Dear Friends:

The summer of 2012 was again busy on campus as we hosted more than 2,000 students for summer school classes and nearly 8,000 others for a variety of camps and leadership clinics. So, in spite of continued drought conditions, which limited our ability to water our plants and trees, the campus was abuzz with activity and energy.

As I regularly note, universities are really small cities because of all the services that they must provide to residents and visitors alike. ASU certainly fits that role since all we are missing is a fire house and its associated fire engines and pumpers! But what really defines a city is the variety of talented employees who work to keep the lights on, the offices open and the grounds immaculate. Because their important role on campus is sometimes taken for granted, we decided to highlight ASU “behind the scenes” for this issue of the magazine. Here you will visit underground ASU, where our heating, cooling and water are managed; meet our academic department secretaries, who provide exceptional support to faculty and students alike; and connect with our Intramurals Program staff, who field hundreds of teams in sports ranging from badminton to ultimate Frisbee. Clearly, the success of ASU is defined by the enthusiasm, professionalism and hard work of these dedicated individuals.

Cities are also defined by their leadership, and after three national searches ASU has filled several important positions over the past few months. First, Dr. Brian May was selected as the permanent Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. May previously had been the Dean of Graduate Studies and a Professor of Animal Science at ASU. Second is our new Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Dr. Javier Flores, who previously served as Provost of Howard College’s Big Spring campus. Most recently, Sean Johnson joined ASU from Division I University of North Dakota to assume the position of Athletic Director, permanent Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. May previously had been the Dean of Graduate Studies and a Professor of Animal Science at ASU. Second is our new Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Dr. Javier Flores, who previously served as Provost of Howard College’s Big Spring campus. 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Most recently, Sean Johnson joined ASU from Division I University of North Dakota to assume the position of Athletic Director. President: Dr. Joseph C. Rallo
Vice President for Finance and Administration: Michael Reid
Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management: Dr. Javier Flores

The Angelo State University Magazine is published three times a year by the ASU Office of Communications and Marketing, ASU Station #1161, San Angelo, TX 76901-1161; 325-942-2248; Fax: 325-942-2238; communications.reading@angelo.edu.

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ASU Magazine

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Bestselling Blogger … Return of the Ring … Class Notes … In Memoriam … Donors
On the Cover: Numerous activities – such as the welding of Ray Simmons – go on behind the scenes to make for a great college experience at Angelo State. (Photo by Danny Meyer)
Though his tenure as Angelo State University president will end this fall, Dr. Joseph C. Rallo will continue to shape the direction of the university in his new position as vice chancellor of academic affairs for the Texas Tech University System.

During his ASU tenure of five-plus years, Rallo has helped reshape the university by tying fiscal resources more closely to strategic plans, envisioning ASU as a residential campus, expanding academic programs and increasing external funding, both through federal grants and private fundraising.

At the top of his list of accomplishments since he took over on June 1, 2007, Rallo puts instilling a sense of competitive purpose for the campus.

“I have no tolerance for whining and lack of competitiveness,” Rallo said. “What bothered me when I arrived was the attitude that ‘we’re in West Texas and no students will come out here.’ Therefore, we just need to be happy with what we get.”

Just making do with what we had was just unacceptable. We have a great resource here; we have an attractive resource here; so hopefully again we have begun to change that type of thinking.”

That competitiveness can be measured in an increase in enrollment, 13.5 percent between his first fall in 2007 and the fall of 2011, as well as a more than tenfold increase in external grant funding from approximately $300,000 to more than $3.9 million. Those successes are manifestations of his strong commitment to strategic planning.

“In my previous life as an intelligence officer,” Rallo said, “I was basically paid to predict the future. People laugh at you when you say that, but you can predict the future once you can identify some variables.

So, I have always believed in strategic planning, which is future-oriented, but I’ve also believed it should be a living document.

“What has made it more interesting is that in higher education, oftentimes, we do straight-line extrapolations, if you will. We assume this year is going to look like the year 2012. That can be a dangerous assumption and that is one of the things, particularly in my new job, that I am trying to convey to the board. There are trends out there that are very troubling and that are not a repetition of what was.”

For instance, some major institutions such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology have started offering free online courses, and some such as the University of Wisconsin system and Northern Arizona University are offering online coursework and creating exams to test for competency. Both Wisconsin and Northern Arizona have just announced that if you take those free, open software courses and pass their tests, they will turn that into credit or competency.

“To me, the greatest challenge is that universities right now have a monopoly because we offer credit and we offer accreditation,” Rallo said. “But, if both of those go away or if they change, then we have a huge issue, particularly if employers start saying they don’t really care if your degree is accredited or not, but rather if you have the competency to do the job. That, to me, is the largest challenge we face.

“Now, you’re always going to have bricks-and-mortar universities and you’re always going to have Princeton, Harvard and Yale, but most of us are not in that league. So, what happens if a quarter of the students who would have come to Angelo State or Texas Tech decide to pursue a different alternative? That’s a huge, huge potential stumbling block and the largest challenge out there right now.”

Rallo believes that Angelo State remains a powerful educational option because of its demographic with a large majority of enrollments being first-generation college students and its ability to help those students succeed.

“I have been at places, like the Air Force Academy, Rutgers and others with a different demographic,” Rallo said. “Here what I like is the fact that the vast majority of students who come here, come here not because they feel entitled, but rather because they recognize the opportunity the university offers. That’s where I think this university really shines. It really can transform a young man or young woman from some small town with few opportunities and, because of the smaller size and the interactions with faculty, really provide them the opportunity to succeed. That’s what I think really is a positive side of the Angelo State culture.”

As he looks forward to his new role, Rallo looks back with fondness on his tenure at Angelo State and his time in San Angelo.

That familiarity with both the campus and the community will be an asset in his position as vice chancellor for academic affairs.

“The message I want to convey to Angelo State and San Angelo is that I know I can, by moving to the Texas Tech System, still be a strong, in fact if the system grows, probably an even stronger advocate for the future of this campus than as a component president. I’ve loved what I’ve done, I’ve enjoyed what I’ve done and I will always have a special place in my heart for Angelo State. Leaving doesn’t always mean you leave, it simply means that you go somewhere else to look after things.”

Ongoing Influence

Over his five-year tenure as Angelo State University’s fourth president and the ninth since the institution began as a community college, Dr. Joseph C. Rallo has helped reshape ASU’s future.

These are a baker’s dozen of his accomplishments since he began work on June 1, 2007:

• Instilled a sense of competitive purpose for the campus, elevating ASU in most rankings for Texas public universities.
• Created Angelo State University Magazine to provide a quality publication to tell the ASU story.
• Established the ASU Multicultural Center with its related programming.
• Enhanced significantly ASU’s study abroad opportunities and created the Center for International Studies.
• Achieved Hispanic Serving Institution status, broadening ASU’s ability to compete for significant U.S. Department of Education Title V funds, resulting in $8 million in grants to date.
• Developed a federal funding presence with the Center for Security Studies.
• Created a true “residential” campus with significant operating hours and enhanced ASU facilities, including two new residence halls, a renovated Porter Henderson Library and an expanded and enhanced student recreation center.
• Expanded the ASU Office of Development, resulting in ongoing success with ASU’s first capital campaign and with three endowed faculty chairs funded at the $1 million level.
• Worked with the City of San Angelo to position ASU as a partner and economic engine for the community.
• Established new academic programs to meet emerging employer demand, including a B.S. in nursing as well as language and culture degrees, security studies degrees, ag education degree and computer game design program.
• Presided over steady enrollment growth with a 13.5 percent increase between 2007, his first fall on campus, and 2011, when enrollment surpassed 7,000 for the first time.
• Managed the transition of ASU from the Texas State University System to the Texas Tech University System, immediately upon his arrival on campus.

The Rallo Legacy
Facing the Future

As Angelo State University charts its direction in the coming years, two new vice presidents—one a familiar face and the other a new face—will shape ASU’s academic priorities and student affairs programs.

Dr. Brian J. May, a 1980 ASU graduate and 18-year faculty member on campus, has been named provost and vice president for academic affairs. He assumed the post on a permanent basis in April after serving 10 months as interim provost and three years as graduate dean. As provost and vice president, May is second in command for the university.

In July, Dr. Javier Flores, a Sonora native, became ASU’s vice president for student affairs and enrollment management (SAEM) after spending the previous 13 years on the Big Spring campus of Howard College, his last two years there as provost. As vice president for SAEM, he will oversee Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar, Housing and Residential Programs, and University Recreation and Intramurals.

Familiar Face

Brian May is as comfortable at Angelo State as he is in his favorite cowboy boots, which fits his academic background in animal science, picking up both his B.S. and M.S. from the university in the discipline. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition from Texas A&M.

He joined the ASU faculty in 1994 with a dual appointment as a research scientist after spending seven years as executive director of the Mohair Council of America. He is the only person to have been president of both the ASU Faculty Senate and the Angelo State Alumni Association. He was a key player in the alumni association’s successful effort in 2007 to make the university part of the Texas Tech University System.

On top of that, May is heavily involved in community activities, ranging from the San Angelo Livestock Show and Rodeo Association to the West Texas Boys Ranch, and from the Sonrisas Therapeutic Riding Association to the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, which named him “Citizen of the Year” in 2008.

“My community service will help me to continue the healthy relationship between our city and ASU,” May said. “The City of San Angelo has always been a huge supporter of ASU, and I would like to grow this support through both development and employee/student involvement in civic organizations and activities.”

Though his academic goals are multifaceted for ASU, May said they can be summarized in six overriding aims: 1) to grow all programs, both graduate and undergraduate, that focus on the university’s strengths; 2) to hire a diverse, engaging faculty and staff to deliver the best education possible; 3) to excel in community involvement of faculty, staff and students; 4) to diversify ASU course delivery, both through face-to-face and online offerings; 5) to increase graduation rates and reduce student debt burdens; and 6) to improve retention rates, especially at the freshman level through the newly created Freshman College.

“The biggest challenge we face as an institution of higher education,” said May, “is the continuing struggle to find financial support to fund existing programs at a high level as well as to start new programs. Our local representatives are huge supporters of ASU and have helped us navigate through difficult economic times; however, these times are never over and there are many state agencies that need to find more efficient ways to become self-sustaining.”

Even so, May welcomes the challenge, largely because of the sense of kinship he feels for the ASU family.

“All of my siblings, including my brother and both of my sisters, as well as my wife and daughter, graduated from Angelo State University,” May said. “In addition to my relatives, the ASU community, including my classmates, my fellow alumni and my colleagues, has become for me a very large extended family. Through these relationships, I have worked in concert with these friends and colleagues to build and change ASU, yet hold on to the sense of family and concern for others that makes this university special.”

