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Features

2028: An ASU ‘Space’ Odyssey  12
New university master plan looks to re-shape campus by centennial observance.

Change at the Top  18
President, vice president announce future plans.

Carr-diac Rams  20
Heart-stopping finishes make 2005 football season one to remember.

Sections

Director’s Message  4

Letters  5

Campus News  7
Beloved voice stilled…Steinbeck at war…Famous serpent…Back from Iraq…Briefs

Athletics  24
Basketball bounces…Hall of Honor…Winged feet…New SID

Alumni News  28
Flage appointment… Ram Jam…Ring of Success… Homecoming

Class Notes  35
In Memoriam…Lambs & Lambelles

On the cover: A central plaza featuring a carillon and anchoring both ends of the Angelo State University campus is envisioned in this rendering from Centennial Master Plan 2028, ASU’s roadmap to the future.
Dear Alumni,

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and give some thoughts and ideas that have been rolling around in my head since I first assumed the position of Director of Alumni Relations back in August 2005.

When I graduated from Angelo State University in 1997, the Alumni Department consisted of one person in one small office in the Administration Building. Today, the department consists of three full-time people plus four student employees and is housed in one of the most beautiful buildings (if not THE most beautiful) on campus. Back then, I wasn’t certain what the Alumni Association did outside providing the gifts for the Homecoming Court. Today, in addition to providing funding for faculty and student projects, the ASU Alumni Association hosts major student and alumni events like pre-game Ram Jams and Homecoming activities. In addition, the Alumni Association has been integral in creating the growing tradition of the Official Class Ring and has been very successful in fundraising efforts.

I believe the Alumni Association has seen much success in the last years, especially with the completion of the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center. The building is a gathering place for all ASU attendees, both graduates and non-graduates, and a true showplace to welcome alumni home. If you have not had the chance to see the facility, I welcome you to stop by sometime. We are very proud of it and look forward to continuing to host quality alumni events.

One area I see great potential for growth is in membership. The ASU Alumni Association has a very strong membership base, but many former students that are not being reached. Angelo State University boasts more than 1,000 graduates a year and the Alumni Association membership is currently representing a fraction of that group. Within the coming year, the Association plans on taking a hard look at current benefits and evaluating how best to recruit former students to join. This might mean adding more alumni access to our website, offering lifetime memberships and/or reorganizing our renewal process. Regardless, I believe members will begin seeing stronger and more frequent communication between themselves and the Association.

I am very excited about the future direction of the ASU Alumni Association, and I welcome all ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to call or e-mail me to discuss any thoughts. Together, we will continue to show our pride, support and devotion to Angelo State University through our work with the Alumni Association.

I look forward to working with you all,

Lynsey Hargrave Flage ('97)
Dear ASU Alumni Association:

What a wonderful Homecoming celebration you put on! Everything went smoothly – and I know that there are a jillion details that somebody has to take care of – and everything seemed to fall into place. My family and I thoroughly enjoyed all the festivities.

Thank you for all the hours of hard work that I know arranging the events required. You should receive commendations for your success.

Sincerely,
Perry Gragg

Dear ASU Alumni Association:

XB and I wish to express to each of you our sincere appreciation for all that you did to make our participation in Homecoming weekend so enjoyable. Every event was so well organized and carried out. I know things like that don’t just happen. It takes a lot of team effort.

XB enjoyed every event and he is honored to have been chosen to be Golden Ex for 2005.

Most Sincerely,
Melba Cox
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Become a Contact!
If you are interested in being an ASU contact in your area, please call ASU Alumni Relations at (325) 942-2122 for more information.
The deep, rich bass voice that so many people came to associate with Angelo State University for more than half a century was stilled Nov. 8 with the passing of Eldon U. Black.

At the time of his death, the beloved music professor had served on the faculty longer than any other teacher in the university’s 77-year-history and was known by former students throughout the state and nation. In fact, when he entered Houston’s Methodist Hospital for treatment of adenocarcinoma, an aggressive form of colorectal cancer, his lead doctor was a former student.

“Eldon was a friend to so many and a master teacher to several generations...” – David Scott

He was born Feb. 23, 1929, barely five months after San Angelo Junior College, forerunner of ASU, opened its doors in September of 1928. In 1954 when Dwight D. Eisenhower was the nation’s president, Black joined the then San Angelo College faculty after earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music from North Texas State University.

Except for periodic absences from campus, including working on his 1976 doctorate in music at the University of Texas at Austin, Black worked at ASU without stop, touching countless lives in the classroom and out in public. He gave hundreds of performances, ranging from concerts and operas to weddings and funerals.

The emotional power of his voice, especially on sentimental songs, was known to move people to tears, but ever the wit, Black would respond, “I don’t sing that bad.”

In a front-page reminiscence on the day of Black’s memorial service, San Angelo Standard-Times columnist Rick Smith recalled the late professor as saying, “Songs bring back memories for so many people.”

And for generations of ASU students and Concho Valley residents, their favorite songs brought back the best memories when sung by Eldon Black.

Individuals wishing to give a memorial in Black’s honor may do so through a donation to the Eldon U. Black Vocal Scholarship. Checks should be made out to Angelo State University and designated for the Black Vocal Scholarship, then sent to the ASU Office of Development, ASU Station #11023, San Angelo, TX 76909-1023.

A memorial concert in Black’s name is being planned by the music faculty for the 2006-07 academic year.
Novel Look at World War II

While John Steinbeck may be best known for such novels as *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Cannery Row*, ASU English Professor Donald V. Coers is best known in literary circles for his work on *The Moon Is Down*, one of Steinbeck’s lesser known works.

His expertise earned Coers, who is ASU’s provost and vice president for academic and student affairs, an invitation to participate in last fall’s Great Cannery Row Reunion in Steinbeck’s hometown of Monterey, Calif.

The conference drew participants and Steinbeck scholars from across the globe, including from Norway, putative setting for *The Moon Is Down*, which was first published in early 1942 during some of the darkest days of World War II.

On the surface, the short novel is about the rise of a patriotic resistance by citizens of a Scandinavian country against Nazi-like invaders, Coers said. Its deeper meaning, however, is the durability of democracy and its inevitable ability to triumph over totalitarianism.

Coers, who wrote the introduction for the *Penguin Modern Classic Edition* of *The Moon Is Down*, said the novel created the greatest literary furor of the war among American intelligentsia. Some saw it as mere propaganda and others criticized it as bad propaganda at that.

American critics, including James Thurber, blasted the book as naïve for predicting an allied victory in World War II while the outcome was still in doubt and for treating the fictional invaders as humans doing evil rather than as evil humans.

While previous scholars had looked at the novel from the American perspective, Coers provided a more global view in his 1991 book *John Steinbeck as Propagandist: The Moon Is Down Goes to War*, published by University of Alabama Press.

Coers shared with the Monterey audience the results of interviews he conducted with numerous anti-Nazi resistance leaders and patriotic fighters in France, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands. Those interviews showed that the American critics were wrong about the novel’s impact in Nazi-occupied countries during World War II.

In contrast to American perceptions, *The Moon Is Down* enjoyed an underground popularity in occupied countries, where it had been smuggled past the Nazis. Contraband copies were translated into various languages, illegally printed and then distributed to readers, often under the nose of the Gestapo.

The impact of the work is best shown in the 45 years after the end of World War II and during the Cold War when no fewer than 76 editions of the novel were published in at least 22 different languages.

“John Steinbeck’s modest novel,” Coers concluded, “was a beacon of hope in a seemingly hopeless night.”
ASU Serpent Goes Global

Two heads are better than one when it comes to getting Angelo State’s name in the media and on websites around the world. Just ask visiting biology professor Chris McAllister, whose find of a two-headed rattlesnake made news globally last fall.

McAllister discovered the eight-inch rattlesnake in September during the annual weekend field trip of ASU’s Beta Beta Beta biological honor society to collect specimens on the Head-of-the-River Ranch in Tom Green County.

The snake, which has since been euthanized because it was unable to eat, is the first documented find of a two-headed Western Diamondback. After dissecting the reptile, McAllister said the hatchling’s left head was the dominant one, but each head had its own primary nervous system, evidenced by the fully formed features – such as eyes – on both heads and the fact that both stuck their tongues out independently.

McAllister also determined that the snake had two hearts, two gallbladders and a divided liver. The specimen has been deposited in the amphibian and reptile section of the ASU Natural History Collection.

News of the find was disseminated by the Associated Press and distributed nationally and abroad. As a result, ASU’s name appeared in newspapers and media websites ranging from the Dallas Morning News and Houston Chronicle to the San Francisco Chronicle and Washington Post to the Miami Herald and Boston Globe.

Overall, the story has appeared in print and broadcast media in Ohio, New Mexico, Idaho, Minnesota, Michigan, South Carolina, Alabama, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Washington, Rhode Island, Georgia, North Carolina, Iowa, Missouri, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oregon, North Dakota, Maryland, Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee and even New York.

The story has been picked up by international media as far away as Australia and Great Britain, not to mention websites and blogs around the world.

Humorist Dave Barry even added it to his daily blog, noting “For those young people who cannot decide whether to apply to Harvard or Angelo State, this might tip the scales.”

