

Angelo State University • Magazine

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MEMBER, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



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Spanning the Globe

The Good, the Bad
and the Maybe

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Dr. Brian May
Presidential Stock

Message

from the President

Dear Friends:

First, let me say how honored I am to serve as the fifth President of Angelo State University. My ties to ASU are deep and strong, and I enthusiastically embrace my role in leading ASU in its continual pursuit of excellence.

Working on the priorities of this institution requires all available tools and resources. The greatest of these is the individuals – alumni, community members, faculty, staff and students – working as a team to continue to enhance Angelo State University’s reputation as a quality institution of higher education. Because the fabric of this institution is this collection of people and their collective knowledge, the health of ASU depends on all individuals having a voice in its operation. To this end, I intend to enable all constituencies to provide input on implementing ASU’s strategic planning through the Alumni Association, community forums and faculty, staff and student senates. All should feel their input is not only warranted, but also invited.

Several ongoing initiatives deserve mention, none more important than accreditation of the institution as a whole as well as that of 14 academic programs. Because the related accreditation visits and reports are crucial to the reputation and operation of ASU, faculty, staff and students have worked to make sure that our programs and policies result in positive feedback from the oversight organizations. We particularly look forward in March 2013 to the site visit by our accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and anticipate a positive response to our Quality Enhancement Plan – CONNECT! – the centerpiece of ASU’s accreditation requirements.

Another critical priority is the need for continued enrollment growth and strategic increase in academic and support programs offered at ASU. Although undergraduate enrollment dropped slightly in fall 2012, initiatives in recruiting and retention have been implemented to revive and retain freshman enrollment. Initial feedback from recruiters indicates promising results for fall 2013. Graduate student enrollment continues to grow at a rapid pace and additional plans to expand and add programs are being developed.

Finally, a key priority is development. Angelo State University is continually dependent on the ability to raise private and corporate funds for the operations of our institution. Your donations are crucial in ensuring financial aid; research opportunities; academic programs; athletic participation; faculty, staff and student development; and infrastructure improvement. I would ask that you please remember ASU with your donations. Your support is critical for Angelo State to produce the well-educated professionals necessary to serve West Texas, the state and beyond. Together, as members of the ASU family, we will continue to achieve great things for Angelo State and our students.

Sincerely,



Brian J. May
President



Brian J. May



Angelo State University Magazine

Spring 2013

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Angelo State University

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ASU Station #11021, San Angelo, TX 76909-1021;
325-942-2248; Fax: 325-942-2238;
communications.marketing@angelo.edu.

ASU Magazine Staff

Editor: Preston Lewis
Associate Editor: Tom Nurre Jr.
Director of Graphics: Michael Martin
Graphic Artist: Gabrielle Miller
Design Assistant: Leonor Constancio
Photographers: Danny Meyer
Tina Doyle

Writers:

Roy Ivey
Jayna Phinney
Rebekah Brackin
Austin Lopez
Logan Reynolds
Kendra Guerrero
Gaby Gutierrez
Martha Avila

Athletic Communications

Contributors: Brandon Iretton
Wes Bloomquist

Alumni Association

Contributors: Kimberly Adams
Melinda Springer
AJ Lopez III

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Editor’s Note: In this issue, *ASU Magazine* checks out the collections on campus, whether they hold information or biological specimens. Additionally, the spring edition looks at how the university goes about “collecting” prospective students.

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On the Cover: Dr. Brian J. May has served many roles on campus, but none more important than his new position as the institution’s 10th president since 1928. (Photo by Danny Meyer)

Back Cover: Plaza Verde, ASU’s newest residence hall with its distinctive brick pattern, encompasses five units, including the two-story Commons/Recreation Building with meeting rooms, group study areas and recreational space. (Photo by Danny Meyer)



Governor Brings ASU National Notice

Texas Gov. Rick Perry visited Angelo State University in early October to join in the announcement of a new program that would allow qualifying students to earn an ASU bachelor's degree for \$10,000, the first such degree offered by a component of the Texas Tech University System (TTUS).

The new degree opportunity came in response to Gov. Perry's 2011 challenge for colleges to create bachelor's degree programs that cost no more than \$10,000 and drew national attention to ASU with mentions in the Oct. 8 edition of *The Wall Street Journal* and by Perry in an Oct. 10 interview on "CBS This Morning."

In making the announcement during the governor's Oct. 3 campus visit, then-ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said the program would begin in the fall of 2013 and would allow Texas residents who present a 27 or higher ACT score or a 1220 or better SAT combined critical reading/math score to earn a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (B.I.S.) for that cost.

Rallo indicated that the degree opportunity would align scholarships with the existing B.I.S. program to provide a four-year path to graduation under the \$10,000 cap for up to 120 semester credit hours (SCH).

"All courses may be taken on campus," Rallo said, "thus affording students all the academic and co-curricular advantages of a residential campus as they earn their degree. We believe this degree is an innovative response to the challenge issued by the governor in 2011."

