Message from the President

Dear Friends:

Fall always brings with it a sense of change and the past few months on the Angelo State University campus have been quite eventful!

This fall we saw record student enrollment on campus with our second highest undergraduate enrollment and our largest graduate enrollment ever. We also achieved the required 25 percent Hispanic student population needed to apply for Hispanic Serving Institution status from the federal government. I continue to stress that our future as an institution depends on steady growth to achieve the 10,000 student goal set by the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents for Angelo State.

This issue of Angelo State University Magazine has a number of articles related to change on campus. Perhaps the most dramatic of these occurred Oct. 25 with the implosion of University Hall. Long a feature of the San Angelo skyline, University Hall had been home to generations of undergraduate women since it was built in 1968. Taking its place will be an expanded green space with new volleyball and basketball courts as well as an outdoor track for our increasingly residential student population.

We have also begun several new academic initiatives designed to support our enrollment growth targets. Perhaps the most striking of these programs is the newly funded Center for Security Studies. A partnership between ASU and the Department of Defense, the new center will coordinate a variety of programs that will augment educational needs at Goodfellow AFB for security and intelligence training, research and policy analysis as well as for cultural competency. Construction will begin shortly in the Academic, Rassman and Hardeman centers.

Finally, and most importantly, the heart of any great university is its faculty. Our talented, dedicated and creative faculty members continue to provide an outstanding education to ASU students. It is then fitting that Professor Ellen Moreland, senior instructor in mathematics, dedicated and creative faculty members continue to provide an outstanding education to ASU students. It is then fitting that Professor Ellen Moreland, senior instructor in mathematics, dedicated and creative faculty members continue to provide an outstanding education to ASU students.

Congratulations to her for standing among the top faculty in the country.

November at a Washington, D.C., reception with the honorees from the other 49 states.

Students. It is then fitting that Professor Ellen Moreland, senior instructor in mathematics, dedicated and creative faculty members continue to provide an outstanding education to ASU students. It is then fitting that Professor Ellen Moreland, senior instructor in mathematics, dedicated and creative faculty members continue to provide an outstanding education to ASU students.

President of the Mathematics Department stood at the front of the class.

ASU coeds between 1968 and 2004 when it was vacated. (Photo by Danny Meyer)

Cover Story

Blast from the Past .....................................................14

Features

Fall Classic .................................................................14

Blink and you practically missed it. That’s how fast University Hall came down, but it took months of work and planning to change the ASU and San Angelo skyline.

Head of the Class .....................................................22

When the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching named its 2009 Texas Professor of the Year, ASU’s Ellen Moreland of the Mathematics Department stood at the front of the class.

Generation Yap .............................................................24

Parents and their college-age children communicate more than previous generations, thanks to new technologies and new attitudes.

Sections

President’s Message .................................................................Opposite

Sections

President’s Message .................................................................Opposite

On the cover: In one of the most anticipated and recorded events on campus in years, Angelo State said goodbye to University Hall on Oct. 25 when the obsolete, 10-story building was demolished by implosion. Some 60 different videos of the implosion appeared on YouTube.com after the implosion, according to San Angelo Standard-Times columnist Rick Smith. (Photo by Hiltrud Martin)

Back Cover: Before its autumn demolition, University Hall stood as one of the twin sentinels on campus. Known as the Women’s High Rise for most of its 41-year lifespan, the building was home to a generation of ASU coeds between 1968 and 2004 when it was vacated. (Photo by Danny Meyer)
Beginning this January, Angelo State University is branching out to Boerne and initiating a new and promising era for extending the reach of ASU well beyond the Concho Valley.

With a facility made available to ASU at no cost by the Kendall County Economic Development Corp. (KCEDC), the College of Graduate Studies began offering education, nursing and communication programs this spring in Boerne. Undergraduate courses may soon follow in the community of 7,000, less than 35 miles up Interstate 10 from San Antonio.

“The Boerne program marks a new milestone in the history of Angelo State University,” said President Joseph C. Rallo. “We are excited about the benefits it will offer both to Boerne and to ASU.”

While ASU has offered courses at distant locations in the past, most recently in Marble Falls and Fredericksburg as part of the Texas Tech University System’s Hill Country Initiative, the Boerne arrangement is the first where ASU has its own facilities and offers courses on multiple disciplines. Visibility in the Hill Country will extend ASU’s name and reputation throughout the region.

“This gives Angelo State a presence there not only in graduate courses and nursing, but anything else we would want to take down there in the way of graduate or undergraduate offerings,” said Dr. Brian May, interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies. “It also will help give ASU exposure in trying to recruit students in that area to get their undergraduate degrees in San Angelo.”

A significant amount of ASU’s current student population comes from the Hill Country, May said, so it is important that the university develop a big footprint in that area.

“Boerne will allow us to start our presence there,” he said. “We don’t intend to stop at Boerne. We are talking to other municipalities in that area. It’s part of the new age of universities in looking at satellite campuses. It’s not a new thing for regional or major universities in Texas, but it’s a new thing for ASU.”

The College of Education got the ball rolling for ASU in 2008, partnering with Texas Tech, to offer courses at the Hill Country sites established by TTU in Marble Falls and Fredericksburg.

“We’ll have a half-time person in Marble Falls and in Fredericksburg and a full-time person in Boerne,” said Dr. John Miazga, dean of the College of Education. “The full-time person in Boerne will be the point person for all things ASU at the present time.”

Lydia Warden of Boerne filled that full-time position as off-site coordinator in Boerne and Deborah Matloz works part time at the Marble Falls site. They are overseeing student recruitment.

Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Dr. Leslie Mayrand said mostly online nursing courses began in January with professors going to Boerne three times a semester.

“The populations we are looking at in Boerne right now are already RNs who want to earn the bachelor’s or master’s degrees,” she said, “and the program will expand with demand.”

Of the off-campus sites, Graduate Dean Dean May said, “This is something that will become part of the culture at ASU. It’s not something we are going after just because it’s part of our mission. We’re going after this because we think it will help the school financially to bring in more student credit hours and more state funding.”

“Long-term, it is ASU’s plan, as the market dictates, to get permanent space that would include classrooms and additional offices, perhaps for full-time faculty,” said May. “We would coordinate with that the Kendall County groups and try to establish a presence there, not only for Kendall County, but Comal County and the surrounding area, including the north San Antonio area.”

The implications for ASU are significant, especially as the university works to increase its enrollment to 10,000 students by 2020, he said.

The international business program in the College of Business has just opened a world of new opportunities for ASU students. With the introduction this spring of Dr. Detelin Elenkov as the first holder of the Norris Family Chair in International Business, ASU business students can now take classes taught by one of the most well-known and widely published figures in the field.

“Dr. Elenkov brings a wealth of experience to our international business program,” said Dr. Corbett Gaulden, dean of the College of Business. “Obviously, he will add to the vibrancy of our very successful study abroad programs, but will also enable us to penetrate other markets and develop other kinds of relationships with universities all over the world. Overall, his expertise will add immensely to what we are already doing in the College of Business.”

A native of Bulgaria, Elenkov came to Angelo State from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where for nine years he was a professor of international management. ASU is the latest stop in a successful career that has seen him teach international business, management and leadership at Adelphi University in New York, University of Maryland-Princess Anne, University of Memphis, New York Institute of Technology, Sofia University in Bulgaria and the Institute for Strategic Studies in Sofia.

“I had become aware that Angelo State has made great progress under the leadership of President Joseph Rallo, who is also a professor of international business,” Elenkov said. “The recent recognition of the university in the Princeton Review’s list of the ‘Best Colleges’ in America testifies to this effect. I saw a clear opportunity to join a dynamic team of academics in the search for excellence.”

ASU students will also benefit from Elenkov’s hands-on industry experience gleaned from his time with Honeywell International Inc. as a country manager in his native Bulgaria and as a regional manager in Zurich, Switzerland.

“I am joining a team of enthusiastic people who have already built the foundation for my future work,” Elenkov said. “Hence, I intend to work in close cooperation with them to develop new study abroad, online and executive education programs as well as to enrich the university’s international curriculum. I have a successful record in all those areas, and I hope to contribute my expertise to enhance the quality of education at Angelo State.”

Additionally, students considering international business research projects could not ask for a better mentor. Elenkov has produced more than 130 publications, including research papers, professional journal articles and two books, Strategic Management of the Firm: An Integrative Approach and Total Quality Management: The New Frontier of Modern Management. In 2005, he had the top-ranked article in the Journal of Management’s “The Top 50 Most Frequently Read Articles” and he was ranked as the second-most prolific contributor to academic research in Central and Eastern Europe from 1996-2004 by the Journal of International Business Studies.

As a recognized expert, Elenkov is also a peer reviewer for about a dozen professional publications and serves on the editorial boards of nine others, including the International Journal of Business Strategy, International Journal of Effective Management, Journal of International Finance and Economics and Journal of Leadership and Organizational Studies. He is also vice president of the International Academy of Business and Economics.

“All of us live in a global economy today,” Elenkov said. “This means that even people in domestic businesses have to be aware of what is going on overseas or across the border with Mexico. Just consider the global economic and financial crisis.”

“As also,” he added, “my personal research published in top international journals has indicated that possessing intercultural awareness and cultural intelligence are critical factors that explain the difference between success and failure in today’s interconnected markets.”

Elenkov received his Ph.D. in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He and his wife, Kalina, have a son, Kristian, and a daughter, Eva-Samantha.

The Norris Family Chair in International Business is ASU’s first endowed chair. It was made possible by a $1 million gift from the Lloyd Norris family of San Angelo.

The implications for ASU are significant, especially as the university works to increase its enrollment to 10,000 students by 2020, he said. 

