Dear Friends:

Although the Texas Legislative season does not officially begin until 2013, public universities have already begun to plan for the most likely topics of interest to our representatives. Clearly, the concept of “efficiencies” in higher education will be at the top of their discussion list. Efficiencies are not simply about cutting expenses, but rather seeking ways to more fully utilize existing and new resources to support our core mission of educating and graduating students.

Probably the most important effort has been our recognition by the United States Department of Education (DOE) as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). The designation is critical because only HSIs may compete for the significant funding made available through DOE’s Title V program. Over the past two years, ASU has received significant DOE grants, one for retention and the other to increase student participation in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Although these grants result from DOE funding, their use on campus has been led by an interdisciplinary committee composed of academic and student affairs professionals. As a result, all of our students benefit from the infusion of these new funds to the campus.

Another very intriguing initiative is the evolution of a partnership between ASU and MedHab on the development of an instrument to track physiological information for use in pre- and post-operative medical assessments. While such public-private partnerships are the norm in large, research-focused universities, they rarely exist at institutions whose primary mission is teaching. While the ability for ASU students to gain real-world experience in the design, development, and use of such devices is invaluable, the city of San Angelo will also have an economic benefit in the significant number of new jobs expected to be created by the new company.

Finally, our first students will graduate from the doctorate in physical therapy program, which was established in 1999 as a master’s degree program and approved for the doctoral level in 2009. As the discipline of physical therapy becomes increasingly important to so many aspects of medicine, the need for doctorally qualified individuals who practice on an equal level with physicians becomes even more critical. As ASU’s sole doctoral program, the PT degree builds on our existing remarkable strengths in science, while focusing on the emerging careers available to graduates in Texas and the rest of the nation.

Our focus remains the success of our students while on campus and after graduation. Your efforts on behalf of current and future students, whether as staff, faculty, alumni or community members, remain invaluable and most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Rallo
President
Johnny Ross

What began with entrepreneur Johnny Ross’s bum knee has evolved into a private- and public-sector partnership with Angelo State University, which provided the specialized expertise to help resolve technical, information management and industrial research issues necessary to develop a new medical device.

While rehabbing his knee, the co-founder and chief executive officer of MedHab LLC realized that his physical therapists were making subjective assessments of his progress without the solid data to back them up. With his professional background in health care and his co-founder’s understanding of digital technology, Ross knew a device could be developed to help therapists make more accurate assessments of patient progress during rehabilitation.

With his idea and a desire to possibly locate a production facility in San Angelo, Ross turned to ASU’s Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for local assistance, which ultimately included ASU expertise from five departments. With key contributions in software development from ASU’s computer science program, the Fort Worth-based company, which Sanghera serves as co-founder and chief technology officer, was able to provide key support to build upon the company’s expertise and help it move from product development toward production.

“For Angelo State,” Ross continued, “the relationship provides opportunities for our faculty to utilize their expertise and involve our students in real-world experience. Additionally, MedHab plans to employ some of the students working on various aspects of development and ultimately employ other students who in the past might have left for other job markets or opportunities.”

“In the long run,” Ross said, “this private- and public-sector partnership will benefit San Angelo and the Concho Valley with a new firm that will employ dozens, if not more, from this area in production.”

The San Angelo City Council approved a business incentive package for MedHab to locate its production facility in San Angelo, further expanding the private- and public-sector partnership into an opportunity for local economic growth.

“The relationship between Angelo State University and MedHab,” said ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, “has proven to be a beneficial one for all involved, including the city of San Angelo. For MedHab, ASU was able to provide key support to build upon the company’s expertise and help it move from product development toward production.”

For Angelo State,” Rallo continued, “the relationship provides opportunities for our faculty to utilize their expertise and involve our students in real-world experience. Additionally, MedHab plans to employ some of the students working on various aspects of development and ultimately employ other students who in the past might have left for other job markets or opportunities.”

“In the long run,” Rallo said, “this private- and public-sector partnership will benefit San Angelo and the Concho Valley with a new firm that will employ dozens, if not more, from this area in production. The City of San Angelo Development Corporation, of up to $3.2 million over seven years, Ross expects MedHab will ultimately employ 150–220 employees in San Angelo when the facility is fully operational.

Ross said, “The importance of ASU to our development cannot be stated enough. MedHab’s chief technology officer and I started this process at a meeting in 2009 with President Rallo and David Erickson of the SBDC. Both shared our vision and immediately offered their support. Moving forward, I anticipate a very long relationship with ASU to help develop new releases of our first product as well as assist in developing new products.”

A San Angelo native and 15-year employee with medical supplier Johnson & Johnson, Ross had led an active lifestyle that ultimately wore out one of his knees, requiring reconstructive surgery to regrow the deteriorated cartilage that caused the problem. After surgery, the rehabilitation was long, painful and frustrating, causing him to think there had to be a better way to do pre-operative assessments and to measure rehabilitation progress, particularly with all the electronic technology that was available.

Ross turned to Tim Sanghera, an electrical engineer and computer scientist, with the idea of developing a monitor that could help measure weight-bearing loads, strength, range of motion and other indicators for treating leg injuries. Sanghera said such a device could be engineered, and they developed a “breadboard” prototype necessary in 2008 to apply for a patent, which was granted last year. They subsequently applied for five patents through MedHab, which Sanghera serves as co-founder and chief technology officer.

While Ross had the idea plus the medical sales background and Sanghera had the technical expertise, they still needed help in fine-tuning a business plan as they moved toward production of the medical device. Though MedHab is headquartered in Fort Worth, Ross wanted to locate a production facility in San Angelo, where he had grown up and earned a Master of Public Administration from ASU in 1996 after earning his bachelor’s degree from Texas Tech University.

Consequently, Ross sought out Erickson and his SBDC staff for help with the business plan and a financial model that included investors and mezzanine financing before moving to traditional financing. Additionally, Erickson and SBDC Assistant Director Cindy Hartin opened doors to other ASU expertise, including computer science students to develop some of the software necessary to operate the monitoring device.

ASU computer science experts are developing all of the custom external software necessary to analyze and display the data collected by the device’s resident software. The ASU software will provide a cloud-based server, web-based dashboards for both patients and doctors/therapists and data transmission from the device to the server. The multiple client versions will include Windows, Android and iPhone platforms, Roden said.

The MedHab device is a miniaturized, pressure-sensing instrument that provides dashboard screens for 3-D tracking of physiological information that orthopedists can use for pre- and post-operative assessments. Physical therapists can use the device to customize treatments and monitor rehabilitation progress. Through real-time wireless communication, health professionals can check on patient status at any time without requiring a clinic visit. Further, the data is secured through a user-friendly website that meets all federal medical privacy requirements.

The MedHab team also worked with Dr. Scott Hasson, ASU professor of physical therapy and member of the MedHab advisory board, to develop appropriate rehabilitation protocols for exercises and their measurements.

Then, Dr. Kraig L. Schell became involved for his industrial-organizational psychology program to develop outreach strategies to demonstrate to businesses how the device could be used in their safety programs, particularly for employees who do repetitive manual tasks. Additionally, MedHab is working with Dr. Richard Lawrence, a management information systems faculty member, on developing management protocols for the operational plan designed for San Angelo.

“I have been afforded the opportunity to build incredible relationships here at ASU,” Ross said, “and I see these relationships continuing for a long time. MedHab plans to work with ASU personnel to assist with future developments to StepRite, our first product, as well as our lumbar back product currently in the patent process. As other opportunities arise, I am certain ASU will be a big part of development.”

If everything goes according to plan, MedHab will launch its U.S. sales by year’s end, pending FDA approval. Additionally, MedHab plans to market the device in Australia, England, Germany, Italy, France and Spain, potentially opening up additional opportunities for ASU participation in adapting software to those languages.

“MedHab’s relationship with ASU is nothing less than spectacular, and I expect it to continue to grow,” Ross said. □
Artsy Startsy

If art is truly in the eye of the beholder, the Angelo State family will have a lot to behold during the next 18 months as three pieces of installation art make their appearance on campus.

The artworks will mark ASU’s start in implementing a Texas Tech University System (TTUS) policy that allocates a percentage of the cost of all major construction and renovation projects to public art.

“Evolving Helix,” a 20-foot tall stainless steel sculpture combining the simplicity of a ram’s horn with the complexity of the DNA helix, will be installed in the pedestrian circle on the University Mall just south of the new Plaza Verde residence hall and the Pavilion. The artist is Roger White Stoller of San Jose, Calif.

“Kinesis,” an undulating red ribbon of steel symbolizing movement through its arching loops and swirls, will be positioned between walkways at the northwest corner of the Center for Human Performance’s new student recreation addition. The artist is Joaquin Palencia of the Philippines.

A mosaic artwork representing the heritage of ASU has been selected for installation on the low concrete wall bordering the ramp at the main entrance of the Porter Henderson Library on the University Mall. Julie Richey Mosaics of Irving will conduct on-campus focus groups to determine the final design. The piece is scheduled for completion next spring.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said, “This installation art will bring a new dynamism to campus and provide places for thought, reflection and even whimsy for members of the Angelo State family as well as for visitors, who will now have new reasons to make ASU a destination.”

TTUS policy directs 1 percent of the budgets for new construction and .5 percent of the budgets of renovation projects to public artworks associated with the new or renovated facilities.

“Implementing this policy will enhance the aesthetics and ambiance of the campus in the future,” Rallo said.

The “Evolving Helix” will be ready for installation in late 2013 and is budgeted at $375,000. It was chosen from 25 different artist proposals. “Kinesis” will be installed toward the end of 2012 and is allocated a $60,000 budget. It was selected from 17 proposals from different artists. The mosaic is budgeted at $43,000 and was selected from six proposals.

A local advisory committee reviewed the various proposals and made recommendations to the Angelo State University representatives – Barbara Rallo of San Angelo and Donna Bowen of Robert Lee – on the TTUS selection committee for final approval.

San Angelo community members of the advisory committee are Brenda Gunter, K. Duane Hamblin, Matt Lewis, Sue Rainey, Julie Raymond and Anne Shahan. Angelo State representatives are Tom Bankston, Maurice Fortin, Connie Frazier, Randy Hall, Jessica Manning, Peggy Nino, Bradley C. Perry and Ruben Sandoval. ASU student Jessica Kindrick of San Angelo also serves on the advisory committee.
Angelo State and Sejong University have initiated a One-Plus-Three (1+3) program that allows Sejong students to spend a year on their campus in Seoul, South Korea, and then come to ASU for the final three years of their undergraduate education.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo and Sejong President Woo-Hee Park signed the agreement in Seoul in November. Under the agreement, Sejong students will take a year’s worth of courses taught in English by Sejong faculty, who will serve as ASU adjunct faculty. After successfully completing their first year at Sejong, the students will transfer to ASU for the final three years of undergraduate work. The first group of Sejong 1+3 students will arrive on campus for the start of the 2013 spring semester.

While taking ASU courses on the Sejong University campus, students will pay Sejong tuition rates. Once students transfer to Angelo State, they will pay out-of-state tuition rates unless they qualify for competitive scholarship packages.

“We are delighted to initiate this program with Sejong University,” Rallo said.

“Our agreement builds upon many long-standing ties between our nation and the Republic of Korea. The new program will further enhance ASU’s international studies program by providing an ongoing cohort of Korean students at Angelo State.”

“Not only will our Korean guests get an exceptional ASU education,” Rallo said, “but our students will benefit from their interactions with these students, who come from a nation that has been one of our staunchest allies in Asia and today is the United States’ seventh-largest trading partner.”

Dr. Won-Jae Lee, a native of South Korea and an ASU associate professor of criminology, and Dr. Sharynn Tomlin, the director of ASU’s Center for International Studies, played key roles in developing and finalizing the 1+3 program.

Sejong University is a private university founded in 1940 and currently enrolling some 15,000 students. The university has nine colleges and nine graduate schools with academic strengths in international business, hotel management and animation.

During the late morning of May 12, Brent Ashford was scheduled to make Angelo State University history.

When his name was called during the spring commencement ceremony, Ashford – by lack of the alphabet – became the first student to receive an ASU doctorate. He was the first of 10 graduates in ASU’s physical therapy program to receive a Doctor of Physical Therapy, or D.P.T.

“I am really excited to be part of ASU’s first doctoral graduating class,” Ashford said. “I’ve had some great experiences and learned from some really outstanding faculty here. I hope this is only the first of many doctoral programs for ASU, and I hope that in some small way my classmates and I can bring more notability to the school and the program.”

Born and raised in Austin, Ashford earned his bachelor’s degree in exercise and sports science from Texas State University in 2008. Though he was also accepted to physical therapy programs at universities in New York and California, he chose ASU after researching its PT program online and visiting the campus.

