

Alumni Homecoming Dinner

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; Ewell E. "Pat" Murphy Jr., golden ex; Wendy Storms, outstanding staff; and Dr. Sangeeta Singg, 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 1:30-3:30 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).

Distinguished Alumnus Outstanding Administrator



Merl Brandon

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 1995, he was named to *Who's Who Among America's High School Teachers*. After spending a year as the junior high 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 School Principals' (TASSP) Region XV Principal of the Year in 2003, 2008 and 2012, was a state finalist for TASSP Principal of 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 hav-

ing 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." ■

