Theresa Hayes and Brian Whittaker. While most student organizations promote goal-oriented activity, the point to the Hammock Club is exactly the opposite. “We started the club as a way to give ourselves and others a break from the frenzied activity of college life,” states Hayes. “We set up camp at various places around campus and just hang out. There’s no need for conversation, necessarily, and there is definitely no agenda.”

In fact, members of the TSU Hammock Club will tell you that their big and maybe only goal is to find a couple trees with sturdy limbs (preferably close to the ground), string up their colorful ENO® hammocks and hang out.

Then, just swing gently in the breeze. Watch an hour drift idly by. Chat quietly. Solve the world’s problems. Share a few funny stories. Think about life. Or, just zone out, reveling in having created such a comfortable, calming space in their busy day-to-day routines in college.

Although the “hammies” are pretty well zoned out during club meetings, they are no idlers. With college majors spanning the gamut, including engineering, nursing, economics, and math, just to name a few, club members are heavily involved in studies, working, and day-to-day stresses associated with college life. That’s why co-founder Hayes believes club membership is on the upswing.

“Everyone needs a chance to step out of the fast lane for a while and just hang out,” says Hayes. “You know, it’s so easy to get over-involved and not take any time to reflect. To think about where you’ve been, where you are now and where you’re going.”

The club started on a lark when Hayes visited a hammock shop during a beach vacation. The ocean breeze, the brightly-colored hammocks, and the slow-paced life of the area inspired her to bring a bit of that back to campus. And bring it back she did. A shaded grove, alive with multi-colored hammocks, calls to passersby who often ask how they might join in. All it takes is a hammock and a good attitude, reports Whittaker.

Indeed, it seems to be catching on. The club now boasts 72 members.

“This is the best advertising,” says Hayes, hanging out with about a dozen other club members in front of O’Neal Hall. “People see us and they’re like, ‘Hey, cool! We want to do that!’”

The club has nearly 60 members now, and about a dozen meet at outdoors sites around campus to hang out each week. Upcoming organizational meetings are in the Stone Building, room 120, on Mar. 17, Mar. 31, Apr. 14, and Jul. 5.

Being hardy TSU students, club members say that weather isn’t a deterrent for dedicated hammies. Several members hang out outdoors in the winter, a practice they call “extreme hammocking.”

If you can’t find club members in a tree around campus, they are even easier to find on [Facebook, at the TSU Hammock Club](http://www.facebook.com/pages/UNH-Hammock-Club/131942066902370?fref=ts).

Contributed by:

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