New Face

Javier Flores brings to ASU a familiarity with West Texas, both its culture and its demographics, that will be an asset in building co-curricular programs for students. Too, he is a first-generation college student, like more than half the Angelo State undergraduate enrollment, so he is familiar with the short-term challenges and the long-term rewards of a college education.

Though his father had no formal education, that focus on the university’s strengths;

Flores next worked as a residence hall manager at NMSU before moving to Howard College as dean of student services in 1999. Three years later, he became vice president for student services at Howard. In 2010, he was appointed Howard’s Big Spring campus provost, a position he held until beginning the ASU position in July.

As Angelo State’s newest vice president, Flores’ initial goal is to focus on enhancing retention so more students can enjoy the benefits of a college education, like he has professionally. Second, he wants to reach out to parents and engage them in their students’ educational endeavors, either through regular newsletters or an organization for parents.

“Both short and long term,” Flores said, “I would like to see Angelo State become a premier school for student affairs and enrollment management. I would like for others to be looking at what we are doing at Angelo State in terms of student affairs and enrollment management, and in terms of growing our enrollment and improving our graduation rates.”

Brian May

Javier Flores

news ALONG the MALL
Meet Dominic

Angelo State students, alumni and fans will be seeing more of Dominic in the future with new line drawings that can be used for everything from sweatshirts to notebook covers to promotional materials.

Based on photographs by University Photographer Danny Meyer, the illustrations were done by Bill Hollweg of Bill Neil Specialty Advertising in San Angelo.

“The new marks,” said ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, “reflect the dignity of our Rambouillet mascot, as well as show the ram’s strength and determination. This is an emblem that will serve the university well in the coming years and provide additional options in representing ASU to the public.”

Preston Lewis, director of communications and marketing at ASU, said the new marks will not replace the ASU logo, but rather be used as secondary representations for on-campus needs and commercial products.

“Brand consistency is important for long-term brand identification, but the new emblems will help provide some flexibility for use with the logo or without the logo, as long as the university name is included. Too, this will provide a professional look that will reflect favorably upon ASU, unlike some of the renegade ram representations which have sprung up over the last few years.”

The new Dominic drawings respond to requests from individuals and the Student Government Association for an additional graphic representation of a ram. In addressing the need, communications and marketing staff believed that brand consistency dictated that any new symbol stay within the parameters of existing mascots and logos. Thus, photos of Dominic provided the foundation for the illustration.

Michael Martin, ASU’s director of graphics, oversaw the project in conjunction with photographer Meyer and illustrator Hollweg.

Lewis said acceptable university marks now include the logo itself, both with and without the university name; the stylized ram’s horn “U;” the illustrations of Roscoe and Bella; and now the line drawings of Dominic. As of 2012, all of those marks have been trademarked or are in line to be trademarked for the university.

“The new Dominic mark,” said Lewis, “provides a quality symbol that will represent ASU with the professionalism the public expects of a quality institution such as Angelo State.”
Freshman College
A new Freshman College, approved in May by the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents for ASU, is designed to provide an organizational structure uniting the multiple academic initiatives and student support services to increase retention and graduation.

Dr. Andrew B. Wallace, longtime professor and head of the Physics Department, was named dean of the new college, which will provide greater emphasis on helping students gain the services and confidence necessary to complete their degrees.

The new college will oversee the First Year Experience program; summer bridge and transitional programs; Springboard ASU, the university’s dual credit program; Supplemental Instruction program; tutoring programs through Students Mapped a Right Track; Freshman Orientation; University Convocation; and pre-declared advising.

Mayer-Rousselot Facility
The Texas Tech University System Board of Regents has approved the construction of a $1.37 million agriculture training center to be named the Mayer-Rousselot facility, whose donation made the facility possible for Angelo State University’s Management, Instruction and Research (MIR) Center.

The 4,372-square-foot Mayer-Rousselot Agriculture Education Center will be built adjacent to the Food Safety/Product Development Lab at the MIR Center. The new project will provide needed facilities to enhance practical ag education and will include an open shop floor area for welding, small engine repair and general mechanical instruction. The construction of the $1.37 million facility was made possible by a $325,755 grant from the National Science Foundation. Additional funds were provided by the MIR Center.

The facility will help meet the 120,000 specimens of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and tissue samples in the ASVHC. The data associated with the specimens and digital images of plant specimens will be available to researchers around the world.

Biography Bananza
ASU’s chapter of the Beta Beta Beta (Tri-Beta) biological honor society brought home several top awards from the Tri-Beta South Central Regional Meet- ing this spring.

Senior biology major Kate- lyn Fie was the big individual winner for ASU as she earned the Frank G. Brooks Award for Outstanding Undergradu- ate Research in Biology for her project presentation titled “Patterns of Habitat Use and Competition Between Nine- Banded Armadillos and Hog- nosed Skunks.”

In group contests at the re- gional meeting, the ASU chap- ter won first place in the Chap- ter History Competition and for Chapter Web Page Quality. During the business meeting portion, ASU’s Josh McGuire was elected as the South Cen- tral Region secretary for the 2012-13 academic year.

Additionally, ASU biol- ogy students Austin Osmsrski, Paula Galloway, Christina Leto and Candace Fierish submitted research abstracts that were ac- cepted for presentation at the Tri-Beta National Meeting.

Fifty-one ASU tri-beta stu- dents attended the regional conference along with faculty advisor Dr. Crosby Jones Jr. They competed against Tri-Beta representatives from 16 other universities in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Meat Judging Triumph
ASU’s Meat Judging Team won the overall championship at the Southeastern Intercol- legiate Meat Judging Contest held in April at Ohio State University and the University of Kentucky, concluding the most successful season since the team began competing six years ago.

Against 17 other teams, all from Division I universities, ASU’s team placed in the top 10 in each of the contest’s seven categories to score 3,923 total points and win the overall title over runner-up University of Florida with 3,912 points.

By category, ASU placed first in Beef Grading and Over- all Beef, second in Beef Judg- ing and Specifications, fourth in Total Placings, sixth in Pork Judging and seventh in Pork Judging. Individually for ASU, Catelyn Van Slamhout placed third out of 77 competitors with 992 points; Kameron Haeker, sixth; Will Meyer, ninth; Darren Sedell, 20th; and Kylee Weerland, 28th.

Other competing univer- sities were Illinois, Michigan State, Iowa State, Missouri, Georgia, Ohio State and Ken- tucky. The Southeastern con- test marked the end of the spring season for the ASU Meat Judging Team, which also placed fourth at the National Western contest in Denver and sixth at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo contest.

Writing Pearl
The Pearl of the Concho Writ- ing Project (PCWP) has received a $20,000 continuation grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the National Writing Project.

Dr. Marilyn Eisenwine and Dr. Marva Solomon of the teacher education faculty pro- posed the continuation grant, which will help fund the PCWP’s Summer Writing Institute for 2012-13.

The Pearl of the Concho Writing Project is one of 10 National Writing Project sites in Texas, and since its inception in 2004 has trained more than 100 teachers to improve writing instruction in their classrooms.

Mass Comm Honors
ASU communication and mass media students were honored in 10 categories at the 2012 Texas Intercolligate Press As- sociation Convention this past spring in Corpus Christi.

The ASU contingent was led by former Ram Page Man- aging Editor Tim Lester, who took first place for information graphics. Receiving third place awards were former Ram Page Editor-in-Chief Scott Dyzkowski and Lester for a picture story, and former Ram Page co- Sports Editor Andy Atterbury for a sports column.

Seven honorable mention awards were also distributed to Ram Page and Ram TV staff.

PT Olympics
A team made up of 40 Angelo State University physical therapy stu- dents took first place at the 13th annual Texas Physical Therapy Olympics this spring at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. The ASU squad finished first in softball, men’s and women’s basketball, and the wheelchair relay race on its way to compiling 75 points and winning the team championship.

Other physical therapy teams competing were from the University of Texas Medical Branch, University of Texas at El Paso, UT Health Science Center, Texas Woman’s University-Dal- las, TWU-Houston, Texas State University and U.S. Army-Bay- lor University.

With the latest NASA landing on Mars, the question still remains: Are we alone in the universe? Check out what NASA scientist and West Texas native Dr. Jack Farmer had to say about this at the 2012 WTMA Distinguished Lecturer in Science Honoring Dr. Roy E. Moon at www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine.
Faculty Excellence Honorees

Dr. Michael T. Dixon of the Biology Department, Dr. Marilyn Giammario of the Teacher Education Department and Dr. Man- soo Ko of the Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences Department have been named the winners of the 2012 ASU President’s Awards for Faculty Excellence.

Dixon received the award for Faculty Excellence in Teaching. Giammario’s award was for Faculty Excellence in Excellence in Service. Ko was the award winner for Faculty Excellence in Research/Search/ Creative Endeavor. Each received $2,500 and Signature Presidential Recognition Awards.

Dixon and Ko will be ASU’s nominees for the Texas Tech University System Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Research. They and nominees from ASU’s four academic colleges were honored at the annual Academic Colleges Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Research.

Faculty Excellence Honorees

Dr. Thomas Badgett, Management and Computer Science.

Dr. Amy Williamson, Curriculum and Instruction.

In the Excellence in Leadership/Service category, semifinalists were Dr. Bonnie Amos, Biology; Lynne Hughes, Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences; Dr. Mark Sonntag, Physics; and Dr. Andrew B. Wallace, Physics.

President, Distinguished Award Recipients

Yolanda Fay of the Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences Department has been named recipient of ASU’s 2012 Presidential Award as the top graduate in her class, while three other ASU undergraduates were selected for 2012 Distinguished Student Awards from their respective academic colleges.

A Canadian citizen who came to ASU from Seminole, Elas was recognized at ASU’s May commencement along with the three Distinguished Student Award honorees: Laura E. Hardin, College of Education; Emily Hendryx, College of Arts and Sciences; and Cathryn Rittenberry, College of Business.

A dual degree recipient, Elas was nominated by the Department of English and Modern Languages. She graduated with a B.A. in English with a Spanish minor and with a B.S. in mathematics with a computer science minor. She graduated with highest university honors, and became the first Honors Program student to complete the Honors Thesis option.

A Bolivian native, Hardin was nominated by the Department of Teacher Education, where she majored in the early childhood program. A classics major and music minor from Al- pire, Hendryx was nominated by the Department of Physics and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. An ac- counting major from Carthage, Rittenberry was nominated by the Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance.

Detelin Elenkov

Dr. Detelin Elenkov of ASU’s business faculty was installed as president, effective at the end of the year, of the International Academy of Business and Economics (iAABE) at the 2012 iAABE Summer Conference in June in Venice, Italy.