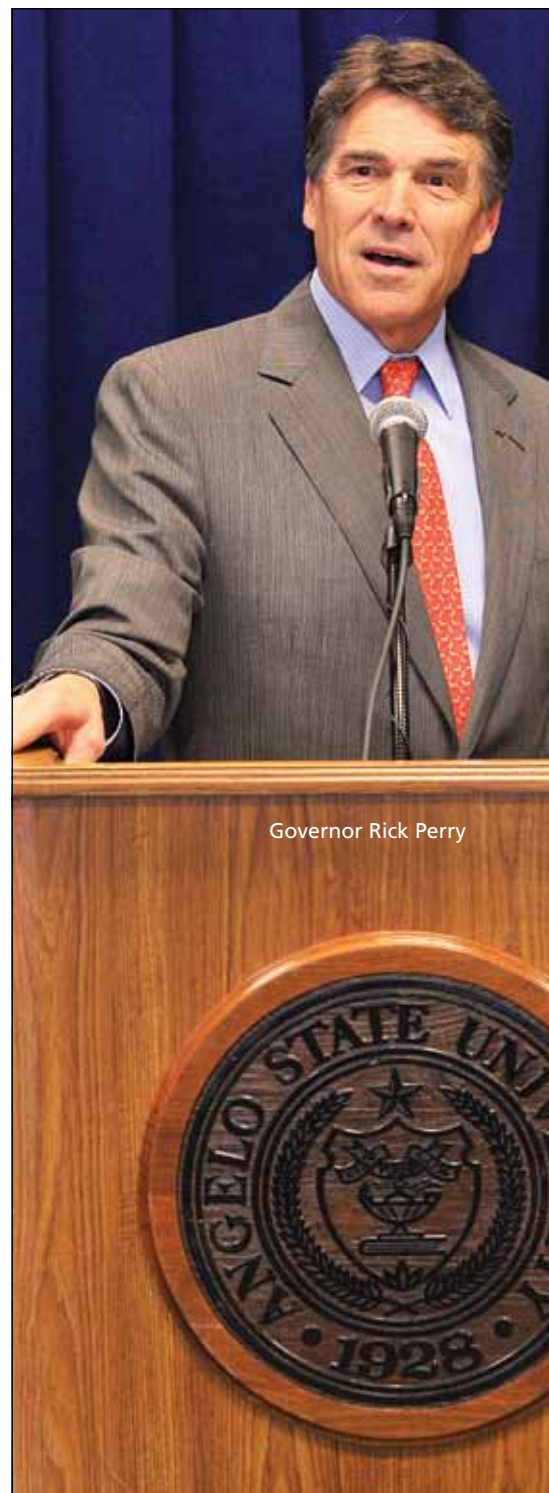
TTUS Chancellor Kent Hance said, "This program opens up college to some people who have not had that opportunity. We are very proud of this initiative."

Speaking to more than 150 people at the announcement in the Porter Henderson Library, Gov. Perry said ASU was the 10th university in the state to meet his challenge of a \$10,000 degree. The response to his challenge, Perry said, has accomplished two major goals.

"Most importantly," Perry said, "it does provide an opportunity for students to earn a low-cost, high-quality degree that will get them where they want to go in their life. Secondly, it has people at the universities, like ASU, thinking and thinking hard about how to get this done. We've learned to leverage technology. We utilize other very innovative techniques figuring out how to educate more young people at a reasonable cost. And, the lessons that our institutions will learn from this process, I think, will prove invaluable as we move forward."

State Rep. Drew Darby of San Angelo used the occasion not only to laude the new degree option, but also to provide a public acknowledgement of the governor's support for moving Angelo State into the Texas Tech University System in 2007.

"This might be your first opportunity here on this campus," Darby said, "for us to say thank you for your vision and timely support when we realigned Angelo State University into the Texas Tech System... That was a community effort. We talked about vision, we talked about growth for this university and how we might expand its mission. This is another example of why that vision needed support. We were very proud of that, Governor, and thank you again for your leadership in that regard." ■



Governor Rick Perry



Homeland Security

For three days last August, Angelo State University was probably the safest place on Earth.

About 250 representatives of law enforcement agencies in the U.S., Mexico and Guatemala, as well as the U.S. military, gathered at Angelo State in August for a three-day narco-terrorism conference hosted by the ASU Center for Security Studies (CSS). Participants came to examine and discuss the corrosive effects of transnational crime associated with the drug trade at the U.S.-Mexico border. That crime prevents governments from containing other transnational hazards, such as terrorism, insurgency, criminal gang activity, money laundering, and weapons and human trafficking.

"Our objective," said Dr. Robert Ehlers, CSS director, "was to bring together individuals from various law enforcement agencies to engage in conversation and learn from each other about some of the techniques they are employing that work, haven't worked or could work better to deal with those problems."

Keynote speakers included Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples and Dr. Walt Huffman, former U.S. Army judge advocate general and now dean emeritus of the Texas Tech University School of Law. Other speakers included senior officials from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Justice, FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Mexico's Transborder

International Police, Texas National Guard, Texas DPS Air Interdiction Team, and the Houston, New York, Tucson and Phoenix police departments, among others.

Attendees included active duty military personnel, federal marshals, and agents and officers from the DHS, FBI, DEA, Customs and Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Texas National Guard and Mexican Federal Police. They were joined by officers and deputies from police and sheriff's departments in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Mexico and Guatemala.

At the conclusion of the conference, the attendees were asked to complete personal surveys, and their responses were predominantly positive.

"We are in the process of brainstorming for a possible follow-up conference," Ehlers said. "Should that conference occur, we will take all the advice from the surveys into account and plan accordingly. But on the whole, the survey replies validated both our conference objectives and that we met those objectives."

The extreme, drug-related violence in the U.S.-Mexico border region; the threat of narco-terror and the influence of Iranian-backed violent extremist organizations in Latin America; and the proliferation of drug cartel activity fueling transnational crime in Mexico and throughout Central America made the conference topics both timely and significant. There was also an

important reputational component for ASU as the conference highlighted the CSS' dual role as both an educational entity and a government-funded agency responsible for promoting outreach and partnership among the many agencies and organizations charged with homeland security.