Once Barry listed the find on his daily blog, others reacted. One poster identifying himself as “insomniac” suggested the university change its mascot to the “Two-Headed Rattlers,” particularly since he couldn’t figure out what a Rambelle was, save possibly “a ram with gender issues.”
The Angelo State University Meat Market had its grand opening in November, selling products that have been used to teach meat science students.

The market’s opening marked the newest addition to the Meat Lab, a $1.6 million facility that opened in 2005. In addition to traditional cuts such as beef ribeye steaks, pork loin chops and racks of lamb, the market will feature products that students have developed, such as a pre-cooked lamb leg roast.

“The market is an outlet for the products of teaching and research,” said meat science assistant professor Dr. Mandy Carr. “They’re taught how to make the products, and this gives them a place to go sell them.”

Dr. Gretchen Hilton said the Meat Market has averaged about 30 pre-orders per week.

The Meat Market is open from noon to 5:30 p.m. Fridays when school is in session. For more information or an order form, call either Hilton or Carr at (325) 942-2027 or 942-2515, or e-mail meatlab@angelo.edu.
Certified Success

ASU accounting graduates are besting some of the largest business schools in Texas when it comes to passing the Certified Public Accountant exam, according to the results of a recent testing period.

Seventeen ASU graduates took 26 sections of the test in July and August, passing 18 sections. The passage rate of 69.23 percent was the best in Texas among institutions that had more than one student take the test.

Texas A&M had the second-highest passage rate at 65.24 percent.

ASU’s passage rate in July and August continues an upward trend for the school. Eighteen graduates had a 52.63 percent pass rate in the April-June period, and seven graduates had a 50 percent pass rate during the January-February period.

Receiving a CPA allows an accountant to sign audits for public companies. It is not required by law for most accountant positions, but it gives applicants a competitive advantage in the job market.

In addition to their accounting coursework for bachelor’s or master’s degrees, candidates may take a test-preparation course. A few universities offer CPA prep courses either through private companies such as the Becker CPA Review or by using faculty to teach non-credit reviews.

ASU graduates and CPA recipients go on to work at top accounting firms throughout the state.

Nursing Professor Heads Texas Project

Nursing Department Head Leslie M. Mayrand has been awarded a $39,961 grant to study nursing student retention in West Texas as part of a larger statewide effort that she will chair in preparation for the next session of the Texas Legislature.

Under the grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Mayrand will direct the retention study for the state’s west/northwest region and will coordinate the efforts of the five regional project directors.

The statewide study is designed to identify effective strategies to increase graduation rates from the state’s professional nursing programs and to make recommendations to the Texas Legislature no later than January 2007 for implementing those strategies.

Biology Awards

Five biology undergraduates were the only Texas students who received scholarships last fall for their research from Beta Beta Beta, the national honor society in biology.

The competitive scholarships were awarded on the basis of the quality of research proposals submitted to the national organization. Proposals were reviewed by university biology faculty nationally.

Holly Scott of Ranger and Betty Murray from Valparaiso, Ind., were awarded $700. Eeshita Dastidar received $500. Apurvi Patel of Ballinger and Jessica Chandler from Farwell were awarded $300.

Physical Therapy Accolades

A faculty member and two students from the Angelo State Physical Therapy Department returned from the Texas State Physical Therapy Association (TPTA) in October with statewide honors.

Dr. Ronald F. Bybee received the TPTA’s 2005 William Gould Memorial Outstanding Physical Therapy Faculty Award, the top faculty honor presented each year by the organization.

First-year physical therapy students Jon Anderson of Commerce, Okla., was elected vice president and Rebecca Rhodes of Levelland was elected treasurer for the TPTA’s Student Assembly, which represents students from all 10 physical therapy programs in the state.

Chemistry Group Commended

The American Chemical Society has recognized the ASU student chapter with a commendable designation, the organization’s second-highest honor for individual chapters.

The award from the ACS Committee on Education was granted based upon the chapter’s activities, including its Parent’s Night Out program in which chemistry students spend an evening presenting chemistry experiments and other chemistry lessons to children.

The ASU chapter has approximately 30 members. Faculty sponsors are Dr. Nick Flynn and Dr. Donna Howell.

Alpha Chi Receives National Recognition

ASU’s chapter of Alpha Chi, the national college honor society, has been named a Star Chapter for its work during the 2004-05 academic year.

Only about 10 percent of the nation’s more than 300 Alpha Chi chapters are so recognized each year, based upon their activities and accomplishments.

Faculty sponsors are Dr. David Bixler, Dr. Karl Havlak, Dr. Ann Bullion-Mears, Dr. Thomas Bankston and Dr. June Smith.
2028
An ASU ‘Space’ Odyssey

Story by Preston Lewis
A glimpse into Angelo State University’s future shows a campus with vast campus greens anchoring a unified mall, a campus without a major traffic artery bisecting the university and a campus with a new profile on the San Angelo horizon.

That look into the future and at how the university will use its available space over the next 23 years comes not from some seer with a crystal ball, but rather from a two-pound document that was two years in the making by a committee of system, university and community representatives.

Released in July and approved in August by the Board of Regents of The Texas State University System, the Centennial Master Plan 2028 provides a flexible, yet critical guideline for ASU’s future. The plan is targeted to 2028 when the university will celebrate the centennial of its founding.

“With the demographic changes in West Texas,” said ASU President James Hindman, “we must have a campus that is increasingly attractive to students from all around the state. I see the facilities master plan as one of the keys to ASU’s future in the next 25 years.”

The master plan not only alters the look of the campus but also provides facilities to accommodate an enrollment of 10,000 students by the year 2028. That enrollment target will require that ASU grow by approximately 175 students per year between now and 2028.

In addition to the growth target, other objectives of the Centennial Master Plan include a more cohesive campus with better defined boundaries, improved signage and directional aids on campus and in the city, and an enhanced campus environment that broadens academic, social and community activities and interaction as well as improves overall campus safety.

Those general goals translate into a variety of specifics, including changing Johnson Street into a landscaped boulevard, purchasing land on the perimeter of the campus for growth, making the mall a unifying feature with campus greens at each end and replacing older residence halls, including the high rises, with more modern facilities in line with expectations of the contemporary student.
Plans for Johnson Street call for replacing the four-lane thoroughfare with a landscaped boulevard that provides for a single lane of traffic in each direction. In addition to being a safety hazard because of the pedestrian traffic across a busy street, Johnson has always been an asphalt blemish on campus.

“My sense is that the Johnson Street plan will make the most dramatic change in terms of the way people, particularly visitors and then students, perceive the campus,” Hindman said. “Right now Johnson is just a dividing point. It creates two campus units. I think if it is done well, if the street is narrowed from four to two lanes and if it is landscaped properly with green space, there would be a dramatic improvement in the campus.”

In many ways, the Johnson Street component of the plan is central to the overall campus concept developed by Ford, Powell and Carson Architects and Planners, the San Antonio architectural firm that worked with the university on the master plan. Once Johnson Street is modified in approximately two years, the master plan recommends developing a central plaza where the current mall intersects Johnson. The central plaza would become the site of a proposed tower or carillon which would serve as a campus landmark as well as a skyline indicator for the university.

The central plaza would separate what would then be defined as the east and west malls. The west mall would be anchored by a new residence hall on the site of the former Rosemont Apartments while the east mall would be anchored by the Massie Residence Halls which would be expanded and linked with an addition stretching between both current halls.

The mall would then become the axis around which campus life revolves with a central tier devoted to academic facilities. A middle tier of buildings would focus on service facilities such as housing, admissions, financial aid and others while the outer tier would serve parking and transportation needs.

Incorporated throughout the campus would be landscaping, benches and various statues and artwork, all designed to provide attractive places for students, faculty and visitors to congregate.

While the Johnson Street proposal may have the most significant impact on the look of the campus, the proposed residence halls are the most important component of the plan in the long run, said Hindman.

“The building of Texan Hall and the student response to it has caused me to understand in a way that I never before understood just how important modern residence halls are to students when they decide where to go to school,” Hindman said. “It’s been a surprise to me that that becomes more important in some ways than the academic programs, the faculty, the town, but it is a fact of life. There’s no doubt about it.”

With its apartment-style suites and individual bedrooms, Texan Hall has become the most popular housing unit on campus since it opened in the fall of 2003. The $18.6 million hall is home to 512 students with an annual waiting list of more than 450 students.

Each floor of the three-story hall includes a study room, multipurpose lounge, laundry facilities and apartment-style units with individual bedrooms for occupants of
each suite. Shared features of the facility are a central reception area, multipurpose meeting space for 150 persons and a 70-seat, tiered mini theater as well as office space, storage rooms and vending areas.

The importance of modern housing was illustrated in the fall of 2004 when the university showed a modest enrollment gain of 19 students to 6,156 total compared to a 6,137 enrollment in the fall of 2004. ASU identified a minimum of 87 students who had enrolled at ASU but had later withdrawn when satisfactory housing was not available.