“I chose to attend ASU because of the lower cost and because I wanted to stay in Texas,” Ashford said. “When I came to visit the campus and interview, I liked the smaller class sizes and the clinical integration with local health care partners.”

Ashford utilized that partnership for his acute care clinical rotation at Shannon Medical Center. Then, as required by the PT curriculum, he headed out of town for subsequent clinicals. He completed his orthopedic rotation at Rocky Mountain Therapy Services in Granville, Utah, where he was able to stay with his wife’s family, and finished up with his neuromuscular rotation at Hendrick Center for Rehabilitation in Abilene.

“The most memorable clinical experience for Ashford came at Shannon and involved another ASU student, Rambelles basketball player Leah Lemaire, who had been seriously hurt in a car accident that left her with a dislocated right elbow, a pelvis fractured in two places and an injured diaphragm.

“She was unable to move much because of pain, medication and having several tubes and IVs,” Ashford said. “She was not allowed to put weight on her left leg at all because of the injury to her pelvis, so she could only use her right leg when getting around. I was able to help her learn how to work a wheelchair, and I worked with her as she took her first steps. It was a very difficult recovery for her.”

“I later found out that she has returned to classes at ASU and is back playing as a starter for the basketball team,” he continued. “Her physical and mental toughness was an inspiration for me, and it was a great experience to be able to work with her during my first clinical rotation and then be able to see her return to school, sports and her normal life.”

In his own normal life outside of classes and clinicals, Ashford has also been active in ASU intramurals with his PT classmates. He is raising two daughters, 9-year-old Bridget and 5-year-old Tessa, with his wife, Regan, who also graduated from ASU on May 12 with a bachelor’s degree in communication. Combine that with ASU’s first doctoral diploma in Ashford’s hands, and the future is looking bright for all of them.

“I feel like my education has really prepared me and given me the confidence and skills I need to be successful as a physical therapist,” Ashford said. “There is quite a lot of need for therapists everywhere, and the PT program here at ASU has been very helpful in preparing us to take the licensing exam and market ourselves. I hope to find a job in the Austin area working in an outpatient orthopedic setting, but I am open to other options and I will look for the best opportunity for my future as a physical therapist and for my family.”
At a time when finances are tight everywhere, Angelo State University alumni and friends came through in a big way by helping the university reach its $35 million capital campaign goal more than a year ahead of schedule.

In celebrating the achievement of ASU’s first capital campaign, ASU President Joseph C. Rallo and Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance announced a challenge goal of an additional $10 million by the time the effort ends in 2013. The announcement came at the January “Boldly Blue” dinner celebrating the campaign for ASU.

“A lot of people have stepped up because Angelo State really is their university,” Dr. Rallo said. “We value their participation in fundraising, and as we move forward with our challenge goal we will be enhancing the opportunities we provide our students.”

Dr. Jason Penny, ASU’s vice president for development and alumni relations, has managed the first capital campaign since ASU was created and worked with donors from all walks of life and all income ranges. The results have been both satisfying because of the ultimate impact on students and their education and gratifying because of the willingness of so many to participate.

“We are humbled,” Penny said, “to have so many alumni and friends partner with Angelo State to ensure students’ access to a quality education. We are filled with gratitude.”

The capital campaign is scheduled to conclude next year. Penny said he is optimistic about achieving the $35 million challenge goal because of how accepting everyone has been of the ASU effort from the beginning.

“We have devoted alumni and a growing number of friends who may not have attended ASU, but who see the value of our mission and are willing to help us fulfill that mission, both today and tomorrow,” Penny said.

Since childhood, a red rubber ball has remained Kevin Carroll’s metaphor for finding and pursuing his passion – the power of play.

A bounce of the ball led Carroll originally to Angelo State University, where he graduated in 1989, and back again in January to speak at ASU’s “Boldly Blue” dinner, celebrating the university’s success in reaching a $25 million capital campaign goal ahead of schedule.

His Boldly Blue remarks and his activities while in San Angelo were so engaging that Carroll was invited back to address graduates at the university’s spring commencement. It was quite an accomplishment for a man who as a boy was basically written off by social workers.

Then one day, that boy discovered an unclaimed red rubber ball on a greater Philadelphia playground and made it his friend. He started playing with the ball, making up a game and, to his surprise, beginning to attract an audience of kids, who invited him to play with them from then on.

Carroll realized the art of play was a fantastic way of connecting with others. The power of the red rubber ball would ultimately lead to a successful career as an author, public speaker and agent for change, or “Katalyst,” a job title of his own creation.

But success was a long way in his future when he first arrived in San Angelo as a young father and Air Force enlistee seeking to become an athletic trainer.

“The Goodfellows Air Force Base community, ASU and this entire community encouraged, empowered and uplifted me,” he said. “It was a significant point in my life.”

Carroll credits Randy Matthews, ASU’s head athletic trainer at the time, and Paul Ramsey, his supervisor at Goodfellow AFB, with making one of his goals – attaining a college degree and becoming an athletic trainer – possible while he was teaching classes at Goodfellow from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. each night and raising two elementary-aged sons.

Matthewes explained the ASU schedule meant early morning classes followed by training room hours each afternoon. He asked Carroll, “When are you going to sleep?”

“You let me worry about that,” Carroll responded.

Ramsey said, “I just got out of his way. I knew he was special and he was going somewhere with his life.”

When Carroll returned to San Angelo in January, he spoke to groups at the Stephens Central Library, Wall High School and the Central Freshman Campus as a way of thanking the community for its help early in his career.

He also stopped by the San Angelo Soccer Association (SASA) to donate some 300 soccer balls on behalf of his son, Keith, who played on SASA teams as a boy, then went on to play college soccer and become a model and actor.

Gratitude is as big a part of Carroll’s life today as that red rubber ball was in his youth, and he has a bounce in his step, but “bouncing” once represented a darker time in his life.

His early years with his two brothers were characterized by bouncing from one place to another as the three boys were abandoned by both parents by the time Carroll was 6. The low point came when the boys found themselves some 200 miles away from their home with no one to claim them. Fortunately, loving grandparents stepped in, arranged a bus trip to Philadelphia and gave them the stability they desperately needed.

Their attention carried Carroll through high school and high school sports. Then Carroll began a 10-year Air Force career, ultimately earning his bachelor’s degree from ASU and his master’s degree from St. Joseph’s University. He lived his goal of becoming an athletic trainer at the high school and collegiate levels, then served as trainer for his hometown Philadelphia 76ers. He even worked as translator for the Yugoslav Olympic basketball team in 1996.

A television interview while he was involved in the Olympics earned Carroll the attention of Nike. He was invited to customize his own job as “Katalyst,” or creative change agent, for the sports gear giant.

After seven years at Nike, Carroll left to start Kevin Carroll Katalyst,LLC. Today he travels the world speaking, writing books and advocating for social change.

Because the ball might have bounced in another direction at any time, Carroll realizes he could have landed elsewhere, so he takes every opportunity to give thanks and to challenge his audiences, including everyone, to “Katalyst” and make a difference.

Gratitude is as big a part of Carroll’s life today as that red rubber ball was in his youth, and he has a bounce in his step, but “bouncing” once represented a darker time in his life.

“Any ‘zig’ rather than ‘zag’ in my journey, and I’m not here talking to you today,” he said. “Life is about the journey. You must surrender to the journey.”

His global journey has carried Carroll through abandonment, rescue, discovery, pursuit, defiance, triumph and inspiration, all because of a red rubber ball abandoned on a Philadelphia playground.
Spring High

For the third consecutive year, ASU has established a spring semester enrollment record with 6,379 students enrolled as of the 20th class day, the date used for official enrollment by institutions in the Texas Tech University System. The total spring enrollment was up 188 students over the 6,191 students who enrolled for the 2011 spring semester, an increase of 3.03 percent. Undergraduate enrollment stood at 5,358 for the current semester, a 1.1 percent increase over the 5,480 undergraduates enrolled in the spring of 2011. Graduate enrollment set an all-time record for the sixth long semester in a row with 841 students, 24 more than the previous high of 817 recorded just last fall. Graduate enrollment was up 18.2 percent over the 2011 spring enrollment of 711.

Comparisons by classification of the spring 2012 and 2011 enrollments with the percent-age change were: freshman, 1,391, 1,418, -1.90 percent; sophomore, 1,231, 1,250, -1.50 percent; junior, 1,250, 1,186, 5.50 percent; senior, 1,547, 1,473, 5.02 percent; unclassified, 135, 122, 10.6 percent; and graduate, 164, 711, 18.28 percent; and total, 6,379, 6,191, 3.03 percent.

Total graduate and undergraduate semester credit hours rose 2.62 percent from 75,761 for spring of 2011 to 77,746 for this spring.

Ongoing Perfection

For the 15th straight year, ASU students have maintained a 100 percent passing rate on the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) teacher certification test for secondary mathematics. Seven ASU students took the TExES in February, and their average score of 273.3 out of 300 is the highest average ever posted by an ASU class. It is also well above last year’s state average score of 226.7. The perfect passing rate streak began in 1998 and since then, all 150 of the ASU students who have taken the exam after completing the mathematics program have passed.

Passing students keeping the streak alive this year were Ben Ellery, Tyler Gueldner, Brett McIntyre, Sarah McKenzie, Alicia Powell, Sheryl Sultz and Matt Tubbs.

Handball National Title

ASU’s Handball Club captured the Division 2 team national championship and two individual national titles at the 60th USHA National Collegiate Champion- ship Tournament at Missouri State University in February. The ASU club amassed 2,179 points to win the division, well ahead of the runner-up Northwestern University team that finished with 896 points. Thirty-eight teams participated.

ASU’s Tara Nelemann won the women’s Division 2, Class “A” individual national championship, going undefeated in seven matches, and Morgan Solberg won the men’s Division 3, Class “B” individual national title.

Library Acclaim

The newly renovated Porter Henderson Library at Angelo State University was recognized this past spring with three honors: 2011 American Libraries magazine 2012 Library Design Showcase for outstanding service flexibility in design.

Service flexibility, one of 12 categories evaluated by the magazine each year in library design, recognizes adaptability to service population shifts, technology advances and new service needs. The ASU facility was one of 13 libraries in the U.S. and Canada identified as having “built-in flexi- bility to adapt to what their patrons require.”

The magazine wrote, “The renovation of the Porter Hen- derson Library created a num- ber of niches throughout the building, each housing one to six students, as well as areas with movable furniture that allow users to create meeting spaces and record, just like library zones. Classroom space pro- vides computer connectivity for 32 students, but can also be modified for speakers, lectures, or small study groups.”

The renovation opened a 28,000-square-foot Learning Commons on the first floor of the library in January of 2011. Project architect was SHW Group, LLC, of Austin.

Stage Right

With a scheduled replacement of the theatre rigging this sum- mer, the University Auditorium is set to be back in full opera- tion by the time ASU classes open in the fall.

The project will replace the entire rigging system, including the institution moved from counterweights, catwalks, cur- tains and other components necessary for a fully functional prosenium stage. The total project cost is estimated at $450,000, which is being fund- ed through an allocation of the university’s Higher Education Assistance Funds (HEAF).

Once the work is completed, the auditorium will resume its normal role in university life as a venue for musical theatre, dra- ma, productions, recitals, award ceremonies and other activities.

Due to the outdated rigging system and safety concerns, the University Auditorium was taken offline in 2010, except for ceremonies which could be con- ducted in front of the curtains.

The University Auditorium was completed in 1947 when Angelo State University first moved downtown to the current loca- tion. The bulk of the existing rigging system was part of the original construction of the fa- cility, though portions were up- dated in 1974.

Cancer Prevention

Angelo State University has been awarded an approxi- mately $1.12 million grant from the Cancer Prevention and Re- search Institute of Texas (CPRIT) to fund a three-year project to provide breast cancer detection and prevention services to resi- dents of the Concho Valley.

The project, “Access to Breast Care for West Texas – Concho Valley,” is overseen by Dr. Linda McArdle, director of ASU’s Center for Com- munity Wellness, Engagement and Development, and Dr. Leslie Mayrand, dean of ASU’s College of Health and Human Services.

The project will be coordinated through ASU’s re- gional office of the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health, which is also directed by Ross.

The grant will provide funding for mammograms and other diagnostic tests aimed at breast cancer detection for uninsured and underinsured women in Public Health Region 9, beginning with the Concho Valley. ASU will partner with San Angelo Community Medi- cal Center, Shannon Health Sys- tem, Heart of Texas Memorial Hospital in Brady and Lilian M. Hudspeth Memorial Hospital in Sonora on the project.