A professor of international business in ASU’s Department of Management and Marketing, Elenkov, is the first holder of the Norris Family Chair in International Business that was established in December of 2007 through a $1 million donation from the Lloyd Norris Family of San Angelo. As iAABE president, Elen- kov will oversee and promote iAABE’s mission as the premier international scholarly academy for the exchange and advance- ment of research, teaching and managerial best practices in all fields of business and economics. He has served iAABE as vice president in 2010-11 and presi- dent-elect in 2011-12.

Arndol De León

War Along the Border: The Mexican Revolution and Rajón Boineau.

Dr. Karen Shumway

Karen Shumway

Dr. Karen Shumway’s appointment is a three-year commitment, during which she will serve one year each as chair-elect, chair and then past chair. It includes service not only on the Board of Commissioners, but also on the ACBSP Board of Directors and as chair of the Nomination Committee.

Dr. Karen Shumway

Degree programs in ASU’s College of Business are accredited by the ACBSP. Shumway is also ASU’s di- rector of Academic Assessment and the Mr. and Mrs. Virgil J. Powell TSCRA Professor in American Economic Principles.

Physics Trio

Three Angelo State Univer- sity physics students have been awarded prestigious scholar- ships by the national Society of Physics Students (SPS) orga- nization for the 2012-13 aca- demic year.

Blake McCracken, a senior physics major from San Angelo, is one of only three recipients nationally of the SPS Outstanding Leadership Scholarship and will receive $3,237.

Dawn Olivia Popneae, a se- nior applied physics/mathemat- ics major from Florida, and David To, a senior applied physics/mathematics major from Lubbock, are two of only 14 national recipients of the SPS Leadership Scholarship and will each receive $2,000.

Three Angelo State University nursing instructors took third prize for their poster presenta- tion at the International Nurs- ing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning’s 11th annual conference in June in San Antonio.

Evelyn Mitts, assistant clinical professor, and Jan Nichols and Betty Taylor, re- source learning specialists, claimed third place out of 109 entries for their presentation titled “Student Feedback after Using Video Review during Simulation Debriefing.” The basic premise of the poster was to illustrate students’ feedback after watching videos of themselves working clinical cases in ASU’s High Fidelity Simulation Lab. The $750,000 High Fidelity Simula- tion Lab is housed in the Vincent Nursing-Physical Science Building. The lab fea- tures ten computer-controlled mannequin simulators: two adults, one child, one baby and one woman who gives birth. Nursing instructors control the mannequins and supervise students caring for them during clinical instruc- tion sessions. The manne- quins can mimic almost every human condition, and can even “talk” to the students as instructors speak through them via the computer. – Baccalaureate/Graduate De- partment Simulation Lab. The lab fea- tures ten computer-controlled mannequin simulators: two adults, one child, one baby and one woman who gives birth. Nursing instructors control the mannequins and supervise students caring for them during clinical instruc- tion sessions. The manne- quins can mimic almost every human condition, and can even “talk” to the students as instructors speak through them via the computer.

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most persuasive recruiters do not work in the Office of Admissions, and they usually do not interact with prospective students, either.

The groundskeepers in the university’s Grounds Maintenance division prefer to let the visual appeal of campus do all the talking. Grounds crew members are aware that they are responsible for making a strong first impression when prospective students and their families visit campus, said Jaime Aguilar, lead groundskeeper who has helped recruit students to ASU for 26 years.

“I like to take pride in what I do,” Aguilar said. “We’ve gotten a lot of compliments from a lot of people. Some of them work here, and others are students who have stopped by, but it’s good to hear that from everybody.”

Keeping the campus attractive is a year-round responsibility, but is especially critical leading up to special events for new and prospective students, when the landscaping sets the tone for their whole campus experience.

“We try to get everything mowed out and cleaned up for events,” Aguilar said. “At the same time, we get two or three people to come in over the weekend and clean up more trash that might be there, just to keep it looking presentable.”

Picking up the trash is one of the grounds crew’s most time-consuming chores, said Hal Peter, associate director of special services/grounds and custodial.

“It’s a thankless job sometimes,” Peter said, “but the guys are great. They know what they’re doing. They know that they are the first impression of ASU.”

With 12 groundskeepers dedicated to the main campus, each day brings different and sometimes challenging work duties. The grounds crew does everything from power washing the sidewalks and mowing the grass to watering and trimming trees and shrubs. Several crew members are also licensed to use herbicides and pesticides, which helps keep weeds under control and saves plants from insects.

An additional two groundskeepers work strictly on athletic facility maintenance. They maintain the swimming pool and manage all of the university’s athletic fields, including mowing, fertilizing, painting and striping.

“We always let them know when we have recruits coming,” said head softball coach Travis Scott. “The guys make sure the grass is in good shape, there’s no trash, and everything is mowed and trimmed, which helps with recruiting.”

Keeping the campus in prime recruiting shape is not an 8- to 5 job. Because some of the noisy equipment the grounds crew uses would be disruptive during classes and regular work hours, schedules are staggered so that some crew members come in as early as 4 a.m., another group arrives at 6 a.m. and a third group reports to work at 7:30 a.m. The
Drought conditions in recent years have killed several of the university’s pecan, red oak, sycamore and ash trees, as well as a lot of plant material. The summer heat was especially hard on the university in 2011 when city regulations only allowed watering up to 1 inch per week, but the evaporation rate was 2.5–3 inches per week.

“It’s hard to keep anything looking good in those conditions,” Peter said. “When you don’t have the water, we’ve got to do other things to make it just that much better, whether it’s through keeping the trash picked up or keeping everything power washed more often.”

Another outcome of the recent droughts is that ASU is planting fewer flowers, instead substituting native plants and greenery that can survive on the limited rainfall. As part of these adjustments, some formerly green areas along the University Mall and near the University Center have been replaced with xeriscaping.

“With high temperatures and high traffic, we were getting areas that were just beaten down,” Peter said. “Without the rain, they’re not going to come back. You just can’t put enough irrigation water on it to really do any good. What we were getting were some dead areas, and trails were starting to form from golf carts and students. So we started putting down granite where people can walk across it, and people have been very receptive to it, actually.”

In addition to their regular duties, grounds crew members are also responsible for certain aspects of campus safety. After winter storms, they spread ice melt and salt around buildings to allow for safe passage. They also trim trees so they do not block the university streetlights.

“If it’s the dead of winter, then we’re trimming trees,” Peter said. “If it’s springtime, the leaves from the live oaks are falling and we’re blowing and picking up leaves, we’re mowing and edging. In the fall, the pecans and the leaves start falling and we’ve got cleanup. And we’re constantly power washing areas and keeping things hand watered, emptying trash cans, and picking up trash from the campus and the parking lots. It really is nonstop.”

And that year-round attention is paying dividends. With a well-maintained campus as a major tool in its recruiting arsenal, ASU has set record enrollment numbers each of the last five semesters, and is looking to continue that trend as it strives to reach 10,000 students by 2020.

The visual appeal of the campus helps recruiters in the Office of Admission focus on other aspects of university life as they are meeting with prospective students, said Michael Loehring, director of recruitment services and admissions.

“The campus sells itself!” Loehring said. “That’s one benefit of working on a beautiful campus.”
Though they will probably never be featured in comic books or movies, ASU’s academic department secretaries could easily be pictured wearing capes and a big red ‘S’ on their chests. While they are officially titled ‘office coordinators,’ the ‘S’ would still look much better than ‘OC’ and give a clearer indication of the super staff who hold those positions in Angelo State’s 19 academic departments.

“Without our departmental secretaries, to be honest, I don’t know how we would function,” said Dr. Leslie Mayrand, dean of the College of Health and Human Services. “They are the backbone of what goes on in their departments. If they weren’t there, it would be painfully obvious how much we need them. They really are key to the smooth functioning of their departments and the colleges as well.”

To keep their departments running efficiently, secretaries must be jacks of all trades. Besides answering phones and doing basic clerical work, they also order supplies, oversee departmental budgets and perform a myriad of other tasks. Melody Kelley spent six years doing all that in the Teacher Education Department before recently moving to the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

“You have to know a little bit about everything,” Kelley said. “You have to know purchasing, accounting, auditing, facilities, all the degree programs and who to contact for every question from faculty, students and parents. We have to know at least a little bit about everything across the campus. I think it is one of the toughest positions on campus, but also one of the most rewarding.”

However, it is the duties they perform outside of their written job descriptions that really promote secretaries to superhero status. As provost and vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Brian May oversees all ASU academic departments. In his words, the secretaries are “literally the glue that holds ASU together.”

“In addition to their regular duties,” May said, “what they end up being are class advisors and even grief counselors. They worry about our students, and also take a lot of calls from worried parents. A lot of times, they are our front line as far as meeting student needs and for taking care of parents who need to contact their kids. If you ask any student who they are going to remember after they leave ASU, nine times out of 10 it will be the department secretary who has made as big an impact as any professor.”

Jaxine Boling has been impacting students as secretary of the Art and Music Department since 2003. By her estimate, she spends 50 percent of her time dealing with students, particularly freshmen.

“It’s truly nursing them through that first semester,” Boling said. “They get down or depressed because they don’t really understand everything that is going on. I try to get to know them and build a bond with them. I try before the end of each semester to be able to call all my freshmen by name.”
name, know where they are from and know at least a little bit about them. I try to be a good listener and help where I can.”

“I really feel like it is a calling for me,” she added. “Having had my own three kids come through ASU, I know how daunting it is in the beginning. Sometimes I may mother the students too much, but I believe that building that bond is a main thing that keeps some kids coming to school.”

“Fathering” students, though, is a big part of the job.

“The secretaries have a parental aspect that our students crave,” May said. “We call our students adults, but in many ways they are still kids and need that parental figure that they can count on.”

Another group that requires particular care is ASU’s growing population of international students. Elva Aguilar has been secretary of the Center for International Studies since 2008 and knows firsthand their special needs.

“They have different cultures and customs,” Aguilar said, “so when they come here, it is all new to them. It is a big shock because often, San Angelo is a much smaller city than where they came from. They don’t know here, it is all new to them. It is a big shock since 2008 and knows firsthand their спе.

The students, however, are not the only ones who benefit from these types of relationships. Every secretary on campus has stories of how students have also enriched their lives. Aguilar’s favorite story involves international students helping decorate her home for the holidays last December.

“They also brought their guitars and serenaded me,” Aguilar said. “While they were working, I cooked spaghetti for them and we ate as a family. We had so much fun. They are so friendly and lovable, they basically become like my children. I do for them what I always know they can be,” Thorpe added, “it’s a great day but a sad day because I’m letting my kids go. But I know they are going to go out and do great things, and they never fail me. It’s also nice because I could probably travel around the world and never have to pay for a place to stay because they are everywhere.”