Changing demographics enter into the housing equation for ASU. As West Texas has lost population, the university has sought to increase enrollment from elsewhere in the state, particularly along the I-35 corridor. Since these students cannot commute, just enrolling the same number of students as in the past requires more housing than previously when a larger percentage of students had the option of staying at home while attending ASU.

So, the Centennial Master Plan proposes nine new housing facilities with 3,500 total beds by 2028. The first of these new residence halls, an approximately 500-bed facility on the site of the former Rosemont apartments on the west edge of campus, was approved by the TSUS Board in August.

The residence hall is planned for fall 2007 occupancy, though some adjustments may be necessary after the San Angelo City Council in January voted 4-3 against the university’s request to purchase an 840-foot long section of Rosemont Drive so that it could be closed to provide an additional 40,320 square feet of land for the facility.

Despite the initial setback on Rosemont, the master plan has already proven its worth in planning the new residence hall. Originally, University Hall, formerly the Women’s High Rise, was scheduled to be demolished in the spring and the new residence hall built upon that site and adjacent land.

However, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita caused the university to reconsider the site. While there would have been no problem in demolishing the building, there were concerns that contractors focused on major cleanups along the Gulf Coast would not be interested in such a small job on a timetable that the university preferred and at a cost the university could absorb.

“Because we had the master plan,” Hindman said, “we already had alternate...”
sites identified for residence halls. As a result, we didn’t have to do any site preparation. This housing option will be quicker and less expensive for the university.”

Ultimately, both high rises will be demolished as will be Runnels and Mayer Halls. Almost 40 years old, the two high rises were built for a previous generation of students who were likely accustomed to sharing a room with a sibling and who did not bring to campus much electronic equipment beyond a record player and transistor radio.

Today’s students, however, are more likely to have had their own room at home and most certainly bring more electronic equipment to campus, including computers, video games, television sets and stereos, not to mention such items as hair dryers. They often expect their own microwave oven or mini refrigerator. A room in the high rises, completed in 1968, has 12 total electrical outlets for two students while today’s residents require a minimum of 10 apiece.

New housing will take those needs into account and, in so doing, will make ASU more attractive to potential students. The new residence halls will be a maximum of three-stories in height and avoid some of the mechanical problems of the high rises which require, for instance, special pumps to get water to the upper floors and which cannot be economically retrofitted to meet various disability and safety codes.

The demolition of these facilities will help open up space in the interior of the campus to accommodate the long-term campus planning. Additionally, the university will look to acquire additional land on the perimeter of the campus for growth.

“Angelo State has matured in the sense that, like other universities, we are beginning to stretch the envelope of the available space that we have,” Hindman said. “Now the master plan is having us to look on the periphery of the campus whereas in the past we could always look internally.

“As you look to the periphery, you begin to encounter various opinions because you may infringe upon the people who live around the campus. Hopefully, that can be worked out, but there’s going to be some tension as there is on every university campus as it begins to use up its available space.”

In coming years, the university will look at purchasing additional land as it becomes available on the periphery of campus. The land located between Avenue N on the north and Vanderventer on the south between Johnson and Jackson streets is a prime area for purchase.

“Once we announced the facilities master plan,” Hindman said, “we were contacted by at least one person who owns some of that property and we are in some preliminary negotiations now.”

Two factors will determine what land the university acquires. First, the landowner must be interested in selling and, second, the university must determine that the asking price is fair market value. If those conditions are met, the university would have to have the money on hand to finalize any purchase.

In the end money is the determining factor not only in land purchases but also in the master plan itself. Hindman noted that “while planning is important always, it’s increasingly important in a time of shrinking financial resources.”

Sharon K. Meyer, ASU’s vice president for finance and administration, echoed that sentiment. “The Centennial Master Plan sets development priorities while maximizing the availability of land and financial resources. This allows the administration to strategically place our resources in
The Future Is Now

While the Centennial Master Plan 2028 has a long-term focus, some changes to campus will be noticeable over the next two years as a result of the study.

First, a new approximately 500-bed, three-story residence hall is planned for the former site of the Rosemont Apartments on the west edge of campus.

Second, the Hardeman Administration Building will be renovated to provide a one-stop center for prospective students. Joining the Admissions Office, Registrar’s Office, Residence Life Office, OneCard Office and College of Graduate Studies in Hardeman will be the Financial Aid Office and Student Bursar Office, once renovation is completed in 2008.

As a part of that project, a new main entrance will be built in front of Hardeman and the Administration Building to provide a more dynamic “front door” for the university.

Third, new signage will be placed throughout the campus, helping both pedestrians and drivers find their way around the university. Installation of signage will begin this fall.

Between two and 10 years, a series of intermediate steps are planned. Early and primary among them will be the conversion of Johnson Street between Vanderventer and Dena Drive from a four-lane thoroughfare into a landscaped boulevard with one lane of traffic in each direction.

Once Johnson is altered in approximately two years, the plan calls for a central plaza where Johnson intersects the mall. Focal point of the plaza will be a tower or carillon. This central plaza will be at the approximate midpoint of the east and west malls which will serve as the focus of campus greens or common areas.

During this period up to five additional residence halls will be built to replace Runnels, Mayer, University and Concho Halls, all scheduled for demolition. New buildings will include an expansion of the Administration Building and construction of a recreational/wellness facility to include a student recreation center, police offices, clinic facilities and some student services.

After those projects are completed, the plan calls for two classroom buildings to replace the current Academic Building, a Performing Arts Center accommodating up to 700, an addition to the Porter Henderson Library and an expansion of the Houston Harte University Center.

Throughout all stages of implementation, attention will be given to enhancing landscaping, adding statues or artwork throughout the campus and providing more inviting places for people to congregate. This focus will open opportunities for individuals desiring to make gifts to ASU in honor of friends and loved ones.

When the plan is fully implemented, it will result in a more cohesive and inviting campus both for visitors and for the many students and staff who study and work on campus.

To examine the Centennial Master Plan 2028, please visit the ASU website at www.angelo.edu/masterplan to view the document as a pdf file.
Faculty and staff attending the annual August convocation prior to the start of fall classes were surprised when ASU President James Hindman announced in his state-of-the-university address that he would be stepping down in 2007 to return to teaching.

Dr. Hindman, who became ASU’s president in January of 1995, said he was making the announcement well in advance to allow adequate time for an orderly administrative transition. He said the advance notice will provide Chancellor Charles Matthews and the Board of Regents of The Texas State University System (TSUS) with an ample period to conduct a thorough search for his successor. He said the decision would be effective Aug. 31, 2007.

An additional factor in the timeline was Gov. Rick Perry’s announcement that one of his goals for the next regular session of the Texas Legislature, beginning in January of 2007, is to focus on higher education. Hindman said he felt an obligation to the university and believed that his knowledge of Angelo State as well as his experience in working with the legislative process would benefit ASU during a session that will be critical to the future of higher education in Texas.

As Hindman jokingly reminded convocation attendees, he – unlike the President of the United States who must go to Congress for budgetary approval – would still have budgetary authority until his successor is named.

Hindman, who has taught a freshman American history course each fall during his presidency, said the lengthy notice would also allow the History Department to take into consideration his full-time teaching status in its budgetary planning and course assignments.

Hindman said he decided to announce his decision during the fall Faculty/Staff Convocation because he felt an obligation that university employees should hear the decision directly from him.

“I was honored to be selected Angelo State’s president by the regents of The Texas State University System,” Hindman said, “but even more honored to work with such fine faculty and staff as we have on campus. Together I think we have built upon a strong foundation and served well our students, our community and our future.”

ASU Faculty Senate President Lawrence F. “Casey” Jones of the Government Department said the announcement caught the faculty by surprise. Dr. Jones praised Hindman for his collegiality and his commitment to shared governance.

“I think he has been good for the university,” Jones said. “He truly cares about the university. He listens and allows others to contribute to his vision for Angelo State. He’s certainly been amenable to some of the things I have presented to him as president of the Faculty Senate. I will miss him both professionally and personally.”

The search process for Hindman’s successor will be determined and initiated by the TSUS chancellor and board of regents. Hindman said the effective date of his departure from the presidency may vary, depending upon the decisions of the chancellor and board, but will provide an appropriate target for the naming of a successor.

By the time his announcement takes effect, Hindman will have served 12 years and eight months in the position. The average tenure nationwide for a college president is four years. Hindman came to ASU as the eighth president in the institution’s history and the third since it became a state institution in 1965.

Before coming to ASU, the Lubbock native served as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Middle Tennessee State University. His previous experience included positions as associate vice president for academic affairs and professor of history at the University of Northern Colorado as well as faculty and administrative posts at Eastern New Mexico, Sul Ross State and Lamar universities.
Had his eyesight been better, Michael P. “Mike” Ryan might have become an Air Force pilot and Angelo State University would never have benefited from his administrative vision over the last 35 years.

Ryan, who has served as advisor and vice president to two ASU presidents and has helped direct the growth and public persona of the university for almost half of its existence, is retiring at the end of April.

“It’s been an interesting 35 years, marked by change,” said Ryan, ASU’s vice president for advancement and university relations for the past dozen years.

Arriving in 1970 as director of news and information, he found an enrollment of 4,000 and a campus that had barely crossed Johnson Street, save for the high rises, the Food Service Center, the first field house and a set of university apartments.