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The Angelo State University Magazine stacks up well against college magazines nationally, according to the results of a readership survey conducted through the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). More than 440 ASU Magazine readers responded to the CASE survey, which has been utilized by some 100 colleges and universities nationally, to evaluate their magazines. As a result of more than 30,000 reader responses nationally, ASU is able to compare the acceptance of this magazine with those at other institutions across the country.

Reader perception of quality in ASU Magazine exceeded the national averages in all six survey categories: content, cover, ease of reading, layout and design, photography and writing.

The percentages of respondents rating their magazine as excellent for ASU compared to other institutions nationally were as follows: cover, 60.92, 44.61; photography, 59.82, 45.08; layout and design, 47.44, 34.74; ease of reading, 45.16, 34.74; content, 38.66, 29.06; and writing, 34.10, 27.08.

The percentages of respondents rating their magazine as either excellent or good for ASU versus other institutions were: cover, 90.35, 85.86; photography, 90.30, 86.58; ease of reading, 87.79, 84.46; writing, 86.11, 81.27; layout and design, 85.11, 81.91 and content, 81.34, 78.06.

After two years and six issues of ASU Magazine, editor Preston Lewis said the survey provided an opportunity to evaluate successes and needs.

“The credit,” he added, “goes to a talented communications and marketing staff and to all the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends, who have provided so much support for what we are attempting to do with the magazine.”

Reader comments overall were positive but not unanimous, ranging from the magazine “gives me confidence I am sending my daughter to a wonderful school” to “it’s dull. Yawn ... institutional drivel.” Sometimes the responses contradicted each other like “not enough sports” and “overemphasis on sports,” but overall they helped spot some holes in coverage and some needs that should be factored in to future issues.

Based upon the comments from readers in the survey, the two most popular issues were the fall of 2008 with a cover story on history Professor Arnoldo De León and the spring of 2009 with a cover story on the Nursing Department’s outreach at San Jacinto School Health Clinic.

“The magazine is about the ASU community, whether local or extended,” Lewis said, “and we invite suggestions for stories and topics. Our goal is to make the magazine even better.”


two consultants will be used by Angelo State University in the coming months to help shape marketing strategies and to apply for the designation of Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), which would qualify ASU for new federal grants from the U.S. Department of Education.

The Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) in October approved a $180,000 contract with the Austin firm Cohn & Wolfe to address marketing issues and a $25,000 contingency contract with Dowden Associates Inc. of Duvall, Wash., to support ASU’s HSI application to the Department of Education.

Objectives of the marketing study are to develop strategies to increase ASU’s overall enrollment; to identify measures to take full marketing advantage of ASU’s affiliation with TTUS; to assess the current state of ASU recognition in major and mid-sized cities across Texas; and to broaden the effectiveness of the Office of Communications and Marketing in conjunction with the Office of Admissions in communicating an effective ASU message.

The study will be organized in three phases. Phase 1 is the market research component that will provide qualitative and quantitative data based on surveys, focus groups and individual interviews. Phase 2 will provide a communications audit, assessing ASU’s printed materials, Web sites and ASU “touch points,” those critical contact opportunities between the university and prospective students. Phase 3 will incorporate the findings of the first two phases into a strategic marketing plan addressing stated needs and initiatives for the university.

Under the contingency contract, Dowden Associates will receive payment only if ASU’s application for HSI status is successful and the university receives related Education Department grants.

Universities are eligible to apply for HSI status when their Hispanic enrollment equals or exceeds 25 percent, as ASU’s did in the fall of 2009 for the first time. Once an institution is designated HSI, it qualifies to receive Title V or “strengthening” grants, which help universities address critical campus needs for all students.

For instance, strengthening grant monies could help ASU address retention and graduation rates, benefitting all students. One of the advantages of HSI status is that while an institution qualifies based on Hispanic enrollment, the resulting grants are meant to help all students, regardless of their ethnicity.
Travel

As an ASU delegation that included President Joseph C. Rallo, Residential Programs Director Connie Frazier, Facilities Planning and Construction Director John Russell and a variety of students watched, a masonry contractor completed the mortar work that covered the time capsule with a bronze plaque.

The contents resulted from a contest sponsored by the Student Government Association and the ASU President’s Office in the spring of 2008 in anticipation of the opening of Centennial Village that fall. While the rooms did open on schedule, construction on the $28.6 million, 526-bed residence hall did not end until early 2009.

The contest was coordinated by the West Texas Collection with the winning student organizations determined by a vote of the student body. The winning organizations with prize money were: first, Epsilon Sigma Alpha, $500; second, Society of Physics Students, $200; third, Student Government Association, $100; and fourth, Panhel logo, $75.

Items selected for the time capsule included the traditional, such as a 2007-09 ASU Undergraduate Catalog, an ASU parking pass and an aerial view of campus. Other items were more modern or timeless, such as an iPod nano or radioactive material, provided by the physics students, of course. The radioactive material was a perfect addition to the contents because it will reach its half-life in 2053 when the capsule is opened. That was why she insisted that the contents are often a soup when they are entombed in a stone monument.

Time capsules can be a tricky business, according to West Texas Collection Head Suzanne Campbell, who said they are often either forgotten or handled improperly. Due to seepage in underground time capsules, the contents are often a soup when they are re-opened. That was why she insisted that this time capsule not be buried, but rather re-opened. That was why she insisted that the contents be re-opened. That was why she insisted that this time capsule not be buried, but rather entombed in a stone monument.

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Time capsules provide a window into a time and place, especially when the contents are well preserved, Campbell said. “What students 44 years in the future find in 2053 when they open the time capsule may be as quaint to them as transistor radios and 45 rpm records are to today’s students,” said Campbell, “but that’s the fun of time capsules.”

Healing Health Care

Curing what ails the American health care system will take more than a financial Band-Aid, according to two noted health-care experts who visited Angelo State in the fall.

Dr. Leiyu Shi, professor of health policy and health services research at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and Dr. Gregory Stevens, assistant professor and associate director of research in the Center for Community Health Studies at the University of Southern California, agree that American health care needs a complete change in direction for meaningful reform.

Shi, who grew up in Shanghai, China, has studied world health-care systems and has published extensively on the subject. Stevens said he knew early on in his education that he wanted to help improve the lives of children, which led him to study health issues related to vulnerable segments of the population.

Shi told an audience at the 2009 E. James Holland University Symposium on American Values that the workable future of health care is an integrated service delivery system that takes in communities as a whole rather than patients as individuals.

“The health-care system will be organized as a comprehensive information system where patients can go to any provider in a community and get treatment without having to repeat information,” he said, “because all health providers in the community will be linked by electronic medical records. Right now, that is enjoyed by less than 10 percent of the U.S. population. In the future, community health care delivery will be the goal.”

The U.S. health care system’s emphasis is on treating illness rather than preventing it, he said.

Stevens advocates health care-related groups, sharing records and coordinating services, which will stop putting them at odds and forcing them to compete for the same financial resources. He also believes that problems with the system will take multiple strategies.

“If we think that President Obama’s health-care reform proposals to give insurance coverage to everyone is going to solve the health problems in this country, we’re crazy,” he said.

Shi is critical of some health-care pro posals, including a governmental single-payer system. He said that when government takes over health care, it regulates fees, dictates what is covered or not covered and takes decision-making away from health-care providers.

Shi said the pure market system is no better because private insurance tends to exclude the vulnerable segments of the population who are costly to insure. These include the elderly and indigent as well as low-income families, some racial or ethnic groups, the uninsured, the unemployed and immigrants or refugee groups, who are least likely to get health-care services.

Stevens recounted a health fair in Los Angeles that attracted 8,000 people who waited overnight to get health-care services they couldn’t afford otherwise.

“That brought attention to the hidden needs of the vulnerable population,” he said.

Both experts agreed that Americans are not getting good value for their health-care money and that the nation’s health-care expenditures are the most in the world.

“The U.S. spent more than $6,500 per person per year on health care in 2005,” Shi said. “The next highest was Switzerland with $4,000. That year, the U.S. had 6.8 infant deaths per 1,000 people which is the middle of the pack for industrialized countries. Iceland and Japan had 2.4 per 1,000.”

“We have to implement some healthy-people initiatives at the community level, not at the federal level,” Shi said. “Change has to come from the grass roots.”
**Comedy**

Plus a Message

Convincing college students to listen to some hard facts about living away from home for the first time takes some sugar with the medicine.

Harlan Cohen, the best-selling author of *The Naked Roommate*, dispensed remedies with comedy in September as he tried to help Angelo State residence hall dwellers adapt to life on their own and to roommates, who may see the world and even hygiene differently.

A musician, syndicated advice columnist and motivational speaker, Cohen made his points by singing about naked roommates, teaching scatological tales about his own college experience and prodding audience members to share their stories of irritating or smelly roommates. Though the delivery was funny, the topics were serious as Cohen addressed the numerous pressures many students face from their peers to have sex, use drugs or drink too much.

“Social networking was also a hot topic, and whether lonely students should “friend” their parents and, if they do, whether parents should participate in their children’s discussions.”

“It’s like when you go to the mall,” he said. “If you go with your parents, you don’t want them hanging out with you. It’s okay if they watch from across the way, but they shouldn’t hang out with you.”

Besides infusing his routine with his own experiences, Cohen borrowed stories from students who have sought advice through his column and spoke of challenges such as getting dumped by girlfriends, meeting new people, joining groups in college to fit in or dealing with physical imperfections.

“You may have noticed I have big ears,” he said, pointing to his protruding lobes. “I thought about getting them worked on but to look better, but they are part of me, so I kept them.”

While Cohen kept the audience laughing, he also left a serious message that while college may have its unique challenges, it is largely like life beyond graduation.

“Many of the points, I said, “it’s okay not to do that. When you feel pressure to have sex, you don’t have to do that, either.”