"There is an immense amount of expertise in academia, and particularly in centers like the CSS," Ehlers said. "The huge wall between academia and government agencies that went up during the Vietnam War is beginning to crumble, and academic institutions that have centers like the CSS need to help the government make sense of, and develop plans for, these types of transnational and border issues."

"Our faculty have both the academic credentials to understand these problems," he continued, "as well as professional military and law enforcement experience. We are not purely academic or purely professional. It's the combination of the two that the CSS brings to ASU, and the resulting specialized focus it brings to these transnational problems, that prompt us to get involved and do these types of conferences." ■

International Influx

by Tom Nurre

With more international students on campus than ever before, Angelo State's cultural diversity reached a new zenith during the 2012 fall semester.

Due in large part to the efforts of the Center for International Studies (CIS) and its new Asian Division headed by Dr. Won-Jae Lee of the criminal justice faculty, ASU welcomed 187 international students from 24 countries to campus last fall. Of those students, 156 were new to ASU, 103 were exchange students and 47 were enrolled in CIS's English Language Learners' Institute (ELLI). The majority of the students were from South Korea, and about one-third of the Korean students came for the ELLI.

"They come to improve their English language skills," said Dr. Sharynn Tomlin, CIS executive director, "and then some of them choose to stay here at ASU for at least one year. Now, some of them have actually been asking to transfer permanently to ASU, which is a great thing for us. That is the primary reason we have so many Korean students at this time."

In addition to the Korean contingent, the ELLI also enrolled students from China, Japan, Mexico and Saudi Arabia. Exchange students came from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. Every one of them was met at the San Angelo airport by CIS staff and host parents, transported to their campus residence halls and given linen packets collected by the Baptist Student Union, Chi Alpha and several local churches.

"The students would get to their dorm rooms," Tomlin said, "but without any type of linens, like sheets or towels. So the



International students Myeonghee Kim, Dong-gi Kim, Youngjin In, Wonhyuk Chot and Eunah Kim.

churches were especially helpful in donating items for the linen packets, and also with helping us recruit host parents."

CIS staffers also took the students on Walmart runs to stock up on other basic essentials.

Besides helping enrollment numbers, the international students' presence also provides valuable cultural enrichment opportunities for the entire campus community.

"It exposes our students to these different cultures," Tomlin said, "and it is often the first time they have had a chance to interact with people from other countries. Not all of our students can afford to do things like study abroad, so this gives them a chance to see a little bit of the world on our campus. Maybe for the first time in their lives, they are having the chance to talk and interact with international students."

"I also tell the international students the same thing during orientation," she added, "that I expect them to help educate other

students about the countries they come from. I tell them that they should be acting as their countries' global ambassadors, and pretty much all of them do."

That number of global ambassadors could further increase this spring as the CIS continues to target exchange agreements with universities in the Far East, Central Europe, Brazil, Australia and New Zealand to join recent additions in France, Italy and Poland. Additional Korean students will also be arriving through the 1+3 agreement signed with Sejong University in 2011.

"So now we have another group coming in the spring," Tomlin said. "Most of our current group will also be staying for the spring semester, so spring is going to be a very interesting time for us."

More international students means an even greater need for host parents and live-in host families. Information for prospective volunteers can be found at www.angelo.edu/dept/cis/host_family_program.php. ■

Geological Shift

So many students are entering the ASU Physics Department to study geosciences that the department has had to change its name.

Last August, it officially became the Department of Physics and Geosciences, in large part because more than 60 students have declared a geosciences major since the bachelor's degree program came online in the fall of 2010. A primary reason for geosciences' popularity spike is location, location, location.

"We have the oil and gas industry around here and that catches some students' attention," said department chair Dr. David Bixler. "There is interesting geology nearby in the Hill Country, and we've also got the Big Bend region not too far away."

"We are really in a prime location for doing field geology, which is what we emphasize," added Dr. Joe Satterfield, associate professor of geology. "We get students out to look at the oldest rocks in Texas in the Llano Uplift, as well as quite young volcanic rocks in the Big Bend region. Permian rocks on the eastern shelf of the Permian Basin are exposed in the Concho Valley. We are just a few hours away from geology that other schools may have to travel for 12 hours to see."

The prospect of plentiful high-paying jobs in the various geosciences fields is also leading students to the ASU program. According to a report in the September 2012 issue of *EXPLORER*, the official publication of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), starting salaries for geologists with master's degrees are about \$99,000, and jobs are abundant in the petroleum industry and hydrogeology, as well as in environmental, mineral and mining geology.

While ASU's program concentrates on undergraduate education, its emphasis on geology field trips and undergraduate re-

search prepares students to pursue master's degrees in the geosciences.

"Students really like that chance to have a rewarding career that involves science and working outside as much as they want to," Satterfield said. "We involve as many students as possible in our research. They complete both field-based and lab-based projects in all areas of geology, and they present their results at professional meetings. That helps them get into graduate schools and get jobs."

Students interested in geosciences can also join GEO, the university's student chapter of the AAPG that already boasts more than 30 members and meets monthly with the San Angelo Geological Society to hear speakers from industry and other universities.

With an eye toward the future, Satterfield and Dr. James Ward of the geology faculty and several professional partners are already in the second year of a grant-funded project designed to interest local junior

high and high school students, particularly Hispanics, in geosciences education and careers. Funded through the National Science Foundation's Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences program, the project is titled "Pathways for Inspiring, Educating and Recruiting West Texans in the Geosciences," or PIER.

