Contact: Kaycie Timm
806-651-5238
ktimm@wtamu.edu

For immediate release

**Author Stephen Harrigan to share personal perspective on West Texas history**

Canyon, Texas— On Thursday, April 26, author Stephen Harrigan will present a lecture entitled “Frontier Highways: A Personal and Historical Journey through West Texas.” The main lecture, followed by a dessert reception and book signing, will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Hazlewood Lecture Hall at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. As part of the Garry L. Nall Lecture Series, this free event is sponsored by the Center for the Study of the American West (CSAW), the Distinguished Lecture Series (DLS) and Humanities Texas.

Harrigan brings his expertise developed through years as a contributor to *Texas Monthly* and author of many books, including *New York Times* best-seller *The Gates of the Alamo* and Spur Award winner *Remember Ben Clayton*. Harrigan’s topic stems from his current research in the process of developing a book giving a sweeping view of Texas history. After living and writing in Texas most of his life, these investigations piqued his interest in the history of ranching in the Panhandle. Thus, in his lecture, Harrigan will share the products of his personal endeavor to delve into West Texas on a new level.

At 3 p.m. on April 26, Harrigan will also facilitate a student question and answer session in the Blackburn Room of the Cornette Library. In addition to his appearances at WTAMU on Thursday, Harrigan will travel to Clarendon High School to address the entire student body on April 27. This trip will be facilitated by CSAW, in commitment to its regional outreach efforts in the Texas Panhandle.

Harrigan, who graduated from the University of Texas (UT) in 1971, currently serves as a faculty fellow at UT’s James A. Michener Center for Writers in Austin. Additionally, he writes both fiction and nonfiction works, including books, screenplays and essays, and contributes as a writer-at-large for *Texas Monthly*. Harrigan’s pieces have appeared in various other publications, such as *The Atlantic, Outside, The New York Times Book Review, The Wall Street Journal, Conde Nast Traveler, Audubon, Travel Holiday, Life, American History, National Geographic* and *Slate*.

During his extensive writing career, Harrigan has received the Texas Book Festival’s Texas Writers Award as well as the Lon Tinkle Award for lifetime achievement and the Edwin "Bud" Shrake Award for best work of journalism from the Texas Institute of Letters. He has also been inducted into the Texas Literary Hall of Fame, was named a finalist in the 2015 National Magazine Awards and aided in the founding of Capital Area Statues, Inc. (CAST), an Austin-based organization that commissions art pieces as gifts to the city.

In addition to becoming a *New York Times* bestseller, Harrigan’s *The Gates of the Alamo* has received numerous awards, including the TCU Texas Book Award, the Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and the Spur Award for Best Novel of the West. *Remember Ben Clayton*, published in 2011 also won a Spur Award, as well as the Jesse H. Jones Award, given by the Texas Institute of Letters, and the James Fenimore Cooper Prize for the best work of historical fiction from the Society of American Historians.

*The Eye of the Mammoth*, a volume of essays spanning Harrigan’s career, has received high praise since its 2013 release. His most recent fictional novel, *A Friend of Mr. Lincoln*, which surrounds Abraham Lincoln’s life in Springfield, Illinois during his early career as a lawyer and state legislator, has been called “historical fiction at its very best” by Pulitzer Prize winner Joseph J. Ellis.

In the television industry, Harrigan has written various screenplays, including HBO’s award-winning "The Last of His Tribe," TNT’s "King of Texas," which starred Patrick Stewart, Marcia Gay Harden and Roy Scheider, and "The Colt," which aired on The Hallmark Channel. Harrigan was nominated for a Writers Guild Award and the Humanitas Prize for his work on the “The Colt.”

For more information about Harrigan’s appearance at WTAMU, please contact Kaycie Timm at ktimm@wtamu.edu or CSAW director Alex Hunt at ahunt@wtamu.edu.

**About the Center for the Study of the American West**
CSAW formed in the fall of 2016 with a mission of fostering the study of the American West at WTAMU and building bridges between the university, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum and the regional populace. CSAW seeks to promote the American West both as a culturally unique region and a product of broad historical forces. Through this endeavor, CSAW remains dedicated to cultivating a critical vision of region and place in a globalized era. For more information about CSAW and all upcoming events, please visit wtamu.edu/csaw.

###