Jan. 5, 2015

STATEMENT FROM SMU SEISMOLOGIST BRIAN STUMP RE: SEISMOMETER INSTALLATION IN IRVING, TEXAS

SMU's seismology team is committed to helping North Texans understand more about the increasing number of earthquakes felt in our region over the last few years, most recently near the City of Irving. A 2.4-magnitude earthquake recorded at 8:29 p.m. Jan. 1 and estimated to be near the old Texas Stadium site was the 17th earthquake felt in the area since early September.

An SMU team installed one portable seismometer in a building on the northeast side of the City of Irving Monday, Jan. 5, aiming to supplement data being collected from more distant sites by the United States Geological Survey to identify the location of the quakes. The location of the Irving seismometer is not being made public to preserve the integrity of the data it collects.

This latest installation provides a third source of

data SMU can tap in helping to determine the location of the Irving-area earthquakes. The seismology team also can retrieve data from a University-controlled portable seismometer previously installed at a site south of DFW airport, as well as the seismometer permanently installed in the basement of Heroy Hall on the SMU campus.

SMU's interest in these Irving-area earthquakes is at this point focused on helping to identify their exact *location*. The University's seismology team is not currently engaged in a larger study of the *cause* of the Irving quakes, but I will brief the Irving City Council Jan. 15 on what data might be expected from the Irving installation, as well as on the results of past research into earthquakes in the Fort Worth Basin. Information on those previous SMU studies is available at www.smu.edu/News/NewsIssues/EarthquakeStudy.

There has been a significant increase in earthquakes in the Fort Worth basin since October 2008. It's important to all of us to learn as

much as we can about them.

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