Much of the program, sponsored by the Office of Residential Programs, was based on Cohen’s personal experiences and *The Naked Roommate*, a college student’s guide to dealing with the unexpected, like walking into the room and finding a roommate lounging on the couch in the buff, an experience which Cohen highlighted in song.

**By the Numbers**

Smiles abounded on campus in September when 20th class day enrollment figures showed the largest class of graduate students ever and the second highest overall enrollment in the history of Angelo State University.

On the official reporting date for universities state-wide, ASU listed 528 graduate students and an overall 2009 fall enrollment of 6,387. Graduate enrollment topped 500 for the first time ever and the total enrollment was 3.7 percent over the 6,155 enrolled for fall of 2008. ASU’s record enrollment was set two decades ago when 6,408 took classes in the fall of 1989. The enrollment increase stopped a trend of declining enrollment that began in 2006.

Hispanic enrollment for the fall stood at 25.08 percent, marking the first time it has exceeded a quarter of overall enrollment and qualifying ASU to apply to the federal government for Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) status, which when granted allows universities to seek additional grant support from the Department of Education.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo affirmed his satisfaction with the enrollment numbers.

“While one year does not accommodate the needs of our current students,” Kent Hance, chancellor of the Texas Tech University System, said “My goal for ASU is 10,000 students by 2020. I am confident we will achieve that goal.”

Comparisons by classification for the fall 2009 and 2008 enrollments with the percentage change were freshmen, 2,105, 2,111, -0.3 percent; sophomore, 1,265, 1,140, 10.88 percent; junior, 973, 991, -1.82 percent; senior, 1,392, 1,292, 7.4 percent; unclassified, 124, 128, -3.13 percent; and graduate, 528, 493, 6.9 percent; total, 6,387, 6,155, 3.7 percent.

Additionally, the semester credit hours were up 2.75 percent, totaling 79,453 for this fall, compared to 77,302 for last fall.

**From Everywhere**

Fall enrollment figures confirmed once again that Angelo State maintains a broad appeal from throughout Texas, the nation and even the world.

Students represented 220 of the 254 counties in Texas. The top five counties after Tom Green with 2,297 students, Bexar, 186; Williamson, 139; Tarrant, 131; Travis, 130; and Dallas, 109.

Thirty-nine states were represented at ASU last fall. Besides Texas, the top states in enrollment were New Mexico, 35; California, 11; Oklahoma, 8; Florida, 7, and Arkansas and Arizona, each with 5.

International enrollment totaled 62 students from 20 other countries with the top five being Mexico, 12; Germany, 10; Netherlands, 6; Nigeria, 5; and France, 4.

**Air ‘Rad’ Alert**

With the installation of a new RadNet station at the Facilities Management compound on the east side of campus, Angelo State is now part of a nationwide network that monitors environmental radiation and overall air quality for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Operated by the Physics Department, the ASU RadNet station houses air sampling units that communicate in real time with the EPA lab in Montgomery, Ala. Addition- ally, filters from the station are removed twice a week, sealed and sent to the EPA lab in Alabama, where techni- cians measure the particulate material trapped in the filters to monitor local air quality.

The ASU station is one of 16 in a region that includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico and one of only three on a college campus.

Physics Department Head Andy Wallace is delighted to have the station on campus because the state-of-the-art monitoring and measuring equipment can be used by ASU physics, Earth science and chemistry students for undergraduate and graduate research.

“There are beta and gamma spectrometers that are such high quality, we just don’t have them,” Wallace said. “They are so expensive that, for us to get them, we would probably have to get an external grant. Students will now get to use equipment that we otherwise would not have and that could be a foot in the door when they go to look for jobs.”

**Making Physics Simple**

The national Society of Physics Students (SPS) named Angelo State University’s SPS chapter one of only five in the nation to receive a 2009 Blake Lilly Prize for outstanding physics outreach.

The ASU group was honored for its annual “West Texas Road Trip” program presented by its SPS Peer Pressure Team. Every spring, team members design, construct and present a variety of flameboyant physics demonstrations to elementary and middle school students in school districts throughout Midland County.

Wallace was also presented with a Lilly Prize, having won its first one in 2007. Since 2006, the Peer Pressure Team has made presentations to nearly 5,000 elementary and middle school students, teachers and parents.

The Blake Lilly Prize has been awarded since 2003 in recognition of SPS chapters and individuals who make a genuine effort to positively in- fluence the attitudes of school children and the general public about physics.
Angelo State University Magazine  SPRING 2010

**PEOPLE WHO MAKE ASU GREAT**

**Douglas Fox**

Douglas Fox, ASU’s associate vice president of information technology and chief information officer, received the 2009 President’s Excellence Award for Information Technology from the Texas Association of State Systems for Computing and Communication.

The President’s Award recognizes individual leadership and excellence in information technology by an individual who works for a state agency or institution of higher education. His nomination letter stated that Fox “understands the key role of IT in higher education and recognizes that the successful IT operations are a combination of both the technical and the personal. In a field where the human element is often in the end-users, he has become their advocate. Douglas strives to ensure that IT professionals keep the individuality in the IT equation.”

Fox, who works for a state agency, is one of two employees who have received this award. The other is Scott Wannemacher of the Texas A&M University System. Fox is also a member of the Texas Recreational Technology Project’s Leadership Council.

**Warren Simpson**

Dr. Warren Simpson, associate professor of kinesiology, has been named the 2009 Recreation Educator of the Year by the Texas Recreation and Park Society.

Noted for his student professional development, curriculum design and leadership mentoring, Simpson joined the ASU faculty in 2008 and was praised in his nomination letter for his “qualities of leadership and service.”

Simpson is the coordinator of undergraduate studies in the Kinesiology Department. He was previously honored by the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association for lifetime achievement in recreation with the Regional Award of Merit in 2008.

**Rick Lasty**

Financial aid counselor Rick Lasty was awarded the Star Adviser Award by the Texas Association of Financial Aid Administrators at the organization’s 2009 Fall Conference in Arlington.

Lasty is the first ASU counselor to receive the award, which is given to just one financial aid counselor/adviser at a state college or university each year. Lasty has worked in the Financial Aid Office since 1998 and has been a financial aid counselor since 2007.

**John Osterhout**

John Osterhout, director of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has received a two-year, $312,151 grant from the National Institutes of Health to conduct research on a potential cure for AIDS.

Osterhout is a geographical scientist who focuses on the use of computer graphics. His research involves the use of new techniques for visualizing and simulating complex systems such as earthquakes and volcanoes.

**Joe Satterfield**

Joe Satterfield, associate professor of geology, presented a paper in October at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Geology Society of America (GSA) in Portland, Ore.

Satterfield covered his research project “Dagger Moun- tain, Big Bend National Park, West Texas, Does Not Overlie a Laccolith.” He was joined on the project by ASU graduate student Jonathan Dyess, senior physics major Henry Schreiner III and former physics faculty member Christian Poppeliers. This was the second straight year that Satterfield was invited to present his research.

**Wana Dee Box**

Wana Dee Box, director of operations for the Carr Foundation, has been appointed to the Sunset Task Force of the Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association.

By mandate of the Texas Legislature, the task force will conduct an extensive review of various state environmental agencies and their functions. The agencies include the Texas Railroad Commission, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Public Utilities Commission and the Texas Water Development Board.

**Bonnie Amos**

Dr. Bonnie Amos, professor of biology and curator of the herbarium in the ASU Natural History Collections, has been named the recipi- ent of the 2009 Texas Plant Conservation Award by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflow-er Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

The award is presented for outstanding contributions in Texas plant conservation. In the LBJ Center’s notification letter to Amos, Flo Oxley, director of education and conservation, said “Your peers overwhelmingly supported your nomination, citing your excellence in the classroom, outstanding reputation for sound scientific research, passion and commitment to plant conservation, and mentoring of students as attributes that make you the obvious choice for this award.”

As curator of the her- barium, Amos oversees more than 60,000 plant specimens from Texas, the U.S. and the world. She also built and maintains an electronic data- base for the herbarium.

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**Nursing Grants**

The Department of Nursing has received two major grants, one to expand health care delivery at San Jacinto College Health Clinic and Family Wellness Center and a second to help state the address’s projected nurse shortage.

Texas Department of State Health Services funds of $125,000 were provided to add mental health services and programs to the San Jacinto Clinic and to hire mental health professionals to administer them. The grant is a sub-award to ASU through the San Angelo Independent School District.

In addition to offering the new services to the public, the clinic will provide ASU students the opportunity to train in mental health services. Located on the campus of San Jacinto Elementary School, the ASU-operated clinic has been offering health care to the San Angelo community since 1994.

The Nursing Department also received $90,000 from the Texas Legislative to aid ASU’s efforts to increase en-rollment of first-year nursing students. The money was awarded through the Professional Nursing Shortage Re-duction Program—Over 70 Program, which distributes awards in varying amounts to Texas nursing programs that posted graduation rates of more than 70 percent in 2008.

The amount of money given to each school is based on the number of additional students it would take to reach the legislature’s goal of a 12 percent enrollment increase in first-year registered nurse programs.

ASU enrolled 78 new nursing students in 2007-08. Based on that number, the Nursing Department has to enroll 87 new students this year to meet the 12 percent increase requirement. Since the needed increase was nine students, ASU was awarded $90,000 to pay for the faculty and equipment to teach them. Since ASU already exceeded its goal by enrolling 98 new students last fall, the Nursing Department may also be in line for additional money this spring.

**Chemistry Reaction**

ASU’s student affiliates chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) has received a Commendable Award from the national ACS for chapter activities during the 2008-09 academic year.

This is the fourth consecutive year for the ASU chapter to receive the “Commendable” designation. The chapter was recognized for its participation in chemistry outreach activities, attendance at national meetings, and fundraising and social events.