To handle the current and future influx of geosciences students, the department has also expanded its faculty foundation. Last fall, Dr. Heather L. Lehto arrived and added her expertise in volcanology and geophysics to the courses in physical geology, hydrogeology, environmental geology and geographical information systems already being offered by Satterfield and Ward.

"We really care about our students," Satterfield said, "and that is true of all the faculty in our department. We really work hard with them to address their individual needs and provide them the best possible opportunities." ■



San Angelo State Park field trip

Artistic Synergies

Angelo State's budding thespians have found a new home, figuratively speaking that is.

This spring, the ASU theatre program is officially moving from the Communication, Mass Media and Theatre Department, now renamed Communication and Mass Media, to the Art and Music Department, which has been renamed the Visual and Performing Arts Department.

"We think there may be some additional synergies happening," said Dr. Paul Swets, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, "particularly between music and theatre, by having them in the same department. Music and theatre will be able to work more closely together, both in uses

of the facilities and in some of the productions they might be able to do."

Dr. Ed Surface, who became interim chair of the former Art and Music Department after the summer 2012 departure of Dr. David Scott, also expects the change to have a positive effect on the new Visual and Performing Arts Department's three programs.

"We are going to be able to share ideas and reinforce what each other does," he said. "This is also a way for us to share our talents and work productively off each other's ideas."

An example of that collaboration is ASU's fall 2012 production of The Who's musical "Tommy," which involved both theatre and music students on the newly renovated stage in the University Auditorium.

The stage upgrade resulted in a new rigging system, including all lines/ropes, pulleys, hoists, counterweights, catwalks, curtains and other components necessary for a fully functional proscenium stage. Cost of the project was \$236,521.

The new configuration of the Visual and Performing Arts Department may also spur additional expansion of facilities as well as enrollment. Last fall, ASU had 102 art, 74 music and 48 drama/theatre majors.

"We are working really hard to increase the number of majors and graduates in those programs," Swets said. "It looks to me like the facilities will become an issue soon, and we will need more practice and performance space, so we are looking at all of those things." ■



ASU production of "Tommy"

Sporting a Trend

Help devise and direct a graduate program that will prepare students for the multitude of career opportunities in the burgeoning sports industry.

That was the mission given to Dr. Warren Simpson in 2008 when he was hired by Angelo State to establish a new Master of Education program in coaching, sport, recreation and fitness administration. With about 50 students currently enrolled and an average growth of 25 new students a year, including some from as far away as Michigan, New York and Pennsylvania, the program's wide-ranging curriculum is already proving itself.

"A lot of other schools' programs are very specific, but this field is really an umbrella because all the components intertwine," Simpson said. "So, our idea was to put together a program that makes our graduates more marketable and qualified in a lot of different areas. The training they get here crosses multiple settings and backgrounds, and I think that is one thing that draws students to it. We also have a lot of distinctive courses, which is another big draw."

"We have had 16 graduates to date, and they are all employed," he added. "We have some in college coaching, a couple in city recreation, a couple in teaching and coaching, and some in sport administration and athletic sales."

Future graduates will also be qualified for careers in the fitness industry, resort and tourism industry, turf management, facility management and athletic advising/counseling, as well as military, prison, nonprofit and senior recreation programs, among others.

To ensure its students are prepared when they graduate, many of the important aspects of the ASU program take place outside the classroom.

"If everyone has a diploma, it comes down to their experiences and what is on their résumé," Simpson said. "We're really into professional development. We take students to conferences and workshops and get them involved in experiential labs. We've got them doing all kinds of distinctive things that are about professional development, not simply reading books and taking tests. Students have to make themselves stand out."

One of the main activities that helps ASU students get noticed is research.

"We ask the students what they want to research because it is their project, and they need to have passion for it," Simpson said. "They can do survey research, lab testing, design manuals and any number of other things. We have a wide gamut of research options that lead to oral, written and poster presentations. It's neat to see the students get excited about their projects."

"We try to get our kids published in industry magazines," he added. "I do book reviews for two international journals in recreation and coaching, so if I find a book that is of particular interest to a student, I'll teach them how to do a publishable review. We've already had at least a dozen of those."

Students have also submitted work to *Softball Magazine*, *Texas Coach*, *Basketball Times*, *Handball Magazine*, *wph.org*, *Military Fitness* and *Camp Business*, among others.

To even further enhance its growth potential, the ASU program began offering its first online



Warren Simpson

class last fall and is working toward a hybrid online/on-campus curriculum option.

"In a program our size, students can really get involved in more programs and activities, and get encouraged," Simpson said. "We try to let them experiment, find what they are comfortable with and invent themselves. We can also accept applicants with any type of bachelor's degree. As far as I'm concerned, we're going to turn out the best graduates in the country because we are a uniquely styled program." ■





the art of Philosophy

For two sold-out crowds in the University Auditorium last fall, ASU waxed philosophical.

In collaboration with the San Angelo Civic Ballet, the ASU Philosophy Club presented the concept of learned happiness to the campus community and the public through two nights of “Philosophy in Motion” programs. Each featured music, dance, multimedia and quotes arranged by Philosophy Club members and overseen by Civic Ballet Director Meghann Bridgeman, an ASU senior sociology student.

“We wanted to bring philosophy to the community,” said Dr. Susana Badiola, ASU associate professor of philosophy and Philosophy Club faculty advisor. “Philosophy critically reflects on who we are and the world around us. In this case, we wanted to consider some fundamental components of happiness.”