During his tenure, enrollment increased by 50 percent and campus growth east of Johnson changed the face of ASU. During that time, his responsibilities grew as well. In 1971 he was appointed assistant professor of journalism and served as head of the Journalism Department for two years before returning to news and information.

In 1976 he became assistant and later executive assistant to the president. In 1993 he was named vice president of university affairs, predecessor to his current position. He served as interim president after the death of President Lloyd D. Vincent and before the appointment of Dr. E. James Hindman to that position.

Each president had a unique style. Ryan described Dr. Vincent as a “hands-on president down to the most minute things,” while Dr. Hindman “delegates in a much more participatory style of management.” From Ryan’s perspective, each brought to the university the set of management skills needed at the time.

Of the many programs and facilities Ryan helped shape, a handful seem especially significant in retrospect: women’s athletics, the Junell Center/Stephens Arena and the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center.

“The development of the women’s athletic program is something that I was always very happy to work with and to see it expand, grow and succeed,” Ryan said.

He indicated that the Junell Center/Stephens Arena was a pivotal structure for the university. “That building has probably changed the atmosphere on our campus more than any building before or since. The Junell Center brings the university and the community together in so many different types of settings – intercollegiate athletics, commencement programs, concerts – and it’s just a marvelous facility.”

Similarly, Ryan said the LeGrand Center filled another university need as a focal point for alumni. He acknowledged the work of Sande Harrison, Brian J. May and Drexell Vincent in envisioning the center and the generosity of Dr. Robert H. “Bob” and Jean Ann LeGrand in making it a reality.

Ryan sees ASU’s alumni as growing in importance to the university. “The Alumni Association provides a vehicle for people to get involved. Part of having an alumni association is in building relationships with the hope that if students have had good experiences while they have been at ASU they at some point will become active in the Association and support the university in some way, be it donating to a particular program that they were involved in as students, establishing scholarships or helping in other kinds of ways, such as giving of their time, energies and talents to ASU.”

As for Ryan in retirement, he will still be available to assist the university whenever he can. Beyond that he will be sleeping a little later, spending more time with wife Jill, putting around the yard, walking his Shitzhu Muffy and, most of all, following his avocation in aviation by attending air shows, visiting aviation museums and reading about the profession his eyesight kept him from pursuing.
To say that the 2005 football squad was a fourth-quarter team would be an understatement. The squad was more like a weekly coronary while coach Dale Carr and his assistants played the surgical team that miraculously revived dying hopes for victory on Saturday after Saturday.

Together the 2005 players and coaches became the Carr-diac Rams on the way to a 9-3 record and their first playoff appearance since 1997. The Rams overcame fourth-quarter deficits or ties in seven of their victories. In four of those games, the Rams scored the winning points with less than a heart-stopping minute left to play. The winning score in another game came with 1:23 left.

All in all, it was one of the most exciting seasons in Ram football history with a final record bettered by only three previous ASU teams. The 1978 NAIA National Championship team finished with a perfect 14-0 record, the 1989 squad with an 11-3 season and the 1997 team with a 10-2 year. The 1979 Ram team also managed a 9-3 record.

“Though I am very happy with our win-loss record this year,” Carr said, “I am more proud of the change in our team’s state of mind. They realize the high level of commitment it requires just to be competitive in college athletics. They truly believe that they must improve each day all year long to have a chance at winning. And, maybe most importantly, they believe that if they make that commitment they can compete with any team in Division II. I believe that state of mind is what makes the great programs great.”

The Rams’ 2005 finish, compared to the 2-9 season of 2004, marked a swing of 13 games, the greatest turnaround since ASU resumed football in 1964. It was made possible by an influx of newcomers and a group of gritty seniors led by linebacker Larry Reed, safety Jason Brittain, defensive lineman Ben Lyons and offensive lineman Nate Fillinger.

“I think the most admirable quality our seniors displayed was their willingness to adapt to the new coaching staff and our expectations,” Carr said at season’s end. “Change is often upsetting to people and I think it is human nature to resist change. Because of that, I honestly thought the at-

After the Rams made another fourth-quarter comeback against a seemingly insurmountable deficit, a sports reporter asked Angelo State football coach Dale Carr if he was disappointed that so many fans had left the game early.

“Not at all,” replied Carr. “What I can’t understand is why they don’t just show up in the fourth quarter to begin with.”

Story by Preston Lewis • Photos by Tina Miller, Preston Lewis and Michael Martin
trition during the off-season was going to be extremely high. However, our attrition rate was fairly low and I believe the enthusiasm the upperclassmen demonstrated during the spring semester is the main reason for that outcome.”

Carr, who succeeded Jerry Vandergriff in December of 2004, said the positive senior leadership, the players’ strong character and their commitment to ASU created a can-do attitude for the team. He said a major factor in that turnaround was the high character of the athletes recruited by Vandergriff and his staff.

“Pick any positive adjective and it describes the character of our players,” Carr said. “But in short, our players wanted to win and were willing to make the necessary sacrifices in order to do so.”

And win they did! The Carr era started in Gunnison, Colo., against Western Colorado. Behind 7-0 at the intermission, the Rams shut out the Mountaineers in the second half while scoring 26 points of their own.

ASU’s home opener against NAIA school Southern Nazarene was the first Thursday night game in modern Ram history. The Rams, wearing their new home uniforms of royal blue pants and jerseys with the traditional ram’s horn helmets, led throughout on the way to a 42-7 win.

The opener also marked the debut of a new full-color football program, a San Angelo Stadium video scoreboard that allowed game replays, and a new seating arrangement that grouped ASU students, band, cheerleaders and Angelettes on the west side of the stands with community fans and created a real game-day atmosphere. After each game, a few words from coaches and a moment of prayer in the middle of the field, Carr led the players to the front of the band section where the team sang the alma mater with other students.

“ASU is everything I thought it would be and more,” Carr said, “and I love the enthusiasm the student body showed at our games.”

Perhaps the key game of the season came the next week in Durant against Southeastern Oklahoma, a team that had beaten the Rams three straight years. With the Rams behind by 3, Alexis Cooper scored on a one-yard run with 5:12 left in the game to earn a 27-24 victory. That win made the team believers in themselves.

Next up the Rams faced Central Oklahoma at home. Trailing late in the fourth quarter, the Rams moved 99 yards in four
plays with freshman Kyle Fox scoring on a 10-yard touchdown run at the 1:23 mark to give the Rams a 20-16 victory.

Against Midwestern State in the following contest, the Indians led 29-20 with 3:41 left. Tight end Justin Carter, who earned All-Region honors at the conclusion of the season, scored on a 32-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Trey Weishuhn with 1:22 left in the game. After recovering an onside kick, the Rams worked their way down the field for a 20-yard J.D. Williams field goal with three seconds left to claim a 30-29 win.

Going into Blackwater Draw, the Rams stood at 5-0 before Eastern New Mexico handed them their first loss. Though leading 14-7 at the end of the first quarter, the Rams failed both to score again and to stop the Greyhounds’ option offense, losing 38-14.

Back home, the Rams trailed Abilene Christian 24-17 going into the fourth quarter. A one-yard touchdown pass from Weishuhn to Drew Peterson tied the game at the 3:27 mark and then J.D. Williams made a 28-yard field goal with one second left to claim a 27-24 victory for the Blue and Gold.

ASU pleased the 2005 Homecoming crowd with an easy 49-20 victory over Northeastern State before heading to Canyon to play undefeated West Texas A&M. In preseason polls, West Texas had been picked last and ASU next to last, but there they were playing for the division lead.

It was a see-saw game that had ASU roll up 748 yards of total offense, yet still trail No. 7 West Texas 53-51 with 2:45 left in the game. On their final possession, the Rams started at their 20-yard line and marched 80 yards in nine plays, scoring on a 23-yard Weishuhn-to-Carter pass with 52 seconds remaining in the game. The ASU defense withstood a last-ditch West Texas...
drive, including an incomplete pass into the end zone on the game’s final play, to hold onto a 58-53 win.

Standing at 8-1 overall and 6-1 in Lone Star Conference play, the Rams were ranked 19th nationally when they hosted Tarleton State in their final regular-season home game. The Rams lost their conference lead after the Texans dominated the game and went back to Stephenville with a 30-17 win.

The regular season ended against Texas A&M-Kingsville in perhaps the most suspenseful game in a season of cliffhangers. In another back-and-forth contest, Kingsville took a 48-45 lead with 37 seconds left in the contest. ASU returned the ensuing kickoff to the Ram 42 yard-line. Three players later, the Rams found themselves at the Kingsville 33 with three seconds on the clock. J.D. Williams came in and connected on a 50-yard field goal, the sixth longest in ASU history, to send the game into overtime.

Ram defenders then held the Javelinas to a field goal. On ASU’s first overtime play from scrimmage, running back Kyle Fox, the Lone Star Conference South Division Newcomer of the Year and ASU’s first 1,000-yard rusher since 1985, scampered 25 yards for the TD and a 54-51 win.