Of the more than 360 ACS chapter reports submitted to the society’s Committee on Education, only 103 received a commendable or higher award. The award-winning chapters will be honored at the ACS National Meeting this March in San Francisco.
It went down as the most spectacular 18 seconds in the history of Angelo State University.

The implosion of University Hall, known for decades as the Women’s High Rise, reduced a 10-story campus landmark to a four-story pile of rubble, changed the San Angelo skyline forever and left an estimated 6,000 early morning spectators in awe of the power of gravity, especially when aided by 140 pounds of strategically placed dynamite.

“I was a little surprised,” said ASU Police Chief James Adams, “to see two long months of planning go down in a few seconds.”

Beyond surprise, relief stood out as the most common emotion among Adams, John Russell, Doug Fox and Jim Redyke, each of whom played a key role in ensuring the overall success of the project.

As ASU’s director of facilities planning and construction, John Russell had invested hundreds of hours of his work life in the demolition of the building, ever since it was closed in 2004 because of obsolescence. Three separate consultant studies, including one funded privately, had confirmed it would cost more to renovate the building in line with current code and Americans with Disabilities Act standards than to demolish it. Even so, demolition came with a hefty $1.95 million price tag.

Though his formal title is associate vice president and chief information officer for ASU, Doug Fox can best be described as the head of the university’s information technology operation. Simply put, he is ultimately responsible for keeping the university’s computer servers and services operating. His offices and the ASU Data Center were housed in the Rassman Building, just over 100 feet from University Hall, which topped out at more than 120 feet tall.

Fox addressed multiple worries from the possible – such as a loss of electricity, a broken water pipe flooding the data center or a break in fiber optic lines – to the highly improbable, such as an “oops” scenario where...
the building topped the wrong direction. His team put together a 20-page action and contingency plan for the implosion.

“We turned out to be ‘nervous nellies,’” Fox said. “We probably over-prepared, but we were ready in case something happened.”

As police chief, Adams was responsible for evacuating parking lots, cordoning off the area and ensuring the overall safety of the campus while at the same time providing spectator opportunities for all who wanted to witness the event.

Of the dozens of campus staff and contractor employees working on the building, the last to arrive on campus was Jim Redyke, president of Dykon Explosive Demolition Corp. of Tulsa and a subcontractor on the project. A soft-spoken man with the look of your favorite uncle, Redyke has imploided hundreds of structures around the world, ranging from the old Hyatt at DFW International Airport to the world’s tallest smokestack, a 905-foot structure in South Africa.

“Economic obsolescence keeps me in business,” said Redyke, who is regularly seen on The Detonators, a Discovery Channel series on demolition professionals.

Opened in 1968 at a cost of $4 million or $39.01 per square foot for the 103,883-square-foot building, University Hall came from a different era. When it opened, the minimum wage was $1.60, a first-class stamp cost six cents and a half gallon of homogenized milk went for 49 cents.

The sewer lines and the water lines were shot in the building,” Russell said. “We got to the point that we were afraid we were going to have the world’s biggest water fountain, if the plumbing didn’t hold.

The copper water lines had near the end of their functional life and the cast iron sewer lines had long ago deteriorated, in large part because of the acid that was commonly used decades ago to unclog them. Sure the acid removed the blockages, but it also ate into the pipe.

After five years of discussion and planning for the demolition, Russell was relieved when the contractor, ARC Abatement of Garland, fenced the dorm off and began work in June. ARC handled the asbestos while subcontractor Lindamood Construction of Irving handled the demolition and interior work. Lindamood subcontracted with Jim Redyke and Dykon to handle the implosion work.

Everyone was in for some surprises once work began. Though Russell knew about the plumbing problems, the fireproofing and structural steel surprised him.

Asbesto kept appearing in unexpected places such as the back of the pre-cut 8x11-foot panels that gave the structure its distinctive north and south facades. With six lengths of No. 24 rebar in each inch between the back of the façade and the building structure, abatement personnel were required to use a chemical solution to loosen the asbestos coating and then employ steel brushes to scour the surface like you would a kitchen pan.

This delayed the planned implosion from Sept. 20 to Oct. 25 and cost an additional $250,000.

The size of the rebar, or reinforcing bar, came as the second surprise. Rebar is a ridged or ribbed steel rod that provides the skeleton around which concrete is poured. At University Hall, the rebar was 24 rebar, which is two inches in diameter. With six lengths of No. 24 rebar in each of the building’s 24 concrete columns, the structure was built to last.

“The building was really overbuilt in my opinion, but it was institutional construction,” Russell said. “That’s probably why it held up so well.”

Explosives expert Redyke said, “I’m working on a 32-story building right now that doesn’t have that big of rebar. What it means is the building will move slower, fall slower and the pile (of rubble) is going to be taller because it is not going to break up like a building built with standard rebar for its story height.

By the morning of the implosion, the high rise was a shell of its former self. The dismantling had begun in June. It took three weeks just to remove the mattresses, beds, desks, chairs, furnishings and other materials that had been stored in the building. Once the floors were clear, ARC Abatement personnel began removing asbestos in the basement while Lindamood workers removed the interior walls on the 10th floor. After that, ARC workers would follow with abatement on each floor cleared by Lindamood.

Once the process was started, the base- ment, first, second and sixth floors were cleared next because that’s where the ex- plosives would be set. Lindamood workers bored three drill holes into each column to hold the explosives that would help topple the building toward the southeast.

While this work was going on, a blast zone was identified for closure the day of the implosion. No one would be allowed inside the blast zone, which extended from the Super Slab on the West to Van Buren Street on the east and included the Food Service Center and Rassman, home to the ASU Data Center.

For Doug Fox and his Information Technology staff, the major worries became a loss of power and the intensity of the seismic vibrations the collapse would cause in the Data Center. While a diesel electric generator outside the east wall of Rassman normally provides backup power, the equipment would be sheathed in plywood to protect it from debris and disconnected so it would not start up and suck dust inside, damaging the machine.

“If we lose commercial power, we have a series of batteries that are designed to give us a few minutes of coverage until the gener- ator comes on,” Fox said. “Our concern was how could we maintain vital services – networking, e-mail access, Web sites – if we did lose power for a while.”

Fox along with Brian Bruden, the exec- utive director of information technology, and Kent Corder, assistant director of infra- structure services, decided to bring down all the secondary services, starting early the morning of the implosion, so they could maximize the battery power and either shut the system down or maintain the essential functions for 20-25 minutes until power could be restored.

“What you don’t want with a computer, whether it is a PC or a server generally, is a hard stop or loss of power,” Fox said, “because data is lost. What we didn’t want was an uncontrolled power outage.”

To monitor the vibration, the IT team hung a weighted string adjacent to the servers and focused a camera on it so they could monitor the servers from the adjacent Math-Computer Science Building. When University Hall fell, the string twinged for an instant, but moved no more. And, the power stayed on without a glitch.

By 10 a.m. Fox and the dozen IT staff who had come to work by 5 a.m. had the Data Center and the servers back in full op- eration, which was good because the ASU home page received a record number of hits for a Sunday to watch implosion videos shot by communications and marketing staff Leonor Constancio from the roof of nearby Concho Hall and Jaya Phinney from the observation stand at the soccer field.

On a typical Sunday the homepage gets approximately 3,250 hits. On implosion Sunday the Web recorded 5,297 views, a 63 percent increase, and viewers lingered 2½ minutes rather than the typical 1½ minutes.

Police Chief Adams that morning was concerned about the spectators who came out to see the event in person. In responsi- bilities, outlined in an 11-page action plan, were to empty parking lots, block off the
As New finished his remarks, Jim Redyke found a place of solitude among the hundreds surrounding the Junell Center. He sat on a limestone planter wall and lowered his head for a moment of reflection.

“Like the challenges of doing it and that I do something unique that not very many people in the world get to do,” Redyke said. “It’s a business that’s kept me in tune spiritually because this business is not a zero risk business. We have some good ones and occasionally you have some that go not like you like them. So, it’s a business that keeps me in front of the Lord and so I can trust Him in all of this.”

On their last trip out of the building the afternoon before the implosion, Redyke and his crew scattered flour over all the entrances to the shell of the structure. As long as there were no footprints the next morning, they could proceed with the explosion. Other workers started pulling in heavy-duty construction trailers and placing them between University Hall and the two nearest buildings, Rassman and the Food Service Center. Others checked the adjacent trees, which had been sheathed with skirts of 2x4’s to protect them from flying debris.

The morning of the implosion, the 20x38-foot flag flying atop the 110-foot flagpole in front of the Junell Center waved north in the gentle breeze. Jim Redyke would not dust the donuts after all on implosion Sunday.

By 8:15 a.m. Alvin New stood at the podium, addressing the crowd. “To be benefited in life as we have, Patricia and I now look at the opportunity to give back to San Angelo as a great blessing.” New said. “It’s a great honor and pleasure to be here today and have this opportunity.”

As New finished his remarks, Jim Redyke found a place of solitude among the hundreds surrounding the Junell Center. He sat on a limestone planter wall and lowered his head for a moment of reflection.

New moved from the podium to a platform where two yellow wires were tied. He was accompanied by representatives of student organizations that had shown the most...
The demolition of University Hall in late October sparked memories of a bygone era in Angelo State University history, when female students faced curfews, understood what it meant to be cool for the first time and dealt with isolation on campus.

When it was constructed, the building was a radical change for then-Angelo State College which maintained four small, two-story dormitories. By contrast, the Women’s High Rise, as it was called when it opened in 1968, could house 490 students and was the first campus residential or academic facility east of Johnson Street.

What was a cutting-edge facility that changed on-campus residency in 1968 had by 2004 become a maintenance headache that could not be economically renovated to meet the needs of contemporary students.

