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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Texas Wesleyan University's humanities classes to fire
Civil War cannon on University grounds**

FORT WORTH, Oct. 21 – Texas Wesleyan University's humanities classes will fire an 1841 Civil War Six Pounder cannon on University grounds Saturday, Oct. 25 at 1 p.m. at 1201 Wesleyan St.

As part of the Humanities Human Experience course, Texas Wesleyan senior Mike Ratliff has agreed to transport his Civil War cannon to the University's main courtyard in order to demonstrate the intense firepower of this weapon. A Vietnam veteran, Ratliff procured the cannon through a sale from a retired Marine officer. Ratliff, a political science major at the University, became interested in Civil War paraphernalia after discovering that many of his ancestors were members of the Confederate Army.

The cannon has an accurate target range of approximately one to one and a half miles. After transporting the cannon to University grounds, it will take ten men to roll it into firing position. According to Ratliff, only Texas Wesleyan University and Texas A&M have ever fired cannons on university grounds. "Until you experience one of these cannons going off up close,

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you have no idea of the carnage and destructive power that weapons like these have,” said Ratliff.

According to Dr. Stan Rummel, professor of religion at Texas Wesleyan University and Ratliff’s humanities instructor, “The humanities courses encourage students and faculty to consider their own values in light of values inherited from the past. These courses represent a special aspect of education that emphasizes the ‘humanization’ of human beings.”

Dr. Rummel and Ratliff agreed that it would be beneficial for the students to witness a first-hand account of “the destructive power” of weapons of the past upon completion of the Greco-Roman Cultural Matrix and learning about the fall of the Roman Empire. Ratliff will use movie blanks to simulate a real shooting.

For more information about Civil War artillery reenactment, contact Mike Ratliff at 940-531-0709.

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