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On the cover: Biology professor Terry Maxwell and one of his chalk drawings, this one a poison dart frog, that adorn the blackboards of ASU biology classrooms.
To all fellow Alumni:

I am honored to be your new Alumni Board President for 2007-08. The ASU Alumni Association board is here to do one thing – to promote Angelo State University. Our goal is to help Angelo State become the best university it can be by offering monetary support as well as promoting ASU to everyone we come in contact with.

There are many exciting things happening at ASU. We will soon be welcoming a new university president and the Centennial Village project is on the horizon for a new residence hall. In addition to the on-campus housing, there are many more new student apartments being built close to the campus by a private firm. This should allow us the living quarters needed to see our student population grow.

The LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center is one of the shining stars on campus. The Alumni Center is constantly being used for everything from ASU receptions to wedding receptions to board meetings.

We continue to need your support as an ASU alumnus. For as little as $50 a year, you enjoy the benefit of supporting ASU as well as keeping up to date with everything that goes on at your alma mater. Please encourage all your alumni friends to become members of the Alumni Association. The more members we have in the association, the more we can contribute to Angelo State.

I’m looking forward to the New Year. Many exciting things are happening at ASU, and I want you to be a part of the excitement.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Norris  
Class of 1973
Executive Committee
President – Lloyd Norris, ’73 (pictured left) ........................................... Chairman, Town & Country Food Stores
1st Vice President – Brad Fly, ’00 ............................................. CPA/Manager of Tax Services, Armstrong Backus & Co.
Secretary/Treasurer – Lynsey Flage, ’97 ........................................... Director, ASU Alumni Relations
Past President – Lawrence Kennedy, ’83 ......................................................... Retired
Past President – Louis Gomez, ’84 ......................................................... Owner, Gomez Bookkeeping
Past President – Tom Ridgway, ’79 ......................................................... Owner, Ridgway Florist

Newly Elected
Marsha Multer Arvedson, ’74 ........................................ Senior Staff Chemist, ExxonMobil Chemical Co.
Kyle Box, ’81 .............................................................................................. System Analyst, Verizon
Randy Coleman, ’84 ........................................... Director, Community Medical Center Community Health Club
Joe Lee, ’80 .............................................................................................. Owner, Dean’s Marine
Darcy Maloney, ’86 ........................................... Business Consultant, ASU Small Business Development Center
Eric Peterson, ’82 ........................................... CPA, Evans, Eckert & Peterson PC
Ronnie Willmann, ’78 ............................................................... Network Engineer, Verizon

Newly Appointed
Ryan Mathews, ’98/00 ........................................ Donor Recruitment Representative, United Blood Services
Lisa Nichols, ’92/97 ........................................... Director of Development, Big Brothers Big Sisters
Robert Rainey, ’96 ............................................................... Software Sales, Data Management Inc.
Amber Simmons Smith, ’02 ........................................ Marketing Director for Sunset Mall, Jones Lang LaSalle
Willie Ruiz, ’88 ............................................................... Whole Claims and Collections Supervisor, Verizon

Continuing to Serve
Barbara Barnhart, ’77 ............................................................... Artist and Independent Travel Agent
Dudra Butler, ’79 ............................................................... School Service Worker, San Angelo ISD
Steve Eustis, ’73 ............................................................... Steve Eustis Co., Realtors
Arnold Garcia, ’73 ............................................................... Editorial Page Editor, Austin American-Statesman
Oscar Gomez, ’68 ............................................................... Vice President, Verizon
Sandra Hawkins Gray, ’84 ............................................................... Co-Owner, Gray’s Transmissions
David Harrison, ’72 ............................................................... Senior Vice President, Texas Bank
Vance Jones, ’79 ............................................................... Executive Vice President, Texas Bank
Lance Lacy, ’81/91 ............................................................... Co-Owner/Realtor, Allison-Lacy Real Estate
Jean Ann Block LeGrand, ’72 ............................................................... Civic Volunteer
Kathy Muñoz, ’89 ............................................................... News Director, KLST-TV (CBS) & KSAN-TV (NBC)
Bill Nikiau, ’84 ............................................................... President/CEO, First Community Federal Credit Union
Faron Pfeiffer, ’79/’82 ............................................................... Senior Research Assoc., Texas A&M Research Center
Dear Alumni Association:

Our reunion with the 1957 Rams turned out wonderfully, primarily through you and your staff’s efforts in our behalf, plus the wonderful use of the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center facilities. Your attitude and enthusiasm are contagious. It was a “Special Time” for all of us.

On behalf of our players, their families, special guests, Toddy and myself, we want to sincerely “Thank You” from the bottom of our hearts.

The whole weekend adds greatly and warmly to our memories.

With deep appreciation, 
Phil George and the 
1957 Ram Basketball Players

Dear Alumni Association:

I am writing to thank you and the Alumni Board for your generous donation of the LeGrand Center’s ballroom for the 11th Writers Conference Luncheon Feb. 23, as well as in past years. The beautiful room made an ideal backdrop both for our students meeting in person with this year’s featured writer, Prof. Tobias Wolff, and for honoring the conference’s namesake, Mr. Elmer Kelton.

Sincerely,
Dr. Linda Kornasky
ASU Writers Conference Committee

If you are interested in being an ASU contact in your area, please call ASU Alumni Relations at (325) 942-2122 or e-mail alumni@angelo.edu for more information.

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A journey that began in New York City on the banks of the Hudson River will bring Dr. Joseph C. Rallo to San Angelo and the banks of the Concho this summer as the fourth president of Angelo State University.

Named by Chancellor Charles R. Matthews in February as the sole finalist to succeed Dr. James Hindman and confirmed in March by the Board of Regents of The Texas State University System, Rallo comes from an Italian family that valued higher education and believed in the military.

As a result, Rallo has developed a dual career that straddles both higher education and the armed forces. His academic career has spanned 27 years, including the last four as provost and academic vice president at Western Illinois University, where he also served as interim president briefly.

His military career began in 1981 with a commission in the U.S. Navy. He was cross commissioned in the U.S. Air Force in 1986 and spent two additional years on active duty. Today he remains a colonel in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, currently serving as both Admissions Liaison Officer for the U.S. Air Force Academy and as individual mobilization augmentee to the commandant, Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

For Rallo, he was merely following in his parents’ footsteps. His father emigrated from Italy to the U.S. at the depths of the Great Depression to escape the poverty of his homeland. Within a decade, his father had completed college at Brooklyn College and enlisted in the U.S. Army to serve in World War II. After the war the elder Rallo went on to earn his Ph.D. from Columbia University in modern languages and literature.

Rallo’s mother was the first woman in the family to not only complete college, but also to earn a graduate degree, in her case from Rutgers University where her son would later hold his first academic appointment as an assistant professor.

“Both of my parents stressed the importance of education, but also the respons-
“My vision for ASU is to maintain its historic focus and role as the intellectual leader for the region, while providing our graduates with the skills, outlook, and temperament to successfully compete anywhere in the world.”

– Joseph Rallo
American film icon John Wayne, often viewed as the epitome of American masculinity and individuality, may owe some of his movie success to the wimpy French, or at least to their story-telling ability.

So contends Dr. Elisabeth-Christine Muelsch, an Angelo State University French professor who believes that the classic western movie “Stagecoach,” which propelled Wayne to stardom, was strongly influenced by a work of French literature.

When she first viewed “Stagecoach,” Muelsch saw similarities to the storyline and characters in the novella Boule de Suif by French author Guy de Maupassant. Though set in different times, locations and settings, both stories center around a prostitute who must take extreme measures to ensure the safe passage of her fellow travelers.

Muelsch, her interest piqued, decided to investigate, and her research led her to American western author Ernest Haycox, who penned numerous popular westerns in the 1930’s and 1940’s, most notably the novel Bugles in the Afternoon. His short story “Stage to Lordsburg” became the basis for the movie “Stagecoach,” directed by John Ford.

“I think there are many similarities between Ford’s movie and Maupassant’s work,” Muelsch said. “But, obviously, Ford had to tailor his story to the American market.”

However, it is through Haycox that the French connection is revealed. Muelsch’s research showed that while serving as a military policeman and rifle instructor in France during World War I, Haycox developed an interest in the French language and culture, stimulating his interest in writing.

He was further exposed to the French influence in American literature and theatre while attending Reed College and the University of Oregon after the war. That was followed by a 28-year career as a novelist with 24 novels and hundreds of short stories to his credit, many of which were adapted to the movie screen and television.

“I think he is a quite fascinating character, really amazing,” Muelsch said. “But, most interesting to me are the many connotations to French culture in his writing.”

For example, Haycox’s story “Too Hot” about a group of Oregon settlers of varying nationalities uses different ethnic mentalities and colorful accents similar to techniques of various French authors, including Maupassant.

Muelsch received research funding through ASU’s President’s Circle Enrichment Grant Program, which allowed her to consult the Haycox collection at the University of Oregon and talk to his son, who provided valuable personal insight. She presented her research on the interrelationships between Haycox, Maupassant, Boule de Suif and “Stagecoach” during an international conference last year in New York. An article on her findings is scheduled to run this year in the international journal “Excavatio.”