Health Foundation Grant

ASU’s College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) has re- ceived a $139,786 grant from the San Angelo Health Foun- dation (SAHF) to enhance the learning environment and re- search opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students in the college’s vari- ous programs.

According to CHHS Dean Leslie Mayrand, the project complements the funding to provide addi- tional computer-managed manne- quins in the nursing program’s High Fidelity Simulation Lab and a Parenting Training Module for the psychology program.

Another component of the project is a new DXA System, which assesses body composition, for the Kinesiology Department.

The grant will also fund a Mobile Research Lab that will be used for community-based re- search on improving access to mental health services.

SPS National Award

ASU’s chapter of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) has been honored with a Marsh W. White Award, given to SPS projects designed to promote interest in phys- ics among students and the public, and received a corre- sponding grant from the SPS National Office.

The ASU group will use the $300 grant to help fund an after-school project with the San Angelo YMCA. Under PASS, or “Physics After School” program, a special offer for students in kindergarten through 12th grade to join in special science classes.

More Nurses

The nursing program has been awarded a supplemental grant of $2,179 in Title VIII funds from the Texas Higher Education Coor- dinating Board (THECB) for in- creasing its enrollment of first- year nursing students during the 2010-11 academic year. For the 2010-11 academic year, ASU enrolled 199 first-year students through its vari- ous nursing programs, up from 127 in academic year 2008-09. The THECB initially awarded ASU $133,000 in September and has now added the second award to bring the grant total to $374,234.

“We are enrolling more stu- dents,” said Dr. Susan Wilkin- son, head of the Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences Depart- ment, “and this grant is to help cover the extra costs generated by that. We can use it for stu- dent materials, stipends for nursing faculty teaching over- loads, extra clinical teaching as- sists and, on a limited basis, for scholarships.”

The challenges of fueling the future and a passion for storytelling were addressed among ASU’s distinguished speakers series this spring. Find out what diplomat Molly Williams, the E. James Holland-Roy A. Harrell Jr. Foreign Affairs Lecturer, and author Leslie Marmon Silko, the keynote speaker for the 10th annual Writers Conference in Honor of Elmer Kelton, had to say on those topics at www. angelo.edu/ ASUMagazine

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People Who Make ASU Great

The four were selected from 29 overall nominees in four categories for the awards given each spring semester in recognition of exemplary job performance during the preceding calendar year. The 2011 award recipients, selected by a committee of the ASU Staff Senate, each received a $1,000 payment. Her award nomination lauded her for her initiative, diligence and courtesy in working with contractors to make certain they are paid promptly and efficiently while at the same time ensuring that the university has not been overcharged in the contracting process.

Payne has been on the ASU staff since 2005. She is the first recipient of both the Rowan Award and ASU’s Staff Excellence Award, which she earned in 2010.

Robert Ehlers

Dr. Robert Ehlers, director of ASU’s Center for Security Studies, was featured on the PBS program “Nova” in a documentary named “3-D Spies of World War II,” which aired throughout the U.S. in January.

Ehlers’s book, Targeting the Third Reich: Air Intelligence and the Allied Bombing Campaign, commemorates the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. The book was selected as the university’s first Community-Engaged Faculty Fellow and will develop courses for this fall to enhance student involvement in the local community as part of ASU’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

QEP Faculty Fellows

Pat Payne

Patricia "Pat" Payne, construction project coordinator for the Office of Facilities Planning and Construction, has been named the second recipient of the Chancellor’s Colleagues Rowan Award for Excellence in Execution. The Rowan Award recognizes a staff member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in carrying out a major project during the last academic year, and includes a $500 honorarium. The Rowan Award is selected by Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance.

In her position, Payne manages contracts, verifies costs and reconciles the applications for payment. Her award nomination lauded her for her initiative, diligence and courtesy in working with contractors to make certain they are paid promptly and efficiently while at the same time ensuring that the university has not been overcharged in the contracting process.

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The 2012-13 fellows are Kev-in Garrison of English, Christine Purkiss of teacher education, P. Janine Ray of nursing, June Smith of communication and Sharyn Tolin of management. The courses developed by all the fellows will serve as a pilot project for the QEP, which will be implemented in the following year. The QEP is a central requirement of Angelo State’s regional accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. ASU’s QEP emphasizes community engagement as a teaching and learning method.

Dr. Doyle Carter, QEP director, said, “Our vision is to expand our capacity to reach out to and engage with our community in ways that benefit everyone involved. These experiences have a huge impact on our students, our campus and our community. As we’ve said from the beginning, our goal is for ASU and the people we serve to become more of a learning community.”

Arnold De León, John Eusebio

Arnoldo De León, John Eusebio

Arnoldo De León, professor of chicano/a studies, and John Eusebio, professor of Chicana/o studies, were honored in May of 2011, examined the people we serve to become more of a learning community.”

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Angelo State has always been a culturally and ethnically diverse institution.

From Ben Kelly breaking the football color barrier in Texas with the Rams in 1953 to official recognition as a Hispanic Serving Institution in 2010 to newly signed agreements to enroll larger groups of South Korean students, ASU has continually recognized the importance of campus cultural diversity. But, it took a directive from the then-brand new president, Dr. Joseph C. Rallo, in 2007 to begin a coordinated effort to truly highlight that diversity. That is when the Multicultural Center was born.

“It was one of the first things Dr. Rallo asked for after he arrived,” said Joe Muñoz, senior executive assistant to the president. “He was looking at a campus map and asked where the Multicultural Center was. I told him we didn’t have one, and he said, ‘Well, we are going to have one, and I want you to make sure it gets going.’

“Now, I’m a lawyer,” Muñoz continued, “and I didn’t know much about multicultural centers. So, I had to brief myself and learn what they do.”

With the additional new title of assistant to the president for multicultural initiatives on his business card, Muñoz set to work making Rallo’s directive a reality.

“He made it clear that he didn’t want just a place for students to come hang out,” Muñoz said. “That is part of it, and he wanted activities, but he also wanted it to be educational. He wanted programs that inform and educate the campus about the value of diversity and how it ties into the overall educational process at Angelo State.”

“Diversity,” Rallo said, “whether from a multicultural or international perspective, is key to the learning experience at a university. Our students must be exposed to different views, backgrounds and experiences.

This is especially important in Texas, where the Hispanic culture is critical to the long-term economic health of the state.”

The first step was to find somewhere in the already crowded University Center to house the new initiative. The best that could be found at the time was an area being used for storage.

“We had to have the UC staff clean it out because it was full of tables and chairs,” Muñoz said. “So they did that, and then we immediately put up a sign that said ‘Multicultural Center.’ I wanted the word to get out as quickly as possible.”

The center was initially staffed by three full-time employees and a student worker all jammed into the small office with only enough room left over to put a couple of chairs for visitors. But, the important thing was that it was up and running.

“I wanted the students to hear about the center and know that it was open,” Muñoz said. “It wasn’t a very big office, but I credit the staff with creating the type of welcoming environment that it has.”

Another welcoming touch was the row of international flags Rallo had installed in the University Center to represent the home country of each foreign student attending ASU. Each fall, new flags are added as students from additional countries enroll at ASU.

“I think it provides a sense that, even in West Texas, our campus reflects a rich and varied international presence,” Rallo said.

The first programs to move under the Multicultural Center umbrella were the Up and Coming Scholars and Mother-Daughter programs, which are designed to recruit West Texas students to ASU. Because of its cramped quarters, the center’s other early role was simply being a place where students could go to ask questions about diversity issues and campus life.

In the fall of 2010, the center moved to expanded offices just inside the north entrance to the University Center. Today, the Multicultural Center boasts four full-time staff, one part-timer and three student workers. As the center has grown, so has the number and variety of programs and activities it offers and
oversees, including several programs aimed at first-generation students. “We wanted to reach out to traditionally underrepresented students, but not exclusively,” Muñoz said. “If you work with first-generation students, they include a lot of underrepresented students, so they overlap. We charged our staff with creating programs to reach out to first-generation students, and that is how ASU First came about.”

ASU First brings to the ASU campus West Texas high school students who are considering becoming the first in their families to attend college. Additional first-generation student initiatives include the Host Family program, which provides local support for students living away from their own families, and the Raising and Meeting Standards (RAMS) program that provides student mentors to first-generation students to help them get through their freshman year.

“As our recruiting programs grew,” Muñoz said, “we saw we were getting more students to ASU, but we were then losing a lot of them. We realized we had to get more involved in their everyday lives as a way to retain them. As a result, our retention rates are really improving.”

“There are a lot more things that we can do with more room,” he said. “If we can bring more minority and underrepresented students to campus and retain them, it will help with our budget and with our overall population. ASU is trying to grow to 10,000 and we are doing our best to help.”

When it comes to his hopes and dreams for the Multicultural Center, Muñoz certainly has the president’s ear because, as he has from day one of his ASU tenure, Rallo remains firmly committed to his initial directive. “We need to ensure that the center retains its central role in the life of our campus,” Rallo said. “Currently, we have 27 percent of our students with a Hispanic background as well as over 63 percent of our students being first generation. As we continue to increase these totals as our enrollment grows and we add significant numbers of international students, especially South Korean, we will monitor the space and personnel needs of the center.”

“As I state with every presentation I make,” he concluded, “we are not about graduating students. We are about graduating students who can compete successfully in a world where a diverse and multicultural outlook is vital.”
Devon Bolan knew she would meet lots of new people at Angelo State, but she had no idea there would be so many different kinds.

Though she is a first-generation student, the Burnet native grew up in a household where her parents expected her to keep her grades up in high school so she could get a higher education. As a senior, she considered and visited several universities, but a trip to see the ASU campus ended the debate. She was sold.

“When I came here, I really liked the environment,” Bolan said. “I like how small the classes are and how the teachers know all the students. I didn’t really want to go to a big school, so ASU seemed like a perfect fit.”

Bolan was eligible for a host family through the Multicultural Center. Her host parents are Lorina Sosa-Klingemann, the center’s office coordinator, and Dr. John Klingemann of the ASU history faculty. From her first visit to the center to meet with Lorina, Bolan was hooked.

“There are always lots of people around,” she said, “and there is always free food, so I like that. It’s really a family environment that you miss out on a lot in college.”

“Back then, I was probably only 60 percent fluent in English,” he added. “That was my major issue because I was scared I would not understand in class and that my professors would struggle with my speech.”

“I want to help other students who are in the same situation as me,” he said. “We focus on first-generation students because most of us don’t know the resources that are here for us, or that there are many programs that can guide us through every step of college life.”

“I love ASU,” he added. “I’m planning to graduate and hopefully stay here for graduate school as well.”

José Cano

“I started not feeling so homesick anymore. I started to feel like I had a family here.”

— José Cano

“I’m a pretty social person,” Bolan said, “so it really wasn’t a big deal for me to meet people. I just kind of jumped right in. Because ASU is not such a big campus, it’s easier for students to get in there and get involved.”

As a first-generation student, Bolan was sold.

“I would certainly have a lot more free time to do things that are not so good for me,” she said. “I’m not really a partier, but I probably would not be spending my time as wisely if I didn’t have the Multicultural Center. It keeps me focused.”

“So, Bolan remains a fixture in the Multicultural Center and calls her experiences there the most unexpected and uplifting of her time at ASU.

“There are so many students here, like me, who are from small towns in Texas,” she said, “and they don’t realize there are so many cultures represented here. In the Multicultural Center, you really get to see that diversity. Growing up in a small town, you don’t see a lot of diversity, so it is definitely enriching my life.”

“I was hooked.”

Without the Multicultural Center, José Cano would no longer be a student and probably would never have come to Angelo State at all.

A native of Guanajuato, Mexico, Cano moved with his family to Merkel in 2004 and graduated from Merkel High School in 2009. His high school counselor had him apply and get accepted to several colleges, but he was not actually planning on going because he did not want to leave his family and did not think he could afford it. ASU Multicultural Center staff had other ideas and gave him a call.

“I talked to Mr. (Joe) Muñoz and Flor Madero,” Cano said, “and told them I wanted to come but didn’t have the resources. They told me about ASU scholarships, loans and other programs to help me out. Flor told me to come for a visit, and the day I visited I was hooked.

“My host family helped me feel like I fit in better,” Cano said, “because I started not feeling so homesick anymore. I started to feel like I had a family here. I think that program is helpful to any students, not just first-generation students, but also for any that come from out of town. I know it really helped me a lot.”

They told me all about the resources ASU has for all students,” Cano said. “They told me how to manage my time, how to get help with my homework and how to make connections with other students. I didn’t know anything about the Writing Center or Math Lab until I got in the RAMS program.”