Faculty also depend on the department secretaries as much as the students. When crises occur, secretaries are often called upon to resolve situations that will never be listed in a job description.

“This spring we had a leak in a pipe upstairs,” Boling said. “Where it leaked was into our grand piano on the recital stage. You can’t let water sit on any piano, especially a $60,000 grand piano, so my job was mopping, vacuuming, moving furniture and hauling wet vacs, things like that.”

“Our department secretaries,” May added, “they pull faculty out of jams all the time. It’s a great day but a sad day because I’m letting my kids go. But I know they are going to go out and do great things, and they never fail me. It’s also nice because I could probably travel around the world and never have to pay for a place to stay because they are everywhere.”

If you go to any departmental end-of-the-year banquet, the loudest applause will be for the secretary,” May said. “And that person probably organized the banquet to begin with. I’m thankful that we have the number and quality of employees at that position because it is key to the success of Angelo State. We couldn’t do it without them.”

“There are many ways of serving your country, and in a way this job allows me to do that again,” she said. “There are also ways of serving your state, and I had not done that before, but this job gives me a way to do that as well.”

“Office coordinator, facilitator, catalyst, parent, counselor, advisor and friend – when all wrapped up together they become secretary with a big red cross.”

Angelo State University Magazine
Hard at Play

When it comes to intramurals, Angelo State students are in the game. Big time!

Through the hard work of its staff and volunteers, ASU’s intramural sports program has become one of the most popular student activities on campus and has garnered national recognition for the university.

More than 2,500 ASU students play on almost 1,000 teams in 16 intramural competitions every year. Overseen by University Recreation (UREC), the program earned ASU a No. 18 national ranking in The Princeton Review’s 2012 college guide for the category “Everyone Plays Intramural Sports.”

“We estimate that about 40 percent of the campus plays intramural sports,” said Bradley Petty, UREC director. “There are some schools that have more students playing, but for our size school, we dominate the numbers in participation.”

With a student population of just over 7,000, ASU’s intramural participation compares favorably to much larger schools, such as Petty’s alma mater, Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, which has 15,000 students and fields approximately 90 total intramural teams per major team sport.

“ASU participation is outstanding,” Petty said, “and our numbers are more in the ballpark of a school with 20,000-25,000 students.”

And participation level is not the only way ASU’s intramural programs have received national acclaim. ASU basketball and flag football teams have competed successfully in national tournaments. Most recently, men’s basketball team Dynasty won the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association’s Basketball National Championship in January, while ASU’s Wolfpac reached the semifinals. IM Legends also won a national title in 2010 at the American Collegiate Intramural Sports (ACIS) National Championships, and was runner-up in 2011. ASU’s New Era finished second at the 2010 ACIS tournament.

“We have a lot of players from six-man high school teams who are not playing varsity football in college, but are really good athletes,” Petty said. “Six-man is very similar to the seven-man flag football teams, except there is no contact. That gives us an advantage having those athletes, and we have taken as many as eight teams to regional tournaments. The past couple of years, every division where we have entered teams in tournaments, often both teams in the championship game were from Angelo State.”

When a program becomes as successful as ASU intramurals, a lot of blood, sweat and logistics go into keeping the gears greased and in good working order. Divided into men’s, women’s and co-recreational (co-ed) divisions, the program keeps UREC staff and student volunteers busy with a variety of functions from officiating and scorekeeping to planning seasons and playoff brackets.

Planning sessions take place every April as UREC staff build and revise schedule calendars to meet student demand. There is no respite for them even between seasons because one sport immediately follows the last.

“When we are planning the seasons,” Petty said, “none of our major sports overlap so they can officiate games throughout the season. The easier the sport is to officiate, the more officials we have, but officiating is never easy. Sometimes they call one game, and they are done in.”

In flag football, ASU co-rec team IM Legends was runner-up at the 2011 NCCS Flag Football National Championship in January, while ASU’s Wolfpac reached the semifinals. IM Legends also won a national title in 2010 at the American Collegiate Intramural Sports (ACIS) National Championships, and was runner-up in 2011. ASU’s New Era finished second at the 2010 ACIS tournament.

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“Intramurals - continued on page 49

Whitaker does the hiring at the beginning of each academic year and tries to retain those with experience.

“As people graduate and leave, new ones come in,” he said. “The ones who have experience can help the young ones.”

ASU graduate student Andy Decker began by playing intramurals as an undergraduate before also taking on the striped officials’ shirt.

“Officiate flag football, basketball and softball,” he said. “I also play, so on average in a week, I'm up here eight hours in a day between officiating and playing.”

Some sports do not need officials, like sand volleyball, where players police their own games. UREC staff attend those events simply to monitor brackets and keep the games moving.

“Typically, our officials are reserved for our major team sports,” Petty said. “That’s where the most participation is, as well as where there is a greater likelihood for disputes over calls.”

Bradley Petty

Jeremy Whitaker

Angelo State University Magazine
A lot goes on behind the scenes to make ASU’s commencement a success. Visit the magazine website at www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine to learn about the planning, implementation, and people that make the event memorable for each class of graduates and their families.

Come finals at the end of each fall and spring semester, no graduating Angelo State seniors face any more stressful time than Henry Begil and Aaron Carrillo of the ASU Print Shop.

Granted, they may not have to pass a test, but Begil and Carrillo must print a commencement program in less than 24 hours or face the dissatisfaction of ASU graduates and their families, who deserve to see their loved ones’ names in print to signify their educational accomplishment.

“It would be kind of rough,” said Print Shop Supervisor Begil, “to miss that deadline and have to face disappointed parents and kids. We do 7,000 commencement programs, and it is probably the most important job we do all year.”

Printer Carrillo runs the Heidelberg Printmaster four-color press, which prints the six folios that are cut and bound into the 24-page commencement program.

“Typically,” Carrillo said, “we get the finished materials at noon on the Thursday before Saturday’s graduation. This spring I finished printing at 10 o’clock Thursday night. Then we came in Friday morning, trimmed the sheets and put them on our booklet maker to bind them. We finished the programs and then delivered them to the Juxell Center by 6 p.m.”

Their work and dedication is appreciated by Cindy Weeaks, director of registrar services, who coordinates the commencement logistics.

“We turn it in to them on Thursday, so Henry and Aaron only have until that Friday afternoon to get them printed,” said Weeaks. “They work all night long to get it done and do an awesome job.”

ASU Director of Graphics Michael Martin, who designs ASU’s recruiting materials and other major publications, said, “I’ve had the pleasure of working with some of the best print houses in the state for 35 years, and I’d put Henry and Aaron up against any of them. These guys take a tremendous amount of pride in their work, and it shows in reflecting a professional image for Angelo State.”

With the exception of Angelo State University Magazine and an occasional admissions publication, which because of size will not fit on the press or because the quantity is uneconomical to run on the press, the Print Shop produces virtually all of the university’s publications.

If over the last decade you have received a letter from ASU, Begil and Carrillo printed the envelope and stationery. If you have ever received an Angelo State business card, they ran them through a Print Shop press, producing 115,750 business cards alone in 2011, the last fiscal year for which full numbers are available. If you have ever attended an event on campus, they likely produced the flyer, poster or invitation, whether the event was sponsored by the University Center Program Council, the Multicultural Center or the President’s Circle. They even made 1,002,533 photocopies on their Xerox machine in 2011.

To say they are busy is an understatement, much like the sign on their front counter with three laughing caricatures and the question, “You want it when?,” designed to let customers know they need some lead time to juggle all their jobs.

During the summer when the campus is at its slowest, the Print Shop is at its busiest time of the year, printing a new round of recruiting materials for the Office of Admissions, producing a variety of academic pieces for the new academic year and closing out the fiscal year with billing in mid-August.

“Before we got the four-color press, we probably had two months of really slow time as many of the color jobs were sent off campus,” Begil said. “Now, we may get a few slow weeks at the most, but with all the other stuff we offer now, such as big posters, the small color printing and regular copying, there’s really no complete downtime anymore.”

Begil began his printing career in an era of Linotypes and letterpresses and has seen the technology shift to digital files and publishing. He started work at Angelo State under Ray Bolf in 1992, when all the Print Shop offered was black-and-white printing.

“When I heard about the job,” Begil recalled, “I really wanted it, so I came here every day until I think he got tired of me and just hired me.”

Carrillo joined Begil in the Print Shop in the summer of 2000 after working 20 years for private printers. He might have started sooner except for a mix-up.
Recipe
for Success

When hunger pangs strike, the ASU campus community turns to Chartwells.

As the university’s contracted food service provider, Chartwells employs almost 100 professionals who are involved in preparing more than 3,500 daily meals during the spring and fall semesters, requiring 3,000 tons of food and 34,200 gallons of beverages served in six different campus facilities. Their efforts are coordinated by Richard Gonzalez, director of dining services.

“Looking back and putting these figures together,” Gonzalez said, “it is surprising how many people we serve.”

ASU’s various food service areas are overseen by seven Chartwells managers, including two in the Houston Harte University Center (UC), three in the Food Service Center and a catering director. They supervise 54 full-time employees, including three chefs, and 33 part-timers, some of them students.

“We try to get as many students as we can to work for us,” Gonzalez said. “We like to hire them part time, and we work around their schedules because, ultimately, school comes first.”

Many of the food service associates are longtime Chartwells employees, including John Gengler, Becky Bravo and Wilma Bradley, who were all recently honored for more than 30 years of service. Mary Sanchez, who works in ASU’s Crossroads Café, was named a Wonderful Woman of ASU earlier this year and has been with Chartwells for a quarter of a century.

“We have a lot of loyal staff members,” Gonzalez said, “and a lot of them work in the fall and spring semesters, then take off during the breaks, summer and around the winter holidays.”

On the east side of campus, the Food Service Center is the largest and busiest ASU
bakeries and sandwich shops, hot wings, to-go salads, drinks and convenience store items. It is open 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Monday-Friday throughout the year, and keeps later hours during the spring and fall semesters when it is also open 7:30 p.m.-2 a.m. Monday-Thursday and 7-10 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Across campus, Roscoe’s Bistro and the Crossroads Cafe are located in the University Center to provide food service for the west side of campus, particularly for students living in Centennial Village and Carr Hall.

While it is somewhat smaller than the Food Service Center, Roscoe’s Bistro also serves full daily meals during the spring and fall semesters. For diners who want “fast-er” food, the Crossroads Cafe is open year round with fresh sandwiches, pizza, Asian dishes and grilled food, such as burgers and sandwiches. Pre-packaged sandwiches and other items are also available.