Meanwhile, her ASU students have the chance to study both Haycox’s and Maupassant’s works and “Stagecoach” in the new class French 2372, French Literature in Translation, subtitled “French Text-American Film? Hollywood’s Fascination with French Culture.”

Students can then judge for themselves whether super-American John Wayne owes his big movie break to the effete French and their literature.
Behind the nursing shortage so obvious in the employment sections of just about any Texas newspaper lurks another shortfall – nursing educators.

Until the nursing educator deficit is solved, the state faces little prospect of correcting the shortage of nursing caregivers. That assessment comes from Dr. Leslie Mayrand, head of the Angelo State University Nursing Department and chair of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Task Force to Increase RN Graduates in Texas.

“Here in San Angelo there is a nurse shortage,” Mayrand said. “Statewide it’s bad in the fact that we are not able to meet the future demand with the seats and faculty available.”

In fact, it is a serious enough problem that the Texas Legislature during its 2007 session is using information from the THECB task force report to identify solutions to the shortage. Legislators’ success may well help determine the quality and quantity of nursing care available to baby boomers in their later years.

Projections by the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies show that the state’s nursing programs need to increase graduates by 50 percent by 2010 to meet the expected demand for nurses in 2020. However, the THECB study shows most schools simply lack the faculty to accommodate more students. On top of that, about 22 percent of all nursing faculty surveyed in 2004 were expected to reach retirement age within the next two years and about 70 percent within the next five to 15 years.

Even though THECB figures show applications to the state’s college nursing programs are up 94 percent since 2001, barely half of those students — 56 percent to be exact — go on to earn their diplomas in nursing. Consequently, the shortage will not only persist, but is likely to get worse.

Mayrand is helping address the shortage behind the shortage, not only by contributing to the statewide task force’s findings, but also by adding a new online nurse educator track in the ASU master’s program and by encouraging ASU students to seriously consider that as a career path.

While less than 5 percent of graduate nursing students are enrolled in nurse educator programs statewide, 45 percent of ASU’s graduate nursing students are enrolled in the online nurse educator program. Sarah McBride of San Angelo is one of those students.

“Before I started, I couldn’t decide between nursing and teaching,” McBride said. “Then I found out that through this program I can do both and it worked out perfectly for me. I can work full-time and go to school full-time since I can do my class work at night. Plus, I don’t have to get up early to go to class.”

Mayrand noted that the online program has reached far beyond San Angelo.

“We also have students in places like Amarillo, Midland, Odessa and Lubbock,” Mayrand said. “They take the online courses at ASU and their clinicals and student teaching at their home colleges. Hopefully, when they finish, that means they will stay there as new instructors.”

For instance, Kelly Savage is taking her ASU nurse educator courses from Amarillo. She chose ASU’s program because it is totally online.

“At the time, I didn’t realize what a serendipitous choice I was making,” Savage said. “I have grown to love ASU and its faculty.”

The online convenience of the nurse educator program also helps retain students by offering greater flexibility. The task force study showed that nursing students are generally older than those in other programs and have greater family and financial responsibilities. It is these responsibilities, rather than academic struggles, that lead to the vast majority of nursing “drop-outs.”

“They’ve got to have some flexibility in their schedules because that’s where we lose a lot of them,” Mayrand said. “That we do our program completely online makes us unique. But, it’s very rigorous. Students take the same courses as advanced practice RNs.”

Despite the rigor of the online curriculum, Savage believes ASU was the correct choice. “The program is well run, the classes are interesting and challenging and the instructors are personable, sincerely caring and supportive.”

Those are qualities the professors of ASU’s nurse educator program hope to instill in their students as they work to address the shortage of Texas nurses.
**Biz Whiz**

Dr. Corbett F. Gaulden, Jr., professor of marketing and interim dean of the School of Business at the University of Texas at the Permian Basin, has been named dean of the College of Business, effective July 11.

Gaulden has taught at UTPB since 1983, advancing through the ranks to full professor. He has been UTPB’s interim business dean for the 2006-07 academic year.

Prior to joining the UTPB faculty, he served as an assistant professor at Arizona State University. His other teaching experience came at Louisiana State, Southwestern Louisiana, and Northeast Louisiana.

He holds a B.S. from Southeastern Louisiana, his M.B.A. from Northeast Louisiana and his Ph.D. in marketing with a quantitative science minor from LSU.

**Bullish at Nationals**

Proving that size doesn’t matter, the ASU Meat Judging Team bulled its way to a fourth place finish at the International Meats Judging contest last fall in Dakota City, Neb.

Competing against 13 Division I schools, ASU finished in the top 10 of all eight judging categories, including five top five placings, at what is considered the “National Championship” of meat judging.

“The International Meats Judging Contest is an intense competition filled with several challenges and, again, our students have proven to be among the best in the nation,” said Dr. Kirk Braden, assistant professor of animal science and team adviser.

Blanket native Cody Bundick led the way for ASU, finishing 10th out of 54 competitors and receiving the Rachel Hamilton Spirit and Motivation Award. Other team members were Thomas Epting of Sherman, Randi Whitlock of Bandera, Matthew Menchaca of Helotes and Blake Hinckley of Mason.

**Honors Program Honored**

The ASU Honors Program gained new prominence when it was featured at the National Collegiate Honors Council last November in Philadelphia.

Dr. Nick Flynn, program director since its inception, presented details of the program’s “Introduction to Honors” class, which prepares incoming freshmen to participate in the Honors Program. He covered the class’s design, components and purpose.

He was put on the national agenda after making the presentation to the regional Great Plains Collegiate Honors Council earlier in the year.

**Understanding Physics**

The ASU chapter of the Society of Physics Students received both kudos and cash from the SPS national organization in February.

For the fifth straight year, the national SPS has designated the ASU group an Outstanding Chapter, ranking it in the top 10 percent of society chapters nationwide. The award is based on a chapter’s community outreach activities and student participation.

Chapter activities were spearheaded by the Peer Pressure Team’s “Physics on the Road” program that features physics demonstration visits to local and area schools.

The success of the Peer Pressure Team also led to the ASU chapter being honored with a Marsh W. White Award and corresponding grant of $300 from the national SPS.

The chapter’s leaders are President J. Andy Russell, Vice President Marshall Preas, Secretary Jennifer Hendryx and Treasurer Cassidy Smith.

Faculty adviser is Dr. Toni Saunty.

**Wolff in the Ram’s Den**

Writing enthusiasts were treated to both the works and the insight of award-winning novelist and short-story writer Tobias Wolff at the 11th Annual Writer’s Conference in Honor of Elmer Kelton in February.

Wolff delivered the conference’s keynote address, read story excerpts and answered queries from faculty and students.

“It was a very flattering invitation to this conference,” Wolff said. “It’s especially important to writers that young people are reading their work because if all the readers I have are just my age, I’ll go out of print in another 20 years.”

Conference organizers were also flattered to host Wolff.

“You can hardly pick up a collection of short stories that his stories are not in and all of us have taught his stories for years,” said Mary Ellen Hartje, associate professor of English.

**Top Staff**

Four ASU staff members received Employee Excellence Awards in February for exemplary job performance during 2006.

They were Michael Martin, director of graphics, News and Publications; Jeff Sefcik, Computer Center manager/enterprise resource planning technical lead, Information Technology; Lisa Sheppard, budget and payroll assistant, Budget and Payroll Services; and Cindy Weeaks, coordinator of reports, Registrar’s Office.

Martin was recognized for his role in revamping the ASU Alumni Magazine. Sefcik was praised for his critical role in the three-year implementation of a new software that unified all administrative systems.

Sheppard was cited for her dependability, diligence and ongoing commitment to serving the university.

Weeaks was honored for her effectiveness in handling her regular job responsibilities and new duties required by the transition to a new software system in the Registrar’s Office.
Some universities may have reputations as party schools, but when it comes to wildlife on campus few can match Angelo State University.

Just ask naturalist Terry Maxwell, an ornithologist and biology faculty member since 1976. Better yet, take a stroll with Dr. Maxwell along the Mall and glimpse the campus through his trained eyes. When you do, you will discover the campus, far from being a sedate haven, is a dangerous, sometimes violent world for some species.

“A biologist walking across campus is always looking at the living things around them, but I don’t know that the students do,” Maxwell said.

While most students, faculty and staff blithely go about their daily routines, a life-and-death struggle is occurring all around them. It is the age-old battle between hunter and prey, the survival of the fittest. It is there daily, even if it offends modern sensibilities.

“Now I enjoy predators,” Maxwell said. “From my perspective, the wildlife richness of the campus is enhanced by them being here. There are people and I’m sure we have some students who have some sensibilities about killing that would make predators unappealing to them, but it’s part of nature. It may offend some of our sensibilities, but from my perspective we are unreasonably offended if that’s the case because that’s the nature of life and
death out there. Those organisms are not humans and our senses of morality about ourselves don’t really apply to them from my perspective.”