Noting field goal specialist J.D. Williams’ key roles in the Midwestern, ACU and Kingsville games, coach Carr said, “At the beginning of the season I just called him ‘kicker.’ Now I call him ‘Mr. Williams.’”

ASU’s 9-2 finish qualified the Rams for the playoffs, where they hosted Northwest Missouri State, a perennial NCAA playoff contender since the mid 1990s and national champions in 1998 and 1999. Northwest Missouri’s playoff experience and line strength showed as they stymied the Rams all day on the way to a 45-14 victory.

While the playoff loss was disappointing, it could not take away from the great season that the Rams put together, especially after Northwest Missouri made it to the Division II national championship game before losing to Grand Valley State, 21-17.

After time to reflect on the many accomplishments of the 2005 season, Carr looked to the future of ASU football.

“If we are able to sign a couple of offensive and defensive linemen from the junior colleges, then we have a chance to be as good or better next year and in 2007 than we were this year,” Carr said. “If we are able to sign as well from the high schools as we did last year, then beginning in ’07 we should consistently compete for the conference championship and go deep into the playoffs each year.

“For us to be successful with high school players,” he continued, “we have to do two things very well. Number one, we cannot afford to miss on very many kids. I don’t mean missing on his athletic ability. A ‘miss’ is when one of our players does not make it to his third year of college for some reason. Of course, my crystal ball is not 100 percent accurate in predicting how well a high school player will transition into college, but number two we can facilitate his transition by teaching him to become a better student.

“If we are able to lower attrition by teaching good study skills and we have good leadership in the classroom from our upperclassmen,” Carr concluded, “then we will eventually become one of the top D-II programs.”

Kicker J.D. “Mr.” Williams played key role in ASU’s 2005 success.
After the most successful season in Belle basketball history last year, the ASU women’s team began the 2005-06 season with some major holes to fill but with an attitude best summed up by the theme of the latest media guide: Built to Last.

Top returners included forwards Christina Johnson, Kandra Lakey and Michele Mitchell and guards Ashley King and Asheia Haynes on a team ranked 17th nationally at the start of the season.

Newcomers earning significant playing time in the fall included junior college transfers Britinee Davis, a guard from Collin County Community College, and Meghann LeJeune, a forward from Blinn Junior College. Freshman players seeing intermittent action included guard Christi Rasmussen of Midland and forward Lauren Weishuhn of Wall.

Even though the women lost to graduation a quintet of talented players, including center Natalja Tsurbakova and forwards Sharon Ballenger, Courtney Nowlin, Whitney Hoerting and Tracy Allen, they continued their winning ways in the fall semester with an 8-2 record, culminating in an 83-68 win over Abilene Christian University. With the December win in Abilene, the Belles entered the spring semester with the South Division lead.

The loss of Tsurbakova, a dominant player on the inside over the previous three seasons, means coach Sally Walling Brooks will work the perimeter more as she looks to continue the Lone Star Conference dominance that has been her trademark since arriving on campus in 2000.

In her five full seasons at ASU, Brooks has compiled a 117-34 record, for a .775 winning percentage. Last season’s 28-4 Lone Star Conference championship season ended with a 76-67 playoff loss to Washburn, the eventual NCAA Division II women’s champion.
Semper Fi
Ram Leads Charge

In addition to leading the Rams in scoring and blocks at the holiday break, sophomore forward Quinn Barfield has brought a new discipline to the ASU basketball squad.

After four years in the U.S. Marines, Barfield certainly knows discipline. After a year at Mesa Community College in Arizona where he averaged 19.7 points and 10 rebounds per game, he knows basketball.

Barfield, who attended high school in Georgetown, led the Rams in scoring with 18.1 points per outing at the break, ranking him second in the Lone Star Conference at the time. He also was tops on the team in blocks with 16 while averaging 5.8 rebounds per game.

Barfield’s play combined with the senior leadership of forward Marlow Rockwell and the contributions of several newcomers demonstrated that the Rams were a team with potential.

Standing 7-5 at the holiday break, the Rams earned regional wins over Incarnate Word and Central Oklahoma. Two of the defeats came at the hands of Division I competition, including a narrow 81-78 loss at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Coach Joe Esposito brought in a talented crew of newcomers this year, including transfers center Ronald “JR” Pittman from Southern Mississippi and junior guard Turner Phipps from Baylor.

Phipps has run the point this season. Pittman, after being plagued by a nagging injury early, has responded by leading the Rams on the boards, pulling down seven per game.

The Rams headed into the spring with talent and confidence.

Quinn Barfield soars for another basket.
Two former track and field stars and a defensive lineman who went on to play in the National Football League were inducted into the Angelo State University Athletic Hall of Honor in February.

Nine-time All-American Amy Bippert-Bohensky, Olympian Joshua K. Owusu and football star Clayton Weishuhn made up the second class of inductees into the Hall of Honor.

Bippert-Bohensky was one of the top multi-event performers in the school’s history, scoring 19 of ASU’s 37 points at the 1997 NCAA Division II Championship and leading the Rambelles to a sixth-place national finish. She became the fourth ASU female track and field athlete to collect an individual national title, claiming first in the heptathlon while earning top eight finishes in both the triple jump and 100-meter hurdles.

After her senior season, the LaCoste native was crowned the Lone Star Conference (LSC) women’s Track and Field Athlete of the Year. She was a two-time CoSIDA first team Academic All-American and was honored in 1997 as the Spring At-Large Academic All-American of the Year.

Owusu, ASU’s first track and field Olympian, competed in the 1972 Munich games, representing his home country of Ghana, and finished fourth in the long jump. He was favored going into the 1976 Montreal Olympics before a last-minute boycott by the African nations spoiled his chances. A seven-time All-American for the 1971-74 Rams, he collected six national titles during his celebrated career. He was enshrined in the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1990.

A three-time NAIA national champion in both the triple jump and the long jump, he received the Oscar Strahan Award three times as the top male field event athlete at the LSC meet. To this day, he holds six of the top 10 all-time ASU performances in both the triple jump and long jump, including both school records.

Weishuhn, a three-time first team All-Lone Star Conference performer, ended his career as the Rams’ all-time leading tackler with 523 total stops from 1978-81. The Wall native led ASU in tackles each of his final three seasons, including a school-record 173 tackles during his 1981 senior season.

After earning second team All-American honors as a junior, Weishuhn was a consensus first team All-American in 1981. He was one of nine former ASU players to go on to play in the NFL, drafted by the New England Patriots in the third round of the 1982 draft. He was a two-time selection for the J.V. Sikes Award, given to the outstanding lineman in the LSC.

Weishuhn was also named to the LSC All-Academic teams.

To be eligible for the Hall of Honor, a former athlete must be at least five years removed from competition, have left ASU “in good academic standing” and have participated at least two years in ASU athletics.

Previous ASU Hall of Honor inductees are basketball coach and athletic director Phil George, football standout Pierce Holt and volleyball star Kirby Jameson.

Dave Wester, who has more than a decade of sports information experience including the last five in the Lone Star Conference, took over as ASU’s sports information director (SID) in December.

SID at Southeastern Oklahoma State University for the previous five years, Wester succeeded M.L. Stark Hinkle, who moved with her family to Hutchinson, Kan., where her husband, Eric, accepted a new job.

Wester said his top priority over the next year will be enhancing the university’s athletics website. He said he will be exploring options with the Athletics Department to improve the timeliness of athletics information and to simplify navigation throughout the site.

Prior to assuming his duties at Southeastern Oklahoma, he worked for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics three years as sports information assistant and two years as manager of information systems.

Congratulations are due to six ASU cross country athletes whose winged feet carried them to post-season honors.

Trent Joseph and Thomas Veal from the men’s squad and Trista McIntyre, Melina Garcia and Rebecca Graupman on the women’s team earned All-Lone Star Conference recognition at the league championships last fall. McIntyre, Graupman, Garcia, Joseph, Veal and Dustin Hafernick also received NCAA All-South Central Region honors.

Additionally, Garcia was named LSC Freshman of the Year among the women competitors and qualified for the NCAA championships.

Joseph, Graupman and McIntyre were also named to their respective LSC All-Academic teams.
9th Annual
West Central Wireless/ West Central Net
Golf Tournament

Tuesday, May 23, 2006
San Angelo Country Club
Four Person Teams
Scramble Format

Contact Name: _____________________________________ Daytime Phone: __________________________

Email: ___________________________________________________________ Fax:  __________________________

Player 1: ________________________________________________ HCP: ______________
Player 2: ________________________________________________ HCP: ______________
Player 3: ________________________________________________ HCP: ______________
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Total Number of Players x $100.00 each = $____________

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Please complete and return form with payment to:
ASU Alumni Association; ASU Station #11049; San Angelo, TX 76909-1049
Lynsey Hargrave Flage, Class of 1997, returned to her alma mater last fall as director of alumni relations for the university and secretary/treasurer for the ASU Alumni Association.

She comes to ASU with a variety of non-profit organization experience in communication, fund-raising and event-planning, not to mention some dreams for the Association.

“My main goal is to try and reach more former students so we can show them the importance of joining the Alumni Association and supporting the university,” said Flage. “Association members support recruiting efforts, mentor students and help fund special student and faculty projects. It is a vehicle for ASU alumni to honor and remember their own college years by helping current students on their journeys.”

