



A note from Bill Cullins

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Most of my ancestors immigrated to the United States and on to Texas from Ireland, Scotland and Germany, although one branch of the family tree can be traced back to Native Americans in Oklahoma.

Conversely, my wife's ancestral roots are all firmly planted in the Saxon region of Europe, not far from where she was born in the former East German city of Dresden.

She's best described as "Texanized German" – a nice blend of "Ya'll come back-ya hear?" and "ja müssen wir es tun auf diese Weise" ("Yes, we must do it this way").

I've morphed over the years from being a dyed-in-the-wool West Texas redneck (sometimes referred to as Homo neanderthalensis) to a more accepting, adaptable, and understanding human being.

The way my family views diversity today is vastly different from our forefathers. Our family's ancestors fought against each other during wars, distrusted anyone with names or traditions that represented cultures different than theirs, and actively opposed different social beliefs or values.

Unlike the past, my family now celebrates both our ancestral diversity and the broad diversity of the communities we live and work in.

George H. W. Bush once described the United States as "a nation of communities... a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky."

The state of Texas (including San Angelo and Angelo State University) personifies that brilliant diversity as we collectively embrace the historical, social, ethnic, economic and geographic forces that continuously redefine who and what we are.

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Black History Celebration



Students observing William H. Johnson's piece "Going to Church" during the Black History Month Cafe event.

Black History month was created in 1926 when the second week of February was dedicated as "Negro History Month." The month of February was chosen because it marked the birth-day of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The one-week observance led to an increase in black history clubs

and interest among teachers and continued to grow in popularity. It was expanded to Black History Month in 1976 when the federal government acknowledged the expansion of the one-week celebration to Black History Month. This is an annual observance in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom that honors and remembers important people and events in the history of African migration. This annual observance takes place in February in the United States and Canada and is celebrated in October in the United Kingdom. The Multicultural Center celebrated Black History Month with a special focus on the African-American influence on the arts, music, and literature. Activities at the event included poetry readings, music, and art displays. Students, staff and community members read poems, displayed their art, and enjoyed some jazz and soulful music in a "coffee shop" atmosphere complete with a stage and mic, couches tables and refreshments. Maya Angelou was a popular poet as many of her poems were read at the event. "The Heart of a Woman," "Phenomenal Woman" and "Caged Bird" were a few of Maya Angelou's poems that were read.

Did you know?



In 1985, Guinness Book of World Records accepted Marilyn vos Savant's IQ score of 190 and gave her the record for "Highest IQ (Women)." Of course, these numbers should be taken with a grain of salt, as IQ tests aren't perfect in measuring intelligence, but it does help show that women aren't inferior to men.

Student Highlight

By: Aryn Jones

Classification: Freshman

Major: Nursing



I feel accomplished because... I am a first-generation student willing to explore my possibilities, even though I am one of the first girls in my family to attend college. I will not let it hold me back from going all the way to the top of the career field I am going into. Ever since I was 8 years old and my youngest cousin was born premature, I wanted to work with young people from birth up to early adulthood. Here at Angelo State, I plan on getting my bachelor's degree and then attending graduate school for my master's in Nursing so that I can go into working as a nurse practitioner. While I complete my education, I want to make sure I continue to explore the various aspects of my life by helping out others that I meet, making sure to count my tees and follow my dreams based on song lyrics "There's gold ahead, there's gold in dreams, in life's hills and valleys..." from the Rocket Summer.

In the words of author Mary Lasswell, "I am forced to conclude that God made Texas on his day off, for pure entertainment, just to prove that all that diversity could be crammed into one section of earth."

Diversity isn't about where we came from; instead, it's all about where we're going.

"Bringing the gifts that my ancestor gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise, I rise, I rise"

-Maya Angelou

Tuesdays & Thursdays

El Cafecito
9:00AM - Noon

BALLROOM DANCE
7-8 p.m.

Amusing March

1 Celebrations

- 1: National Peanut Butter Lover's Day
- 2: National Old Stuff Day
- 6: Dentist Day
- 7: Alexander Graham Bell Day
- 8: National Nametag Day
- 4-10th is actually "Celebrate Your Name Week," with different holidays for each day. But this one sounded like the most fun. The only rule is that you wear a "Hello my name is..." tag all day. Using your real name is optional.
- 9: National Panic Day
- 12: National Alfred Hitchcock Day
- 14: National Pi Day
- 18: Goddess of Fertility Day
- 23: National Puppy Day
- 26: National Make Up Your Own Holiday Day



The Multicultural Center Lending Library Highlight

Jewish Literacy by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

This reference book highlights the most essential ideologies about the Jewish religion, its people and its history. It answers many questions that people may have concerning the complex history of Judaism. The book is divided into 15 sections, each part consist of separate chapters that help provide an in-depth understanding of Jewish life, culture, religion and tradition. The book consists of analytical scholarly research that Rabbi Teleshkin fuses together with folklore, anecdotes and humor to develop an understanding of his culture. This reference is an interesting read that invites both Jewish and non-Jewish people to learn more about this multilayered culture. Rabbi Telushkin's book is an unusual reference that inspires and provides great insights. This book is available for checkout at the Multicultural Center