“The high rise had air conditioning and I had grown up without it in Eden,” said Debbie Helmers Allen, a San Angelo teacher who graduated in 1972. “I also thought the rooms were nice. I thought it was a wonderful place.”

Mary Pirtle Walraven, a Bryan Independent School District special programs supervisor, also experienced central air conditioning for the first time when she moved into the Women’s High Rise in 1970.

“We all thought the high rise was so wonderful,” she said. “The beds, closets and desks were all built in and it was a suite concept. I spent a night in a dorm in Stephenville and the high rise was a palace in comparison.”

Martha Henderson Chitsey, a 1974 elementary education graduate from Colorado City, found the high rise to be resort-like, but cramped.

“It was brand new,” Chitsey said, “and the top floors weren’t even finished when we moved in. I thought, even back then, that we didn’t have a lot of space. There were two in a room and a bath between two rooms, so we had suitmates. We also got phones in the room, and I think that was the first dorm on campus to get them.”

Martha Dahnel Joyce, who moved in when the high rise first opened, recalled that it was the nicest dorm on campus, but still needed work when the fall 1968 semester began.

“For one thing, many ASU students had never previously lived with refrigerated air conditioning and others had never experienced air conditioning at all. The contractor had to pay a tremendous amount because it wasn’t ready.” Joyce said. “I moved to ASU from McCamey, and for me, it was the nearest place to live. There are a lot of dorms, even now, that aren’t as good. I was shocked when I heard they were going to get rid of it.”

Joyce said one of her favorite things about the high rise was the camaraderie and getting to know new people.

“I was majoring in home economics and had to transfer to Sam Houston State to finish,” she said. “Sam Houston was a suitcase school and everyone went home on the weekends. I was 400 miles from home and couldn’t do that, so I don’t feel like I made good friends there like I did at ASU.”

However, some students considered the residence hall remote from the rest of the campus when it was new. Built with the future in mind, the Women’s High Rise and, later, the Food Service Center and the Men’s High Rise, were the only ASU buildings on the east side of Johnson Street in the late 1960s.

“All of that area between Johnson Street and the high rise was cold, windy and open,” Allen said.

Kathy Service Brasher of San Angelo served as a resident assistant, which was a daunting task for someone so young.

“Considering I was a sophomore and 19 years old, and some of the students were two or three years older than I was, it was scary,” she said. “I helped freshmen who were lone some and girls who were having a hard time with their boyfriends. Those things touched me, and partly because of them, I’m now a social worker.”

Kay Mattlock Templeton, a nurse in Houston, remembers the community atmosphere in the high rise.

“We had a kitchen downstairs,” she said. “We would bring food from home and bake potatoes in the big oven. It wasn’t good when someone would come along and ‘borrow’ them.”

Each floor’s lobby had a television and lounge chairs where students gathered.

“That’s where you would meet everybody,” Templeton said. “You had to stay dressed up, too, because the elevator doors were right there. They would open and sometimes workmen would step out.”

Most of the women look back on their time in the high rise with fondness and miss it now that it’s gone, especially those who still live in San Angelo.

“It saddens me,” Allen said. “I’ve gotten so used to it being in the skyline. I had a lot of good times there.”
Ellen Moreland always wanted to be a teacher.

Now, she is recognized as one of the best in the nation.

In November, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education named her the Texas Professor of the Year. As a senior instructor in the ASU Mathematics Department, Moreland is fulfilling her ambition in a way that is bringing her many honors to her and the university.

“I am very pleased to have won for Angelo State because I think it is a way of getting multiple honors to her and the university. “I am very happy and proud to have received it, but I think anybody in this department could have gotten it. We have a great department.”

The Carnegie U.S. Professors of the Year program was launched in 1981 to salute the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country. All U.S. undergraduate teachers of any academic rank at any type of institution are eligible and one winner is chosen from each state. Honorees were recognized at a November ceremony in Washington, D.C.

And, the Carnegie Award is just the latest honor for Moreland, whose résumé includes a 2001 ASU Teaching Excellence Award and the inaugural Texas Tech University System Chancellor’s Council Distinguished Teaching Award for ASU in 2009. The Carnegie Award simply completes her trifecta of local, state and national awards.

“The selection of Professor Moreland by the Carnegie Foundation for this national honor,” said ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, “is an affirmation of the caliber of instructor which has made Angelo State University such an exceptional institution over the past decades.”

The Long Island native, who grew up dreaming of being a teacher, took a circuitous route to achieve that dream. After earning her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mathematics from Clarkson College of Technology, Moreland spent the first phase of her adult life traveling with her military husband, Patrick. Along the way, she worked as an actuary and in a law office, then finally got a taste of teaching when Patrick was stationed in Germany, where she worked for branches of the University of Maryland and Boston University at various U.S. military bases.

“It was for Army soldiers and they are up and going early,” Moreland said. “So, I might have a 6 a.m. class on one base in one direction, then get in the car and drive to a lunchtime class in a second city, and then have a dinnertime class in a third city. So, I would go about 200 miles a day, but I loved it, loved the travel and had fun working with the soldiers.”

After Patrick retired from the Army in 1982, he landed a job with Ethicon Inc. So, the couple headed to San Angelo and started a family. In 1988, Moreland decided to go back to school to get her Texas high school teaching certification and resume her quest to become a full-time teacher. Her timing turned out to be perfect. When she showed up at ASU to register for classes, she ended up being hired as an instructor instead.

“That was the year the Developmental Math class opened and (then-department head) Dr. Johnny Bailey needed somebody to teach it,” Moreland said. “Once I got here, I loved it. I love the kids and I love the school. My daughter didn’t even think about applying anywhere else, and she was in the top 10 percent of her class. She just grew up knowing that ASU is a great education for a good value.”

Over the years, Moreland has added other courses to her repertoire and now teaches everything from Developmental Math to Business Math to the capstone course for seniors in the secondary teacher certification program. She was hand-picked by Bailey to teach the capstone course, which reviews the entire mathematics curriculum. It was implemented in 1997 in an attempt to raise the percentage of ASU students passing the secondary certification exam.

“He knew that I would put forth whatever hours it took to get it done.”

Moreland said, “I’m just a perfectionist. I guess. I also had a lot of background in different areas because of the jobs I’ve held. Because the capstone takes from a lot of different areas, I think that was also part of it.”

“He also knew that I could get the students to come in and get help,” she added. “He knew that I wouldn’t back down on my standards and I think that probably had a lot to do with it, too.”

Since Moreland started teaching the capstone course, every student who has completed the program has passed the teacher certification test on the first try. While she credits that success for her growing list of teaching awards, she thinks it also has a lot to do with her relationship with her students.

“If you come by my office in the morning, they are all over the place,” she said. “They are sitting on the floor and we have to move everything off my desk to make room. That is the big thing to me. I teach for the kids. I’m just not one who can turn a kid away. If they want to learn, I am going to help them.”

In addition to tangible awards, that dedication to her students also scores Moreland points with her boss.

“Ellen cares about her students more than any faculty member I know,” said Dr. Paul Swets, Mathematics Department head. “She cares enough to work with them, to comfort them when they are upset, to scold them when they are lazy and to push them to places they never thought they could go. She cares about them enough to do whatever it takes to get them to understand mathematics. Along the way, and as importantly, she teaches them an awful lot about success in life.”

Awards and kudos aside, though, Moreland just loves being a teacher and particularly being a teacher at ASU. Patrick is retired now and the couple’s daughter, Kimberly, is a senior exercise science major at ASU. With more than 20 years on the Angelo State faculty now, there is no place she would rather be.

“I love the kids and I love being surrounded by them.”

Moreland said, “I love ASU and I think it is a wonderful school. I think the kids get a great education here compared to a lot of the big colleges and I think we have some of the best teachers anywhere on this campus.”

“As a kid, I used to play school all the time and I always had to be the teacher,” she added. “Now that I have become a teacher again, I would never dream of leaving it.”

by Tom Nuine
Sylvia Flores calls to wish her daughter, Michelle Flores, luck on a test. Other times, Sylvia texts a message to determine Michelle’s work schedule or if she is available for lunch.

The reasons for the contact may vary, but it’s a given that Angelo State University senior Michelle and her mother, Sylvia, communicate with each other almost daily. “We’re friends, and I think we have a good mother-daughter relationship,” said Michelle, a nursing major.

Frequent parent-student communication, such as Michelle and Sylvia Flores’ interactions, is growing among college students. But while parents may be trying to choose between texting or Facebook, researchers are more interested in the style of communication that parents are using.

Dr. Kristi Cordell-McNulty, an ASU assistant professor of psychology whose research interests include parental involvement in college education, said research has indicated that involved parents can have positive effects on students.

In her thesis work, Cordell-McNulty found that students indicated lower motivation levels if their parents tried to help them adjust to college or frequently told them that school was important. However, students showed higher motivation levels if their parents expressed praise and encouragement.

“We’re finding that it’s great to communicate, but not if it’s just to check in on them,” Cordell-McNulty said.

Sylvia Flores of San Angelo said she knows her daughter is independent, so she hasn’t felt the need to lecture Michelle about school.

In fact, Michelle decided during her junior year to switch majors from education to nursing. Her mother supported her decision without criticism.

“She’s really matured a lot since she graduated high school,” Sylvia said.

Decision-making is considered a crucial developmental process for college students experiencing life on their own for the first time, research suggests. Cordell-McNulty learned in her dissertation that students are more likely to adjust and be social if their parents support them without making decisions for them.

Dr. Mark Taylor, a nationally recognized educator and speaker from Arkansas, visited ASU in the fall to talk about what he calls “Generation NeXt,” those college students born between 1982 and 1994.

Parents of “NeXters” have taken a “parent-as-a-friend” approach that includes more counseling and less authority than previous parental generations.