As an ornithologist, Maxwell’s primary expertise is in birds, an interest he traces back to the age of 12 when his father gave him a guidebook on birds for Christmas. Later, he and his father spent hours together trying to clean ducks that had mistaken oil puddles for ponds at an abandoned Humble Oil tank farm on the north side of San Angelo where he grew up.

So, when Maxwell looks to nature on campus, he starts with the birds and the predators among them, the primary feathered hunters on campus being the Cooper’s hawk and the great horned owl.

“Cooper’s hawks are specialists on catching other birds,” Maxwell said. “They are migrants and come in for the winter, but are very rare in the summer months.”

Known by the scientific name Accipiter cooperii, Cooper’s hawks became common on campus in the early 1990s with the influx of white-winged doves into the Concho Valley. Those doves, along with the abundance of feral pigeons, provide an ample food supply for the hawks, which are roughly the size of a crow and have a wingspread of up to three feet.

“You don’t think of a tame college campus as a place for a big hawk,” Maxwell said, “but here they are living right amidst us and getting their breakfast every day around us. It just fascinates me that they are successful around here.”

Maxwell calls the Cooper’s hawk “a campus manager’s best friend” because they help reduce the feral rock pigeons that are such a maintenance problem due to their roosts and droppings around campus buildings. “Cooper’s hawks are our allies on campus. I don’t know how effective they are, but at least they make some contribution to controlling the pigeon problem.”

The campus’s other common feathered predator, the great horned owl or Bubo virginianus, is the largest owl in Texas, standing up to 25 inches in height and having a wingspread of up to 60 inches. A nocturnal bird, the great horned owl generally avoids people. Even so, they have been known to roost around the Administration Building.

“The great horned owl has at times been called the tiger of the air,” Maxwell said. “It’s a very effective predator. Small rabbits, things of that sort, are well within its prey range. My suspicions have always been that where they occur on campus they are eating the fox squirrels. I think at dusk an unwary fox squirrel best take care.”

While the Cooper’s hawk and the great horned owl are the only observed avian predators on campus, numerous other bird species are common, including mockingbirds, blue jays, house finches, sparrows, cactus wrens, great-tailed grackles and pigeons, the latter two being particularly troublesome because of their roosting habits and the resulting droppings.

The great-tailed grackles, Quiscalus mexicanus, are large, iridescent and noisy blackbirds that roost in groups at night. They are a particular problem in the residence hall parking lots on the east end of campus where they gather in trees.

“If you have a thousand grackles in one live oak tree, the heat collects beneath the foliage and makes a nice little microenvironment of modified temperature for the night,” Maxwell said. “The resulting microenvironment appears to benefit the birds.”

The problem is that the night deposits the birds make are not going into the bank. Instead, they are going on the bumpers, windshields, hoods, trunks and fenders of student vehicles. “They leave their droppings on those cars and it can take the paint off,” Maxwell said. The only solution, he added, is to trim the trees so heavily as to practically denude them, defeating the purpose of planting the trees to begin with.

Birds can cause other problems as well, even some hazardous to humans. Take the Texas State Bird, the mockingbird. Known for its exceptional mimicry, Mimus polyglottos can imitate dozens of birds and other sounds.

“I have heard mockingbirds back in our parking lot imitating car alarms,” Maxwell said. “They are notorious mimics and they can imitate absolutely anything. About three or four years ago, one started hang-
ing out around the crosswalk on Johnson Street and started mimicking the beeping sound for blind students.”

Fearing the bird’s call might lead to a pedestrian injury while crossing the busy thoroughfare, Maxwell notified grounds administrators of his concerns. “They never said anything, but we didn’t have a problem after a while.”

Other birds come and go, too, for other reasons. Cardinals, or *Cardinalis cardinalis*, though still seen occasionally on campus, are not nearly as numerous as they were in the 1980s and through the mid-1990s when Dr. Lloyd D. Vincent was ASU president.

“President Vincent had an absolute passion for pyracantha bushes, a shrub that puts on a bright red berry,” Maxwell said. “Cardinals need shrubbery rather than trees and we had more shrubbery in those days and, as a result, more cardinals.”

The pyracantha shrubs, however, have largely died out because of an endemic root problem that makes it difficult to maintain them in this part of Texas. As a result, cardinals are not nearly as numerous on campus as they once were.

Then there are the blue jays, the house finches and sparrows, all common on campus. The blue jays, *Cyanocitta cristata*, are very social and family-oriented birds with the male and female raising offspring for a year. During the summer months, house finches, *Carpodacus mexicanus*, roost on campus. English sparrows, *Passer domesticus*, are abundant as well, roosting in shrubs. Because of their roosting habits these birds do not present the same problems as the pigeons and grackles.

“There’s another bird that’s fascinating on campus and you pretty much have to be an ornithologist or a birder to be aware of it,” said Maxwell. “It’s the cactus wren. Cactus wrens have unique vocalization, a chirping sound, very distinctive chirping sound.

“With cactus wrens I’m reminded of the movie ‘Field of Dreams’ and that expression ‘if you build it they will come.’ Well, if you build a cactus environment apparently in this part of the world, the cactus wrens will come.”

Maxwell noted that the cactus-yucca plot in front of the Cavness Building at the intersection of Dena Drive and Johnson Street has attracted a pair of cactus wrens, *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*.

“What fascinates me most about them is these birds are going about their daily lives, even in the midst of class changes,” he said. “Hundreds if not thousands of students walking up and down the walks and here’s a pair of cactus wrens feeding their babies and paying essentially no attention whatsoever to all these students.”

“If you went into the wild and got that connection with other life forms, you’d quit what you were doing and temporarily leave the area. On campus, though, they habituate to the kids and they practically ignore them.”

Even more than the cactus wren, fox squirrels, or *Sciurus niger*, are probably the most adaptable to the campus environment with its numerous oak trees and abundant supply of acorns. Though careful to point out that he is not a mammalogist and other faculty members on campus are more knowledgeable in that area, Maxwell is still a close observer of nature, including campus mammal life.

“The fox squirrels are the classics at habituating to students,” Maxwell said. “My experience with them on campus is that they just practically ignore the students. I’ve often wondered how the students feel about them, if the reverse is not true, too, that the students have become habituated to them and neither one is paying attention to the other.”

While squirrels are mostly innocuous unless they get inside a building, the Mexican ground squirrel, *Spermophilus mexicanus*, is “a little hole-digging, spotted-back” animal that can be a real pest for campus groundskeepers.

“A while back, there was a pair of them that lived in a shrub flower bed by the Carr Education-Fine Arts Building,” Maxwell said. “They’d get out and throw dirt on the sidewalk and dig their hole. I always thought they were great fun, but I’m not a maintenance man. When we go to all the trouble and expense to beautify the campus and then have these ground squirrels dig it all up, that is a problem.”

Unlike the fox squirrels and Mexican ground squirrels, most of the mammals on campus den up during the day and prowl the campus at night.

“Virginia opossums, raccoons, striped skunks, I have seen all of those on campus,” Maxwell said. “I’m actually surprised I see as few raccoons as I do. I would have presumed at two or three o’clock that raccoons would be more common, but I’ve seen a lot of opossums and one or two skunks.”

The mammals most feared on campus, largely because of old wives tales, are bats, Maxwell said.

“The Mexican free-tailed bats are migratory bats and when they are migrating, particularly in the spring as sunrise happens, they’ve got to find a place to roost. Often that means they end up getting inside buildings.”
Probably three or four times a year, Maxwell estimated, the Biology Department will get a call to remove one of the bats, Tadarida brasiliensis, from a university building.

“Some of the people populating the building will have all the traditional fears that the bats are going to get in their hair and that they’ve all got rabies,” Maxwell said. “Certainly, it can be a problem with bats and one should always be cautious around them, but the vast majority of bats are perfectly healthy and they don’t like to get into your hair.”

Over the years, ASU Police Chief James Adams, whose officers patrol the campus around the clock, has received dozens of reports of animals on campus. “There is an abundance of wildlife on campus,” he said. “I know we have a rather large raccoon that hangs around our building.”

Adams said the public has notified University Police of everything from bats to raccoons and from skunks to a wild pig that was reported but never confirmed near the Administration Building.

Generally, the animals are left alone except when they might pose a danger to students, such as the three-foot-long rattlesnake killed by police outside the Center for Human Performance about 10:45 p.m. one June evening in 2005.

“I’m surprised,” said Maxwell, “that a rattlesnake got on campus, surprised, not shocked.”

For all of his observations about the world around him, Maxwell also watches human behavior and he has concerns about today’s generation of students and their interaction, or more precisely their lack of interaction, with the natural world.

“I’m curious,” he said, “if they take their cell phone off their ear long enough to notice the nature around them. Aside from the aesthetic enjoyment, there is the practical side of a natural ecology operating out there. Natural ecosystems have influence over their lives in ways that they don’t think about.”

Part of the problem stems from the loss of an agrarian background or connection in the lives of most young people today, he said. During his youth many, if not most, of his acquaintances came from the farm or had parents and grandparents who did.