“When I was taking English, I used the Writing Center a lot,” he added. “I was in remedial English and math, and the labs really helped me a lot in passing those classes.”

Now a junior marketing major, Cano is returning those favors as a student worker in the Multicultural Center.

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The combination of a Texas Grant, several scholarships and student loans helped Cano overcome the monetary issues, but his early days at ASU were still a struggle.

“My family is really close, and coming to ASU was the first time I was ever away from them,” Cano said. “I was very homesick, especially the first few months. I went home every weekend.”

“But back then, I was probably only 60 percent fluent in English,” he added. “That was my major issue because I was scared I would not understand in class and that my professors would struggle with my speech.”

The Multicultural Center’s Host Family program helped Cano get his bearings.

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The First Generation Raising and Meeting Standards (RAMS) program then helped address his academic fears.

“They told me all about the resources ASU has for all students,” Cano said. “They told me how to manage my time, how to get help with my homework and how to make connections with other students. I didn’t know anything about the Writing Center or Math Lab until I got in the RAMS program.”

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**Timing is Money**

by Preston Lewis and Tom Nurre

HSI grants are funded through the Department of Education’s Title V and Title III programs, which are open to colleges and universities documenting a minimum 25 percent Hispanic enrollment. ASU reached that percentage in the fall of 2009, received the HSI designation and subsequently applied for a Title V grant.

In the fall of 2010, Angelo State University was awarded an HSI grant for $629,968, the first installment of a five-year, $3,218,334 Title V grant scheduled to run through 2015. That was the largest Department of Education grant up until that time for ASU. Receiving the initial HSI designation qualified ASU to apply for other HSI grants as well.

This past October, ASU in collaboration with the Howard County Junior College District received a second HSI grant, a $1,177,817 Title III award from the Department of Education to increase the number of students, especially Hispanic and low-income students, completing degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

After a successful first year of funding, ASU and Howard College stand to gain an additional $3,972,650 over the next four federal fiscal years, bringing the total grant to $5,000,047, split $3,186,957 for ASU and $3,813,080 for Howard.

Joe Muñoz, special assistant to the president for multicultural initiatives and director of ASU’s Multicultural Center, is project director of ASU’s first HSI grant.

“The main focus of the grant when it was written was to support students,” Muñoz said. “We have so many students in remedial classes, both English and math, that we wanted to better address their needs by expanding our efforts in tutoring and supplemental instruction. Our goal is to create a coherent, unified program that will enhance our retention and ultimately increase our graduation rates.”

Dr. Ynez Valerio, ASU’s vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, said, “The grant is called a ‘strengthening institution’ grant, allowing ASU to reach out to communities in our service area and to provide encouragement and support services to all students as they move toward graduation.”

So, first-year HSI grant monies were used to renovate, consolidate and provide the technology for both tutoring and online faculty training. The grant allowed ASU to double its tutoring space, hire five new tutors, provide applicable training to almost two dozen faculty members and purchase a software package and service named ALEKS, an acronym for Assessment and E-Learning in Knowledge Spaces, to help with remedial math delivery.

As a result, the new Academic Resource Center has been centrally located on the third floor of the Porter Henderson Library to consolidate the Writing Center, Math Lab, tutoring and Supplemental Instruction.

“These are important steps,” Muñoz said, “to help ensure that our students, many of whom are first-generation or Hispanic or low-income students, have a successful college experience, and by successful we mean completing their degrees.”

The HSI monies are also used for outreach beyond the campus to preach the importance of a college education to Hispanics and first-generation students. HSI outreach coordinator Isabel Carrillo travels throughout Texas promoting higher education to K-12 students and their families in venues ranging from schools to churches to camps. Once first-generation students enroll at ASU, HSI programs such as Raising and Meeting Standards, or RAMS, help them transition to college life and ultimately succeed.

Wrote one RAMS participant in his evaluation, “I have learned about the many resources that ASU has to offer. For many first-generation students coming to college, it is a totally different experience. I did not know anything about the procedures to follow as a freshman in college, but as part of the program I learned tips on how to study, manage my time wisely and get to know new people as well. So far, the first-generation RAMS helped me to not feel lost in this new college environment and gave me the tools to prepare myself for college.”

Valerio said, “HSI has created the opportunity to boldly proclaim that student success and achievement are mainstays of the ASU experience. It has bolstered numerous support services and it has helped solidify the new division of student affairs and enrollment management. As for its legacy, students will embrace the notion that they can succeed in college and in life, that they can make a difference and that ASU is a community that cares about them holistically.”

Just as the initial HSI grant has an outreach component, so does the HSI-STEM - continued on page 51.
When Hispanic students arrive at Angelo State University, they find the Association of Mexican American Students (AMAS) ready to welcome them with open arms. An ASU student organization for more than 30 years and one of the largest on campus, AMAS has built a tradition of bringing Hispanic students to Angelo State, enabling students to succeed at a comforting and supportive experience, said Dr. John Klingemann, ASU assistant faculty leader.

“AMAS functions as a family that, in the biological sense and in the sense of the ASU community,” said Dr. John Klingemann, ASU assistant faculty leader. “It is about family and friends in the biological sense and in the sense of the ASU community.”

In addition to Hispanic students, the rest of the ASU community also benefits from AMAS activities. Members are highly visible participants in many campus events, including Discover ASU, student organization fairs, Rambunctious Weekend and athletic contests. Members also serve as RAMbassadors, SOAR leaders and student government representatives.

“They are plugged into campus,” Valle said. “In the four years I have been here, I have thoroughly enjoyed every year working with them.”

“They are a subgroup for men, Hermanos de AMAS, created to form a brotherhood and help reverse the negative trend of young Hispanic men not going to college.”

“They are very close family-wise,” Martinez said, “so they find it hard to help their family and go to school. When their family does not see how going to school is helping out, it is hard for them to keep going. We want to fill in for that family support group because we need Latino men in higher education.”

In addition to recruiting more Hispanic male students, AMAS hopes to also reach out to even younger students and get them thinking about a college education well ahead of time.

“We want to go to the middle schools,” Martinez said. “Although it isn’t too late for people in high school to decide to go to college, we want to have more of an alliance with middle and elementary schools. It is never too early to discuss college and, because some students are thinking about it at the last minute in high school, they feel overwhelmed.”

Throughout all of their efforts, the basic premise for AMAS members remains constant, to provide a welcoming atmosphere and positive influence for all of ASU’s Hispanic students. One example of an AMAS success story is graduate student Vincent Perez, former AMAS president and 2011-12 student involvement representative.

“Manos de AMAS, created to form a brotherhood and help reverse the negative trend of young Hispanic men not going to college.”

“They helped me focus my life on the direction that I wanted to go, which is in higher education,” Perez said. “Many students go through the same barriers that I went through, like homesickness, missing friends and family, needing love and care pass away or becoming seriously ill, and going through relationship issues. AMAS helped me get through all those tough times, and if AMAS had not been there for me when I needed them, I’m not sure that I would be the person I am today.”

“One joined AMAS and decided to run for president,” he added, “I worked to get my grades up because I had to lead by example. I saw all of these people coming in from high school, and the people I led at one time are now leading other people. I like to see that.”

AMAS faculty leader Klingemann had a similar experience as an undergraduate at Sul Ross State University, where he was a member and later an officer in the Spanish Club. He understands the benefits of having a campus support group and is helping the next generation of Hispanic students.

“The time I spent in that organization taught me many skills,” Klingemann said, “but most importantly, I learned the value of an organization having a positive impact in the lives of under graduates. AMAS has grown exponentially due to student dedication and success.”

For additional insight into the Latino influence on Angelo State, check out “Driving Growth,” “All in the Family,” “A Generation of Possibilities” and “The Business of Trade” at www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine
by Preston Lewis

**Ironclad Optimism**

**One hot day** while his mother was doing the family ironing, Joe Muñoz happened to point out that she was not getting the crease just right in his pants, an important sartorial detail for her Lake View High School son. “She sat the iron down, handed me my pants and never ironed another pair for me, no warning, no probation,” Muñoz recalled. “I’m just glad I didn’t complain about her cooking or I would’ve starved.”

The lesson in gratitude took, and today Muñoz is grateful to have worked at ASU under the past three presidents and to have accumulated more titles than will fit on a university business card. He is senior executive assistant to the president and assistant to the president for multicultural initiatives. He is the project director for ASU’s Hispanic Serving Institution grant. Additionally, he is a lecturer in the College of Business and de facto legal counsel for the university.

“I feel like I am one of the most blessed individuals on the face of the Earth. I really feel that way,” Muñoz said, “and I was thinking about why. How did I get here? I think my experience is all positive and there were a lot of factors. I think the most important was family; we had a strong family.”

In addition to his parents, Muñoz grew up with four brothers and two sisters. His father worked most of his life at a filling station, typically laboring six days a week, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Meanwhile, Muñoz’s mother stayed at home until her youngest child started school, then she worked in the cafeteria. “I mean, at a time when you are trying to develop your self-esteem and you’re 10, 11, 12 years old,” Muñoz remembered, “they never embarrassed me. They just said it was time for me to go help in the cafeteria, so I got to the point where other kids who didn’t have to work, thought they wanted to go work in the cafeteria. I mean, at a time when you are trying to develop your self-esteem and you’re 10, 11, 12 years old, these teachers were just outstanding, especially since I was sometimes the only Hispanic in class.”

For Muñoz, those final years of grade school were nurturing times and helped prepare him for junior and then senior high. After he got his high school diploma, he considered joining the Army, primarily because he wanted to differentiate himself from his older brothers who had all gone to college. Those were the Vietnam years, and his mother asked him just to try college for a semester and then decide whether or not to enlist. He found he enjoyed the Angelo State experience and went on to get his degree in elementary education, planning to become an elementary school principal in a low-income, high-minority neighborhood.

Right after graduation, he worked as a substitute teacher, then an older brother happened to mention how much he loved cooking or I would’ve starved.”

Every job I have had has been better than the one that I left, and the one that I left was incredible. I mean, I have the best job on campus now, even though I wear so many hats.”

With such a positive attitude, Muñoz looks back with gratitude on his experience as a Hispanic in San Angelo.

“I grew up with nearly all Anglos, and I had this tremendous result from it,” Muñoz said. “I had nothing but positive coming out of it, though I can understand where some minorities might not have had a beneficial outcome. For me, it was tremendous, really.”

Excerpt, of course, he had to iron his own pants.
As a young girl growing up in the barrio on the south side of the Interstate in Ozona, Leonor Peña Constancio looked forward to the start of school each year because it meant she got her annual pair of new shoes. By the end of the school year, however, the newness had worn off and holes had appeared in the toes of the shoes that could not contain her growing young feet.

“During those days, I was so embarrassed when I sat in front of people,” Constancio said, “that I always tried to cover my feet.”

Despite her impoverished roots, Constancio used her drive to carry her to the big city of San Angelo, where today she works as a publications assistant in ASU’s Office of Communications and Marketing, designing everything from the covers of the graduate and undergraduate catalogs to the commencement programs. She is president of the American Advertising Federation of San Angelo (AAF-SA), which named her Member of the Year in 2011.

In many ways, how far she has come is much greater than the 82 miles between Ozona and San Angelo. And she wants to go farther, working as president of the missing piece of her professional career, a college diploma.

A degree was the farthest thing from her mind growing up in Ozona. Her mother suffered chronic depression after losing both a son and daughter, each barely a year old. Her absentee, alcoholic father worked out of town and out of state in the oil business, indirectly sending money to help out. Her maternal grandmother and the Catholic Church became the childhood anchors for her, her brother and her sister.

“My grandmother, who spoke no English, dedicated her whole life to raising us; she never had a life of her own,” Constancio said. “She set the path for my brother and me to look to God for anything because she was very devout. I never felt poor because she made us go to church. She helped inspire our spirituality. As kids, we were worried about our mother and we took care of each other. My brother was the male figure and he was only a year older than me. My grandmother depended on him to take care of his two sisters. Though the moral foundation was there, the economic foundation was missing.

“We didn’t have much in the way of things,” Constancio recalled. “We were those people the church always took care of at Christmas. Honestly, I never really knew I was poor because everybody around me was the same.”

But by the n°1 grade, she realized she wanted more than her family could provide, especially when she saw friends down the street going out to eat and she couldn’t join them because they didn’t have the money. Even though she was a shy tomboy, she took a waitress job at El Chato’s in Ozona and worked there until the summer after she graduated from high school.

“When I first started there, I had never eaten at a restaurant,” Constancio said. “The closest I came to a restaurant was when my dad came home and bought a little white bag of hamburgers. I didn’t know people went out to eat every day.”