“When we were growing up,” Taylor joked, referring to the baby boomer generation, “our parents wanted us to hate them.”

Generation NeXters are also characterized by their closeness to their parents, Taylor said. Because parents today play an important role in financing college and even in helping their children choose a university, he said it only makes sense that parents would want to monitor that investment.

Because NeXters are technology-oriented, digital natives, it is natural for parents to use cell phones and computers to contact them.

“Technology impacts every part of their life,” Taylor said. “If we don’t impact them with technology, we don’t matter.”

Tucker Bearden, 21, a senior social work major at ASU, said he considers his daily contact with his parents a healthy relationship. He mainly uses his cell phone to talk to his mother, who lives in Lubbock, and his dad, who resides in Brownfield. Sometimes he e-mails his parents, and he texts with his dad.

When he speaks to his parents, Bearden said, they usually talk about the things he has going on in his life, like his volunteer work teaching English as a second language at Southland Baptist Church in San Angelo. Sometimes he calls his parents, and other times they call him.

“It’s easier to know what’s going on,” Bearden said, “especially when you go back home. You’re not completely lost.”

On the other end of the spectrum is Chance Fincher, 22, who graduated from ASU in December with a degree in communication. He grew up with his grandparents in Pecos.

Fincher typically talks to his grandmother about once every two weeks. Most of the time, she initiates the conversation because she knows he has been busy with school and may not have time to call.

“She calls if she has something important to say or to find out how things are going,” Fincher said.

Occasionally, when Fincher’s grandmother forwards his mail, she also includes a handwritten letter.

“The phone is quicker, but growing up with them and their old-school ways, you tend to appreciate the letter,” Fincher said. “When you’re writing a letter, you’re not doing anything else, you’re just focused on the letter.”

Families like Fincher’s are becoming more rare in a college setting. While some may be familiar with the “helicopter parent,” who hovers in a student’s life, it is becoming increasingly common to encounter “snowplow” or “bulldozer” parents who actually push anticipated obstacles out of the way for their children, Taylor said.

Connie H. Frazier, director of Residential Programs at ASU, knows all about the snowplow parents.

“Some parents just want their child to glide along,” Frazier said, “but we would like the students to learn to deal with some of the bumps along the way.”

Frazier’s staff members typically have at least one parent call a day. She said that ever since her office started offering housing applications online, it has become increasingly common for parents to fill out the applications. It can cause problems, however, in the roommate preference portion of the application.

“All parents think they know, but they don’t know what their student’s roommate preferences are,” Frazier said.

How the housing application was handled initially can present a problem later when it is time to re-apply for housing. Frazier said Residential Programs has started holding informational sessions during re-application periods because so many students don’t know how to log into the housing system because their parents did it for them the first time.

The lines of privacy are blurred in some instances. Frazier’s office regularly receives telephone calls from parents who say they are sitting in front of the computer checking their student’s e-mail and have a question about a looming Residential Programs deadline or something similar.
Family Matters

Those who say life is not all fun and games have yet to meet the Brooks family.

For Angelo State baseball coach Kevin Brooks and women’s basketball coach Sally Walling Brooks, life without all the fun and games would be dull, if not downright boring.

After all, the Brookses must balance the stress of raising their two children – daughter Bailey, 9, and son Kannon, 7. As parents, Kevin and Sally maintain a schedule that would intimidate many, but one that has made the hectic routine in their household.

Often times what happens on the diamond or court is less important than what is on the refrigerator door.

“There are lots of calendars,” said Kevin. “Our fridge has our main calendar and all the little reminders from school,” Sally said. “We have a system that works despite having different styles. We haven’t screwed up our kids yet.”

Kevin nodded. “She is more organized than I am. I am more flexible, but that comes from coaching baseball. In baseball, a schedule doesn’t mean anything, so I’ve learned to adjust. In basketball, your schedule is set in stone and you can plan farther out. She can plan a whole week for us while I go day-by-day.”

The Brookses also have a built-in support system that has allowed them to maintain such a frantic schedule. Sally’s mother, Mary, serves as the family’s cook and the children’s unofficial part-time chauffeur. Mary moved to San Angelo in 2004 and has lived with the family since 2007.

“It all starts with my mom,” Sally said. “Of course, Kevin or I want to be the one who drops them off and picks them up from school every day, but it’s not always possible. She helps us more than she realizes.”

The Brookses also rely heavily on assistant women’s basketball coach Stacy Duffell, who played for Sally at the University of Incarnate Word and then joined her staff when Kevin and Sally moved to San Angelo in 2000.

“Stacy is my assistant coach, my best friend and my kids’ best friend,” Sally said. “One time when the baseball team made the regional tournament and we had to travel as a family, Stacy went with us. She went to Disneyland with us. She makes our lives easier.”

With such a strong support structure in place, the Brookses have been able to focus on coaching their other “kids.” Sally has led the ‘Belles to the last nine Lone Star Conference tournaments and guided her squad to six straight NCAA Division II playoff appearances. Kevin started the ASU baseball program in 2005 and in just three years took the Rams to the NCAA D-II World Series, placing fifth.

This kind of success brings a smile to ASU Athletics Director Kathleen Brasfield, another important contributor to the Brookses’ work-life balance.

“Kathleen bends over backwards to allow us to be successful coaches and parents,” Sally said. “There are schools that don’t allow coaches to bring their kids to practices. Our kids are definitely part of the ASU family.”

Sally remembers when the children would come to practice and were adopted as her team’s mascots. Bailey and Kannon would sit between her legs as she ran her practices. But, as the kids have grown, so have the demands on mom and dad.

“Somebody told me that when both kids got in school it would be easier for us,” Sally said. “That was completely wrong. When they weren’t in school full-time, they came to practices with me. Now, if I don’t volunteer at their school or go have lunch with them, I won’t see them until nighttime. It was easier to leave them when they were babies. Their activities have increased as they got older and now they know when you’re not there.”

While Bailey failed to inherit the family athletic gene, she has taken to more artistic endeavors, such as acting, singing and painting. Kannon, meanwhile, is the family athlete, playing soccer, basketball and baseball.

In spite of their busy schedules, the Brookses find the time to work with several community organizations. Sally serves on the board for the Concho Valley Home for Girls and Emergency Shelter and has recently become a Big Sister. Kevin is always an assistant coach for Kannon’s sports teams, whether it’s baseball or basketball.

Both parents volunteered on the board of the March of Dimes before the organization left San Angelo.

“We’re not complaining about our busy schedule, that’s for sure,” Sally said. “We actually have a lot more flexibility than parents who have 9-to-5 jobs. We choose when our teams practice and we can move practice so we can be there for Bailey and Kannon.”

Kevin or Sally may miss a game or performance while Bailey or Kannon occasionally fail to make it to a rehearsal or practice.

“We keep in mind that it’s just a game or just a practice,” Sally said. “Our family comes first. Our assistant coaches make it possible for us to be mom and dad. If we have to leave or miss a practice, our staffs can take over.”

“The plusses of being coaches’ kids definitely outweigh the negatives,” said Kevin. “You can’t control schedules and there are things we miss, but our kids get to go on road trips that other kids don’t.”

“While Bailey and Kannon got to go to Hawaii with the ‘Belles, we wouldn’t have had the chance to go to Hawaii as a family, if it wasn’t with the team. There are so many cool memories that they’ll have because they are coaches’ kids.”

Amid all the craziness, the Brookses pride themselves on being involved in the San Angelo community. Both Bailey and Kannon were born prematurely and the foursome has served as a “Miracle Family” since their arrival at ASU.

“One day in June 2004, after 34 days in the hospital, our daughter Kannon was born at the San Angelo Community Hospital. She was born 13 weeks premature, weighing 2 pounds. My baby girl was homebound for three months,” Kevin said.

A Miracle Baby, Kannon was the first to inspire the Miracle Family, which has grown to include people who have lost loved ones to cancer, cystic fibrosis and other causes.

“We actually have a lot more flexibility than parents who have 9-to-5 jobs. We choose when our teams practice and we can move practice so we can be there for Bailey and Kannon.”

““We’re not complaining about our busy schedule, that’s for sure,” Sally said. “We actually have a lot more flexibility than parents who have 9-to-5 jobs. We choose when our teams practice and we can move practice so we can be there for Bailey and Kannon.”
LADY RAMS

SPRING 2010

Amid the end of a disappointing 16-12 season where the ‘Belles missed the NCAA Division II postseason for the first time since 2001, head coach Sally Walling Brooks is focused on team unity to lift ASU back to the spotlight. Brooks returns eight players and adds seven freshmen this season. She looks to install more player accountability, something she felt was missing last year.

TOP RETURNERS: Junior guard Camille Perkins has been an All-LSC South pick each of the past two seasons and leads a very talented group of returners for the ‘Belles. Perkins averaged 13.8 points and 4.1 rebounds per game, leading ASU in scoring for the second straight year. The ‘Belles have three seniors – guard Christ Rasmussen and forwards Lindsey Lehtermaa Schaeffl and Casie Adams – who will be called upon for leadership this season. Lehtermaa-Schaefl was second on the team in scoring last season, but missed seven games due to injury. A sixth-year senior, Rasmussen finally put together the season that has been in the works for the past three seasons, the Rams will look to head deep into the postseason in 2010. Head coach Kevin Brooks returns 16 players from last year’s squad that advanced to the South Central Regional semifinals. The Rams return six of their top seven home run hitters from a 2008 squad that blasted a school-record 82 long balls, the third-highest total ever in a single season. ASU’s top returning run hitter, Phillip Clinard joins the Rams as a junior. The Rambelles will welcome two solid options behind the plate. Andrew Crookham, junior David Browne and Terence Holland, are part of the Rambelles’ four fall tournaments. Sophomore Megan Cispero returns after placing 24th at this year’s LSC tournament and finishing in the top five of two events this past fall. Also returning are sophomores Melissa Demmim and Serena Sosa.