Performers that included contemporary and hip-hop dancers illustrated self-confidence, love, hardship, the importance of thinking for oneself, and controlling anger or desire as components of happiness. Bridgeman conceptualized the program and selected the topics and texts, with assistance from Philosophy Club members, and promoted the event. Civic Ballet members and the four guest dancers presented the program under Bridgeman’s direction.

The Philosophy Club is open to any ASU undergraduate student interested in philosophy. In addition to special events like “Philosophy in Motion,” the club conducts regular meetings and organizes group activities, such as movie discussions and trips to philosophy conferences. ■

Photos Courtesy of Mike Erb

Russian Intrigue

by Roy Ivey



Ewa Davis

Despite suffering under Soviet/Russian-imposed communism in her Polish homeland, Ewa Davis developed a love of the Russian language that she passes on to her students at Angelo State.

A lecturer in Russian at ASU since 1992, Davis first studied Russian in communist-mandated language courses in elementary school, and continued through “lyceum,” or high school, in her hometown of Wschowa in western Poland.

“What attracted my interest in Russian was my math-physics class at lyceum,” Davis said. “Teachers pointed out the numerous scientific publications in Russian, and said that knowing Russian could benefit us.”

Her interest in Russian was strengthened by her high school language teacher, who had been exiled by the Soviets after her mentor’s father was murdered by secret police. Like Davis does with her students,

her own teacher instilled in her a love for the Russian language.

In 1977, Davis entered Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, to study for a degree in Russian. As part of her studies, she attended Moscow’s Pushkin Language Institute where she met her future husband, Jonathan Davis, who was studying abroad from Texas A&M University, during a politically tense period in East-West relations, including the U.S. boycott of the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The strained relations between the U.S. and then-Soviet Union, the rise of the Solidarity trade union and the threat of a Soviet invasion complicated Davis’ marriage plans and left her in danger.

The previous anti-Soviet activity of her father, Franciszek Yryga, and the involvement of her older brother, Leszek, in Soli-

darity also led the communists to cast suspicions on her family.

Her father had spent three years in Stalinist labor camps after being arrested and tortured after World War II.

“When Stalin died, my father was released, but had no civil rights,” Davis said. “The communists ordered him to join the Polish communist party, and he refused.”

Fearing additional reprisals and even banishment to Siberia for Davis in response to the actions of her family and her relationship with an American, Jonathan plowed through red tape in 1981 to marry her and bring her to Texas. Then her father sent her sister to the U.S. under the pretext of a family visit after the Polish communist government declared martial law.

“Her escape saved my sister’s life,” Davis said. “Within a month, Leszek’s tortured body was found in Warsaw. He had been murdered by the secret police, so I guess America saved my sister’s life and my life, too.”

With such a tragic history, it is not surprising that Davis finds it hard to explain her love for the Russian language.

“Maybe it is inexplicable,” she said. “Perhaps my interest arises because of the beauty of the language itself, the poetry of Pushkin and Lermontov, and the literature of Tolstoy and Gogol. Or perhaps it arises from an attraction to the mysteries of the Orthodox Church and its liturgy, or the wonder of the music of Tchaikovsky and Mussorgsky. It could also come from the history and geography of Russia and the struggles between Poland and Russia. Maybe there can be no rational explanation.”

Regardless of why she teaches, Davis is part of ASU’s increasingly international campus where she shares the language she loves with students who she hopes one day might share her fascination. ■



Princeton Renew

For the fourth consecutive year, Angelo State University made *The Princeton Review* list of Best Colleges nationally.

ASU was one of only four state-supported institutions in Texas to make the college guide's 2013 edition of "The Best 377 Colleges," released in August. In addition to the four state-supported institutions to make the list, eight private universities in Texas were also recognized.

The Princeton Review honors only about 15 percent of the nation's more than 2,500 four-year colleges.

Additionally, ASU last fall was named a "Military Friendly School" by *G.I. Jobs* magazine for the fourth consecutive year and was the only public institution out of nine Texas universities to make the 2012-13 list of top colleges nationally as identified by *CollegesofDistinction.com*, an online guide that recognizes colleges and universities that appeal to students' varied interests.

National Development Honor

ASU's Office of Development and Alumni Relations has been honored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) with a Circle of Excellence Award for Overall Improvement in the university's fundraising activities.

ASU was one of only 30 colleges nationally so recognized in 2012 and one of only three so honored among public comprehensive universities in the United States. Institutions are considered for the award upon submission of the Voluntary Support of Education Survey to the Council for Aid to Education. Survey data is evaluated by independent analysis.

The 2012 fiscal year, which ended Aug. 31, marked the second year in a row for ASU to surpass the \$7 million fundraising mark in cash gifts and signed pledges.

Grads Up, Undergrads Down

Graduate enrollment at ASU set another record for the 2012 fall semester while undergraduate numbers declined, resulting nevertheless in the second-highest enrollment ever for the university.

Total 2012 fall enrollment was 6,888, down 196 students from the record enrollment set in 2011 when ASU surpassed 7,000 for the first time with 7,084 students. Graduate enrollment continued its

record upswing with 880 students signing up for graduate courses, 7.7 percent more than the 817 reported last fall. The 2012 fall graduate enrollment marked the sixth consecutive long semester in which the College of Graduate Studies has recorded an enrollment high.