“There was a connection to the land,” he said. “People who grow up rurally have common sense about their understanding

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The blackboards in Cavness Rooms 111, 119 and 123 surely must hold some type of record for longevity without being erased. The reason is Dr. Terry C. Maxwell and his colorful chalk renderings of wildlife.

His eye-catching chalk portraits of a fish, two salamanders, two birds, three frogs and four large cats are all 15-20 years old. Not only do biology students see his illustrations but also the readers of the San Angelo Standard-Times and the Wimberly News, both of which run his weekly nature column “Naturally Texas.”

“I never had any really formal instruction in illustrating art, which is basically what I do,” Maxwell said. “It’s a lifetime of practice.”

His art avocation, though, blended nicely with his formal education as he holds a bachelor’s degree in wildlife management and a Ph.D. in wildlife and fisheries science, both from Texas A&M, as well as an M.S. in biology from Angelo State. He has used his artistic talents to illustrate his love of nature, especially birds.

Today the former Biology Department head is curator of birds for the Angelo State Natural History Collection, a prime resource for field biology. He is also one of the most popular professors on campus, twice named by the Student Senate as the outstanding faculty member in the sciences. He has also been honored by the Faculty Senate and the Alumni Association for teaching excellence.

His first chalkboard portrait, long gone, was that of a tiger.

“The first one I did was kind of a challenge,” Maxwell said. “Can I do a piece of wildlife portraiture on a blackboard with chalk? It worked out so I tried some more.”

Like the tiger, some others were erased over the years but the dozen still remain. It’s been at least a decade since Maxwell last put chalk to board.

“Part of the reason I haven’t done any more is that my artistic urges are being partially solved by illustrating my column,” he said. “I did not know how much was involved in journalism and I thought I would whip off a column a week. Well, even though it’s one column a week, it’s practically a second career. So I haven’t gotten back to doing them. I enjoyed it thoroughly and I would like some day to do a few more.”

Even so, he wonders if progress has perhaps passed him and his artistry by.

“I am one of the few people apparently remaining who passionately defends holding on to the old-timey black blackboards,” he said. “Everybody’s gone to the fancy whiteboards with the erasable marker or the green boards with the yellow chalk.

“I practically chain myself to a blackboard when they are threatening to take it down and replace it because I can’t do my art on anything but a blackboard,” he said. “I’m sure the day that I retire somebody in charge of boards will say thank goodness he’s gone and we can put something modern up there.”
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

You don’t have to be a naturalist like Terry Maxwell to have a run-in with campus critters.

Athletic Director Kathleen Brasfield recalled leaving the Junell Center about 11 one night after a volleyball game in 2002, the first season in Stephens Arena, when she and assistant coach Marcie Sanders encountered a porcupine on the landing of the outside stairs leading to the coaches’ parking lot.

“He didn’t seem very happy,” Brasfield said. “He rattled his quills, and Marci and I fought over who got in the door first.” They escaped through the first-floor doors and sprinted to their cars. The porcupine had left by the time security arrived.

Last May, Carl Halfmann, energy controls technician with Facilities Management, heard a rustling under a handicap ramp at the physical plant and discovered another porcupine. He trapped the animal in a trash can and later released him in a wooded area away from campus.

Halfmann last summer also was called upon to catch a 16-inch bull snake that had crawled into a student’s room in Carr Hall.

Elsie Campbell of the math faculty had a similar experience in April of 2004 when she stooped down to pick up a stick that she thought had been dropped on the second floor of the Math-Computer Science Building. When the “stick” lifted its head, she realized it was a small snake, which security came and removed.

Preston Lewis of News and Publications walked over to the Houston Harte University Center about 7:30 a.m. one October morning in 2005 when he spotted a skunk cavorting in the shrubs just west of the Mall entrance. Lewis used the side door.

Many years ago, Janetta Paschal recalls walking from the library to the UC with a friend who had just visited two campuses in Denton and was enthralled with all the squirrels. No sooner than he said, “You’ll never find that happening here on the ASU campus,” a squirrel hopped off a retaining wall and scampered in front of them. “All right,” responded her friend, “make a liar of me!”

Said Paschal, “There are so many more of the little rodents on campus now than there were 25-plus years ago.”

When it comes to animal encounters, few ASU people can match first lady Ann Hindman’s experiences at the president’s home a couple blocks north of campus.

“Over the 12 years we’ve been in this home, I – notice I did not say Jim – have trapped close to two dozen raccoons and three or four possums. Any catch of a raccoon was really a feather in my cap as they are such smart little devils.”

She used humane traps and turned her catches over to maintenance men who released the animals out on the ASU farm.

“I’ll not talk about the infestation of honey bees, rats, squirrels or turkey vultures that have been part of our life over these past 12 years,” she said.

In January Toni Sauncy of the physics faculty observed a hawk hunting and eating its prey on the Mall on multiple occasions. She was fascinated by the bird’s reaction to the students who were snapping photos. “It seemed very comfortable around the students.”

Perhaps the saddest story of all came from Financial Aid Director Lyn Wheeler, who spotted what she thought was an injured dove under her car. Concerned, she tried to coax it out so she could provide help. At one point she actually touched the bird before it scampered away. Finally, Wheeler flushed the bird out from under her car only to see a hawk swoop down and grab it for supper.

“I felt really bad,” Wheeler said, “that my attempt to rescue the bird took him/her from hiding to his/her probable death. Very sad.”
Perhaps no students on campus can garner more real-world experience than Angelo State majors in communication and journalism. And since 2001 when ASU’s Ram Radio and Ram TV stations began broadcasting, students have had the latest in equipment and facilities to complement the opportunities they find off campus at local radio and television stations.

The combination of academic and commercial opportunities has been producing successful broadcasters for decades, ranging from Renay San Miguel, who is today a weekend news anchor for CNN, to Satcha Pretto, a 2001 ASU graduate who is co-host of Univision’s weekend edition of “Primer Impacto” or “First Edition.”

Housed on the third floor of the Porter Henderson Library, both the radio and TV facilities feature all-digital equipment, including computers, cameras, edit bays, mixer boards and software. The programming for both is done completely by students, who gain valuable hands-on experience that cannot be taught in the classroom.

Ram Radio can be accessed on the internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at www.angelo.edu/services/ramradio. As budding future disk jockeys, radio journalists and programmers, the student workers use the sound and recording equipment to hone their on-air skills and learn the intricacies of radio programming. In 2006, Ram Radio was added to the popular “MySpace” website, with exciting results.

“Adding Ram Radio to MySpace really expanded our listening audience,” said Pat Turner, instructor of communications and Ram Radio/TV adviser. “This whole generation is on MySpace.”

Ram Radio’s format consists mainly of contemporary popular music and student programs and has been the launching pad for several DJ’s on San Angelo’s commercial radio stations.

Senior communications major Kari Walker of Winters is the program director for Ram Radio. She is responsible for constructing the play lists of music and programs, production efforts and training other student DJ’s. Around all that she also broadcasts her own show and daily morning newscasts.

“We have top quality, great equipment here,” she said. “The hands-on experience and opportunities we have at ASU are great, especially since we are not a big school.”

Walker also works part-time at San Angelo’s Foster Communications radio group both as a board operator for local sports broadcasts and as an overnight DJ.

“The biggest difference is that Ram Radio is only on the internet, so we don’t need all the equipment they have,” she said. “We do use the same (computer) programs for editing and production and we have more opportunities than people realize. You get prepared enough to catch on quickly wherever you go to work.”

Over the last few years, almost every radio station in San Angelo has had on-air talent that started at ASU, including current DJ’s on KIXY, KKCN and KDCD.

But, it is not only on the air that ASU radio students have excelled. Tracy Scott, program director at KKCN and a former ASU communications student himself, has had good luck with them in other positions as well.

“We have hired several ASU students and have been completely satisfied with all of them,” said Scott. “We’ve had interns in marketing, promotions and on-air positions, and they have all excelled, many to the point that we brought them on full-time.”

“ASU has an excellent communications program and the quality of graduates they turn out is exemplary,” he added. “Not only do I encourage applicants from ASU, I actively pursue ASU students when we have employment opportunities.”

Ram TV has found a home on Channel 6 of the local Suddenlink cable system and on San Angelo’s FOX affiliate, KIDY. Student programs, including local interview shows, university events, text messages and the sports show “Ram Center” reach about 22,000 homes. The programs air on
reporter when she graduated in 2006. KSAN as a producer and was promoted to viewers. While still a student, she started at local TV stations KSAN (NBC) and KLST air, production and master control jobs at TV have used that experience to land on-air, we have them learn all the positions through rotation,” Turner said. “The ones that do want an on-air career are jumping up and down to be the interviewer or field reporter on each project.”

Several students who started on Ram TV have used that experience to land on-air, production and master control jobs at local TV stations KSAN (NBC) and KLST (CBS). Nicole Sanchez is an ASU graduate who has become a familiar face to local TV viewers. While still a student, she started at KSAN as a producer and was promoted to reporter when she graduated in 2006.