Flage’s ASU experience was life-changing, not only putting her on her career path but also introducing her to Bruce Flage, her future husband. “We met in the San Angelo Airport on our way to Sheffield, England, as part of ASU’s very first International Studies program. We dated throughout Europe, and I will always remember the small town fair we stumbled across in Brugge, Belgium.” Today they have a son, Colton, who is almost three years old, and a daughter, Holland, who just celebrated her first birthday.

In addition to memories of meeting her husband, she returned to campus with other fond recollections, such as guarding the bonfire, going on double-dates to the Spillway, living in the residence halls (and having dozens of dorm neighbors to borrow clothes from), taking late-night study breaks to Taco Bell and two-step dancing at a favorite local establishment. While a student at ASU, she worked in the Office of Admissions as a tour guide, served as a College Days coordinator and assisted as a counselor during Preview ASU.

Flage holds an ASU bachelor’s degree in communications with a specialization in public relations. She also completed a double minor in marketing and management and graduated magna cum laude.

Before returning to San Angelo, Flage lived in Dallas where she served the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation-Northeast Texas in fundraising and event planning, coordinating 13 different events and raising more than $500,000. Previously, she worked for the Girls Scouts of Tejas Council in Dallas as publications manager and assistant director of communications. Her responsibilities included a variety of writing, publication, event planning and volunteer training assignments.

She was excited to leave the Metroplex and return to San Angelo “to expose our children to cleaner air, friendlier people and more opportunities.” As for her alma mater, Flage said, “The possibilities are endless and I look forward to continuing the advancement and growth of the ASU Alumni Association.”
The ASU Alumni Association would like to recognize the following Ram Jam sponsors and contributors for their continued support:

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The ASU Alumni Association, with the help of All-American Chevrolet and Foster Communications, hosted four pre-game parties last fall. Each Ram Jam at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center was open to the public.

The goal was to encourage school spirit and get people “pumped-up” for the ensuing football game. The parties started strong and just kept growing, with more than 800 Ram fans attending each Ram Jam. Family Day and Homecoming saw more than 1,000 participants each!

Many of the same loyal faces were back each week to enjoy Ram Jam’s many activities. Donations from local businesses provided ASU football fans with free food and drinks, cash prizes and spirit giveaways like noise-makers and foam fingers.

KIXY, FM 94.7, was on hand with a live remote to keep the party going. Special guests included the ASU Cheerleaders, the ASU men’s basketball team and Roscoe the Ram. In addition, ASU students, alumni and their families competed for prizes in the Frisbee toss and football throw and showed their Ram spirit through face painting and temporary tattoos.
Tim Howard earned watches and T-shirts when he was part of consecutive conference-championship Ram basketball teams, but his most valuable piece of school regalia is the Official ASU Class Ring he received in December more than 20 years after he started.

Howard came to ASU in 1985 after a standout career at Fort Worth Dunbar High School and made an immediate impact, playing in 23 games as a freshman and averaging 7.9 points per game.

With Howard in the lineup, ASU had two of its best seasons ever, winning two consecutive Lone Star Conference titles in 1988 and 1989. He remains the top career scorer in Rams basketball history, with 1,844 total points.

While Howard made many goals on the basketball court, he admits he didn’t always pay as much attention to his studies as he did to his game.

“Basketball was an avenue to get into school,” Howard said. “My only regret is that I didn’t take advantage of the opportunity the first time.”

After his playing career ended, Howard went to Topeka, Kan., where he had a tryout with the Sizzlers, a Continental Basketball Association team. He hurt his knee during the tryout, effectively ending his basketball career.

Howard returned to Fort Worth, staying there four years. In 1993, he came back to San Angelo with his sights set on getting a job and finishing his degree.

“I’d run into old professors, and they’d ask me, ‘When are you coming back?’” Howard said.

Returning to school wasn’t easy at first. Howard was working full-time as a graphic artist at the San Angelo Standard-Times in addition to taking classes. His grades suffered as he tried to balance work and school.

Howard also had to change his mindset. When he was an athlete, he sometimes received the benefit of the doubt in his courses, and his prowess on the court earned him respect and popularity. When he returned, he was just another student, and the legacy of Tim Howard the all-conference forward didn’t grant him any advantages.

“I’ve always had it easy,” Howard said. “I just did enough to get by. Then my wife

Howard Returns
for another goal

Story by Jason Hunter • Photos by Tina Miller
told me I couldn’t depend on people pulling strings for me anymore. Now, I’m where I’ve got to do it myself and I’m not getting any favors. Everything I do, I’ve got to earn it.”

Eventually, he lightened his course load. Finishing college would take longer, but he could better focus on his academic tasks. With fewer courses, his grades improved, and he slowly moved toward his goal of earning an ASU diploma.

“If I put my mind to it, I can see things through,” Howard said. “Life is a journey – don’t stop until you reach your destination. If you don’t think you can do it, take it one step at a time.”

Once he balanced work and school, Howard again found academic success, finishing strong and earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average and being named to the dean’s list in his final semester.

In December, the magnitude of his academic success began to materialize when he received his Official ASU Class Ring at the school-wide ceremony hosted by the ASU Alumni Association in the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center.

Family members and co-workers cheered for Howard as he walked across the stage and received from ASU President James Hindman the small black box containing his ring. After a firm handshake and congratulations, Howard returned to his seat and opened the box. The golden ring shimmered in the light.

“When I opened the ring, I was sitting under the light,” Howard said. “The light just hit it. I was like, ‘I’m actually doing it.’

“I turned around and saw my wife and choked up,” he recalled. “I was just surprised my co-workers made it – they had said they wouldn’t be able to make the ceremony.”

With a degree in his hand and a ring on his finger, Howard’s future is brighter than it was even in the midst of his storied basketball career.

“I love being a graphic artist,” Howard said. “What I do now is what I love to do. But if my degree affords me another opportunity, it’s nice to have that to fall back on.”

Just as Tim Howard received an Official ASU Class Ring, so can any other Angelo State University student who has completed 75 hours or more, even those who may have attended years ago. The Official Class Ring was unveiled in December 2003 and has continued to grow as an Angelo State tradition.

Each gold ring symbolically captures the uniqueness of Angelo State University. The top of the ring presents the ASU seal with the school motto, “Fiat Lux” (“Let there be light”), encircled by the words “Angelo State University” and the founding year, 1928.

One side of the ring shows the State of Texas with a star marking San Angelo. Below that, an oak branch represents the vital aspects of ASU life – hospitality, endurance and triumph.

On the other side, the mascot Dominic, a burly Ram-bouillet Ram, symbolizes strength, courage and an intense resolve, especially when the going is rough.

Students wear the ring with the school name facing them. When they receive their degrees at commencement, graduates turn the ring around, symbolizing that the graduate is now ready to face the world.

Prior to each commencement, the Alumni Association hosts a Ring Ceremony where the university president presents the rings to proud recipients. Of the 61 ASU students receiving their rings during the fall semester, 28 attended the December ceremony.

“Both the ring and the ceremony have brought much needed tradition to our campus,” said ASU Alumni Relations Director Lynsey Flage. “The Ring acts as a definitive link between past and present at Angelo State.”

For details on ordering an Official ASU Class Ring, contact the Alumni Association at (325) 942-2122.
On a cool October weekend, the ASU Alumni Association welcomed former students to campus for a Homecoming celebration that honored outstanding graduates, showcased an exciting Ram football team and provided plenty of opportunities for alumni to reminisce about their college days.

Each year the Alumni Association coordinates Homecoming with the Student Government Association, which adopted the theme of “Wild West Show” for Homecoming 2005.

Alumni Association festivities began Friday with the Golden Exes reception, honoring those who graduated more than 50 years ago. This year, 54 San Angelo College graduates participated, recalling the old days and bringing each other up to date on the accomplishments of their grandchildren.

More than 250 people attended the ensuing Wells Fargo Homecoming Dinner that evening. Diane Fischer of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Michael H. Millegan of Verizon in Kirkland, Wash., were honored with Distinguished Alumnus awards. Lt. Col. John W. Blumentritt, who...
is stationed at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, was named the Distinguished ROTC Alumnus.

Dr. Kyle Longley, a Gilbert, Ariz., resident and Arizona State University history professor, conducted an afternoon seminar for Angelo State University students and faculty, before being honored as the Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumnus. Former English professor Dr. Perry Gragg was recognized as the Outstanding Retired Faculty Member and San Angelo College graduate XB Cox, Jr., was honored as the Golden Ex of the Year.

Four current ASU professors also were presented Distinguished Faculty Achievement awards: Dr. Robert C. Dowler, College of Sciences; Dr. Robert R. Mowrer, College of Liberal and Fine Arts; Kathleen Brasfield, College of Business and Professional Studies; and Dr. Marilyn J. Eisenwine, College of Education.

The Wells Fargo dinner culminated with the presentation by ASU Alumni Association President Louis Gomez of a $20,000 check to ASU President James Hindman in line with the Association’s mission to promote ASU. Hindman thanked the officers, board and members of the Alumni Association for all their hard work the previous year.