The drop in undergraduate enrollment ended a string of record fall enrollments that began in 2010 and continued in 2011. Since ASU joined the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) in the fall of 2007, enrollment has increased 10.4 percent from 6,239 in 2007 to 6,888 this fall.

ASU's enrollment figures are based on totals at the end of the 20th class day, which was Sept. 24. The 20th class day is the official reporting date for TTUS enrollment figures.

Comparisons by classification for the fall 2012 and 2011 enrollments with the percentage change were: freshman, 1,830, 2,027, -9.7 percent; sophomore, 1,283, 1,393, -7.8 percent; junior, 1,253, 1,177, 6.4 percent; senior, 1,494, 1,512, -1.1 percent; unclassified, 148, 158, -6.3 percent; master's, 820, 755, 8.6 percent; doctoral, 60, 62, -3.2 percent; and total, 6,888, 7,084, -2.7 percent.

ASU's fall enrollment included students from 42 states and 25 countries. Texas residents attending ASU last fall came from 219 of the state's 254 counties.

\$3 Million Security Grant

The U.S. Air Force will provide a \$3 million grant to Angelo State to continue and expand the university's Center for Security Studies (CSS).

The announcement was made jointly in October by officials of the Air Force, the Texas Tech University System and ASU, along with Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

"After visiting Angelo State earlier this year, I recognized the value of continuing the momentum and building the existing partnership between ASU's Center for Security Studies and the Air Force," Hutchison said. "The CSS gives our Air Force personnel the special skills they need to work in foreign countries where they are likely to operate in the future."

The CSS is a joint program developed by the university to meet the needs of the Air Force's Air Education and Training Command. The purpose of the center is to provide airmen and airwomen with advanced education – including bachelor's and master's degrees – in cultural competence, security studies, border security and intelligence.

Enrollment has grown more than 50 percent since the program was first funded in fiscal year 2009. The CSS offers eight degree programs across four disciplines, and retention rate in these programs is nearly 100 percent.

Full-Ride Carr

A new Carr Distinguished Scholarship that will provide \$60,000 over four years to academically superior high school students is being initiated for fall 2013 admission at ASU.

Five students will be accepted for the prestigious new ASU scholarship, which will provide \$15,000 per academic year, beginning this fall. The scholarship, announced by Dr. Javier Flores, ASU vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, means that students earning the award will have a full ride to cover the cost of their college education at Angelo State.

Flores said, "This will be the most prestigious scholarship offered by Angelo State University and will help bring further honor to the legacy of Robert and Nona Carr, who established the Carr Endowed Scholarships to benefit Angelo State University students."

The Carr Distinguished Scholarship, which stands at the apex of a new Carr Scholarship pyramid designed to broaden the Carr resources available to future ASU students, will provide \$15,000 annually, an amount that will cover full tuition, fees, room and board at Angelo State.

Qualifications for the Carr Distinguished Scholarship include a high school grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale, as well as a score of 32 or above on the ACT or

1400 or above on the SAT. High school transcripts and entrance exam scores must be submitted to the ASU Office of Admissions.

Eligible candidates will be invited to submit a Carr Scholarship Application that will be reviewed by a committee. Following the review, the committee will invite selected candidates for an expenses-paid trip to campus to interview for the final awards.

Flag Football Titles

Three Angelo State University flag football teams took first place in their respective divisions at the November American Collegiate Intramural Sports (ACIS) Regional Flag Football Tournament in Lincoln, Neb.

In the Men's Division, ASU's Wolfpac defeated the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's nfl-flagfootball.com in the final, 20-13, to claim the title. ASU was also victorious in the Co-Recreational Division as IM Legends repeated as champions with a 41-7 win over University of Nebraska's 8 Engage in the title game.

In the Women's Division, ASU's Vixen completed a four-shutout sweep of the competition with a resounding 47-0 victory over an Oklahoma Baptist University team in the championship game.

Individual honors included Wolfpac's Antuan Washington being named men's tournament MVP. He was joined on

the men's all-tournament team by Trevor Brunet and Scott Fankhauser. Also a member of IM Legends, Brunet was named MVP of the Co-Rec Division along with ASU's Jetton Fontenot. Reid Jackson and Danielle Walts were picked for the co-rec all-tournament squad. Walts was also named MVP of the Women's Division, and Fontenot and Kris Crockett were chosen for the women's all-tournament team.

Young Leaders

The Young Professionals of San Angelo in partnership with the *San Angelo Standard-Times* named five Angelo State employees to its inaugural "20 Under 40" list of local individuals with a positive impact on the community.

The ASU honorees were Jamie Akin, executive director of development and alumni relations; Marney Babbitt, assistant director of aquatics/facility management; Candice Upton Brewer, director of operations for the Carr Scholarship Foundation; Dr. Flor Madero, assistant professor of communication; and Dr. James Ward, assistant professor of geology.

All honorees were under 40 years of age and recognized for their community involvement and contributions. ■

Christine Purkiss, Kit Price Blount

Dr. Christine Purkiss, associate professor of teacher education, and Dr. Kit Price Blount, sponsored projects research scientist, have been awarded a \$403,436 grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for their project designed to improve Earth system science teaching practices in rural elementary schools.

The two-year grant will fund the Earth System Science for Elementary Teachers (ES-SET) project, which will focus on professional development opportunities for 20 area kindergarten through fifth-grade teachers in a learner-centered outdoor environment, mainly concentrating on meteorology and climatology.

Chris Ellery

A poem written by Dr. Chris Ellery, professor of English, has been included in the *2013 Texas Poetry Calendar*.