The job transformed her.

“My former boss told me when I started,” said Constancio, dropping her chin, “that I was walking around like this, with my head down too shy to look at people. By the time I left, he said he couldn’t shut me up. I credit working in a restaurant for losing my shyness. I met a lot of people.”

Additionally, she earned a paycheck and the first discretionary money she had ever had.

“One of the very first things I bought myself with my very first paycheck,” said Constancio, “was the album ‘Born Late’ by Shaun Cassidy. He was my teen idol. The funny part is that I didn’t own a record player. When I got my first one, I bought it anyway, because I knew one day I would. I still have that album.”

Beyond an occasional whim purchase, Constancio said, “I didn’t have anywhere to go or anywhere to spend money. By the time I quit the restaurant, I had saved enough money to leave and continue my education.”

Her grandmother, who had raised and nurtured Constancio and her siblings, was against that idea.

“When I was a senior in high school,” Constancio recalled, “I was telling my grandmother I wanted to go on to school. She said, ‘you’re not going anywhere. You’re staying right here.’ She wasn’t educated, nor was my mother, who dropped out in 10th grade. My father only had a third-grade education. My grandmother just thought I needed to get married. I was the female and expected to stay home.”

Instead, Constancio moved to San Angelo, earning a grant to enroll at American Commercial College and attending classes 6-9 p.m. weekdays for a year.

“I probably could have gotten a grant to ASU,” Constancio said, “but I had no knowledge about college opportunities.”

Within two weeks of arriving in San Angelo, she took a job at Quick Quality Printing as a receptionist, learning the elements of the printing trade, including design and production. She was later hired by Rangel Printing, where she ultimately became office manager. While there, she caught the eye of a customer – Arturo Constancio – who came in to order some business cards and ultimately arranged an introduction to Miss Peña. They would later marry and have a son, Levi, now a senior at the University of Texas at El Paso.

“One of the things that attracted me to Arturo,” said Constancio, “was his family. His family was limitless. I love the bigness of his family. There’s so many of them.”

With a young son, she began to look for a job with better benefits and became an account executive with Newton/Taylor Publishing Co., which printed school yearbooks nationally and offered her the opportunity to travel and broaden her horizons. When Taylor Publishing moved its operation to Dallas, Constancio worked at Company Printing before starting at ASU in 2007.

“Printing is all I’ve ever known professionally,” Constancio said. “I’ve watched it evolve in my experience from a walk-in service for typing letters to typeset- ting on a DTP system, from carbon paper to computer software and the design programs we have now. It’s all about creating things and having dreams, and I’m the biggest dreamer there is.”

And despite her success, such as winning the 2011 AAF-SA Addy Award for best overall design for a University Police Department banner, one dream remained unfulfilled.

“I took a short cut after high school because it was right for me at that time, and it was my means to move out of poverty,” Constancio said. “I was successful in taking care of myself, but I always want more. I always had that regret that I didn’t have that degree.”

In addition to her full-time ASU work schedule, Constancio is taking classes part time and is a third of the way to completing her bachelor’s degree at the university.

“Right now I have years and years of professional experience and talent, a strong work ethic and anything an employer would look for, except I don’t have this one thing – a college degree – that would complete the package. It’s like that hole in my shoe.”

by Preston Lewis

School Shoes

TAPESTRY OF LIFE
Road to Success

**Distance** is only one of the obstacles Angelo State University senior Hector Romo has had to overcome on his winding road to success. Add in English proficiency and income to the distance equation, and Romo a decade ago would have been a longshot to become ASU’s student body president for 2011-12. A native of Torreón, Mexico, about 600 miles south of San Angelo, Romo and his family hopscotched their way north during his childhood until eventually settling in Veribest, a farming community just south-east of San Angelo. Those multiple moves also helped Romo overcome another obstacle — separation from his father.

“The main reason I came here was that my dad has always lived here,” Romo said. “My family lived in Torreón, and we wouldn’t see my dad except once or twice every couple of months.”

Along the way to the farm in Veribest where his dad worked, Romo’s family first moved to Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, and then right across the border to Del Rio. It was in Acuña that Romo overcame another obstacle, the English language.

“I started learning English between sixth and seventh grade,” Romo said, “because I wanted to play the ‘Legend of Zelda’ video game. I already knew most of the English they were teaching in Acuña because of that game and from reading English dictionaries.”

By honing his English skills, Romo thrived in Del Rio and then Veribest, where he graduated as valedictorian of his high school class. While living in Del Rio, he had planned to attend a vocational school in Mexico and major in computer science. But, Veribest’s proximity to Angelo State prompted his family to have him check out what ASU had to offer.

“Even though I wasn’t really thinking about going to ASU,” he said, “I went to Discover ASU and took a tour. The guide pointed out the Student Government Office and I thought, ‘that’s cool, but it’s never going to be for me.’”

Romo thought the cost of a U.S. college education put attending ASU out of his reach, but instead, it became just one more obstacle to overcome. He applied for all the scholarships he could find and received several, including Carr Academic and LetGrand scholarships, which helped fund his education along with federal Pell grants and student loans.

“I got one scholarship for $5,000 and almost cried because I was so happy,” he said.

A biology major, Romo was elected president of the Student Government Association in 2011 as a senior. He hopes to go to medical school after he finishes a Master of Education in student development/leadership in higher education. He also hopes the story of his long road to success can be an example for other young Hispanics to follow.

“If they want it,” he said, “they can get it. People in Del Rio told me how expensive college is in the U.S. and how difficult it is to get into college. With a lot of information and using available resources, I did it and they can, too.”

Romo also has some advice for those who do decide to take up that challenge.

“Seek help,” he said. “A lot of Hispanic students are shy or proud and say they can do it on their own. I admit their thinking, but I couldn’t do it on my own, so I sought help. I would say, ‘Don’t give up, even when those closest to you are telling you that you can’t do it. Just seek help and don’t forget where you come from.’”

**Proximity,** at least by Texas standards, brought Margaret Peña Mata to Angelo State University as a first-generation college student. Talent, by any standard, has kept her on campus since then.

As ASU’s director of purchasing, Mata oversees thousands of purchases annually. The goods she signs off on run the gamut from paperclips to laboratory equipment, and the services she okayes range from recruiting consultants to makeup artists for an ASU Magazine photo shoot in Miami, Fla. And before she approves any purchase, she has to make certain each falls within the acceptable parameters of the hundreds of rules she must follow, depending upon the source of the funds and the applicable state and federal regulations.

It is a complex and often thankless job that is miles away — 160 miles to be exact — from her childhood on a Val Verde County ranch where her father worked as a hand for many years before moving his family to Comstock, a community of less than 400 residents about 30 miles northwest of Del Rio.

“I loved the tranquility of ranch life, the peace and quiet, or as much peace and quiet as you could get with a family of six kids,” Mata recalled. “I was in the sixth or seventh grade when we moved to Comstock. I call it a town, but it was still country.”

Whether in town or on the ranch, the Peña family led a modest life.

“I didn’t have much growing up,” Mata said. “It was a really good Christmas when we got a toy rather than something like socks. It was always a neat thing when we could afford to go to Del Rio to a drive-in movie, buy a box of chicken and sodas, then go watch the movie as a family. That was a splurge for us.”

What was plentiful, though, was the parental love and support which nurtured Mata’s interests in reading and in academics. Her mother, whose schooling went through the ninth grade, and her father, who made it through 11th grade, were both encouraging.

“They always stressed how important an education was,” Mata said. “My mother would always tell us, especially the girls, ‘You’ve got to be able to work. Just because you are married, you’ve got to be able to survive if you happen to wind up on your own.’”

After graduating from high school, Mata chose ASU because it was large enough to get a good education, but not too big as to be intimidating for a freshman from Comstock. Too, some of her friends were headed to school in San Angelo, and without a car, she would need a way home on occasion.

She arrived on campus and worked first in Runnels Hall and her final two years in the Purchasing Office as she was accused to work. The academic transition, however, was not as easy.

“My first semester was rough and I didn’t know what to do,” Mata said. “I remember writing to my mom and apologizing for not being able to hack it and for wanting to drop out. Mom and Dad talked me into staying.”

Her older brothers, who joined the workforce after high school, chipped in to help Mata finish her degree. In 1984, she earned her B.B.A., becoming the first member of her family to earn a college diploma. Her two younger sisters followed in her footsteps, each furthering her education.

After two years away from ASU, she returned in 1986 to work in the Purchasing Office. She was named director of purchasing in 1994.

“I enjoy the challenge of learning new processes,” Mata said. “I’m always tasked with trying to find a better way to do some-thing. That’s why it doesn’t get old, and I enjoy working with the staff I have. That’s always an enjoyment where you have a good staff, one that knows the processes and is willing to learn that always makes my job easier.”

The job, though, is one she would never have had if she had let her challenging first year at ASU intimidate her.

“I think all students need to set a goal and strive to reach that goal,” Mata said. “It’s not always going to be easy, but you can’t give up at the first hurdle you reach. Actually, if I had done that, I probably would not have finished my education nor have this job.”
Embracing Cultures

Maria de los Santos Onofre-Madrid teaches more than just Spanish to her students at Angelo State University.

An assistant professor of Spanish, Onofre-Madrid believes teaching the context of Spanish customs and traditions is just as important as teaching the language. To that end, she engages her students in discussions about food, clothing, music, geography and other cultural topics.

“My favorite part about teaching at ASU,” she said, “is being able to teach others my language and talk to them not only about my culture, but the cultures in other Spanish-speaking countries. I like being able to make an impact on students and motivate them to learn the language, culture and history.”

Students also have the opportunity to experience Spanish culture firsthand by accompanying Onofre-Madrid on her study abroad trips to Spain through the ASU Center for International Studies. She took students in 2011 and is taking more this summer to the Instituto Español Muralla de Ávila in Ávila, Spain.

For her efforts on behalf of her students, Onofre-Madrid received a 2010 Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award.

However, before she began teaching new language and cultures to her students, she had to learn those same lessons herself.

A native of Morelos, Coahuila, Mexico, Onofre-Madrid spoke only Spanish when she moved with her family to Texas as an eight-year-old.

“We first went to Iraan,” she said, “where I had my best experience in the classroom with children who were all Anglos. My brother and I were the only Hispanics and we didn’t know English at all, but we had a teacher who was bilingual and was very helpful working on our English skills. Also, two children showed us things on the playground and would tell us what they were in English, so we also learned from them.”

Her next couple of stops on the road to Angelo State were not so positive. In Eldorado, she and other Hispanic students were sent to the school nurse’s office during recess for speaking Spanish on the playground. After Eldorado, she moved to a segregated Hispanic-only school in Sonora.

“We thought, ‘They only want us to be with Hispanics,’” she said. “We can’t be with Anglos! We couldn’t understand that. Coming from Mexico, you didn’t even hear of discrimination at all. We were there for four days and went back to Mexico for a while before my dad found us a place in Chihuahua.”

It was in Chihuahua that Onofre-Madrid flourished, graduating as valedictorian of her high school class. Her school counselor and superintendent then advised her to become a U.S. citizen because it would help her get into college. She did that in 1973 and went on to get a bachelor’s degree from ASU, earn a master’s degree from the University of Texas at Arlington, and conduct doctoral studies at UT-Austin.

She was studying for the U.S. citizenship exam that really helped Onofre-Madrid embrace the culture of her new homeland, including her favorite part, the singing of the national anthem.

“My phone has the national anthem for the ringtone,” Onofre-Madrid said. “I also like to be on time when I go to sporting events so I can listen to the national anthem. I’m very proud to be an American citizen and for having to work to get it.”

With equal pride in her Spanish heritage and American citizenship, Onofre-Madrid employs both in her classes to teach her students much more than just a new language.

At the age of six when he began picking cotton in the fields of South Texas, Roberto Garza got a preview of the hard life that awaited him without a good education.

Now a member of the Angelo State University political science faculty, Garza was born in Comales, Mexico, near Rio Grande City on the Texas-Mexico border. He came to Texas as a toddler with his family to join a migratory farm workers’ caravan to California. But, when his father fell ill, the family was stranded in Kingsville with little money and few prospects. Garza and his three younger siblings then watched their parents struggle to make ends meet as laborers in their new surroundings.

“My parents paid a heavy price when they migrated to this country to create a better life for their kids,” he said. “They essentially decoupled themselves from their family and their whole social network, and became isolated.”

Garza soon joined his parents in the fields. After five grueling summers of picking cotton, he switched to delivering advertising circulars door-to-door. Next he worked at a drive-in movie theater, cooking in the snack bar and serving as a handyman. None of those jobs promised much of a future, though, and certainly were not what his parents envisioned for him when they immigrated to Texas.