“Without the experience I gained at ASU, I don’t believe I would have this opportunity as a reporter,” Sanchez said. “ASU gives its students the chance to know exactly what it is to be in broadcasting. Going out to the community and interviewing citizens for stories while still in college opened my eyes to what the job of a reporter is.”

Turner said, “Rarely do you walk out of college with the number of on-air credits that our students get. I’m really proud of what we offer them because it’s unusual to get this type of program at a university of our size.”

Junior communication/journalism major Cody Rodriguez started working at KLST in 2003 as an assistant morning producer after Turner referred him for the job. In less than a year, he was promoted to executive producer and is currently in charge of coordinating the content of KLST’s prime time newscasts. However, he has not ruled out a future move to the other side of the camera.

“Ms. Turner told me that production jobs are good places to get your foot in the door at a TV station, so I applied for the job,” Rodriguez said. “I like the fast pace of working on breaking news, but I also like the fun feature and entertainment stories. I would consider an on-air job for something like that.”

Rodriguez also acknowledged the quality of the studio and production equipment at ASU as well as Turner’s “rotation” for preparing him for success.

“It’s all nice equipment and is right up there with what they have at KLST,” he said. “Plus, you get to learn all the terminology and things you need to know for a job. I got to taste a bit of everything. You get to learn what you like, don’t like, want to do and don’t want to do.”

“The best thing is the new studio,” he added. “It’s a real nice studio with so many options for things that can be done by the students.”

Nathan Conner, a 2004 ASU graduate, actually went about his TV career from the opposite direction. He started with no experience at KSAN in 2001 as a live shot pho- tographer and worked his way up to a director position, which inspired him to begin his higher education.

“I started working at the TV station and decided that’s what I wanted to do,” Conner said. “The equipment is a little bit different at ASU, more simplified. But, it’s great for students to get experience that will help them get a job.”

After graduating, Conner became a full-time director at KLST and currently handles the station’s prime-time newscasts.

Perhaps the strongest advocate for the Ram TV program is ASU alumnus Kathy Muñoz, news director at KLST and KSAN. At Turner’s urging, she started her TV career at KLST in 1993 and keeps the pipeline open for other ASU students to follow in her footsteps.

“Every time there is a job opening here I call ASU and have them put it on their bulletin board,” Muñoz said. “I’m extremely happy with the students that come to us from ASU.”

“It’s my personal philosophy that they need to learn all the behind-the-scenes jobs before they go on camera,” she said. “The way Pat (Turner) rotates them is very important because they get to see the whole pie instead of just a piece of it. When they come to us, they already understand the logistics of a newscast.”

Prospective broadcasters are also taking more notice of the ASU programs and enrolling in greater numbers as Ram Radio and Ram TV gain popularity. For the 2006 fall term, several classes were filled to capacity and had to be closed because so many students wanted to be involved. Turner credits the administration for allowing her area to put together the high quality programs.

“Every time I asked ‘why don’t we,’ the university was supportive,” she said. “Without that support we would not have the equipment and programs to provide this opportunity for the students. We recently leased our TV studio to a local advertising agency and they were very complimentary. These are truly professional facilities.”
Her spelling skills earned her a job in 1967 and that job turned into an Angelo State career for Shirley Morton, who over the last four decades has been one of ASU’s most involved – though often behind the scenes – and most loyal employees.

Over the years, Morton captained the spirit squad, married a Ram basketball player, traveled thousands of miles supporting Ram and Rambelle teams, met two future U.S. presidents, organized the first Discover ASU, modeled the first modern Roscoe costume, recorded donations for the university, performed countless university athletic events, receptions, lunches and dinners. And, she owes most of that to her good spelling.

She and her husband, Charles M. “Chuck” Morton, had entered an Abilene cafe to grab a bite to eat before attending a game at Abilene Christian College back in 1967. As she passed a table, she heard a familiar voice say, “There’s Shirley. You ought to hire her because she can spell.”

One of her friends had pointed her out to Dr. Ollie S. Cauthen, director of special services and later vice president of university affairs at ASU. In addition to that, Cauthen was a notoriously bad speller, who needed someone to fill a secretarial position.

With little formal interview, Morton was hired Oct. 16, 1967, at a salary of $4,000 and was assigned an office – where the Administration Building mailroom is today – that “was so small that the work-study student had to stand up so I could get to my desk.”

Of course, Morton already knew her way around campus, having earned her associate degree from San Angelo College in 1964. As a self-described “Miles girl,” she saw SAC as both her only and her best higher education option, particularly since she lacked a car.

“I never thought about going anywhere else,” she said, “and it was great. Everybody knew everybody pretty much, particularly the ones who lived on campus.”

She took business courses and became active in the Ramettes, SAC’s drill team. As captain of that group she met Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson during a campus visit. Three decades later she would meet Texas Gov. and future President George W. Bush, though not while dressed in the white boots, fringed mini-skirt, vest, blouse and cowboy hat as she had been for LBJ. After graduation from SAC, she worked three years at General Telephone while her husband completed his degree.

Hired as secretary to the director of special services just five months after Angelo State awarded its first bachelor’s degree in 1967, Morton has been a fixture ever since. In the 40 years since, Morton notes with pride, she has worked under two vice presidents – Cauthen and Michael P. Ryan – and two presidents – Lloyd D. Vincent and James Hindman. Today she is the administrative assistant and coordinator of special activities in the Office of Advancement and University Relations.

“Shirley Morton,” said ASU President Hindman, “exemplifies what makes Angelo State University special – devotion, high ethical standards, commitment to excellence, student-centeredness, hard work and service. Her institutional memory, sharp analytical powers and diplomatic skills have produced results of the highest order for ASU for decades. She is a wonderful person – considerate, thoughtful, kind and fair minded. She is a team player who makes those around her successful. She is a special person!”

Morton is likely the only person in the history of the university to walk into the president’s office, sit down and prop her feet up on his desk. Of course at the time she was dressed up as Roscoe in the first modern iteration of his costume and was trying to convince Dr. Vincent to authorize the purchase of the outfit.

“He looked at me and said, ‘What do you want, Shirley?’ Apparently, he knew who it was because he could see my pantyhose under the pants’ leg.”

The brazen ploy worked, however. Vincent approved the purchase and Roscoe has been a fixture at ASU events ever since.

In her first position, she handled financial aid, placement, as career development was then known, recruiting and special projects. In 1986 she proposed and organized the first “College Day,” later renamed “Discover ASU” and today conducted four times a year as the university’s major recruiting event to draw prospective students to campus.

Along the way she has coordinated numerous special events on campus, her first being the dedication of the Porter Henderson Library in 1967 when State Sen. Dorsey B. Hardeman spoke. Most recently, she coordinated logistics for the January round of candidate interviews that helped determine ASU’s next president, Dr. Joseph C. Rallo.

In the course of sending out invitations and arranging events, she’s come to know hundreds of ASU alumni and supporters. As a result, her institutional memory is phenomenal. She has helped organize all the groundbreakings for the buildings that have re-shaped the look of the campus since her student days.

“The groundbreaking and dedication of the Junell Center is probably my favorite,” she said. “Of course, it has two wooden basketball courts. I can only guess how many basketball games I have attended at the Cow Palace, Coliseum, CHP Building and now the Junell Center.”

Certainly, basketball has been a constant role in her life. Her SAC intramural team
went undefeated, if her memory serves her correctly, and she married a Ram basketball player. Her daughter, Tracy, was born the night Chuck was playing in a basketball game for the Rams. “He fouled out,” she recalled. But her daughter went on to play basketball for the Belles from 1985-89.

Those were some of Morton’s most favorite years at ASU because she was not only rooting for the Blue and Gold but also for her daughter, who today is a math teacher and head basketball coach at Madison High School in San Antonio. “Her senior season we did not miss a game, home or away. Of course, Chuck drove the ASU bus.”

Bus and van trips were a large part of her life between 1975 and 1988 when she voluntarily sponsored the cheerleaders.

“I only missed two football games, either home or away, during that time,” she said. “We drove many miles. Often times we would leave for Edmund, Kingsville, Huntsville or Nacogdoches on Saturday morning, go to the game and return home afterward. Our goal was always to get home before the sun came up.”

Such dedication has brought her recognition over the years, such as being inducted into the Hall of Fame for the Lone Star Conference, which she served as secretary/treasurer “and unofficial social director” from 1984-1994. Just last year she was recognized with an ASU Employee Excellence Award.

“My time at ASU, ASC and SAC has been a real blessing to me and my family,” Morton said. “I have had the opportunity to do many different kinds of things, travel to many places, and to work with truly dedicated and competent individuals. And now I’m looking forward to Dr. Rallo getting to the campus. It’s time for the next chapter.”

Shirley Morton will wade into anything for her beloved Angelo State. Below: Shirley and Chuck Morton are courtside regulars at ASU basketball games.
Rams Rebound

When Angelo State first-year men's basketball coach Fred Rike began his first practice last October, he knew he had a challenge in front of him. That did not scare him, it excited him.

That excitement translated into some of the most suspenseful games in seasons for the Rams, who finished not only with an improved 9-17 overall record but also with high hopes for next year.