Across the University Center lobby from Crossroads Cafe is R&B Espresso, which offers Starbucks-brand coffees and Freshens frozen yogurt along with iced drinks, salads, pastries and sandwiches to go.

The newest food service location on campus is the Common Grounds coffee bar in the Porter Henderson Library. Offering much the same food and drink selections as R&B Espresso, Common Grounds substitues frozen yogurt with Frappuccino iced drinks as part of its “Proudly Serving Starbucks” line.

All of the campus eateries are overseen by the Food Service Committee, which includes Chartwells managers, students and a representative of Housing and Residential Programs. It meets every other Wednesday to review the food services and make any needed adjustments.

“We look at records for the first three weeks of the semester and estimate what we will need because we have no clue what anyone is going to be eating,” Gonzalez said. “We could have a bunch of extra food at the end of an evening, or we could run out by 6 p.m. and have to make adjustments to serve through 7:30 p.m. We rely on past history, and analyze what was eaten and what wasn’t.”

In addition to daily campus food service, Chartwells is also the university’s official caterer for meetings, banquets and special events both on and off campus.

“We go to the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center, the Junell Center, the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts and the Cactus Hotel,” Gonzalez said. “We concentrate on campus, but we can go anywhere in town and regularly cater for groups from 20 to 1,000 people. We have even catered a plated service for three people, and at Rambunctious Weekend, we will probably feed 2,000.”

Topping the Chartwells priority list, though, is always trying to please and accommodate its primary customer base – ASU students. Personnel are always on the lookout for students with special needs, including food allergies, intolerance to gluten or the cultural preferences of the university’s growing international student population.

“We have started baking gluten-free bread based on rice and tapioca flour,” Gonzalez said. “And if there are students on campus, we are here. We don’t think people know that we serve food 365 days a year, and we have been doing it for about four years.”

Frazier agreed that dining services must be responsive to special requests and diets that cater to vegetarians, diabetics and others with dietary needs out of the mainstream or because of scheduling issues.

“It can be challenging to accommodate the wide range of eating preferences and schedules on a college campus while trying to keep an eye on cost and operational efficiencies, so that we can maintain the best overall value and meet the needs of the majority of our constituents,” she said.

The Chartwells unit at ASU stands ready to accommodate those needs year round.

“It takes a lot of dedicated people to make this operation,” Gonzalez said, “and if there are students on campus, we are here. We don’t think people know that we serve food 365 days a year, and we have been doing it for about four years.”

Cartwright.
Underground ASU

Some of the most technologically advanced equipment operating on the Angelo State campus is never seen by the students, the faculty or the public.

Located underneath the Food Service Center on the east side of campus, the university’s Central Plant is the home base for ASU’s heating and cooling system. It provides hot water for the food service areas and science labs, and regulates the temperature in university buildings.

Overseen by ASU Facilities Management’s Mechanical Services division, the Central Plant operates around the clock, and consequently has staff on call 24 hours a day. While any mechanical problems must be addressed on site, recent technology upgrades allow temperature regulating to be done remotely.

“I have guys who have laptop computers who can be anywhere in the world and can see what’s going on down here,” said Jay Halbert, facilities management director. “There’s times when I can call one of my control technicians, and he may be sitting at a high school football game up in Dallas, and he’ll get on his computer and he’ll change the temperature of a room.”

Staffers can also receive alerts of possible equipment failures on their smart phones, which significantly reduces response times for on-site repairs. With the advanced technology, though, also comes the need for staffers, like energy control technicians Carl Halfmann and Brian Porter, to learn the complicated nuances of the Central Plant’s computer system.

Mechanical Services work is typically 60 percent preventive and 20 percent responsive, said Paul Pillsbury, associate director of mechanical services, and the university’s efforts to keep up with new technology in the field help keep their jobs manageable.

“We can head off a lot of problems before people even know something is not working properly,” Pillsbury said.

From the Central Plant, heated and chilled water circulates in pipes to the campus buildings. Each building has a mechanical air handler room, where the air is either heated or cooled by the water and then pushed through the building. Once the water has passed across the temperature coils in the air handler rooms, it circles back to the Central Plant and is cooled by the water and then pushed through the building. Once the water has passed across the temperature coils in the air handler rooms, it circles back to the Central Plant and is reused. The Central Plant plant is a maze of pipes with some as large as 14-16 inches in diameter. It houses six chillers, two large-scale boilers and several smaller boiler units, which create a constant buzz of machinery. And, in the summer months, the plant is stifling from the heat of all those machines battling the West Texas temperatures.

“In the summer,” Halbert said, “we make sure none of the guys work alone and that they all have plenty of fluids because it’s so hot down here.”

Some of the crew’s other everyday tasks include replacing filters and greasing bearings in the air handler rooms, plumbing repairs, working with high voltage equipment and testing for water quality to ensure that none of the pipes corrode. The Central Plant also has a machine shop where crew members do their own ductwork. Each of the 10-plus crew members must know all the maintenance and control systems so they can handle any problems when they are on call.

Since temperature regulating can be done remotely, the main concern for on-call workers is a pipe leak or break. A tunnel with exposed piping extends from the Central Plant to the Porter Henderson Library. From there, the rest of the heating and cooling pipes are buried underground. If a leak or a break happens in the tunnel, the crew can typically get in and easily repair it. But if a leak occurs in a buried portion of a line, it is a different story.

Underground – continued on page 51
His July appointment as Angelo State’s new athletic director represents a homecoming for Sean Johnson, who served as ASU’s sports information director from 1993-95 in a career that has placed him in marketing or administrative roles at nine other colleges over the last 28 years.

“The thing I remember most about my first visit to Angelo State,” Johnson said, “was how the whole athletic staff worked together. When we hosted a football game, a track meet, a basketball game, everyone pitched in. The other thing I enjoyed, and this is one of the great things about Division II athletics, is that we all pulled for each other. We all enjoyed our success together.”

Johnson, who succeeds Kathleen Brasfield and comes to ASU from the University of North Dakota (UND) where he was senior associate athletic director for external affairs, will be working to maintain that cohesiveness and build upon the university’s successes that include two national championships in every sport we sponsor. “The opportunity to increase support today is greater than when Johnson started his career in 1984 as sports information director for Lincoln University because of the pervasiveness of digital and social media. “Social media and the Internet have led to a 24-hour information cycle that demands immediate response and reaction, but this trend started 30 years ago when USA Today changed the face of journalism by delivering multiple news items in a shortened version,” Johnson said.

“The great thing about social media, the Internet and technology, in general, is it allows Division II schools like Angelo State the same opportunities to communicate and market that are available to much larger schools,” Johnson said. “To grow our business, we need to grow our customer base. ASU has a great program, it’s located in a great town, and I know there is opportunity to grow a fan base that can support the program.”

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As Johnson looks to the future of ASU athletics, his goals are direct and ambitious. “We want to recruit the best student-athletes and make sure they graduate and become leaders in their field,” he said. “We want to compete for championships, serve our community, give our fans a great experience every time they come to an ASU home game and do our very best to serve the overall mission of Angelo State University. We want to be the best Division II program in the country.”

Further, Johnson is humbled by the opportunity to lead ASU on that path. “I’ve been attracted to the Angelo State job ever since I moved into administration,” he continued. “You don’t have to buy your way into communication as much as you had to in the past. Now you can control your message and get the important facts to all of your constituents without a middle man.”

And while omnipresent digital and social media are competitors for the public’s discretionary dollars and time, college athletics is still a superior option, particularly at the D-II level, because of affordability and the game experience.

“The fact that technology has also created more demand for the public’s entertainment dollar doesn’t change the fact that there is nothing better than watching an event in person,” Johnson said. “It’s one thing to watch the game on television, iPhone or computer, but it will never replace the social experience of enjoying it in person.”

Johnson was kind of embarrassed at first because we had to send him my mom everything for compliance, Sue said. “I couldn’t sign anything, but they let me run.”

A native New Yorker and daughter of two former Caribbean track athletes, Sue relocated to Texas with her father, Rolex, when she was 13. She graduated high school when she was 16 and enrolled as a student and walk-on track and field athlete at Angelo State before turning 17. She still wonders why people have always asked why she is in such a hurry.

“I had nothing to do besides study and run track when we moved to Fort Worth, so I challenged myself to be great at both of them,” said Sue, who also helped lead the Rambelles to their fourth straight LSC team title in 2002. “People have always said that I walk like I’m on a mission. If I wasn’t doing track then I was taking extra classes in high school. It wasn’t really a goal of mine to finish early. It kind of just happened.”

The 400-meter hurdles LSC champion as a sophomore in 2011, Sue defended that title by running 59.34 as a junior and also claimed the LSC title in the long jump this season. Her leap of 23 feet, four inches at the conference meet in Commerce set a personal best, while her seventh-place finish at the 2012 NCAA Division II national meet in Pueblo, Colo., earned the first All-America honor in her accelerated career.

With three years of collegiate experience, Sue is now signing her own paperwork as a 19-year-old senior who is challenging herself to win five All-America certificates during the 2013 indoor and outdoor seasons.

“I’m fast enough, but I’m not strong enough right now,” she admitted. “I used to avoid the weight room at all costs. That has to change. I never had to lift in my life. It’s always been natural to me. I think a lot of that comes with being a little immature. I finally understand that I need to put in more work to reach my goals.”

That mindset comes as a breath of fresh air to her coaches, who see her unlimited potential.

“It’s been very exciting to see her progress throughout the years, but it hasn’t been easy at all,” ASU head track and field coach James Reid said. “I think she’s ready to take that next step. Her age created some challenges for her and for us throughout the last three years, but I think next year is really going to be her time.”

Former ASU track star and All-American Chrystal Ruiz, who was Sue’s teammate before becoming a graduate assistant coach, has watched her development from the beginning. “An emerging level of maturity remains the theme. “Her maturity really developed this year,” Ruiz said. “She has grown as a team member and an athlete a lot since she got here. The experience to work hard and has the potential to have a lot more success next year.”

Sue acknowledges her fast-tracked pace through Saginaw High School came at a price. Although she went to the University Interscholastic League Class 5A State Track and Field Championships three years in a row and her 2400 relay team still holds the school’s record, she never experienced a prom. Beyond that, Sue spent so much time studying that she neglected many of the social aspects of growing up.

“It was all about my books and track at that time,” she said.

Now a history major at ASU, Sue is planning to move back to New York for graduate school. Her original design was to become a lawyer, but she is now considering going to New York University to study communications and pursue a career in sports journalism. For now she is enjoying life as a student-athlete at ASU and is making an effort to not let the moments go by unappreciated.