TOP NEWCOMERS: The Rams return a pair of All-Americans in senior first baseman Keith Towne and senior catcher Chris Adamson. Towne, the LSC’s home run champion with 26 homers, will head what should be a very potent Ram offense. Adamson led the Rams with a 4.09 average, including nine home runs and 11 doubles. Both Towne and Adamson were first team All-LSC picks for the Rams. Senior outfielder Isaac Garcia hit .386 with seven home runs and 11 doubles while senior infielder Austin Lasprilla led the Rams with 22 doubles and hit .360. Garcia and Lasprilla earned second team All-Region and second team all-league recognition along with sophomore right-hander Craig Blair, who averaged 1.111. The Rams return 15 of their 20 regulars, including eight of their top nine regulars. Coach Reid hopes that freshmen Kim Anderson, a second baseman and shortstop, while Houston freshman Jeffrey Golightly, a middle infielder, and Terence Holland, were part of the Rams’ 1,800-meter relay squad that placed fourth nationally. Senior Sam Gallander is the defending LSC champion in the 800-meter run. Junior Wesley Ancrum is a two-time LSC All-Star and two-time LSC Track and Field All-Star and is a three-time LSC champion in the field events. The Rams and Rambelles plan to build upon their last season’s success. ASU hosted the D-II National Championships for the fifth time in school history. The Rambelles celebrated with a second-place finish, their best ever, and the Rams earned their 25th top 10 finish, placing eighth.

OUTLOOK: After one of the most exciting LSC and NCAA D-II Track and Field seasons, the Lady Rams and Rambelles will look to defend their conference title.

GOLF

COACH: Travis Scott
(7th year, 275-88 at ASU and 109-48-2 overall)

LADY RAMS

SPRING 2010

Angelo State University Magazine
Angelo State University Magazine
SPRING 2010

LAST YEAR: 9th at LSC Championships

OUTLOOK: In its inaugural year, the ASU women’s golf program made a big splash in the Lone Star Conference with a fifth-place finish. The Rambelles return four players from an impressive squad that picked up tournament titles in its debut season. The addition of two freshmen and a pair of transfers should allow ASU to compete for a conference title this spring. The squad played in three tournaments last season and finished better than expected in each event.

LAST YEAR: 9th (4-14-2, 2nd in LSC South)

LAST YEAR: 5th, 2010 LSC Championship

ANGIE ALBERTA ROSS

SPRING 2010

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Air Attack

Thanks to the most prolific passing season in school history, the Angelo State football team entered the final two weeks of the regular season in the hunt for a conference title and a regional berth.

“We’re on the cusp of making the playoffs,” said fourth-year head coach Dale Carr. “There are so many positives to take away from this season beyond the winning record. Recruits can see we’re going in the right direction. That’s important.”

The pass-happy Rams went 6-5 to snap three straight losing campaigns and spent much of the season in the regional rankings, climbing as high as No. 7 in early October. ASU opened the campaign 5-1, with the only loss during that stretch to NCAA Division I Texas State.

“After this season, our guys now expect to win against every North Division team and that hadn’t been the case,” Carr said. “Our realistic expectations are much higher for next year than what they were going into this season.”

ASU opened divisional play Sept. 26 with a stunning 20-17 upset of No. 17 Midwestern State and followed up with a 47-23 win at Eastern New Mexico. The Rams would make their first and only appearance in the NCAA D-II Top 25 on Oct. 5, debuting at No. 23. It marked the first time that ASU had been nationally ranked since 2005.

Angelo State’s aerial success corresponded with the return of junior quarterback Josh Neiswander, who missed last season due to injury. Neiswander set seven school records in his return to the field, including passing yards (2,933) and touchdown passes (25). As a team, the 2009 Rams had more completions, pass attempts and yards through the air than any other team in school history.

“We were able to throw the ball all year long,” Carr said. “There were only two or three teams that threw the ball more than we did. We’re not a conservative offense by any means, but we were forced to be conservative over the previous three seasons due to injuries.”

At season’s end, the Rams had four players earn second team All-LSC honors and eight others named honorable mention. Two wide receivers, junior V’Keon Lacey and freshman Dukaru Pecikonis, represented the Ram offense while two defensive linemen, senior Calvin Fance and junior Cody Smith, were honored from the ASU defense. Fance led NCAA D-II with 14 sacks this season.

Neiswander earned honorable mention status and was joined by senior linebacker Ian Ritchey on the LSC’s all-academic team. Pecikonis was recognized as the league’s Freshman of the Year. Coach Carr picked up LSC South Co-Coach of the Year honors.

“We’ll continue to get better,” Carr said. “I’ll be disappointed if we don’t make the playoffs next year. Offensively, the keys are in place to make a good run in 2010.”

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Turning Heads

From 2005-07, the Angelo State volleyball program earned only 19 wins, but just two years later, the ‘Belles are contenders again.

Second-year head coach Chuck Waddington has revived a program that struggled through three straight losing seasons. The ‘Belles have now made back-to-back Lone Star Conference Tournament appearances and this past fall nearly advanced to the league’s title game for the first time since 1993.

“Overall, we’re pretty pleased with the season,” Waddington said. “We may have had a record that was similar to last year’s, but the difference this season is we bumped our schedule.”

The ‘Belles went 19-14 in 2009, facing six nationally ranked opponents along the way, and stormed through LSC play with a 10-3 mark to enter the league tournament as the No. 3 seed. ASU would pick up its first conference tournament win in five seasons, downing Texas Woman’s in five games in the first round, before closing out the season with a five-game loss to Abilene Christian in the semifinals. The ‘Belles would clinch as high as No. 9 in the NCAA Division II South Central Region late in the fall, thanks to a seven-match winning streak prior to their season finale.

“We’re excited about the future,” Waddington said. “We’re disappointed we didn’t make it to regionals this year, but we know it’s a process and we know we’re heading in the right direction. We played nine freshmen this season and our two seniors did a great job preparing these young players for what’s to come.”

Senior Alaina Sivells and freshman Chelsea Gibson were each named first team All-LSC, becoming the first such honorees for ASU since 2004. Gibson was also recognized as the league’s Freshman of the Year. Fellow freshman Caroline Cleveland was named honorable mention and senior Kimber Duncan was named to the league’s all-academic team.

“People are taking notice of our program again,” Waddington said. “That will lead to even better kids coming here. There is no doubt that this group of freshmen will end their careers with a very full resume.”

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Rambelle Rollercoaster

Despite a school-record winning streak early in the season, the Angelo State soccer team narrowly missed the postsea-son for the second consecutive year. The Rambelles strung together six straight wins after opening the season, 0-2, and seemed on their way back to the post-season after missing the Lone Star Conference tournament in 2008 for the first time in six years. However, the winning streak ended with back-to-back overtime defeats to open conference play. Plagued by injuries midand late-season, the Rambelles dropped seven of their last 11 games.

“We made good progress early in the season,” second-year head coach Travis McCorkle said. “We responded well to two early losses and started playing better as a team. If we were healthier midway through the season, we would have been much more competitive in conference play and we make the postseason.”

The Rambelles ended the season 10-9 overall and 4-6 in LSC play, finishing eighth and one win away from a playoff spot. ASU suffered four one-goal conference losses, yet still recorded the team’s fifth 10-win season in seven years.

Junior Ashley Brown and sophomore Brandie DeBacker each had eight goals for the Rambelles, while senior Christian Willman led the Rambelles with five assists. Junior goalkeeper Melanie Peterson had five shutouts.

DeBacker along with seniors Jennifer Busk-owski and Skylar Searles were named honorable mention All-LSC while Willman was selected to the league’s all-academic team.

“We had a lot of young players who got significant playing time for this sea-son,” McCorkle said. “Those young players gained experience that should be beneficial for us in upcoming seasons.”

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Dr. Albert Reyes found his dream job, not once, not twice, but three times. A 1981 ASU graduate, Reyes works in Dallas as president of Buckner Children and Family Services Inc., a division of Buckner International, which provides a wide array of social services, such as residential care, foster care, adoption, transition care and humanitarian aid programs around the world.

“We also provide church and community ministry,” Reyes said, “that is more on the preventative side of our continuum of services, to keep families healthy, functional and whole. That way, they are less likely to disintegrate, resulting in sending kids to out-of-home care like foster care or residential facilities.”

However, being the head of an international social services organization could not have been further from Reyes’ mind when he was working at his parents’ grocery, laundry, and wholesale candy businesses in Corpus Christi.

“We had a very encouraging home environment and the church (First Mexican Baptist Church of San Antonio) at a youth camp, and some of them were also ASU students,” Reyes said. “We connected with them really well and we figured ‘here are some people that we get along with really well: they go to ASU; they think it is a good school; and the church is a good church.’” So, I figured that if I had to go to college somewhere, I may as well go with my brother and with a strong church connection, and ASU sounded like a good school.”

Armed with his family’s business background and the knowledge that seminary did not require any specific degree, Reyes entered the B.B.A. program at ASU. He sang out his business writing professor, Dr. Gerald Lacy, as having a particular influence on his life.

“I’ll never forget how appropriately brutal he was in correcting our writing skills,” Reyes said. “We would write papers and he would mark them all up and send them back. To this day, the ability to write and communicate is one of the skills that I use every day in business and everything I write. It goes back to the skills I learned at ASU with my English professor.”

Several colleges looking for qualified instructors. He soon added “professor” to his list of titles.

“Howard Payne University, which has an extension in El Paso, asked me to teach a couple of courses,” Reyes said. “Hispanic Baptist Theological School also asked me to teach a couple of courses there. It just kind of evolved as part of what I did in ministry. I was interested in teaching what I learned for my doctorate and from the experiences I was having.”