Those hopes start with junior forward Marcus Hubbard, a 2007 first-team All-Lone Star Conference South and second-team South Central all-region pick. Hubbard finished the regular season ranked second in the league in scoring and fifth in rebounding. With Hubbard returning and with Rike having a full recruiting season going into his second season, things are looking up for Ram basketball.

Coming off of a winless conference season in 2006 and picked to finish last in the division this season, Rike's squad snapped that conference losing skid in the first South Division game of the year, downing reigning champion West Texas A&M, 94-84, at home. Angelo State ended the year with a 4-8 mark in division play, including wins over three teams that advanced to the league tournament.

In a year with a lot of slim victories and narrow losses, no victory was closer than ASU’s 89-88 decision over Midwestern State. Trailing by five points with 20 seconds left, Ontario McKee made a three-pointer with 10 seconds left. Roger Johnson stole the inbound pass, then Hubbard scored a basket and drew a foul with two ticks on the clock. Hubbard made the free-throw and the Rams held on for the victory.

In spite of a demanding non-conference schedule and the ever tough LSC contests, the scrappy Rams made a solid transition to Rike’s style of disciplined play and solid defense. Unlike the past nine seasons, the Rams played no NAIA opponents this year and ended up facing 12 teams that would advance to their respective conference tournaments.

In addition to Hubbard, senior guards Ontario McKee and Turner Phipps each garnered All-LSC South Division recognition as honorable mention players.

A cracked skull, two knee surgeries, a torn ACL, a car accident, a broken finger, two concussions, an allergic reaction to an ant bite and a heart attack.

That sounds like the script for one of television’s medical dramas. Unfortunately for the Angelo State women’s basketball team, those were just some of the obstacles that the 'Belles had to overcome to advance to their sixth consecutive NCAA Division II National Tournament this spring.

“This was the most challenging season in my 16-year coaching career,” said ’Belle head coach Sally Brooks, who suffered a mild heart attack on Feb. 12, just two months after collecting her 300th career victory. “But it was the most rewarding one as well.”

The 'Belles finished the 2006-07 season with a 17-12 overall record, falling in the first round of the South Central Region Tournament to perennial powerhouse Washburn University, 74-54. With their 2007 NCAA bid, the ‘Belles ended the season tied with three other universities for fifth place on the list of consecutive Division II basketball tournament appearances.

ASU had high hopes entering the season, returning five seniors from last year’s squad along with second team All-Lone Star Conference pick junior Kandra Lakey. The ’Belles opened up the season with four wins, including a one-point home victory over eventual regional champion Texas A&M-Commerce, but the injuries began to mount and Angelo State dropped four of six games in December.

In spite of all the medical problems, the season could have turned out differently had the ‘Belles not suffered six losses of three or fewer points over a 12-game span midway through the season. Even so, ASU rebounded to end the regular season with four wins in its last five games to take some momentum into the postseason.

“Our five seniors came together and bonded throughout the tough times this season,” continued Brooks, who closed out her seventh year at the helm of the ’Belles. “It’s hard to get to the...
Angelo State placed two players and two coaches on the Lone Star Conference all-time squad announced this spring to celebrate the LSC’s 75th Anniversary.

Rambelles Kelly Clark and Nicole Collins joined Ram coach Ed Messbarger and current ’Belle coach Sally Walling Brooks on the diamond jubilee list. They were selected from the hundreds of candidates associated with LSC basketball since the conference’s founding.

Clark played from 1982-86 and became the ’Belles’ first major impact player. Clark remains to this day the ’Belles all-time leading scorer and rebounder with 1,863 points and 1,077 rebounds. Her average of 17.9 points and 10.4 rebounds per game during her ASU tenure ranks second in both categories on the school’s all-time list.

Playing from 1993-95, Collins became ASU’s first women’s basketball All-American in 1994. She led ASU to its first regular and postseason tournament titles in 1994, when she was named LSC Player of the Year and tournament MVP. She retired with 15 school and/or LSC records. Her 25.5 point per game career scoring average still stands as ASU and LSC records.

Brooks, who began at ASU in 2000, was one of five selections still active in the LSC. She is the winningest coach in ‘Belle history. She is a two-time LSC South Coach of the Year and has led the ’Belles to three LSC tournament crowns, four LSC South titles and six-straight NCAA Division II National Tournament appearances. She has posted a winning season each year at ASU.

Messbarger coached the Rams for 20 seasons, ending in 1998. He guided ASU to two LSC titles and was LSC Coach of the Year in 1984 and 1988. At his retirement, Messbarger ranked third in NCAA Division II career wins with a 665-515 mark and second in all-time coaching appearances among coaches at any level of play. He is a member of the LSC Hall of Fame.

Members of the San Angelo College Rams team that won the 1957 National Junior College Basketball Championship came home Feb. 17 for a reunion to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their accomplishment and to see a championship banner unveiled in their honor in Stephens Arena. Introduced to ASU basketball fans that night were Bill Jiles, Milton Nickel and Frank Trevino in front and Billy Tankersley, Arnold Patton, Don Koonce and Coach Phil George.
Carr, Rams Get Back to Work

Despite a 3-7 record last fall, Angelo State head football coach Dale Carr did not hang his head. He got busy recruiting.

Carr and his coaching staff the first week of February signed 29 newcomers to the Ram football team. All 29 came from the State of Texas as Carr continued to focus on local and in-state talent.

“We hit all our needs with this recruiting class,” said Carr, who will begin his third year with the Rams this fall. “Offensively, we filled holes from tailback to center. Defensively, we added depth at defensive back and up front. We are going to be a young team next season and there is no reason that some of these players signed won’t make it on the field this fall.”

Carr added nine offensive linemen to his roster, filling a visible need from the 2006 season.

“You can’t recruit too many offensive linemen,” Carr said. “It’s the hardest position to sign and the hardest to keep. We feel very good about the group of guys that we’re bringing to support us up front.”

Filling defensive needs, the Rams added five defensive backs and five defensive linemen.

“We brought in defensive backs that have good size and some very talented defensive linemen,” Carr said. “Four of the five defensive backs that we signed are true cornerbacks and I don’t think you can sign too many cornerbacks. Almost all the defensive linemen that are coming back for us are young. It’s going to be a young line for us this fall but the future is pretty impressive.”

Continuing with the tradition he began last spring, Carr’s Rams took the field for spring drills in mid-February. The Rams’ wrapped up their four-week spring workout with a March 8 scrimmage.

The Rams will kick off the 2007 season at NCAA Division I-foe Sam Houston State University at 6 p.m. Aug. 30, a Thursday, in Eliot T. Bowers Stadium in Huntsville. ASU’s home opener is slated for 6 p.m. Sept. 15 when the Rams host the University of Central Oklahoma at San Angelo Stadium.
Over the years Angelo State University’s school colors have faded, so to speak, along with the memories of how what was once black and gold became today’s well-recognized blue and gold.

In the end, it appears that ASU’s predecessor, San Angelo College, made the color change more for economic than for aesthetic reasons. Even so, it remained for a later ASU president to make the definitive decision on Angelo State blue and gold.

At first black and gold evolved as San Angelo College’s colors when the institution was established downtown in a $250,000 two-story building at the corner of North Oakes and East Second streets in 1928. Why black and gold became the college’s colors has been lost to posterity.

Black was certainly a practical choice from a printing perspective because of the high cost of color publications at the time. Gold, then as now, remained more problematic on a printing press, particularly for a genuine gold sheen.

Through the 1930s and on into the 1940s, black and gold remained the official colors until about the time that the college decided to move from its downtown location to its current campus on West Avenue N.

It would make a great story to say that the school changed the colors to mark a new start for the college. In reality, money or, perhaps more accurately, the lack of money caused the switch. Two stories have endured.

In the first, then Board Chairman Porter Henderson, whose name would later adorn the ASU Library, recalled the college needing to purchase a bus for school and athletic travel. The bus, of course, was to wear the school colors. Here enters two variations of the story. First, the cheapest bus was blue and gold which was deemed close enough for the board to make the purchase. The second variation is that it was cheaper to paint the newly acquired school bus blue and gold than to dress it in black and gold.

Though the theme is the same, the second version of the school’s tinted transition involved athletic uniforms. According to this version left by another board member, when it came time to purchase uniforms for the athletic squads, the blue uniforms were cheaper than black uniforms, sort of a blue-light special from the supplier.

So, the frugal board, ever conscious of judicious use of local tax and tuition monies, bought the more economical uniforms and informally changed the college’s colors in the late 1940s.

Then in 1953 SAC’s trustees formally and officially changed the colors from black and gold to blue and gold. After such a formal edict from such an august body, one might think the matter was settled. Far from it. After all, blue comes in shades of navy, royal and even baby, not to mention some 126 shades of printing ink, plus another 324 blue hues that can be derived through process color by mixing cyan (C), magenta (M), yellow (Y) and black (K) inks on the printing press.

And then there’s gold or yellow, which comes in some 60 individual inks plus another 135 different CMYK hues. As a result, the blue and gold used in publications and uniforms varied significantly between 1953 and 1967, when Dr. Lloyd D. Vincent, a physicist by education, became ASU’s second president.