“If I wanted a better life, education was the only route for me,” he said. “That’s why I decided to stay in school.”

Realizing that, Garza joined a program at Kingsville High School called “Upward Bound,” which acquainted students from low-income backgrounds with the possibility of going to college. Then, a representative from a group called “FOCUS” came looking for students willing to go to college out of state.

Garza had planned to attend the local Texas A&I University, now Texas A&M-Kingsville, but the FOCUS visit and a full scholarship offer from the University of Denver changed his mind.

After starting at UD as a chemical engineering major, Garza soon tired of the chemistry and accompanying math classes. A friend suggested law school, so he switched his major to political science and set out on his new course.

“I was accepted at George Washington University and became a lawyer,” Garza said. “I practiced law in Corpus Christi as a prosecutor, but I wasn’t very successful given my low conviction numbers.”

Dissatisfied with the direction of his law career, Garza returned to school and earned a master’s degree in sociology and political science at Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales in Mexico City. He followed that with master’s and doctoral degrees in political science from Purdue University. Garza came to ASU in 1988 to teach in a new international studies master’s program created at the behest of Goodfellow Air Force Base.

“They needed a faculty member who could teach numerous courses in the subfields of political science,” Garza said.

While he now teaches U.S. government courses, comparative politics and international relations courses, Garza maintains a distinct interest in Latin American politics and serves on ASU’s E. James Holland-Roy A. Harrell Jr. Foreign Affairs Speakers Program committee.

“The friendship I developed with Roy Harrell, promoting the speakers program and getting to meet ambassadors and diplomats are some of my favorite things about working at ASU,” Garza said.

Another of his favorite things is ASU’s small classes, which allow him to truly engage with his students.

“I like to encounter students who appreciate your interaction, involvement and interest in them,” Garza said.

He often tells those students that their future can be anything they want it to be, and inspires them with the example of that six-year-old boy dragging a cotton sack in South Texas.
When Mary Wilson’s family moved from Chicago to Del Rio, the culture shock was intense for the 16-year-old. All her life, Wilson’s parents had worked hard to pay for her to attend a private Catholic school. The student body had been diverse – so much so that the concept of being singled out because of ethnicity was foreign to her.

“It wasn’t until I got to Texas that I realized I was Hispanic,” Wilson said. “Before that, it wasn’t something I focused on.” Unfortunately, the other Hispanic students in Del Rio did focus on her. “I was conscious of being Hispanic,” Wilson said. “Before the time, he had no female deputies, but he jailed and launched her career in law enforcement. Three years later, the sheriff appointed her about becoming a deputy. At the time, he had no female deputies, but he had to ask Wilson twice before she accepted. “I was afraid I wouldn’t be able to handle the job,” Wilson said, “but the sheriff had full confidence in me. I ended up passing everything.”

Wilson’s job as a deputy included stints directing traffic after fender benders and providing security during basketball games, among other duties. But, the road to her current success was not an easy one. When she graduated from high school, Wilson had to put college plans on hold because her father had been injured and her family, which included her younger sister, needed her to get a job. After a few years working in a shoe factory, Wilson became a Val Verde County jailer and launched her career in law enforcement. Three years later, the sheriff approached her about becoming a deputy. At the time, he had no female deputies, but he had to ask Wilson twice before she accepted.

“I was afraid I wouldn’t be able to handle the job,” Wilson said, “but the sheriff had full confidence in me. I ended up passing everything.”

Wilson’s job as a deputy included stints as a juvenile investigator, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) instructor and several security officer positions. It also introduced her to her now-former husband, who was a city police officer.

“The relationship was hard for Wilson’s parents because her husband was Caucasian, but they gave the couple their blessing anyway. Wilson’s parents are close to her heart because of all the important life skills they have shared with her. Her father taught her home improvement techniques that have enabled her to be more independent, and her mother homed social skills that have helped many times throughout her career. The one area where they clashed was their ideas about traditional family roles, like women being responsible for all household chores.

“I would tell my mom, ‘I can’t be like you,’” Wilson said. “My family knew I was hard-headed and stubborn from a young age.”

When Wilson and her husband divorced, the break was so amicable that when he joined the ASU Police Department, he told her about other openings. She joined the department in October of 2007.

Wilson loves the friendly campus environment and the variety in her daily work. The people on campus are what make a difference for Wilson because she considers them like family, with everyone pitching in and helping out when needed. She also appreciates that the university is racially blended.

“Everybody is so different, it’s not cookie-cutter,” Wilson said. “It reminds me of Chicago.”

From Yankee to Texan

Though a relative newcomer to Texas, Adriana Balcorta is an unflagging supporter of the Lone Star State’s new generation of Hispanic college students.

Born and raised in Mexico, Balcorta first came to Angelo State as an exchange student from Tecnológico de Monterrey in Chihuahua. She then transferred to ASU in 2004 and earned both her bachelor’s (2005) and master’s (2009) degrees. One of the first things she realized was that, even this close to Mexico, the young Hispanic culture is very different.

“In Mexico, it is still more family-oriented,” Balcorta said. “For lunch, you go home to eat with your family. It was a big adjustment for me over here to see everyone so free. Once you finish high school, everyone kind of goes their own way and kids leave home. In Mexico, you don’t leave home until you get married.”

“Having college roommates who had already been living on their own for awhile was also very different for me,” she added. “It was the first time I had ever been away from home.”

Growing up in an upper-middle class family, Balcorta had a father who was an engineer for DuPont and who expected her to get a college education. But as a program specialist in Hispanic education, Balcorta had a father who was an engineer for DuPont and who expected her to get a college education. But as a program specialist in Hispanic education, Balcorta had a father who was an engineer for DuPont and who expected her to get a college education. But as a program specialist in Hispanic education, Balcorta had a father who was an engineer for DuPont and who expected her to get a college education. But as a program specialist in Hispanic education, Balcorta had a father who was an engineer for DuPont and who expected her to get a college education. But as a program specialist in Hispanic education, Balcorta had a father who was an engineer for DuPont and who expected her to get a college education.

“When proud parents tell me that I gave their son or daughter the help they needed, that is also very rewarding.”

Another rewarding experience for Balcorta is seeing how Texas Hispanics are working to fit into the great melting pot of American society while still holding onto their Mexican heritage.

“I came to the U.S. and saw all these Hispanics flying their Mexican flags,” Balcorta said. “That is not something that is done much in Mexico. You hardly ever see it over there. I think it is a way for many Hispanics to stay in touch with their homeland even though they live here now, by having a flag in their car or in their room.”

“My parents came for a visit and noticed it right away,” she added. “They said, ‘We don’t do that in Chihuahua.’ Mexicans away from home express their patriotism more openly. Some of my friends even used to have big Mexican flags in their college dorm rooms here. Now that I am far from home, I understand them. When I hear the Mexican national anthem, it strikes me differently from when I was home and sang it every Monday in school.”
Karli Maxey entered the Angelo State athletic training room for the first time with fear, but continues going back – albeit more than she would like – feeling at ease.

“It’s not exciting to go into the athletic training room, but they do a great job about comforting you and reassuring you that you can get back out there and start playing again,” said the Rambelles soccer player who has dealt with injuries to her feet, knees and shoulder as well as a concussion in her three seasons at ASU. “You’re hurt, but you’re there with athletic trainers who care about you.”

Troy Hill has been in the position of head athletic trainer at ASU since 2003 and in charge of creating the positive athletic training environment for athletes such as Maxey. Previously, he had worked four years as an assistant trainer after two years of graduate experience and three as an undergraduate assistant. Overall, he estimates he has worked more than 600 ASU athletic events, but he cannot begin to guess how many practices he has attended in his various ASU roles since arriving on campus from his hometown of Bangs.

With more than 130 athletes visiting the Junell Center facilities daily and some 13,000 treatments administered a year, Hill is rarely without an opportunity to practice his craft. His staff consists of two other full-time athletic trainers, three graduate students and 25-30 student assistants. Athletic trainers are recognized by the American Medical Association as allied health professionals and are required to pass an exam to gain national board certification. The National Athletic Trainers’ Association defines athletic training as encompassing the prevention, diagnosis and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations and disabilities. The ASU athletic training program has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education for eight years.

Hill and his full-time staff members work with student assistants to provide care for athletes and develop them as future trainers. While Hill is the program’s leader, he has developed a team around him that he and the Angelo State coaches trust. Drawing from his own experiences as a former undergraduate and graduate assistant, Hill understands the demands placed on the students employed in his program and emphasizes working with the athletic training assistants to make sure they are handling their school work and progressing as athletic trainers.

“I can’t be at every practice, so that’s why it’s so important that we have a great group here,” Hill said. “They are still in the process of developing their careers, so it’s interesting to see how they handle it when they’re out there by themselves and they are able to figure it out and help the athletes. We have graduated around 60 to 70 students in the past 10 years who have advanced in the profession.”

Jaclyn Wood and Andrea Freymiller are full-time assistants in the department. Wood, who came to ASU to work full time as an assistant athletic trainer in 2009 after earning her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from West Texas A&M, enjoys being a part of the programs she works with on a daily basis. She spent her fall with the volleyball team as it made its way to the NCAA Division II Tournament and saw the women’s basketball team through its Lone Star Conference Tournament appearance.

“Being a part of the atmosphere of competition on a daily basis and helping the athletes perform at their best is my favorite part of the job,” Wood said. “You’re out there as an athletic trainer making a difference in their lives by helping them overcome an injury or working through pain. We are always there for them when they need to get taped or need ice, but we are also there to make sure that they know that we believe in them.”

Shannon Scott is one of the students who will be making a career in athletic training after graduating from ASU in May. Scott, a San Angelo native, earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from ASU while working for Hill in the athletic training department. He worked with baseball and soccer along with numerous other assignments along the way. After graduation Scott plans to apply for athletic training positions at high schools.

“The hands-on experience I’ve gotten here has given me opportunities to understand the profession,” he said. “You are on your school assignments and still enjoy your life, but I feel confident that working here has prepared me for my job.”

With grueling schedules, Angelo State athletes are constantly pushing their bodies to the limits during their seasons. Baseball and softball teams usually play more than 50 games a season. Basketball and volleyball teams play twice a week or more, and football’s physical demands are always a concern. Keeping the athletes safe and helping them recover from injuries remains the priority during their respective seasons.

“Some of the main challenges are coverage of events with the addition of sports, maintaining a balance between work and home life, and getting people to understand that athletic training is an allied health profession just like nursing and physical therapy,” Hill said.

The defining role of athletic trainers remains based in their therapeutic knowledge, but the intangibles of trust and friendship are what drive the Angelo State athletic trainers on a daily basis.

“There are relationships that are built because you’ve helped them when they were down and you got them back on the field,” Hill said. “That’s what this job is all about for me.”
### 2012 Rams Football

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#### Rams in Cowboys Stadium

Make plans to attend the Angelo State Rams game and support the Rams at noon Sept. 15 in Cowboys Stadium. Ticket prices and details are available at www.angelosports.com/LSCFootballFestival.

A full schedule of Friday and game day activities will be posted on the website. Additional information is available by contacting the ASU Athletics Office at 325 942 2264.

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**As participants** in the 2012 Lone Star Football Festival, the Angelo State Rams along with their accompanying fans will have the opportunity this September to take in a football game in the Taj Mahal of sports arenas, Cowboys Stadium in Arlington.

At noon Saturday, Sept. 15, ASU will tangle with two-time NCAA Division II national champion Valdosta State from the Gulf South Conference on the field beneath the world’s largest HD-quality video board. The game will kick off the second triple header of Lone Star Conference games that Friday and Saturday in the $1.2 billion stadium.

Second-year ASU head football coach Will Wagner said, “I think it is a great opportunity for our kids to play in an NFL stadium. To play in that type of stadium and the atmosphere that the game brings along with the amount of kids we have from the Metroplex area is exciting.”

“We need to get everybody involved and have as many people as we can at the game to make it a great experience,” he said. “I am excited to get alumni back and get them involved in athletics, and I am excited for Ram football.”

The Dallas-Fort Worth area is a major target for ASU enrollment growth, both for students and student-athletes. The Metroplex exposure will allow prospects and their families from that region to see the Angelo State spirit and how various student organizations, including the Ram Marching Band, Air Force ROTC, the Greeks and others, work together to make a great event beyond the playing field.

A variety of activities, including a Friday evening reception and Saturday’s game, are planned over the weekend for ASU alumni and fans. Tentative prices are $25 for adults and $10 for students for a day pass or $35/$55 for all six games over both days of the festival. Parking is $10 per vehicle.