After the dinner, students and alumni joined together for a pep rally and torchlight parade to the bonfire, which soon lit the night sky and burned as brightly as everyone’s anticipation for the next day’s football game.

Friday night activities continued after the bonfire with Midnight Madness in the Junell Center/Stephens Arena. As Saturday was the first day NCAA basketball teams could begin fall practice, the Belles and the Rams made their 2005-06 debut after a variety of student, faculty and alumni shooting and dribbling contests, emceed by Jeremy Bryant, the radio voice of ASU athletics.

Homecoming activities resumed Saturday at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center with the Greek Reunion Brunch for alumni members of ASU’s social fraternities and sororities. The “Wild West Show” campus parade, led by the Ram Marching Band in new uniforms with royal blue tops over black pants, showcased Alumni Association honorees as well as ASU organizations and students, who designed floats, drove new cars and showed their Angelo State pride throughout the day.

Before the football game, the Alumni Association’s Ram Jam party attracted its largest crowd of the season with more than 1,000 Ram fans in attendance at the LeGrand Center. Then everyone moved to San Angelo Stadium for the highly anticipated game between the 6-1 Rams and Northeastern State.

The Rams then did their part to make the 2005 Homecoming a rousing success by defeating Northeastern State, 49-20, for their seventh victory of the season. During the halftime ceremonies Delta Zeta nominee David Morales and Baptist Student Ministries nominee Laura Tunnell were named Homecoming King and Queen. Delta Zeta was also announced as winner of the 2005 Spirit Stick.

As the final seconds ticked off the game clock and the “Wild West Show” came to an end, alumni left with plenty of Blue and Gold moments to remember. ■

Mark your calendars!
Homecoming
2006
October 20-21

*If you are a 1996, 1981 or 1956 ASU graduate and would like to help plan this year’s reunion, please call Alumni Relations at (325) 942-2122.
Tribute
special occasions & people we always want to remember...

Yes! I want to make a lasting impression in the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center.
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Graduation ♦ Anniversary ♦ Retirement
Birth ♦ Marriage ♦ Memorial
Mother’s Day ♦ Father’s Day

A personalized paver: the unique gift with a lasting impression.
1942

Sara Magill is retired and living in Wichita Falls.

1945

Marjorie Emfinger is a retired credit manager and lives in San Angelo.

Billie Phinney, married to Ace, is retired and living in Mereta.

1946

Marie Crumly is a homemaker and lives in Corpus Christi.

1947

Jack Lieber, married to Betty Jo, is retired and living in San Angelo.

1948

Bettie Olsak, married to Clovis (’48), is a housewife and lives San Angelo.

Jim Cox, married to Nellie, is retired and living in Ballwin, Maine. Jim and Nellie have been married 53 years and have three children and three grandchildren.

Betty Blakely, married to Peter, is a homemaker and living in Georgetown.

1959

James Plagens is a Catholic priest and pastor of Sacred Heart Church & St. Thomas Church in Big Spring.

1960

MV Armour, married to Lizbeth (’61), is self-employed and lives in Midland.

Kenneth Johnson, married to Cathy, is retired and living in Mineral Wells. When attending San Angelo College (SAC), Kenneth played football and baseball.

1961

Kenneth Dierschke, married to Binnie (’64), is a farmer in San Angelo, president of the Texas Farm Bureau and a former ASU Rams basketball player.

Janet Eaton is a retired elementary school teacher and lives in San Angelo.

Mack McCoulskey, married to Dixie, is a professor of education at Angelo State University and lives in San Angelo.

James Parry, married to Blossom (’61), is retired and living in San Angelo.

Lynda Steinberg, married to Bob (’61), is an office manager and lives in Dallas.

1962

Brenda Morris, married to Michael, is a retired special education consultant and lives in San Angelo.

James Word, married to Elizabeth, is retired and living in San Angelo.

1963

Norman Dierschke, married to Linda (’66), is a real estate broker at Dierschke & Dierschke Realtors in San Angelo.
Rodney Seitz, married to Mazie, is a registered respiratory therapist at Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo.

1965
Mildred Hohmann is a retired educator and lives in San Angelo.

1967
Jerry Lee, married to Gayle, is manager-corporate systems at Verizon and lives in Bedford.

R. Linwood Hawkins, married to Susan, is a banker at Junction National Bank in Junction.

1968
Van Kent Flanagan, married to Janet, lives in Franklin, Tenn., and was recently appointed to the new position of Distinguished Journalist in Residence at the Middle Tennessee State University School of Journalism. Kent is a veteran newsman who left the Associated Press in 2004 after more than 25 years.

Gene Schweizer, married to Beverly, is a retired clergy and lives in Orlando, Fla.

1970
Jerry Fletcher, married to Peter (’77), is a teacher at Canandaigua Academy in Canandaigua, N.Y.

Richard McKinney is a certified public accountant and lives in San Angelo.

Laurin Prather, married to Sharon (’70), is self-employed and lives in Lubbock.

Donnie Young, married to Francis (’70), is vice president of world-wide Johnson & Johnson Operations and lives in Somerset, N.J.

1971
Dr. Sue Chance, married to Arthur Overgaag, is a physician in Cleveland, S.C.

Peggye Hough, married to Leonard, is a retired teacher and lives in San Angelo.

Truett Smith is a psychologist in San Angelo.

1972
Steve Calvert, married to Rosemary, is part owner of Calvert Collision Center in San Angelo.

James Shahan, married to Debra, is a CPA-Accountant/Controller and lives in San Saba.

1973
Vincent Loyola, married to Lucia, is a chemist for Sandia National Laboratories and lives in Albuquerque, N.M.

Dan Mathews, married to Judy, is a home builder for D.R. Horton Custom Homes in Houston.

1974
Grady Harlow is a Certified Public Accountant and lives in San Angelo.

Hubert Phillips, married to Lola, is an author and lives in Warner Robins, GA. Hubert has received permission from the Texas Historic Preservation Board to utilize
Joanna Troutman’s official state portrait, which hangs in the Texas State Rotunda in Austin, as the cover art for his novel Joanna’s Lone Star. The novel should be available online this spring. Joanna is officially “Mother of the Lone Star” flag.

**1975**

**Gene Tutle**, married to Dietra, is a middle school athletic coordinator in Burleson. He is entering his 32nd year of teaching and coaching. He received the West Texas Class A Coach of the Year award at Bronte High School in 1986. He has coached at the junior high, high school and college level. Gene and Dietra’s son, Chad, will graduate from ASU this year.

**1976**

**Karen Ann Bowen**, married to Billy (’74), is a homemaker and lives in San Angelo.

**1977**

**Jean Hierholzer**, married to W.R., is a Special Education teacher in Kerrville.

**1978**

**Evans Croad**, married to Darlene, is retired and living in San Angelo.

**Joe Munoz**, married to Gracie (’82), is assistant to the president at Angelo State University in San Angelo.

**1979**

**Brian Shannon**, married to Jeannine, lives in Lubbock and is associate dean for academic affairs and the Charles Thornton Professor of Law at the Texas Tech University School of Law. Professor Shannon was recently elected to the highly prestigious American Law Institute, joining an elite membership of 3,000 judges, lawyers and law professors from around the world. The limited-membership association stands at the top of the legal profession and recognizes extraordinary achievement in the legal profession and works to improve justice. From an academician’s standpoint, this is the most prestigious membership a law professor can hold.

**80’s**

**1980**

**Renee Peel**, married to Ken (’78), is a teacher for Grape Creek ISD and lives in San Angelo.

**1981**

**Diane Fischer** is a scientist at Oak Ridge National Lab in Knoxville, Tenn. Diane was named Angelo State University’s 2005 Distinguished Alumnus.

**Deanna Hicks** is a retired information security engineer living in San Angelo.
Mark Merritt, married to Maribea, is a CEO in Odessa.

Victor Probandt, married to Patricia (’96), is a real estate appraiser at Stribling-Probandt Appraisers in San Angelo.

Gwendolyn Smith is a teacher and lives in San Angelo.

Randy Russell, married to Emma, is the director of government solutions at Ericsson, Inc. and lives in Frisco.

Susan Willyard, married to Ron (’82), is a CPA at Verizon in San Angelo.

Sharon Evans, married to Lee, is a CPA/Certified Financial Planner at Evans, Eckert & Peterson PC in San Angelo.

Mary Michalewicz, married to Thomas, is a teacher with Hays ISD and lives in Buda.

Dr. J. Michael Wedin, married to Becky, is a dentist and lives in Sweetwater.

1982

Susan Willyard, married to Ron (’82), is a CPA at Verizon in San Angelo.

1983

Dean Fox, married to Janice (’83), is an officer in the Air Force stationed in Kaneohe, Hawaii. Janice owns her own internet company. Their oldest son is a sophomore computer science major at ASU on a four-year ROTC scholarship.

1984

Phillip Schneemann, married to Ella, is a CPA and lives in San Angelo.

1985

Melissa Dutton, married to Jefferson, is director of a preschool and lives in Houston.

1986

Ronald Bell, married to Mavis, is a retired maintenance supervisor living in San Angelo.