“I really believe everything happens for a reason and anything is possible,” Sue said. “I’ve done a lot so far, but I still have a lot more to do.”
Undefeated

by Wes Bloomquist

The greatest loss for the 2012 Rambelles softball team was not a game, but a fan – George McCorkle. As a fan, you could say McCorkle was undefeated.

Love and passion were words used in McCorkle’s obituary to articulate his feelings for the Angelo State softball team. Inspirational, positive, faithful, respected and a man of great character were a few ways the heartbroken Rambelles expressed their admiration for him and his wife, Ola Mae.

“He had so much love for us and we felt the same way about him,” said ASU catcher Kacie Easley, who visited San Angelo Community Medical Center with her family just hours before McCorkle passed away. “His family kept thanking me at the hospital for coming and told me to thank my team for bringing so much joy into George’s life. I was there to thank them,” she said.

McCorkle, who was a friend, fan and supporter of the softball team, died at the age of 71 on April 6 after a battle with cancer. He and Ola Mae had been constant supporters of the team. Scott credits McCorkle for helping him become a better coach, and even more importantly, a better person.

“George was always smiling and upbeat,” Scott said. “He taught us all a lesson about life and faith. Win or lose, he was always supportive of us. He never questioned the effort of the girls or the coaching decisions that were made. George and Ola are not just fans, they are part of our program.”

Always around the team, there were many times when the McCorkles were assumed to be parents or grandparents of an Angelo State softball player. After her husband’s passing, Ola was touched by the players and coaches wearing wristbands with his initials on them and also seeing “GM” painted on the field. Those are but a select few of the cherished moments Ola experienced when she closes her eyes to reminisce about the times she enjoyed the company of him and his Rambelles.

“We don’t have any grandchildren, so we always consider all the Angelo State athletes our grandchildren,” she said. “You really get to know the athletes and their parents when you consistently come out to support the teams. You become part of their family. We always loved that part of it.”

Thirty-one current and former players attended his funeral in their ASU softball uniforms to say goodbye. It was a tribute McCorkle would have been delighted to see and one Ola needed. For as hard as it was to see those uniformed young women, Ola always had smiles on their faces to now have eyes filled with tears, it was a way to pay homage to the couple that had cheered them on for years. They were there to honor a man who had wished them good luck before they went on road trips and had met them in the parking lot – often after midnight – to welcome them back home, regardless of the significance of the game or the result.

“They really showed me how much love they had for him and me when they showed up wearing their uniforms,” Ola said. “I had no idea that many former players were going to be coming back. When I saw them, I really got a lift that I needed.”

Although McCorkle’s physical presence was no longer there, Ola and the love for him remained throughout the 2012 season that fell just one win short of the NCAA Division II Softball Championship Tournament. ASU finished the season with a 48-11 record, winning the Lone Star Conference championship for the sixth time in program history. Elisamartina Apo, who led the team with a .424 batting average, was named the LSC Female Athlete of the Year. While Scott earned his fourth Coach of the Year honor and Deeshanaylnn Tafiti, Apo and Kacie Easley earned All-America honors.

“For us to go out and play the way we did this season says a lot about the makeup of our players,” Scott said. “Everybody accepted their role and really bought into the team concept this year. People say that a lot, but we never had one issue with anything. We were talented up and down the lineup and had a lot of talent that hardly ever saw the field.”

A season where the Rambelles were nationally ranked throughout and ousted their opponents by a combined score of 566-394 avoided many on-field struggles, except for a three-game losing streak that was reversed in late March. The Rambelles finished the regular season by winning six of their final 18 games. While mired in that mini-slump, the team found strength from McCorkle in his life’s most fragile moment.

“He pulled my team out of a rut that we fell into,” Apo said. “We realized that if this man is fighting for his life, then we as a team need to fight and dig deep. The respect he had for us rejuvenated our team.”

During ASU’s first home game after McCorkle’s funeral, Ola returned alone to a softball field full of people who love her. Together, they cheered the Rambelles to a 7-3 victory over Abilene Christian. For the first time, she needed them more than they needed her.

“He was always right there beside me and it was really tough without him there,” said Ola, who married McCorkle in 1988 after meeting him at Wesley Trinity United Methodist Church. “It’s still very difficult. I don’t think I would have gotten through it without the support I had from the girls, coaches and other fans, who really helped me.”

“It wasn’t easy seeing her there without George,” Easley said, “but we were very excited she was there. It didn’t feel right out there when they weren’t there. I know it wasn’t easy for her, but we are very grateful for the support she gives us. There’s a huge void that can’t be replaced now that George is gone, but we are still really blessed because we have Ola.”

The successful 2012 ASU softball season concluded in the third game of a best-of-three super regional series against Central Oklahoma. McCorkle was not physically present to watch the final month of the season, but his incredible spirit never left. Neither did his love, Ola Mae, who was there to support the players and watch the games for him.

“Till support Angelo State as long as I’m on top of the ground and the ground is very near to top of me,” Ola said. “I will always be there for all of them.”
From Kingsville to Canyon, from Oklahoma to Missouri and even up the side-walks to the Foster Field press box, Tommy and Debbie Robinson navigated their Mini Cooper everywhere last season to support the Lone Star Conference champion Angelo State baseball team.

The couple, who have been devoted fans since the baseball program started in 2005, attended almost every game of the 2012 season, hosted tailgate parties during the regular season and served as hospitality directors at the LSC Baseball Championship – a tournament the Rams won by beating Tarleton State, 6-0, in the title game. They drove to Warrensburg, Mo., to watch ASU at the NCAA Division II South Central Regional where the 40-17 season came to an end, falling just one step short of advancing to the NCAA Division II Baseball Championship in Cary, N.C.

“We really enjoyed this season because of all the camaraderie that the team had,” Debbie said. “They had so much fun out there and you could really tell that they loved what they were doing. That makes it fun for us as fans to watch. I’ve always thought that if you support the team, you should be there all the time no matter where they play.”

Tommy and Debbie are fans of many Angelo State athletic teams, but feel a special connection to baseball because they first met during high school at a San Angelo Central baseball game. This past season, they particularly enjoyed cooking meals and providing refreshments for tournament administrators, umpires, coaches and media during the LSC Championship, though it was a challenge because of weather delays that pushed games past midnight and eventually to an unscheduled fifth day. Each weather interruption, which Tommy described as a “monumental job and a crazy time,” caused a rush to their tent, which turned into the tournament’s gathering place during delays that lasted up to seven hours. They also prepared and delivered food and drinks to the press box for administrators and the media.

“It’s awesome to have people that are so helpful and supportive of our program,” said ASU head coach Kevin Brooks, who was named LSC Coach of the Year after leading the Rams to a 20-8 conference record. “Debbie and Tommy were there, home and away, and really invested a lot of time into us. They are two of the people that really make our baseball program special. As coaches and players, we notice it and can’t thank them enough for everything they do.”

The Robinsons were not alone in enjoying watching the team put together one of the best seasons in program history. The Rams were ranked as high as fourth in the national polls, won the LSC regular season and tournament championships and out-scored their opponents by a combined score of 409-241.

All-American Lee Neumann thrilled fans throughout the season with sensational plays in centerfield and at the plate, hitting .389 and leading the conference with 81 hits, nine triples and 60 runs scored. Ryan Greer led ASU by driving in 58 runs and stealing 29 bases, while Quaid McKinnon, Toby Semler, Brett Parson and Andrew Lacombe all hit over .300 and were named to the All-LSC first team.

Michael Lange went 9-1 on the mound, and Michael Weatherly recorded nine saves, as both pitchers also earned first-team All-LSC recognition. Doug Stover was named an Academic All-American, while Zach Cohen earned the Fred Jacoby Academic Player of the Year Award, given to the top student-athlete in the conference.

“It was a really good group that brought Angelo State baseball back to where it is supposed to be,” Brooks said. “We have a great core group returning next season that we’re really excited about.”

Added Tommy Robinson, “ASU has a tremendous baseball program with great guys. We’re prepared to drive to North Carolina next year to watch the Rams in the 2013 D-II College World Series.”

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Angelo State University Magazine  FALL 2012

Four in a Row

By winning a fourth-straight Lone Star Conference title, the Angelo State Rambelles track and field team accomplished a feat only seen three other times in ASU history.

The latest title also distinguishes Angelo State as only the second women's team in Lone Star Conference history to win four consecutive crowns in track and field.

It is the sixth league crown in the last nine years for the Rambelles. The team race was one of the closest in conference history with ASU edging Abilene Christian 195.5 to 195 in the LSC Championships. The Rams finished in third place in the men's race was one of the closest in conference history to win four in a row.

Top Returners: Seniors Chelsea Gibson and Alex Woolesey return after being named to the All-LSC first team in 2011. With 346 kills last season, Gibson enters 2012 needing only 75 kills for 1,000 in her career. Woolesey has recorded 3,691 career assists, and another strong season could see her pass ASU’s current all-time assist leader, Amber Nelson (4,786). Juniors Kaelyn Valdez and Maddie Hult combined for 562 kills last season, while sophomore Shelby Wilt led the ‘Belles with 585 digs. Seniors Katie Coleman and Emily Booth will add depth and leadership, while junior outside hitter Leah McWilliams adds versatility following a redshirt season.

Top Newcomers: Junior Sheli Goode, a 6-2 middle blocker and former high school All-American from Georgetown, joins the ‘Belles after two years at the University of Alabama. Four freshmen, outside hitter Arielle Bond (El Paso), defensive specialist Haley Bianco (Austin), middle blocker Kailyn Tronell (Pampa) and defensive specialist Katie MacLeay (San Antonio), are expected to solidify the ASU lineup.

Outlook: After advancing to the NCAA D-II national tournament for the first time in 1995 last season, the ‘Belles have even higher expectations for 2012. ASU returns nine players from the 2011 squad that went 31-6, and has added one transfer and six freshmen with the potential to make immediate impacts.

Top Returners: Junior Maggie Schaffer is the leading returning scorer with six goals in 2011. She is joined by seniors Hanna Horeis with four goals and Lauren Carnes with two goals from last year. Horeis and Carnes are this year’s team captains along with Karli Maese. Junior defender Jordan Beinfeld hopes to build on her 2011 All-LSC second team performance, while Kat Monroe and goalkeeper Danielle Edwards will fill important roles this season.

Top Newcomers: Eight freshmen are expected to add both depth and talent to the 2012 Rambelles. San Angelo Central graduate Lauren Baeman is a goal-scoring forward, while midfielders Tregan Courney, Sierra Anderson, Selena Alvarez and Laura Alcorn will vie for immediate playing time. Natalie Nelson is an athletic goalkeeper, who had a strong high school career at Schertz Clemens, while Ashley Exford and Shay Williams will bolster the ASU defense.