Details, including ASU headquarters hotel, will be posted at www.angelosports.com/LSCFootballFestival as soon as they are finalized.

Cowboys Stadium is the largest, most technologically advanced sports and entertainment venue in the world. Stadium features include seating for 80,000, expandable to 100,000, plus 300 luxury suites and club seating on multiple levels.

The Valdosta State game will be the third of the 11-game season for the Rams, who open at home Sept. 1 against Western State.

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**Her retirement** at the end of May means Angelo State University Athletic Director Kathleen Branchfield will have free weekends for the first fall in more than three decades. For the university, her departure will mean the loss of an ASU pioneer in women’s athletics.

Branchfield arrived on campus in the fall of 1978 from Seminole High School, where she had been head volleyball coach. Taking over ASU’s volleyball program, Branchfield would retire from coaching 26 years later as one of the top five winningest active coaches in NCAA D-II with 647 wins. She also led the Rambelles to seven league titles, including four consecutive Lone Star Conference crowns from 1982-85, the 1982 title being ASU’s first women’s championship in an LSC sport. She was named the LSC Coach of the Year a league-record eight times.

“As a coach, of course, I’m proud of the competitive success of our volleyball teams,” Branchfield said, “but I’m also proud that 100 percent of our players who participated in our volleyball program for four years earned degrees. I’m also very proud of what our former players have accomplished since graduation. There are many who have been extremely successful as coaches.”

Branchfield was equally successful as an administrator, becoming women’s athletic director in 1982 and overall athletic director in 2004. During her tenure, Branchfield expanded ASU programs to 13 intercollegiate sports, adding softball in 2002, baseball in 2005, women’s golf in 2006, men’s outdoor track and field in 2010. Under her administration, Rambelles teams earned ASU’s first two NCAA national championships with titles in softball in 2004 and in outdoor track and field in 2010. Under her administration, Rambelles teams earned ASU’s first two NCAA national championships with titles in softball in 2004 and in outdoor track and field in 2010.

“As an administrator,” Branchfield said, “I’m proud of the success our teams have enjoyed, but I’m also proud that the majority of our student-athletes are successful academically and proud that our coaches and student-athletes participate in community activities to enhance the experience of children and young adults in San Angelo and the surrounding area.”

Angelo State fans everywhere can take pride that, whatever the outcome on the field or the court, Branchfield continued a campus tradition of managing an athletic program that operated within the rules.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said, “She has run our program with integrity and never lost sight of the fact that our goal was not just to produce winners on the field, but also winners in the classroom and in life.”

Said Branchfield, “We have always tried to do what was right, not what was required or what was demanded, but what was right.”

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**The Right Stuff**

**Football Palace**

[Image]
**Final Lap**

Crystal Ruiz saved her best for last, scoring a personal high 4,008 points and earning a bronze medal in the pentathlon at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships in March.

Disappointed though she was in not winning the gold medal, Ruiz felt the greatest letdown in knowing she would never again wear the Angelo State uniform in competition.

“I take pride in wearing that uniform,” Ruiz said. “I got to wear it and have had great success. I have All-America honors, national titles and had significant personal improvements, and I can’t say enough about what Angelo State has done for me.”

Likewise, Ruiz did a lot for the Rambelles as a key contributor in ASU’s 2010 D-II National Championship in outdoor track and field, as a participant in the Pan American Games in October and as one of the most decorated student-athletes in ASU history.

The addition of indoor track and field to the Rambelles’ menu in 2011 gave the Bandera graduate student two extra years of eligibility in that sport. This year, she automatically qualified for the NCAA D-II Indoor Championships in the pentathlon and earned an at-large bid in the 400-meters event.

Her overall performance earned Ruiz recognition as South Central Region Track and Field Championships in March.

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Defensive Stand

Despite the best defensive showing in almost two decades, the Rams basketball team finished 11-17 with a 4-14 LSC record under head coach Fred Rike.

The team held opponents to 68.7 points per game, which is the lowest since the 1982-83 season, but the Rams managed only 66.1 points of offense a game. The Rams did win nine of their 14 home games and two of three games at neutral sites.

Seniors LaDonn Huckaby and Joey Lenox ended their ASU careers. A versatile player, Huckaby earned All-LSC Honorable Mention honors for the first time in his career. Lenox was a four-year senior known for his sharp skills.

**Young ‘Belles**

The Angelo State women’s basketball team returned to the Lone Star Conference Tournament for the 12th time under head coach Sally Walling Brooks and broke a four-year drought by winning a quarterfinals game in the tourney.

Entering the postseason as a fifth seed, the ‘Belles defeated fourth-seeded Cameron University, 64-57, rallying from a double-digit deficit in the second half. The ‘Belles lost to Tarleton State, 70-51, in the LSC semifinals in Allen and finished the 2011-12 campaign 13-15 overall and 10-10 in the LSC, leaving Brooks eight wins shy of 400 for her career.

Paige Weishuhn, ASU’s lone senior, displayed dominance and leadership on the court for a team that featured seven underclassmen, including five first-year players, on its active 10-member roster. The 6-foot-1 center tied a personal scoring high with 29 points in the ‘Belles’ 70-63 win over No. 1 LSC seed Tarleton State in ASU’s home finale.

Weishuhn, who was named second-team All-LSC, finished as ASU’s leading scorer with 12.8 points per game. She also grabbed 5.9 rebounds per contest. The Wall native ended her career in 97th place on ASU’s all-time scoring list at 1,065 points. She stood third in career points per contest this season, the highest average for a ‘Belles freshman since 2008.

Freshman Haylee Oliver also received post-season honors as LSC Co-Freshman of the Year. The San Saba native averaged 11.2 points per contest this season, the highest average for a ‘Belles freshman since 2008.

**D-II Review**

Angelo State University athletics will remain in NCAA Division II for the foreseeable future after a consultant’s study last fall concluded that the time and resources are not right to pursue Division I status.

ASU initiated the discussion to assess the direction of Rams and Rambelles athletics. The Athletics Department brought in former NCAA president Cedric Dempsey to review ASU’s current competitive and financial position and to assess the department’s future.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said, “As the landscape of intercollegiate athletics is rapidly changing, we feel like the process was a good exercise. We were able to identify both our strengths and some areas of improvement, and now have a better understanding of what it will take to better serve our student-athletes, and campus and area communities.”

Dempsey interviewed university and athletics administrators, ASU coaches, Angelo State Athletic Foundation board members, San Angelo residents and representatives of the Southland Conference.

Additionally, he evaluated financials and toured ASU facilities to gain more clarity into ASU’s current position in athletics.

After the study, Rallo said budget was a primary reason that ASU and the Texas Tech University System determined that a move to Division I was impractical. ASU’s athletic budget currently approaches $4.5 million. By comparison, many Texas institutions in the Division I Southland Conference have operating budgets exceeding $10 million. Since a Division 1 conference invite is required for a move, benchmarking data from the Southland Conference was the most practical comparison. The findings confirmed ASU’s affiliation with the Lone Star Conference.

“We are committed to the Lone Star Conference and to making sure our student-athletes have a great Division II experience,” said ASU Athletic Director Kathleen Brasfield.
Jacki Mays Earl is the fastest female to ever wear a Rambelle track and field uniform, but she may argue her time at Angelo State went a little faster. Four years had passed and it was time to leave, but I wasn’t ready to go.

The Rambelle sprinter first stepped on campus in 1978 and became the first female to qualify for nationals. She left a trail of accolades throughout her career before becoming the Rambelles’ first national champion in the 200-meter dash at the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women National Outdoor Track and Field Championships in 1982. For her accomplishments on the track, Earl was inducted into the 2012 Angelo State Athletic Hall of Honor.

Mike Martin remains the best football coach Pierce Holt ever had, including the ones who guided Holt during his All-Pro NFL career.

That is the tribute Holt gave his former college coach when he introduced Martin for induction to the ASU Athletics Hall of Honor in January.

An essential part of ASU’s football success for more than 30 years, Martin joined the coaching staff in 1972 and stayed through the 2004 season, spending much of that time as defensive coordinator. Throughout his tenure, his defenses were consistently ranked among the top in the Lone Star Conference and often among the best in NCAA Division II. He is the first assistant coach to join the Hall of Honor.

“I’m very humbled by the honor and glad that I was selected,” Martin said. “I’ve never been one for the limelight and have always been behind the scenes, but I’m very appreciative that they chose me. I always coached as hard as I could. I still think I got more out of this than those who played for me.”

Martin joins three of his former defensive players – Holt, Clayton Weishuhn and Greg Stokes – in the Hall of Honor. He coached Rams defenses during the football program’s most successful period that included the 1978 NAIA National Championship, 18 straight winning seasons and multiple NCAA Division II playoff appearances.

“A Angelo State has been a great atmosphere for me and my family,” Martin said. “It was always a super place to work. One of the reasons I chose to never leave was that I wanted to raise my kids in San Angelo. The people here have been great to us. It’s been 40 years now, and I think we’re pretty well sold on the place.”

Out of uncertainty and struggle, sometimes dreams are made.

Former Rams head basketball coach Ed Messbarger harbored numerous doubts while grappling with the decision to uproot his family, move from their longtime home and take over the ASU program in 1978.

“I had spent 15 years at St. Mary’s in San Antonio before I came up here,” he said. “It was a difficult move because we were moving from the big city to San Angelo.”

By the time he retired in 1998, though, Messbarger harbored no doubt that coming to ASU was the right call, a decision that earned him induction into ASU’s Athletics Hall of Honor.

During his 20 years at ASU, Messbarger raked up 605 wins and three Lone Star Conference titles. He was twice named LSC Coach of the Year, in 1984 and 1988. And, it was not just on the basketball court that he found success.

“We were totally amazed and appreciative of everything that happened at Angelo State,” he said. “Not only did the university give me what I needed, the community accepted us, and I am really proud of that.”

ASU was the final stop of Messbarger’s illustrious coaching career that included 605 career victories. He retired with the third-most wins in NCAA Division II and the second-most coaching appearances at any collegiate level. He was inducted into the LSC Hall of Honor in 2006, and is a member of the St. Mary’s, Northwest Missouri State University, Big State Conference and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics halls of fame.

Upon his ASU induction, Messbarger said, “It means a lot. I’ve had a lot of these honors like this, but it means the people have appreciated what you’ve done. That makes it all worthwhile.”
Back on Track

José Flores finally has his life headed in the right direction. The ASU Alumni Association’s 2011 Future Alumni Scholarship is helping Flores work toward a communication degree and his dream of starting a nondenominational ministry in the Kerrville area with his wife, Dana, to minister to the homeless, substance abusers and others who need support. “My wife is a social worker at Shannon Medical Center and loves to help anyone in need,” Flores said, “and I love to reach out to homeless people and help equip them for life.” His connection to those oft-forgotten members of society stems from his own experience. While Flores was never actually homeless, he was certainly transient and often ill-equipped to handle life in Texas after spending his childhood in his native Torreon, Mexico. Those early struggles led to his own substance abuse problems and put his life on a rocky downhill slide.

“People who knew me before say, ‘You don’t even look the same.’ People meet my wife, Dana, and say, ‘He’s completely different.’” After getting sober and graduating from high school, Flores took culinary arts and business classes in San Antonio while managing a restaurant 60 hours a week as he struggled to get his life on track. “It was overwhelming,” he said, “going to school full time and working 60 hours a week. It just wasn’t happening.”

His time as a restaurateur was followed by a year of missionary work as a translator in Oaxaca, Mexico. He returned to Texas to train horses on a ranch near Hunt, and then managed another stay in Mexico working a restaurant 60 hours a week. His hard work helped him get his life on track.

Now about halfway to his bachelor’s degree, Flores is also training horses again, this time for the Mosaic equine therapy program. He is finally at peace and has found purpose in life as he works toward the day when he can help others who struggle as he did.

A Mosaic equine therapy program volunteer, José Flores helps Annie Halson on her horse with assistance from volunteer Terry Wallace.

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Several other significant events happened during Hawkins’ time at ASU. His first son, Ronnie Hawkins III, was born during his senior year. He earned the Commandant’s Award during ROTC Summer Training and, as a result of that recognition, received a full-ride ROTC scholarship. He was also selected as the ROTC corps commander as a senior.

After ASU, Hawkins began an Air Force career that has spanned more than three decades. He has completed assignments with Strategic Air Command, U.S. Air Force Academy, Air Combat Command, Headquarters Pacific Air Force, Headquarters Air Force and Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also served as the deputy chief of staff for communications and information systems for Gen. David Petraeus in Baghdad during the Surge Campaign.