The annual desk calendar, published by Dos Gatos Press of Austin, features Texas-themed poetry and pairs the weeks of the year with the works of more than 90 poets, including Ellery's poem "Christ the King Sunday at the Carmelite Hermitage near Christoval."

Ellery, who teaches literature and creative writing at ASU, has published several poetry collections, including *The Big Mosque of Mercy*, *All This*

Light We Live In and *Quarry*. He is a member of the Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers, the American Humor Studies Association and the Texas Institute of Letters. The 2013 edition marks Ellery's fourth appearance in the *Texas Poetry Calendar*.

Kirk Braden

Dr. Kirk Braden, associate professor of animal science, has completed a CNFA Farmer-To-Farmer Program trip to Ukraine, where he helped train workers at one of that nation's largest sheep farms.

Last summer, Braden spent 15 days in Ukraine, split between Kiev and the Frumushyka-Nova Sheep Farm in Odessa, one of the top suppliers of sheep products in Ukraine. Braden's training sessions included slaughter and slaughter floor operation, meat quality assurance, carcass characteristics and chilling, freezing and boning. He also educated farm management on the requirements for building a new slaughter house.

Also during his trip, Braden met with representatives of the Ukrainian Sheep and Goat Association and local veterinarians to discuss sheep production, breeding and animal welfare. He also laid the groundwork for potential future ASU efforts.

CNFA, formerly the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs, was founded in 1985 and is based in Washington, D.C. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to

stimulating economic growth around the world by nurturing entrepreneurship, private enterprise and market linkages.

Robert Ehlers, James Phelps

Dr. Robert Ehlers and Dr. James Phelps, faculty in ASU's Center for Security Studies (CSS), have been awarded a \$118,594 grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to improve cyber-security education at regional community colleges.

The project, "SFS: Capacity Building: Collaborative Project: Cyber-Security Education for Community College Faculty in Texas," is a collaborative effort with Texas Tech University, which received a separate NSF grant. The purpose of the project is to increase the capacity of community colleges to teach courses in cyber-security by providing professional development to community college faculty across West Texas in cyber-security and related fields.

Detelin Elenkov

Dr. Detelin Elenkov, holder of the Norris Family Endowed Chair in International Business at ASU, was named the "Outstanding World Researcher 2012" by the International Association of Multidisciplinary Research (IAMURE) at the group's World Research Festival in August.

Elenkov received the honor based on the prodigious number of scholarly research contributions he has made through-

out his career. Since he became involved in international business in 1985, his work has been cited 928 times by other scholars and corporate executives for his top 16 academic publications tracked by Thomson Reuters and Elsevier.

Elenkov has completed 12 editorships in addition to writing 50 scientific articles, eight books and book chapters, 70 referenced papers and 10 research grants. He has also served as a professor at nine universities and as a reviewer for 13 journals, and has received more than a dozen career honors and awards.

Heather Watson

ASU teacher education student Heather Watson has been named an "Exceptional Teacher Candidate" by the statewide Quest for Quality program.

The Helotes senior was one of 33 students selected from 49 nominees submitted to the program by 16 Texas universities. The honor is based on blind narratives sent by the students and their universities to a panel of six state and national reviewers.

Students were judged on the depth of their subject area content and knowledge of instructional strategies; excellence in planning and instructional delivery in several areas; and their ability to create and maintain a positive, equitable and engaging classroom environment.

The Quest for Quality initiative, based in The Woodlands,

is designed to highlight exceptional quality in university-based teacher preparation in Texas.

Paul Swets, Bonnie Amos, Jody Casares

Dr. Paul Swets, Dr. Bonnie Amos and Jody Casares have been named the winners of the 2011-12 Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Awards honoring outstanding administrators, faculty and staff at Angelo State University.

Swets, then interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, won the Distinguished Administrator Award; Amos, professor of biology, won the Distinguished Faculty Award; and Casares, office coordinator for the Biology Department, won the Distinguished Staff Award. Each received a \$2,500 honorarium.

Swets was honored for his support of the faculty and staff, particularly the professional student advisors, within his college; for his partnership efforts with the Student Support Center; and for his counseling of students who are considering withdrawal from the university.

An ASU alumnus and 25-year faculty member, Amos was honored for her teaching abilities, support and mentorship of student research projects and promotion of school spirit in her classes. In 2008 she was named a Piper Distinguished Professor by the Piper Foundation.

An ASU staff member since 2002, Casares was nomi-

nated in her previous capacity as business office coordinator for Information Technology, where she was also a member of the Student Mentorship Advisory Committee. She was lauded for her leadership and professional skills.

The Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Awards were created by San Angelo native and former Angelo State student Gary Rodgers and his wife, Pat. Because of their association with many ASU employees over the years, the couple recognized the roles that faculty, staff and administrators perform to help ASU fulfill its mission to prepare students to be responsible and productive citizens. The Rodgers established the awards and provide the \$2,500 honorarium for each recipient.

Susan Wilkinson

Dr. Susan Wilkinson, chair of the Department of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences, was chosen by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) for the inaugural class of leading nursing educators to participate in the new AACN-Wharton Executive Leadership Program.

Wilkinson was one of only 37 nurse educators nationwide chosen for the 2012 cohort of the new program, which took place in August at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The program was designed to provide world-class leadership enrichment exclusively for top

academic leaders in nursing, and was co-sponsored by the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence in New York.

AACN is the national voice for university and four-year college education programs in nursing, representing more than 700 member schools of nursing at public and private institutions nationwide.