With the precision one would expect of a physicist, Dr. Vincent decided to determine a blue-and-gold standard that would be utilized on publications and as closely as possible on uniforms and other representations of the school’s colors. He asked ASU’s new graphic artist to submit for his review a selection of blues and golds from the Pantone Matching System, a method used by printers to help standardize the colors of inks to get desired results in print.

Years later when asked if he helped make the decision, the designer smiled, “I was just in the room.” Dr. Vincent decided on Pantone Blue 287 for ASU blue and Pantone Gold 123 for the ASU gold. Those remain to this day the official ASU colors.

However, ASU’s color quandary did not end there. The development of the World Wide Web created a new issue: How to ensure the colors on the ASU website matched the standardized print colors.

This is not as easy as it may seem, since inks use pigments and websites use combinations of light, in this case red, green and blue (RGB) to produce color. Matching is doubly difficult since the on-screen colors can be manipulated by the brightness and tint adjustments on the monitor. However, on a properly calibrated screen, the RGB equivalent for ASU blue or Pantone 287 is R0-G56-B150. The RGB for ASU gold or Pantone 123 is R252-G201-B23.

So, the next time you cheer for ASU blue and gold, remember you are also cheering for Pantone 287/R0-G56-B150 and Pantone 123/R252-G201-B23.
While numerous parents can boast of having multiple children attend and graduate from Angelo State, probably no other mother and father can match Isaac and Felicitas Castro of Old Glory.

Of their 12 children, nine attended ASU and eight finished with degrees, almost certainly a single-family record for siblings. Today the Castro progeny are scattered throughout West Texas as well as in Arkansas and Florida. They include a doctor, a lawyer, two teachers, a store owner, a naval officer and a clinical director.

Their’s is an American success story borne of the love and hard work of their parents and the values they instilled in their children. The Castro family saga began in 1960 when Isaac Castro, a Mexican national, took advantage of the Bracero Program, jointly established by the U.S. and Mexican governments to legalize and control migrant farm labor along the Southern U.S. border, and moved to Old Glory to work on the cotton farm of the late Hal Yakey.

Castro was joined in Old Glory in 1963 by his wife, Felicitas, a native of Bryan, Texas, and their six children. Ultimately, the seven immigrants all became naturalized citizens and six more Castro children were born in Texas.

Of the 12 Castro siblings, five were their high school’s valedictorians and 11 went on to earn college degrees.

“We are so grateful that through love, discipline, respect and encouragement they kept an open mind about the need for a good education in order to succeed and be fruitful to themselves and society,” the elder Castro said. “Each was encouraged to reach their own potential as an individual.”

“Although my parents didn’t have the opportunity to obtain a formal education,” said Isaac M. Castro, fifth of the 12 siblings, “they understood its value. I remember my mother telling me many times as we were working in the fields during the summers, especially when I complained about the heat and fatigue, that the only sure way out of that kind of work was education.”

“On one occasion that we were having this discussion, she noticed an airliner high in the sky,” he added. “She pointed to it and said in Spanish, of course, ‘That is what education can do for you.’ I never wanted to be an airline pilot, but I learned the lesson that the sky is the limit. At age nine, I decided to become a lawyer.”

The younger Isaac graduated from ASU in 1977 with a bachelor’s degree in government, then proceeded to the University of Texas School of Law where he received his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1980. Today he practices law in Hamlin and has passed on the family tradition to his son, Matt, currently a sophomore at ASU.

Manuel Castro, the oldest sibling, was the first to graduate from ASU in 1971 with a degree in education. He taught for 30 years at Lincoln Junior High in San Angelo before retiring in Christoval.

Manuel was followed at ASU by his brothers Joe, Class of 1973, Eustaquio, Class of 1976, Isaac, and Pete, Class of 1981. Today Joe, with his wife, Marcia, runs the 50 Stars Stop store and lives near his parents in Old Glory, a Stonewall County community settled by German-Americans as Brandenburg in 1909 and renamed for the American flag during World War I to reflect local patriotism.

Joe went to ASU during another American conflict. In the summer of 1969, during the height of the Vietnam War, he was deciding between Cisco Junior College
and Hardin-Simmons University, knowing that at any time he could be drafted into the military.

“To my surprise, I received a call from my older brother Manuel advising me that he had enrolled me at Cisco Junior College, had obtained for me a deferment and to get ready to go to college,” Joe said. “After graduating from Cisco, I enrolled at ASU and stayed with Manuel to help with rent and expenses.”

Stationed in Florida, Capt. Eustaquio, or Staqui, Castro-Mendoza is the sibling farthest from home. The Navy officer is assigned to the U.S. Southern Command in Miami. After graduating from ASU with both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in biology, he was commissioned in the Navy in 1983 and has also attended the University of Montana, the Naval War College, Southern Methodist University and Virginia Tech.

“ASU is a phenomenal school,” Staqui said. “I’ve attended four different colleges and I believe ASU provided me with a solid foundation that is second to none. I could’ve gone anywhere in Texas, but I chose ASU over places like Texas A&M and Texas. We felt comfortable at ASU, obviously, and most of my family went there.”

Dr. Pete Castro, the youngest brother to attend ASU, has been a practicing physician in Brady for 12 years. After graduating from ASU, he attended the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth.

Three sisters —Silvia Alvarez, Class of 1984, Janie Castro-Rios, Class of 1985, and Laura Gonzalez, Class of 1987, – also graduated from ASU. Silvia earned a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and later returned for her teaching certification. A San Angelo resident, she has been with the San Angelo Independent School District since 1987 and currently teaches fourth grade at Bradford Elementary.

“Since I was a child, I dreamed of achieving a college education,” Silvia said. “My parents instilled in me the desire to achieve and always emphasized the importance of education. I chose to attend ASU because my older brothers had great learning experiences there and they spoke highly of ASU. I guess I wanted to follow the Castro family tradition.”

Janie earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and then took her associate degree in respiratory care from Howard College in San Angelo. She and her family live in Mountain Home, Ark., where she is the Director of Clinical Education Respiratory Care at the University of Arkansas-Mountain Home.

“We were many children, but our parents always instilled in each of us that we could attain our goals and education was the way to go,” Janie said. “I chose ASU because so many of my siblings went there and had good experiences.”

Laura currently teaches at Brady High School. The ninth of the 12 Castro siblings, she was the final ASU graduate in her generation when she received her 1987 bachelor’s degree in education. A fourth sister, Maribel, also attended ASU, but transferred to the University of Texas-San Antonio to complete her physical therapy degree.

With so many Castros attending college during such a short time span, money was often tight for the family. While their parents provided what finances they could, each of the Castro siblings saved money from various jobs, worked while at school and depended on each other to make it through.

“We all worked, starting as children,” Staqui said. “We worked on the farm and any money we made went into a money pot to help us all pay for college. My parents made huge sacrifices for us and we knew we were going to college, no ifs, ands or buts about it.”

Added Joe, “As a united family with very close ties, one way or another each one of us supported and was supportive to the others. By working and sharing our labors, each of us helped the others in any way possible, financially and with encouragement.”

Even with as much pride as they took in seeing their children achieve their educations, Isaac and Felicitas Castro found it difficult to watch their close-knit family shrink with each graduation.

“It was not easy for us to see each one leave home and our hearts ached as we saw each one graduate,” Isaac said. “But, we knew it was each one’s beginning to find their own world and to search for their place in society.”

Isaac will turn 82 on May 30 and Felicitas will be 78 in November. They have been married for 61 years and live in a country home just outside of Old Glory where they spend their time gardening, caring for their pets and babysitting grandkids. While their children often bring their own families to visit on weekends, holidays and birthdays, Isaac and Felicitas also like to take trips to see them and how their lives are going.

“We take great pride that our children saw the opportunity for a better life and respected our wishes and dreams for them to become part of a great society and offer their contribution for a better tomorrow,” Isaac said. “We are both thankful to God and happy for all their successes.”
Not yet two years removed from earning their computer science degrees, two Angelo State alumni are touching the future of the nation’s space program.

As graduate students at Texas Tech University, Eric Garcia and Eric Rees, both class of ’05, are helping develop software for the Crew Exploration Vehicle (CEV) that will replace the nation’s Space Shuttle in 2010.

In addition to their work at Texas Tech, the two ASU alumni spent last summer at NASA’s Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif., working on software reliability testing for the CEV, recently re-named the Orion spacecraft. Orion is ultimately designed to go to the moon and eventually to Mars.

“We have been doing some exciting things here at Texas Tech,” said Garcia of Midland. “To be working on cutting edge technology with the country’s brightest scientists is like playing in the Super Bowl. It really is a rewarding experience.”

They began as assistants on a NASA project directed by Tech Professor Dr. Daniel Cooke and a Tech doctoral candidate to test prototype Onboard Abort Executive software that uses SequenceL, a functional programming language developed at Tech, to calculate a safe flight abort procedure should a major malfunction occur during ascent.

Then they worked at the Ames Research Center to develop a “testbed” to evaluate and calibrate a group of software instruments known as Verification and Validation (V&V) tools. V&V tools are used to determine whether a software system meets required specifications and functions according to its original design.