In recognition of his accomplishments, Hawkins was named the ASU Alumni Association’s 2001 Distinguished ROTC Alumnus. When he was promoted to general in 2005, he held his ceremony at ASU because the university means so much to him. As the first person in his family to graduate from college, Hawkins knows he is a role model for ASU students and alumni, and he is happy to share a few words of wisdom.

“Don’t settle for mediocrity,” Hawkins said. “It’s too easy to just get by with little to no effort expended. Write your goals down – your memory fades faster than ink.”

Angelo State University alumna Ronnie D. Hawkins Jr. has found great career success in the U.S. Air Force, but he has never lost sight of where he started.

Hawkins was promoted to lieutenant general in January, making him the highest-ranking graduate of Angelo State’s ROTC program, and is now commander of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). Headquartered at Fort Meade, Md., DISA is a U.S. Department of Defense Combat Support Agency that includes 16,000 military personnel, federal civilians and contractor partners.

Helping pave the way for his success were lessons in leadership, discipline and academic achievement that Hawkins learned at ASU.

“ROTC was the foundational bedrock to my military training,” Hawkins said. “I had the opportunity to gain experience in the leadership laboratory, instead of having to learn through on-the-job training. I still made mistakes, but I also realize just how much experience I gained through my ROTC experience.”

A 1977 ASU graduate, Hawkins earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in computer science. In addition to being a ROTC cadre, he was a member of the Rams track and field teams that won Lone Star Conference titles in 1974, 1975 and 1977.

“I still wear my championship ring from 1974,” Hawkins said.

It was on the track where Hawkins also met someone who remains a key influence in his life today. “Coach David Noble was, and still is, a role model for me for how a man of integrity should take care of and lead his family,” Hawkins said.

The coach even played a role in Hawkins’ proposal and marriage to his high school sweetheart, Maria Garcia. He decided after his freshman year at ASU that he wanted to start his life with Garcia.

“Back then, you had to get permission from the coach, since I was on a track scholarship,” Hawkins said, “and I was more nervous asking Coach Noble than I was asking Maria – go figure!”

Another notable ASU figure in Hawkins’ life came from his classroom experiences.

“The academic rigor has helped me pay attention to detail and look at problems and situations with a critical perspective that has helped me make informed decisions while also considering the second- and third-order effect,” Hawkins said.

“This is especially significant,” Hawkins said. “I was born during the 1950s and ’60s in San Angelo, Texas. We were a poor family, and my parents did the best they could. My parents made sacrifices, and they taught me the value of hard work and being a good person.”

“My dad always taught me that the way I treated others was how others would treat me. We had a good upbringing, and I think that helped me succeed in life. It’s too easy to just get by with little to no effort expended. Write your goals down – your memory fades faster than ink.”

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“A coin-filled mason jar gave Arnold Garcia Jr. the push he needed to attend Angelo State University. Now the editorial page editor for the Austin American-Statesman, Garcia still gets emotional recalling his mother, Bertha, carefully saving change from her lunch money in that jar while working as a machine operator to help the family. By providing a mason jar filled with change to each scholarship recipient, he honors the parents whose sacrifices made his success possible.

Garcia said. “It was about $50, which back then, meant the world to his parents. In addition to a traditional scholarship at ASU as a symbol of gratitude and honor, a retired teacher and education administrator.

Through his endowed ASU scholarship, Garcia gives students the same advantage he had. He has also been an active alumnus. He has completed assignments with the courthouse, state agencies, Texas prison system and school district before being promoted to assistant city editor, assignments editor, metro editor, political columnist and now editorial page editor. He has also served as both a juror and as the chair of a jury for the Pulitzer Prize, journalism’s most prestigious award.

Garcia’s two children have also found occupational success through education. His daughter, Dr. Jennifer Garcia Jetton, is on the faculty at the University of Iowa Medical School, and his son, Teodoro, is a U.S. Army first lieutenant. Garcia’s wife, Vida Marcet, is an Army captain. Their son, Teodoro, Jr., is a U.S. Air Force first lieutenant. Garcia’s wife, Vida Marcet, is a retired teacher and education administrator.

Those types of experiences spurred Garcia’s parents to push for his continued education. He fondly recalls his time as a history/government major at ASU, particularly classes with Drs. Walter Noecke and Dempsey Watkins.

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By Roy Ivey

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CLASS notes

1978
T. Dean McInturf, a certified financial planner and first vice president-investment officer for Wells Fargo in San Angelo, has been designated a member of the firm’s Premier Advisors Program, a distinction reflecting his achievement of professional success through a consistent commitment to client service. McInturf has been a financial advisor with Wells Fargo for 20 years. He earned his bachelor’s degree from ASU and currently serves on the board of the ASU Alumni Association.

1983
Sandy Sandquist has been named senior director of global business risk strategies for Luminescent Inc., in Bloomington, Minn. He previously led global security at General Mills and, before that, at Pillsbury. Sandquist received a bachelor’s degree in government from ASU, then began his career in the U.S. Air Force and as a San Angelo police officer.

1986
Charles Njemanze has been named director of the San Angelo State Supported Living Center, where he began his 27-year tenure on the residential direct support staff in 1985. Since 2004, he has been the facility’s assistant director of programs. Njemanze has a B.B.A. and a M.S. in psychology, both from ASU.

1999
Duanne Hyde has been named superintendent of schools for Highland ISD in Nolan County. He was previously Highland’s secondary school principal for seven years. Prior to that, he was a principal for Merkel ISD and for Blackwell CISD. He holds a Bachelor of Science from ASU.

1999
Natalie (Matthews) Montalvo, who has an ASU degree in special education with teaching specialization in both elementary and special education, has been named director of the Brenham State Supported Living Center. Lt. Col. Jimmy Humphrey has been appointed assistant dean of campus life and director of veterans services at Lipscomb University. He served 22 years in the U.S. Army and Air Force, having retired from active duty last year as the deputy of the Manpower and Plans Division, U.S. Central Command, at MacDill AFB in Tampa, Fla. Humphrey received his bachelor’s degree in kinesiology from ASU. He also holds a master’s degree in aeronautical science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and a master’s degree in military art and science from Air University–Air Command Staff College.

2003
Dr. Justin Louder has been named assistant vice provost for eLearning at Texas Tech University. In this new capacity, he will coordinate efforts of all TTU colleges considering new eLearning academic certificates and degrees. Louder earned both his B.A. in communication and psychology in 2003 and his M.A. in communication in 2005 from ASU. He holds an Ed.D. from TTU.

2006
Anthony Muñoz has been named the new Texas AgriLife Extension Service agent for agriculture and natural resources in Schleicher County. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in agriculture from ASU. Muñoz transferred to Schleicher County from Knox County, where he had served as AgriLife agent since 2009.

2007
Amy Jacobs has been named superintendent of the Cosharita ISD, becoming Howard County’s first female public school superintendent. A Monahans native, Jacobs previously served as assistant superintendent of academic programs at Marble Falls ISD. Jacobs earned a bachelor’s degree from ASU with a major in secondary English and a minor in secondary kinesiology. She received her master’s degree in educational administration from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1996 and completed her superintendent certification in 2010 from ASU. She is currently enrolled in the doctoral program in educational leadership at Texas Tech University.

2008
Dr. Cynthia Opheim has been named associate provost at Texas Tech University. Opheim earned her bachelor’s degree in political science from ASU, her master’s degree in aeronautical science from Texas Tech in 1987 and her Ph.D. from the University of Texas in 1984.

2008
Jason Gossett has joined the San Marcos CISD as the assistant superintendent of business and support services. Gossett previously worked as the director of business services for Freonshipt ISD and as accountant and purchasing coordinator for Wylie ISD. He holds a Bachelor in Business Administration from ASU.

2009
Dr. Amy Jacobs has been named superintendent of the Cosharita ISD, becoming Howard County’s first female public school superintendent. A Monahans native, Jacobs previously served as assistant superintendent of academic programs at Marble Falls ISD. Jacobs earned a bachelor’s degree from ASU with a major in secondary English and a minor in secondary kinesiology. She received her master’s degree in educational administration from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1996 and completed her superintendent certification in 2010 from ASU. She is currently enrolled in the doctoral program in educational leadership at Texas Tech University.

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2009
Jonathon Kyle Webb, 24, a senior communication major from Ozone, died Feb. 3 after a brief illness. He was recognized at ASU’s spring commencement and was awarded a posthumous bachelor’s degree.

Jeremy Jarratt, 19, a freshman management major, died Feb. 14, on his family ranch near Edna in South Texas. Dr. Ralph R. Chase, 89, Class of 1941, died March 16 in San Angelo. A San Angelo native and World War II Navy veteran of the Pacific theater, Chase had a career as a local pediatri cian but an impact far beyond the medicine he practiced and the patients he treated. He was a humanitarian, an avid historian, a civic activist, advocate for women’s rights and recognition, friend of the underprivileged, propo nent of higher education and benefactor of Angelo State University.

Chase was instrumental in establishing the Roy E. Moos Distinguished Lecture-ship, which has brought 11 Nobel Prize winners to ASU since it was initiated in 1977. The Chamber of Commerce named him San Angelo’s Citizen of the Year in 1989. His Texas medical colleagues in 1978 recognized him as Pediatrician of the Year.

Friends honored him in 2000 by mak ing a major gift to name the regional archives and purchasing coordinator for Wylie ISD. He holds a Bachelor in Business Administration from ASU.

In December, Mendez promoted Sanchez to chief of staff. Sanchez graduated from ASU in 2007 with a bachelor’s degree in English. He joined the ECISD in 2010. The ISU triumvirate ended in February when Tillman left to become the chief financial officer for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD.

Tillman, who graduated from ASU in 1993 with a B.B.A. in accounting, was hired for her position in 2006.

Mendez, Class of 1975 with a bachelor’s degree in teacher education, was promoted to superintendent in 2008 after 29 years in ECISD as a teacher, principal, executive direc tor and assistant superintendent.

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Loudor earned both his B.A. in communica tion and psychology in 2003 and his M.A. in communication in 2005 from ASU. He holds an Ed.D. from TTU.

For one three-month period ending in February, the top three positions in Odessa’s Ector County ISD were held by ASU alumni.

Hector Mendez was ECISD superintendent; Tonya Tillman served as assistant superintendent for business operations; and Dr. H.T. Sanchez handled duties as chief of staff.

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Anthony Muñoz has been named the new Texas AgriLife Extension Service agent for agriculture and natural resources in Schleicher County. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in agriculture from ASU. Muñoz transferred to Schleicher County from Knox County, where he had served as AgriLife agent since 2009.

Courtney (Collins) Mahaffey has been named executive director of the San Angelo Symphony. She previously worked at HILCo Partners, an Austin consulting firm, as an event planner. She studied government and English at ASU.

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grant, which seeks to increase the num-
ber of students, especially Hispanic and
low-income students, completing degrees
in the fields of science, technology, engi-
neering and mathematics because of the
importance and those fields to the nation’s
prosperity and security. The grant was
one of only 100 nationally going to colleg-
es and universities with HSIs designations.
Collaborating with Howard College on
the STEM grant has the dual benefit of al-
lowing ASU to apply for the larger grant
and enabling the university to address some
of the issues facing students when trans-
ferring from Howard to Angelo State.
“A lot of our students start with How-
ard or other community colleges,” said Dr. Kit
Price Blount, senior research scientist and
STEM grant project director, “so transfer-
ing is a big issue. So, one position we will
focus on creating a STEM transfer and articu-
lation specialist, who will focus on creat-
ing STEM degree articulation agreements
starting Howard College and then we will
extend that model to other community
colleges.”

A second component of the HSI-STEM
grant funding is renovation of several sci-
ence labs in ASU’s Vincent Nutritional-
Phsiology and Caverna Science Building,
including smart classroom tech-
ologies and to ensure that the grant resour-
ces are maximized.
“I am part of her committee, she’s part of
my steering committee,” Muñoz said.
“We are just really ready to make ev-
everyone is doing the right thing, but what
is going to help her grant is the year’s expe-
rience and what we have already initiated
in that grant so we can share what is going to be
required of them.”
In the end, though, the greatest help
will be for the ASU students, regardless of
ethnicity or background, who will bene-
fit from these grants, either in the support
programs they use, the upgraded labs they tak-
courses or in the success they have in re-
doing their degrees completing their programs.
“Our results after the first full year of
ASU’s initial HSI grant have been very
good,” Muñoz said. “Based on where we
were as a university from a budgetary
standpoint and what we needed in re-
sources to improve our program for our
students’ success, the timing of the HSIs
grant could not have been better.”