Little did Reyes know, that early foray into academia would lead to a major life change. In 1999, he was approached as a possible candidate for president of the Baptist University of the Americas in San Antonio. Despite only agreeing to an interview as a way of helping the school figure out what it might want from the other candidates, Reyes was offered the post and it became his dream job No. 2.

“In those seven years, I helped the school become accredited and certified for the first time in its history,” Reyes said. “That had never happened before and we worked real hard to reach that goal. Then, enrollment and contributions and everything else followed that growth trend and, once again, I found myself in a situation where I thought ‘I could really do this the rest of my life.’”

But, just like in El Paso, it was not to be. In 2007, Reyes was again contacted by a search firm for an entity wanting someone with his distinctive blend of talents. This time it was Buckner Children and Family Services Inc. searching for a president. After researching Buckner and praying about it, Reyes was considering the idea. Then, he ran into Buckner International CEO Dr. Ken Hall at a meeting and that conversation prompted him to officially throw his hat into the ring. His diverse background paid off, and he began what has become his dream job No. 3.

“So, Reyes and his family headed back to Dallas, where it all began at seminary. In the fall, he added another implement to his toolkit when he earned a Doctor of Philosophy in global leadership from Andrews University. Reyes’ family is also thriving in Dallas. He and Belinda have three sons, Thomas, 12, David, 14, and Joshua. 16. Belinda has her own career in helping others. She holds a doctorate in communication disorders and works in clinical rehabilitation with people who have suffered traumatic brain injuries or strokes. She is also an adjunct professor at UT-Dallas in the Callier Center for Communication Disorders.

“She is a professional in her own right,” Reyes said. “She is a research scientist and a professor. I ‘married up,’ as they say.”

Unlike Belinda, however, and unlike his time as a pastor or university president, Reyes has limited personal contact with the people he is helping, except when he travels to the often far-flung Buckner branch facilities in 93 cities around the world. That is one reason he enjoys heading to places like Bangladesh, India, Egypt, Palestine, Guatemala, Mexico, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Russia, as well as cities across Texas. But, mostly, he loves his job because he truly feels he is doing God’s work.

“Blending my diverse experience and background together to lead this division to serve vulnerable children, orphans and families is one of the most exciting things that I do,” Reyes said. “It’s the kind of thing that Jesus was really focused on, caring for children and families. So, every time I get the chance to make a difference in the life of a child or a family, it is the best thing that I can imagine spending my life doing.”

Perhaps the third time is the charm.

After earning his ASU degree, Reyes married the former Belinda Ruth Alvarado in 1982 and headed to Dallas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. But, he also had to work to support his new family, so he took a job with Sprint, then known as U.S. Telephone.

“Everything I learned at Anglo State in terms of business, I put it right to work in the telecommunications industry,” Reyes said. “I did that during the day and went to seminary for theological training in the evening. My wife was going to the University of Texas-Dallas working on her master's and then her doctoral degree.”

After receiving his Master of Divinity in theology, Reyes became a pastor at Love Field Church and North Temple Baptist Church in Dallas, while taking classes toward his doctorate in missiology. But, his first dream job lay in the west, and in 1992 he headed to El Paso as the founding pastor of the Pueblo Nuevo Community Church.

“We started a church, things were going well and I thought I would spend the rest of my ministry there and retire in El Paso,” Reyes said. “It was a really fun church with a contemporary format. I even played the congas in the worship band we had on Sundays. It was a really great situation.”

It got even better after Reyes finished his Doctor of Ministry and was courted by Tom Nurre

Reyes as role model

Dr. Albert Reyes

Angelo State University Magazine
T he hot dogs were roasting, the bands were playing and students were flocking to the 2009 Ram Jams for free fun, entertainment, food and giveaways.

It was the fifth year the ASU Alumni Association had hosted the home pre-game tailgating parties and, without a doubt, the very best year for participation.

The association’s board of directors and staff decided the best way to increase 2009 attendance would be to partner with the ASU Student Government Association. The board wanted Ram Jam to become a bridge between students and alumni, so association representatives brainstormed with the student government leaders to identify the perfect lure.

It didn’t take long to figure out that free food, entertainment and a party atmosphere would draw a crowd. Kington Properties stepped forward as the presenting sponsor of Ram Jam, and the Foster Field parking lot, adjacent to the Foster Field LeGrand Alumni and Visitor’s Center, and included a Halloween costume contest with monetary prizes going to the top three students.

The Alumni Association worked to provide free food during Ram Jam. Texas Roadhouse supplied pulled pork sandwiches and chips to students and alumni for both Homecoming and Family Day weekends, while Coca-Cola and A-B Distributing supplied beverages.

The Alumni Association brought back the Alumni Association working with the VIP Room and offered a special place for its members to connect with friends, old and new. Association members also were able to relax and have a drink while watching Crossing Tyler. Alumni staff rode through the parking lot throwing gift cards and t-shirts to tailgaters. Student tailgaters could even earn points toward the coveted Spirit Stick, which was awarded during the Homecoming game.

The Alumni Association allocated money for student prizes and started contests, such as “ASU’s Got Talent.” The talent then competed each week during the Student Government Association-organized preliminaries prior to Ram Jam. The talent then competed each week during Ram Jam with the hope of winning $800, sophomore and second-round winner Edward Ortiz said. “I participated in ASU’s Got Talent because I wanted to be involved.” Themes were also added to this year’s Ram Jam. The circus-themed Ram Jam featured alpacas, clowns and face-painting.

The last Ram Jam followed a mas-cot theme, with various Sun Angelo-area mascots parading around the LeGrand Center, and included a Halloween costume contest with monetary prizes going to the top three students.

The Alumni Association wanted Ram Jam to become the perfect lure.

“Ram Jam is a wonderful collaborative event that takes many hours of preparation, but when you see memories being made and hear words of excitement about ASU, it is all worth it,” Fly said.
Charles Jason Hubbard of Austin has been named by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners for a term expiring in 2015.

Hubbard is a podiatric surgeon, owner of the Center for Feet and Ankle Surgery and chief of podiatry for St. David’s Medical Center. He is an American Board of Podiatric Surgery diplomate and a member of the American Podiatric Medical Association and American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons. He received his Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in chemistry from ASU. He earned his medical degree in podiatric medicine from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine.

Dr. Verna Mae Crutchfield, 94, of Center Point and former professor of education at ASU, died Sept. 14 in San Angelo. She was named a Piper Distinguished Professor for education at ASU in 1971. She was a member of the National Association of Medical Examiners, the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, the American Psychological Association and the National Association of Medical Examiners. She also taught for 20 years in the Center Point Independent School District. Her research focused on drug and alcohol abuse in Texas college students.

Golde Gray Coleman, 88, of San Angelo and a longtime instructor of home economics at ASU, died Sept. 14 in San Angelo. From 1973 through her 1992 retirement, Coleman taught apparel design, beginning sewing, tailoring and elementary foods. In 1992 she was named Outstanding Home Economist of Texas. In 2008 she received the Eva Gamache Tucker Award in honor of her outstanding contributions to San Angelo. Overall, she taught home economics for more than 50 years on the high school and college levels. She and her husband, Dawson Coleman, were married for 56 years and their son, Randall Gray “Randy” Coleman, is an ASU graduate.

Elmer Kelton 1926-2009

If Elmer Kelton ever raised his voice, it happened well beyond earshot of anyone who knew him. A soft spoken man who valued listening above everything but writing, Kelton over the course of his life did, however, raise the reputation of the western novel. In his study fewer than a half dozen blocks from the Angelo State University campus, Kelton penned some of the greatest western novels ever written, often times using books and other research materials from the Wildcat Library. "If I had to sum up Elmer in a word," said West Texas Collection head Suzanne Campbell, "it would be 'gentleman.' I never saw him when he was anything else but a gentleman." When he died Aug. 22 at the age of 83, San Angelo lost its best known resident and Angelo State lost a friend, who had given his library to the West Texas Collection. And, every year one his schedule took him out of state, Kelton attended the symposium, giving an opening talk and then sitting in on the sessions. In 1995 Western Writers of America (WWA), an organization Kelton dearly loved, attended all but three of their conventions between 1996 and 2009, named him the greatest western writer of all time. In all, he published 62 books, including 49 novels. He won seven Spur Awards from WWA plus four Western Heritage Awards from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. He received lifetime achievement awards from the Texas Institute of Letters and the Western Literature Association. When he died, even USA Today and the New York Times took note of his passing. “Elmer Kelton,” said ASU English Professor Don Coers, “embodied the best of West Texas, as down-to-earth, honest and unassuming in personality and manner as his writing was authentic. He transformed our own land, lives and historical experiences into literature that has meaning far beyond our region. As brilliantly as Kelton wrote about West Texas, his characters’ struggles, failures and triumphs were ultimately universal. His art carried relevance well past the range of our mesquites, as surely as Mark Twain and William Faulkner transcended the Missouri and the Mississippi.”

The Time It Never Rained, a novel set around San Angelo during the 1950s drought, was Kelton’s hallmark book and personal favorite. The Wolf and the Buffalo, set in the region in the 1870s, chronicled the clash of cultures between a Comanche warrior and a buffalo soldier posted at Fort Concho. Kelton’s The Good Old Boys became a TNT television movie starring and directed by Tommy Lee Jones.

Despite his critical acclaim and his commercial success, Elmer Kelton remained as genuine as his West Texas roots and his ranch upbringing, always ready to help an aspiring writer or answer a question from an awestruck ASU student. “Our student assistants,” said Campbell, “were always thrilled to meet Elmer. He took time to ask about them, where they were from, what their major was, etc. It was never about him and he was never in such a hurry that he didn’t have time for others.”
as of November 01, 2009