Coach: Travis McCorkle
Last Year: 6-9-4 (3-6-3, 5th in LSC)

Outlook: The Rambelles have made two straight trips to the postseason and will field a team primed to make it three in a row. Coming off a 2011 season that included a program-record four ties and displayed competitiveness in most of their losses, Coach McCorkle and his players worked hard in the offseason to get winning results.

Top Returners: The Rams return four starters on both sides of the ball, including All-LSC selections Alvin Johnson, Paul Mason, Kyle Patterson and Austin Sumrall. Junior quarterback Blake Hamblin returns from a late-season shoulder injury and will have talented receivers in C.J. Akins and Dakarai Pecikonis. The ASU defense will be anchored by senior defensive end Austin Benson.

Coaches: Will Wagner (2nd year)
Last Year: 5-6 (2-6, 6th in LSC)

Outlook: A solid recruiting class and 38 returning lettermen should provide second-year head coach Will Wagner with a talent- filled team to take the field this fall. The Rams will play six home games, including three of the first four games on their schedule.

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The Angelo State University Alumni Association will host its annual Homecoming Dinner on Friday, Oct. 19, to honor distinguished graduates and supporters of ASU.

The 2012 honorees are Merl Brandon, distinguished alumnus; Stephanie Stoebe, distinguished Carr scholar; Lt. Col. Stephen Magnan, distinguished ROTC alumnus; Hazel Dooley, honorary alumna; Dr. John Duke, outstanding retired faculty member; Dwelle E. “Paw” Murphy Jr., golden ex; Wendy Storms, outstanding staff; and Dr. Sangeeta Singh, distinguished faculty achievement.

Activities will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. in the LeGrand Center, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $60 per person and are available by contacting the Alumni Association at 325-942-2122 or by visiting the website at www.angelostatealumni.com.

Honorees will be featured in the Homecoming Parade Saturday morning and then guests at the association’s Homecoming Ram Jam from 7 to 9:30 p.m., before the 4 p.m. Homecoming game against Texas A&M-Commerce in San Angelo Stadium.

**Alumni Award Criteria**

**Distinguished Alumnus** Awarded to an alumnus who has received significant recognition through career and/or community service and leadership.

**Honorary Alumnus** Awarded to an individual who did not attend ASU, but has brought recognition to the university or who has supported ASU or the ASU Alumni Association in a significant manner.

**Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumnus** Awarded to an alumnus who attended ASU on a Carr Scholarship and has received significant recognition through career and/or community service and leadership.

**Distinguished ROTC Alumnus** Awarded to an alumnus who attended ASU as part of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 847 and has received significant recognition through career and/or community service and leadership.

**Golden Ex of the Year** Awarded to an individual who has been an alumnus for 50 years or longer and who has brought recognition to ASU and/or the ASU Alumni Association.

**Outstanding Retired Faculty** Awarded to a former ASU faculty who had a distinguished career at ASU.

**Distinguished Faculty Achievement** Awarded to a current ASU faculty member who has had a profound effect on the lives and careers of ASU students (not required to be an alumnus).

**Distinguished Staff Achievement** Awarded to a current ASU employee who as a staff member has demonstrated support and dedication for the development of ASU (not required to be an alumnus).

Restricting his education and professional career to West Texas has certainly not limited Merl Brandon’s success.

First, he excelled at Angelo State University, where as an undergraduate he earned a Carr Academic Scholarship, made the Dean’s List from 1989-92 and graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics. After starting a teaching career in nearby Miles, he continued his education at ASU, eventually earning a Master of Education and superintendent certification.

“As a first-generation college student,” Brandon said, “Angelo State’s desire to help area high school graduates was instrumental in my success. When I went to register for my first class, I honestly expected several roadblocks. What I discovered was just the opposite. I felt supported and encouraged by faculty and staff alike.”

With his ASU education as a springboard, Brandon has also posted impressive professional achievements. While teaching in Miles in 1999, he was named to Who’s Who Among America’s High School Teachers. After spending a year as the junior principal in Irion County, he returned to Miles in 1999 as the high school principal. For his accomplishments there, he was named the Texas Association of Secondary Principals’ (TASSP) Region XV Principal of the Year in 2003, 2008 and 2012, was a state finalist for TASSP Principal of the Year in 2008 and was named TASSP Secondary Principal of the Year in 2012.

“I decided to become a principal when I realized I couldn’t impact large-scale change from within the classroom,” Brandon said.

“Principals are able to influence changes in technology, curriculum, scheduling, staffing and budgeting. At the time, Miles was one of the few high schools in the region to offer Internet access, development of Web pages, self-paced curriculum and dual-credit classes, so it was an exciting time to be the principal in that environment.”

For his outstanding professional accomplishments, Brandon has also been named the ASU Alumni Association’s 2012 Distinguished Alumnus.

“Not one to rest on his laurels, Brandon actually learned of his Principal of the Year Award after he had left Miles to become assistant principal at the Central Freshman Campus in San Angelo. This year, he is the new principal at San Angelo’s Lincoln Middle School.

“As I listened to the problems that principals were experiencing in large districts,” Brandon said, “I began to ask myself if I could help effect the same kind of success we had experienced in Miles in a larger school setting. The success in Miles was a concerted effort of students, staff, parents and community members. I am confident that this same spirit of community and desire to succeed exists in San Angelo as well.”

“The most rewarding aspect of my job,” he added, “is the opportunity to give hope of a better education and hope of a better life. Nothing means more than seeing a student several years down the road and having them say that you made a difference in their life. That is what it is all about.”

So, Brandon’s path in life has come full circle back to San Angelo where it all started at ASU. Fittingly, attending ASU has also become a family tradition. His wife, Becky, holds an ASU nursing degree; his daughter, Ashley, graduated from ASU in 2007 and went on to graduate from medical school at Texas Tech; and his son, Garrett, is an ASU undergraduate.

“I was once told that success comes from the desire to be in contact with individuals who teach and inspire you,” Brandon said. “This is the type of experience I have found in attending ASU; professional men and women who have a passion for education.”

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Merl Brandon
Angelo State University Magazine

Hazel Dooley

Honorary Alumna

Appreciating the Little Things

When Lt. Col. Stephen Magnan returned to Angelo State last year to take command of Air Force ROTC Detachment 847, he got to see it from a whole new perspective. But the lessons he learned as a cadet at his alma mater are still relevant ever. “They say that we are here putting our fingerprints on the future leaders,” Magnan said. “Well, I still have the fingerprints of those ASU instructors on me, and that’s happened throughout my career. Every commander, every supervisor that I’ve had never too far from the students.

Although she now teaches teachers, she is never too far from the students.

“You’ve got to have a little pull to get in here” — to enroll at ASU and get commissioned as an Air Force ROTC Detachment 847, he got to see it from a whole new perspective. But the lessons he learned as a cadet at his alma mater are still relevant ever. “They say that we are here putting our fingerprints on the future leaders,” Magnan said. “Well, I still have the fingerprints of those ASU instructors on me, and that’s happened throughout my career. Every commander, every supervisor that I’ve had never too far from the students.

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Golden Ex of the Year
A Life of Law

Using his time at San Angelo Junior College as a springboard, Dr. Ewell E. "Pat" Murphy Jr. fashioned a successful career in international law and university teaching.

A product of San Angelo public schools, Murphy attended SACJ from 1943-45 and then completed Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees with honors at the University of Texas. He then headed to England’s prestigious Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar to earn a Doctor of Philosophy in 1951. But, he never forgot where it all started.

“I am deeply grateful for the excellent teaching I received in San Angelo,” Murphy said, “and San Angelo Junior College was the capstone of that excellence.”

After spending time in the U.S. Air Force that included a principal assignment in Saudi Arabia, Murphy worked at the Houston-based law firm Baker & Botos from 1954-57 and was chairman of its International Department from 1972-89. After retirement from the firm, he began his teaching career as a visiting professor at the University of Texas Law School from 1983-97, a distinguished lecturer at the University of Houston Law Center from 1996-2006 and an adjunct professor at UHLC continually since 2007.

Despite his time away from San Angelo, Murphy made strong ties to Angelo State through the Alumni Association and the Development Office. As a result, the Alumni Association has named him its 2012 Golden Ex of the Year.

“Over the years since 1954,” Murphy said, “each time I returned for brief visits with my parents, relatives and friends in San Angelo, I was amazed at the development of my tiny, one-small-building San Angelo Junior College into mammoth Angelo State University. It is a fascinating example of the U.S. education system.”

Outstanding Retired Faculty
Lifelong Commitment

For more than three decades, Dr. John Duke played an integral role in the growth, development and success of the ASU Mathematics Department.

From his arrival in 1968 to his retirement in 1999, Duke dedicated his life to developing and teaching rigorous mathematics courses that gave students not only exposure to that area of learning, but also a firm foundation for further study.

“Since most of my academic life was spent teaching mathematics rather than engaging in mathematical research,” Duke said, “this particular award recognizes, in part, the importance of general education courses and the importance of reason and encouragement of academic curiosity both in and out of the classroom.”

While at ASU, Duke also served on the university’s Research, Curriculum, Tenure and Library committees, and the Graduate Council. But his main focus was always on working with his fellow faculty on behalf of the students.

“My thoughts on the highlights of my teaching career naturally turn toward certain individuals – students whom I have helped in some small measure to accomplish some of their goals and prepare for their future work,” Duke said. “I am indebted to them for their probing and questioning of concepts and methods, which gave me the incentive to strive to improve my presentation of certain topics in the classroom.”

Distinguished Faculty Achievement
Answering the Call

Dr. Sangeeta Singg considers teaching psychology more of a calling than a job.

Since her arrival at Angelo State the day after receiving her doctorate from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M-Commerce) in 1981, Singg has spent 31 years rising through the faculty ranks to full professor, directing the Counseling Psychology Program and mentoring hundreds of counseling students.

“I could do an 8-5 job, sitting on a chair doing computer stuff,” Singg said. “I have to feel like I’m really making a difference in somebody’s life. You touch lots of lives in the 200,000 hours of practicum that I have supervised.”

For her long ASU service and dedication to her students, Singg has been selected for the ASU Alumni Association’s 2012 Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award.

Student Advocate
Answering the Call

Wendy Storms plays a key role in shaping the next generation of Texas public school teachers.

A former teacher herself, Storms utilizes that experience as director of Educator Support Services (ESS) in the College of Education. Storms oversees the Educator Preparation Information (EPI) Center, which provides information, advising and support services to undergraduate and graduate students planning or continuing their careers in education.