“NASA can’t test every possible combination of events in a flight simulator,” said Rees, “and thus relies on V&V tools to ensure that the system is following the specifications perfectly, eliminating potential malfunctions due to a combination that did not get tested in a flight simulator.”

However, NASA needed something to test the V&V tools. That’s where Rees and Garcia came in. They designed the Reliable Software Testbed to evaluate the reliability of the V&V tools used by NASA in Orion’s embedded autonomy software. Their program inserted numerous errors in the mission critical software and then tallied the number the V&V tools caught and missed, providing a reliability score.

“In deep space exploration,” Garcia said, “NASA needs its science vehicles to make control decisions autonomously, in a short time frame that requires no communication with mission control on earth.”

Garcia and Rees feel lucky to be working at Tech under the tutelage of Dr. Cooke, lead developer and creator of the SequenceL language and the coordinator of all Texas Tech projects with NASA.

“Dr. Cooke was so impressed with the research I had done at ASU as well as the curriculum that the ASU Computer Science Department requires to graduate,” said Rees, “that he asked me to join both the SequenceL and NASA projects during our first meeting. I walked outside of his office and into the hall and literally did a little dance while a couple of people gave me some incredibly odd looks.”

Garcia said, “The greatest thing about this industry is not only are we intellectually challenged every day, but we’re also able to be creative in everything we do.”

Both computer scientists find it hard to believe how far their careers have advanced since they were ASU students, much less when Garcia was attending Greenwood High School and Rees going to Reagan County High School. Rees, who grew up in Big Lake, admitted that he, like a lot of computer science majors, went into the field with aspirations to design computer games for one of the large gaming companies.

Now instead of using their talents to expand the imaginary boundaries of cyberspace gaming, Rees and Garcia are helping the nation push farther into the realm of outer space.

“It’s a near indescribable feeling,” Rees said, “knowing that decisions we help make now will help shape at least a part of the course for humanity’s first attempt at a permanent presence on the Moon and the eventual attempt for a manned Martian landing.”

Photos Courtesy of Joey Hernandez, Texas Tech, and Lockheed Martin Corp.
1950
Joe E. Mikeska, Jr., married to Gayle, is a physician in Albany.

1952
Eddie Robert Edwards, married to Rae, is retired and living in San Saba.

1970
Donnie Young, married to Francis (’70), is the corporate vice president of world wide operations for Johnson & Johnson.

1973
John Michael Wheeler, married to Ruth (’73), is a planning analyst for Ethicon in San Angelo.

1978
DeAnna Campbell is the manager of student employment for Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

1981
Deanna Marie (Smoot) Hicks is a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force and lives in San Angelo. She is a volunteer math tutor for SAISD, Girl Scout leader, AARP tax aide volunteer and Central High School mentor.

1986
Melody M. Wilkinson, married to Edward, is an attorney for Cooley Manion Jones CCP in Fort Worth.

1990
Lisa Lemons Nichols is the director of development for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

1992
Shivraj Sohur, married to Suzanne, is a junior faculty member in the Department of Neurology at Harvard’s Massachusetts General Hospital.

1993
Troy Michael Deubler, married to Lisa, is the project manager for Fidelity Investments in Irving.

1994
Susann R. Brundret, married to Bruce, is a nurse at Shannon. Bruce is a pilot for U.S. Customs.

1995
Mark A. Fraley, married to Karen, is a CPA for Ernst & Young LLP in San Antonio.

2001
Capt. Matthew Baril just returned from a deployment in Afghanistan and is currently an inspector/evaluator at the wing level at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, Nev.

2002
Amber Simmons Smith, married to Joe, is marketing director for Sunset Mall.

1st Lt. Traci L. Bowman moved in July to the beautiful island of Terceira, Azores. Bowman is part of the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron as a vehicle management flight commander.

Michael E. Patyrak, M.D., returned to campus to deliver the commencement address at ASU’s December graduation ceremonies. He is a first-year radiology resident at UT Southwestern/Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. He graduated No. 1 in his class at the UT Health Science Center.

2003
Donald Eugene Brown, married to Georgia, is an analyst at Verizon. Georgia is the program director for Texas Child Protective Services.

1st Lt. Joel Pitman, married to Kelly Hegemeyer, was recently reassigned to Langley AFB, Va., from Hill AFB, Utah.
Pitman earned the Bronze Star while serving in Iraq in early 2006 as a commander of a combat logistic patrol flight.

Janet Alicia (Neighbors) Abernathy, married to Bryan (*01), is a stay-at-home mom with her son Kaden. Bryan is the office manager at Medical Arts Pharmacy.

2005

Rebecca Diane Slone is a special education teacher in San Angelo.

2006

Aundrus Poole is an actor living in Austin, where he is currently filming a recurring, speaking role on the popular NBC series Friday Night Lights.

WAY TO GO!

The Concho Valley Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Kappa Sorority was recently presented with the Eleanor Dygert Haddon Award (Honorable Mention) for significant increase in membership.

DEPLOYMENTS

Several graduates of Angelo State’s Air Force ROTC Detachment 847 have recently been deployed overseas.

The officers and their years of graduation are:

Darby L. Anable, 1999
Miguel Colon, 2004
James Detweiler, 1997
Christine R. (Morgan) Dossman, 2004
Tam T. Duong, 1992
Lori R. (Dockendorf) Hodge, 2002
Anton Malkowski, 2003
Russ Parramore, 1997
Breanne (Beagle) Tabor, 1999.

Campus Gone Wild

— continued from page 15

of the countryside and the wildlife that occupies it. Kids that grow up in the city on asphalt and behind plate glass have less opportunity for that sort of naïveté to be lost.”

As a result, they get their understanding of the natural world from house pets or Disney movies that personify animals, giving them human emotions and characteristics. Consequently, students and even many adults today have romanticized notions about wildlife and are squeamish about what really occurs in nature.

“They’re naïve about the natural world and all out there that impacts their lives in a lot of ways,” he said. “For instance, plants impact how much water comes down the streams into our reservoirs and animals, in so many ways, impact their lives and they’re not aware of it.”

For instance, the white-tailed deer, Odocoileus virginanus, has become the center of the region’s hunting industry and “is particularly important on rangeland where some livestock raising is in decline,” Maxwell said. All students benefit from that industry indirectly because of the monies hunters spend on lodging, food and services when they visit the region. Those dollars translate into taxes which flow to universities, helping students get an education.

Maxwell pointed out that some students benefit directly. “That economy pays for many students’ higher education where we find parents deriving hunting-based income,” he said.

Another example of a species’ impact on our lives and our economy is the Mexican free-tailed bat. Despite people’s fears of the flying mammal based on so many old wives tales, they are indeed a threat to agricultural insect pests.

“The bats consume prodigious quantities – 1,000 tons nightly – of these insects,” Maxwell said. “In particular, the corn earworm moth that migrates into Texas from the south is attacked by free-tailed bats flying out of Central Texas caverns. This moth is better known out here as the cotton bollworm. Between it and several armyworm pests, damage to American agriculture goes to the tune of at least a billion dollars annually. It would be even higher if these bats did not consume a significant percentage of these pests.”

Without such an understanding, students may not only be missing what Maxwell believes is one of life’s pleasures but also shortchanging their own futures.

“They grow up to be voters,” Maxwell said. “If they don’t understand the existence of nature out there and its relevance and if they don’t even understand agriculture, which is related to nature, and where their steak comes from, people like me worry about how they will make decisions at the voting box on issues they don’t understand.”

A good place to start on that path to a more sophisticated understanding of nature, Maxwell believes, would be for them to take a walk around campus and observe where the struggle for survival continues on a daily and nightly basis in an otherwise tranquil environment.

Did you fall in love at ASU?

If so, we would like to hear your story for possible use in a subsequent issue of the Alumni Magazine or on the Alumni Association website.

If you would like to share your story of romance, especially if it is sentimental, humorous or just plain unbelievable, please take time and send us a synopsis of what happened then and what has happened since.

Your stories should be sent to alumni@angelo.edu. Please put “Love Story” on the subject line and let us know about romance at Angelo State.
Lambs & Lambelles

Michael and Marianne Payne White ('87) celebrate the birth of their son Christopher Ian White.

Michael Dean Mitchell, Jr., ('99) and Brooke Hollingsworth Mitchell ('05) are the proud new parents of Colby Dean Mitchell, born on Dec. 26.

Stacia ('00) and Lane Hughes ('98), along with three-year-old big brother Tate are proud to announce the birth of Sealie Lane Hughes on Nov. 1.

Melissa and John Delk ('96) celebrated the arrival of their second son Franklin Waidlein Delk on Oct. 9.

George and Sande ('73) Harrison welcomed new grandson Asher George Etchison on Feb. 1.

Assistant Football Coach Hank McClung and ASU Director of Development Rhonda McClung welcome to their family Isabel Janette McClung, born Jan. 25.

Kimberly ('04) and Deen Burrus celebrate the arrival of Grandon Ray Burrus.

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