Nora Harper, married to Kirby, is an insurance agent and lives in Waxahachie.

Jeffrey K. Pashai is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Coast Guard. He recently was awarded the Bronze Star Medal while serving as a Farsi linguist and interviewer assigned to the Coast Guard and U.S. Southern Command representative to the Command Joint Task Force 7 and the State Department, Baghdad, Iraq. Pashai served on a special team tasked by the White House with dismantling a foreign terrorist organization entrenched in Iraq. Pashai helped ensure the Department of Defense and National Security Council’s highest priorities for collecting intelligence and identifying terrorists were met and exceeded.

Dr. Kelly Wilson, married to Lesa, is a physician at Shannon Clinic in San Angelo.

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Proudly supports Angelo State University and salutes the Animal Science Department
Cheryl Worthey, married to Wade, is a police sergeant with the City of Carrollton.

1987

Michele DeRusso, married to David, is an accountant with Verizon in San Angelo.

Sean Patrick Harrington, married to Suzanne (’86), is an Air Force officer and stationed in San Antonio. Suzy earned her doctorate in nursing practice in December.

Jeb Henderson, married to Genny (’87), is a John Deere dealer in San Angelo.

Kyle Longley, married to Maria, is a professor of history at Arizona State University and lives in Gilbert, Ariz. Dr. Longley was named Angelo State University’s 2005 Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumnus.

Robin Thompson, married to Rocky, is a homemaker and lives in Garland.

Lt. Col. Robert Vance, USAF, married to Debbie, is currently stationed at Ramstein AB, Germany. They have four children, Allysen, Courtney, Megan and Jack with one more due in June. Vance recently returned from Kabul, Afghanistan, where he worked to build the Afghan National Army Air Corps.

Susan Van Court is a property tax consultant and lives in San Antonio.

Marianne White, married to Michael, is an accountant with Verizon in San Angelo.

1988

Sharla Denton is an accountant specialist with Verizon and lives in Eola.

S. D’Ann Dodson is a sixth-grade teacher with Arlington ISD and lives in Euless.

1989

Susan Avery is a sexual trauma counselor and lives in Arlington.

Carolyn Bruha is vice president at San Angelo Banking Center-FNB Sonora in San Angelo.

Capt. Michael McGill is a self-employed pilot in San Angelo and a combat veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

90’s

1991

Thomas Nurre, married to Enola, is at Encore Broadcasting in San Angelo.

Lisa Shoemaker is a weather officer with the U.S. Air Force and is stationed in Bellevue, Neb. Lisa just returned from spending a year in Qatar where she was weather chief at the combined Air Operations Center.

Capturing the spirit of pride and confidence in our community, Texas Bank is Banking on West Texas.

Embracing technology while holding onto traditional values, Homeowned Texas Bank is Banking on West Texas.
**1992**

**Frances Grogan**, married to Gary, is a retired director of audit service for Texas Tech University and currently works as a CPA in San Angelo.

**Leslie Williams**, married to Jeremiah, is a mother and lives in Austin.

**1993**

**Christie Wolfe**, married to Wesley (’93), is a stay-at-home mom in San Angelo. Wesley is a business/software analyst with Mueller, Inc.

**1994**

**Christie Partee**, married to Sean (’93), is with the Department of Homeland Security and lives in Grapevine.

**1995**

**Rhonda Bolton** is an accounts payable specialist at Verizon in San Angelo.

**1996**

**Dixie Valdez**, married to Joe, is a counselor in Del Rio. Dixie graduated with a master of science in counseling psychology and has owned her own business since 2002, doing individual, marriage and family counseling.

**1997**

**Shereen Nafrawi** is a marketing supervisor for UPS and lives in San Antonio.

**Chad Reel**, married to Justina, is a dentist in San Angelo.

**Michael Uptergrove**, married to Jodie (’97), works in sales/marketing for D&D Commodities, Ltd. and lives in Christoval.

**1998**

**Angel Flores** is a therapist for Senior Connections in San Angelo.

**Pamela Venable**, married to Nolan, is firm administrator for Armstrong, Backus & Co. and lives in San Angelo.

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**Will You Respond to the Call?**

In the tradition of major universities, Angelo State University has established an Annual Fund Campaign, and the University is calling on faculty, staff, alumni and friends to participate. A successful Campaign will help the University enhance its academic programs and attract both students and faculty members of the highest quality. Will you respond to the call today by making your tax-deductible gift to the Annual Fund Campaign for ASU? Please make your gift payable to the ASU Foundation and send your gift today.
Christopher Neal, married to Regina, works in pharmaceutical sales and lives in Magnolia.

Morgan O’Donnell, married to Erick Galindo (’00), lives in Denton. Her publishing company, Mountain Muse Press, is coming out with its third book, Quarry by Dr. Chris Ellery, ASU professor of English.

John Perry is director of ticket sales for the San Angelo Stampede in San Angelo.

Joseph Thomas is a marketing CRA officer at Texas State Bank in San Angelo.

Erick Galindo, married to Morgan O’Donnell (’99), is a senior UNIX administrator for Blockbuster and lives in Denton.

Erick Ybarra is an associate clinical psychologist at the San Angelo State School.

Dr. Ellen Melton, married to Paul, lives in San Angelo and recently received her Ph.D.

Lupita Zermeno is a teacher in Cedar Hill.

Courtney Jennings, married to Dustin, is a teacher in Beaumont.

Justin MacDonald is a real estate developer for GG MacDonald, Inc. and lives in Kerrville.

Luke Burnett currently lives in San Angelo and was a former missionary in Tijuana, Mexico.

Cara Lynn Linker is an apartment manager for Vanguard Properties in San Angelo and manages more than 120 apartments and 30 houses.

ROTC Alumni News
Special recognition and congratulations to the following ASU graduates for their recent promotions in the U.S. Air Force:

Colonel
Stephen L. Barrett (’84)
John W. Blumentritt (’83)
David J. Doryland (’84)
Joey A. Eisenhut (’84)
Sarah L. Garcia (’84)

It may surprise you to learn that most college students are making smart decisions about drinking. In fact, the percentage of freshmen who say they drink beer frequently or occasionally is at its lowest level since 1966.* By being responsible, today’s college students are proving that they’re thinking outside of the classroom, as well as in it.

Responsible Matters

21% more Americans are enrolled in college today than in 1990.
67% of college students are 21 years of age or older.
77% have used a designated driver when socializing during the past year.
74% of college students drink moderately, infrequently or not at all.

*2004 National College Drinking Survey

Sources: 21% and 68% - U.S. Census Bureau, 2003; 77% - American College Health Association, 2003; 74% - Dry Institute, 2003; *The American Freshman Survey, sponsored by UCLA and The American Council on Education, 2003. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the majority of college students are of legal drinking age. However, while moderate drinking is acceptable for students 21 and older, those under 21 should not drink at all. © 2005 Anheuser-Busch, Inc., St. Louis, MO
In Memoriam

Maj. Jeff Ohman, ’86, Tempe, Ariz., April 2005

Nadine Seeligson, San Angelo College graduate, Dallas, June 2005

Helen Ciber, ’85, San Angelo, Aug. 24, 2005

Mark S. Lyon, ’80, San Antonio, Aug. 27, 2005

Wanda Mason Wray, ’73, Houghton, Sept. 27, 2005


Harriet Lewis, academic coordinator of clinical education in the ASU Physical Therapy Department, announced the birth of granddaughter Hannah Alane Lewis on May 26, 2005.

John and Melissa Beaver Campbell (’94) of Austin celebrated the birth of Ryan Dee Campbell on Sept. 7, 2005.

Tara and Robert Rainey (’96) welcomed their daughter Ava Elizabeth Rainey on Sept. 14, 2005, in San Angelo.

Mikala M. Young was born Oct. 27, 2005, to proud parents Michelle and Jay Young (’85) of Dallas.

ASU Library Secretary Diantha Reynolds announced the birth of her granddaughter Katie Doris Stone on Dec. 17, 2005.

Please let us know of your new arrival and receive a “Future ASU Graduate” beanie plush Ram.

414 community hospitals in Texas:
provided care for 32.6 million outpatients;
treated 8.3 million people in their emergency room;
conducted 1.86 million surgeries; and delivered 370,000 babies.
Health services and health supply sector represented 15% of the gross national product. In Texas, community hospitals support more than 704,000 jobs, employed nearly 310,000 people with a payroll including wages, salaries, and benefits of $15 billion. Through the delivery of services, hospitals support one of every 10 jobs in the United States directly or indirectly.

(Based on 2003 Statistics)

www.shannonhealth.com
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Mike and Brenda Morris, Jeff and Amy McCormick,
San Angelo
Houston
Mickey and Linda Jones, G. Bryan Heflin,
San Angelo
Ronny L. and Carol Harrison, Jim and Dana Glossbrenner,
Wayne T. Franke, Steve and Julie Eustis,
San Angelo
Norman and Linda Dierschke, J. Brent Burney,
David and Kelly Bryant, Lane Bowen,
Thelma Bennett, Andy and Korina Baker,
Craig and Kim Bagley, Nathan Alexander,
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