“The EPI Center is really here to help any student with certifications,” she said. “Even though we are under the College of Education, we service any department that has certification degrees.”

For her ongoing commitment and support for students, Storms has been selected by the ASU Alumni Association for its 2012 Distinguished Staff Achievement Award.

But now she finds her rewards helping the teachers of tomorrow.

“I had to do a lot of praying and soul-searching for what to do when considering a career change,” she said. “I would never have guessed I would come here, but I am sure glad I did because I love what I do.”

Wendy Storms
Sangeeta Singg
John Duke
Ewell E. "Pat" Murphy Jr.
Angelo State alum Jenny Lawson composes such entertaining blog posts that she receives millions of page views every month. So it should come as no surprise that her memoir, *Let’s Pretend This Never Happened*, debuted at No. 1 on the *New York Times* best-seller list this spring.

In her book, Lawson discusses everything from growing up in Wall with a taxi driver father and creating a Facebook list this spring. By Jayna Phinney

Lawson’s book has been compared to *Good Mom/Bad Mom*, the Houston Chronicle’s Good Mom/Bad Mom blog. In all of her writing, she strives to be honest with her readers while still maintaining her privacy.

“Only share about 5 percent of my life, I’ve had no idea how different their styles could be.”

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Bestselling Blogger
Class notes

Each issue of the Angelo State University Magazine highlights selected alumni and invites you to visit the Angelo State University Alumni Association website for the latest on your former classmates. To learn more about Angelo State alumni, visit www.angelostatealumni.com. Better yet, see what your friends are up to and then update the site with news about you, your family and your accomplishments.

1980
Saundra Paschal, a mathematics teacher at Lake View High School in San Angelo, has been recognized by Cambridge Who’s Who for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of mathematics education. Specializing in algebra and pre-calculus education, Paschal is a skilled teacher with nearly 30 years of experience, most as a mathematics teacher for Lake View, where she teaches algebra II and pre-calculus math classes and coaches the mathematics team. Paschal holds an ASU Bachelor of Science in mathematics with a minor in biology.

1984
The University of Texas at El Paso’s College of Health Sciences has named Jimmy Humphrey, executive vice president of Environmental Protective Solutions and assistant dean of students at Lipscomb University, has been named a VIP member of Worldwide Who’s Who, who honors individuals for exceptional personal and professional success. With Environmental Protective Solutions, Humphrey specializes in business development and operational planning in support of indoor environmental conditions for commercial properties, such as hotels, schools and hospitals. With Lipscomb University, Humphrey is primarily responsible for establishing programs supporting military veteran students. Humphrey received a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology at ASU in 1992.

1985
Wanda C. Merritt, a mathematics teacher at Lake View High School in San Angelo, has been recognized by Cambridge Who’s Who for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in all aspects of mathematics education. Specializing in algebra and pre-calculus education, Paschal is a skilled teacher with nearly 30 years of experience, most as a mathematics teacher for Lake View, where she teaches algebra II and pre-calculus math classes and coaches the mathematics team. Paschal holds an ASU Bachelor of Science in mathematics with a minor in biology.

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1991
Mika Schneider has been named a partner in Soukup, Bush and Associates, a Fort Collins, Colo., certified public accounting firm representing clients in a broad range of business activities in northern Colorado and the Denver metropolitan area. Schneider was one of two employees elevated to partner status, the first time in 12 years the firm has added partners. Schneider holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from ASU. Her family includes a 6-year-old daughter, Erin, and 4-year-old son, Ian.

1995
Martin Chavez has been named Potest chief of police from among 19 applicants vying for the position. He has 17 years of law enforcement experience, including an appointment as chief of police in Somersett from 2009-10. Chavez, who has been a Potest patrolman for the past two years, holds a bachelor’s degree from ASU, a graduate degree from Texas A&M-Kingsville and a master peace officer license.

1999
Farrah Gomez has been promoted to principal of Lee Middle School in San Angelo. Gomez had been the principal of Fannin Elementary School for the past three years. A San Angelo native, she is a graduate of Central High School and ASU.

2006
Midland Lee High School Assistant Principal Roberto Cedillo has been named the High School Assistant Principal of the Year by the Region 18 Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. This is Cedillo’s third year as an administrator and sixth year at Lee. He currently serves as assistant principal for instruction and administrative services and taught Spanish and coached baseball for his first three years at Lee. The Midland High School graduate attended West Texas College in Snyder for two years, then graduated from ASU with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish.

2012
James R. Jackson has been named Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agriculture and natural resources agent in Coke County after graduating from ASU in May with a master’s degree in range and wildlife management. He previously earned his bachelor’s degree from ASU in natural resource management.

In memoriam

Dr. David Sterling Marsh, 59, professor of biology for 29 years, died June 25 in San Angelo after a yearlong battle with brain cancer. Biology Department Head Russell Wilke said his colleague “always believed it was a privilege to serve students and particularly enjoyed working with them on the Health Professions Advisory Committee and his sensory physiology research. His greatest reward was when they went on to achieve greatness. To his credit, nearly all of his research students went on to earn M.D.s and Ph.D.s.” Marsh was very active in the Texas Academy of Sciences, serving on many of its committees and as its president.

Dr. Guoqiang “Joe” Zheng, 57, professor of history, died May 30 in San Antonio after a lengthy illness. Zheng joined the ASU faculty in 1999. Originally from China, he came to the U.S. more than 20 years ago to earn his Ph.D. at the University of Toledo after receiving a B.A. and M.A. from Tianjin Normal University. History Department Head Ken Heimann described him as an “amazing scholar and intellectual. Filled with the wisdom that comes from knowing that one is blessed to live in a state of freedom.” A prodigious scholar, Zheng produced 53 book reviews, numerous articles, two dozen encyclopedia entries and a book just published this year.

Alexander “Alex” Soto Cana, 36, former university archivist, died June 13 near Kickerbocker. Cano held both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in history from Angelo State University. After earning his M.A., he received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach English in Madrid, Spain. He also taught in Japan and China.

Intramurals – continued from page 23

Flag football alone has about 50-80 students occupying five fields per hour from 6 p.m. to midnight, five nights a week during the fall.

“The numbers are consistent throughout our major sports,” Whittaker said. “Softball’s numbers are probably a little higher because you are looking at 10-15 people on a team compared to seven on a football team. Softball is probably our biggest sport with a rough estimate of 400 students a night.”

“It gets pretty competitive in all our major sports,” he added. “By the time the campus seminals roll around, the teams all want to advance.”

Besides flag football and softball, the major sports are volleyball, soccer and basketball. Other sports and activities include tennis, badminton, disc golf, Ultimate Frisbee, kickball, intramural T-shirt design, racquetball, table tennis, dodge ball, sand volleyball and golf. Dodge ball and disc golf are the most recent additions as UREC staff work to stay abreast of what the students want.

“Most of the time, we introduce a new sport in the fall and one in the spring,” Whittaker said. “We run them a couple of years and see if they are successful. We’ve offered some sports that haven’t been successful like softball, but we have brought in others, like kickball, that have been a success.”

UREC is also looking at branching into activities that do not have a physical component. Under consideration are a college football bowl “pick’em” contest and a March Madness college basketball bracket.

“We’ll use websites like ESPN,” said Petry, “and just have a UREC page or an ASU intramural page where all the students can sign up. They’ll win an intramural T-shirt just like they would in any other intramural competition.

“We notify students of all their activities, UREC staff list flyers on campus; post on their Facebook page, the UREC website and RamPort; and distribute mailbox stuffers. They also host information booths during Rambunctious Weekend at the start of each fall semester, and during Discover ASU and SOAR (Student Orientation, Advising and Registration) events for new students during the summer.”

“Katherine Thoreson, our secretary, reviews all the marketing aspects for the department and creates the original flyer production, brochures and posters,” Petry said.

“I have seven intramural student supervisors who hang flyers on bulletin boards,” Whittaker added.

A recent improvement to the intramural program is the formation of the ASU Intramural Sports Advisory Council, which helps teams fund trips to regional and national tournaments so team members no longer have to totally pay their own way.

“It has gotten a lot better in the past year,” said Reid Jackson of IM Legends. “We started the Intramural Sports Advisory Council, so now we get expense money from SOLF (the Student Organization Leadership Fund in the Center for Student Involvement). My first several years, we paid all our expenses except for a little help from UREC. For the most part, we now pay $200-$300 out of pocket.”

Regardless of who is putting up the money, ASU teams have made it pay off with their top national finishes in both basketball and flag football.

“IT was surprising when we went to nationals with the co-ed team and went through all those big schools,” Jackson said. “You would think you would see better athletes, but we were legitimately better than those big schools.”

Decker, who also plays for Wolfbac and IM Legends, agreed.

“A lot of people think that we are just Angelo State, a small school and no big deal,” he said. “But the competition at ASU is as good as the competition at nationals. You go and see teams from Florida, Texas and other big schools like those and you think, ‘Oh man, they have thousands more students,’ but we go out there and beat them.”

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“Henry’s cousin told me they were hiring at the school, and it would probably be a better position than where I was at the time,” Carrillo said. “So, I was thinking about the school district and applied and was there, but the printer there wasn’t making any openings so he feared they were hiring me to replace him. When nothing happened, I called Henry’s cousin who told me not the school district, but the university was hiring.”

Carrillo continued, “A few months after I got here, I told Henry I am going to go out of business here because I enjoy what I do so much that time is just going to fly. I still say that to this day.”

For both Begli and Carrillo, the thrill of printing remains in taking an electronic file and converting it to paper with all the vibrant colors that are attainable on the computer screen. It is a task that never gets old because of the challenge. Full-color printing is, after all, only an illusion made possible by superimposing dots of cyan, magenta, yellow and black ink over one another.

“My challenge,” said Carrillo, “is how much better can I make it, you know when you do that little dot the line goes ups and downs. You can actually see a fleckle on a face in such detail. Getting that from a bunch of dots always amazes me. Every time I see a design, I always look at it and think is this going to be a fun job. I always try and push myself, so that when I see something in design, I try to make it look like I think it, then I shoot to make it look that good, taking it from my mind to the paper.”

They share a pride in their work similar to what the families of graduating seniors feel when they open a commencement program and see the names of their children. The difference is Begli and Carrillo know all the work and overtime that went into making that program possible.

“Underground” — continued from page 31
We dreamed big and set our most ambitious goal ever.

When we surpassed it, we raised the bar again.

Together we’ve established new scholarships, created our first faculty endowments and laid the cornerstones of buildings that will witness our next achievements.

And we’re not letting up.

Because when the causes we care about most match up with the great things happening here at Angelo State, it’s an incredible opportunity for us to leave a legacy to this place we love.

Share the vision.