John E. Klingemann

Dr. John E. Klingemann of the history faculty has been awarded a conference faculty fellowship by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) for the organization's 2013 national conference scheduled this spring in San Antonio.

Faculty fellows arrive two days prior to the national conference to participate in organized workshops designed to promote Hispanic persistence and advancement in academics. Conference faculty fellows also make presentations during the annual meeting, which will explore the 2013 theme "Toward a Latino Attainment Agenda: Shaping Our Own Destiny."

Fellowships, which cover convention expenses, are awarded to up-and-coming faculty members at institutions of higher education nationwide.

Klingemann joined the ASU faculty in 2007 with academic specializations in the United States-Mexico border, modern Mexico and Latin American history. He has conducted research on 20th-century social

movements, the Villismo movement in northern Mexico and the Mexican Revolution of 1910 with an emphasis in Chihuahua, Coahuila and Durango.

While working on his doctorate at the University of Arizona, he received a 2006-07 Fulbright-García Robles Fellowship for study in Mexico and a Tinker Fellowship for Graduate Research in Latin America for 2005.

Ethan George, Josh Seale

The ASU Bass Anglers team of Ethan George and Josh Seale took third place at the National Guard FLW College Fishing Southern Conference Championship on Lake Dardanelle near Russellville, Ark., in October.

George, a junior business management major from San Angelo, and Seale, a senior accounting major from Breckenridge, caught 14 bass during the three-day tournament with a total weight of 41 pounds, 13 ounces. They brought home a \$3,000 purse, which will be split between the Bass Anglers club and the general scholarship fund at ASU, and qualified for the FLW National Championship next spring. ■



Dr. May visiting with students on campus

Presidential Stock by Preston Lewis

In the fall of 1976 when Brian J. May sat down in Leon Holland's freshman animal science lecture for the first college class he ever took, he never dreamed he would one day be sitting in the president's chair at Angelo State University.

"When I first started college here," May recalled, "I was going to be a county agent. I didn't think there was a better job anywhere, but after I was here a few years, I realized teaching and research at the university level were what I really wanted to do. So, I switched gears a bit and started down that road."

That change in collegiate ambitions led him to return to ASU to teach in 1994. His success in the classroom and as a research scientist since then has resulted in university positions of increasing responsibility, culminating in October with his appointment by Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance as the fifth president of ASU and the 10th president since the institution began as a community college in 1928.

With the appointment, Dr. May is also the first ASU alumnus to become president of the university. The presidential title is nothing new to May, however, as he has previously served as president of both the Faculty Senate and the ASU Alumni Association. His tenure with the alumni association was at a particularly critical time as the organization was seeking to build an alumni center.

May is proud not only that the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center became a reality, but also that his parents gave one of the first gifts to the building project, a \$5,000 donation.

"That was big money for them," May said. "All four of us kids had graduated by then from ASU, so it was a gift because my



At the ASU Management, Instruction and Research Center

parents loved this school and wanted the alumni center to be a reality."

The Mays' children grew up in Sudan and graduated from ASU. May's older brother, Kevin, is a veterinarian in San Diego, Calif. Both sisters are nurses, Bernadette May in Dallas and Mary May Wayland in Bridgeport.

"Of course, I've said it so much already that probably everyone knows it, but I have a deep affinity and love for this school for what it did for me and continues to do for my family," May said. "I am not using this position to go somewhere else because Angelo State is home for me. I also want the alumni, students, faculty and staff to think of ASU as home. That's the reason I was so adamant about building an alumni center here, so our former students have a place on campus that they can call home. Now,

"I have a deep affinity and love for this school for what it did for me and continues to do for my family."

— Brian May

*“My whole family
attended ASU ...
So, when it comes
to Angelo State,
we’re all in.”*

– Brian May



Photo by Danny Meyer

we have one of the best alumni centers in the country for a school our size.”

As an undergraduate, May worked with his ag teacher and mentor, Dr. Gil Engdahl, to start ASU’s livestock judging team and to establish Block and Bridle, the Agriculture Department’s social and service organization. As a senior he met Patti Bynum, a Texas Tech student from Sterling City, who was attending summer school at ASU. She transferred to ASU, where she earned her degree in accounting, and in 1980 married the future president of her alma mater.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in animal science, May stayed on campus to work on his master’s degree in the same discipline, then attended graduate school at Texas A&M, where he earned his doctorate in ruminant nutrition. Except for the years when he was working on his doctorate in College Station, May has called San Angelo his home since he arrived at ASU as a freshman.

After completing requirements for his Ph.D., he passed up an opportunity at Texas A&M to start his university teaching career so he could return to San Angelo, where he took a job as executive director of the Mohair Council of America. Though removed from classroom teaching per se, the position did provide experience that would serve May well when he finally did get into teaching.

First, with Mohair Council offices in New York and London, May gained a national and, more importantly, an international perspective on issues, spending as many as 100 days a year either in New York or in potential mohair markets in Europe, Russia and Asia.

“I had substantial experience in Asia because of exports to Korea and Japan,” May said. “I helped develop the Chinese market with mohair, not only with sales, but also with helping train the Chinese textile industry to use Texas mohair. Also, I spent a lot of time in Moscow as we developed the Russian

market, working with the light industry of Russia. That gave me experience on an international scale that would have been hard to match any other way.”

Second, the Mohair Council job provided him valuable insight into the importance of governmental relations, an area for which he was temperamentally well suited with his positive outlook, his easygoing manner and his sense of humor.

“The other side of that job was working with legislative officials,” May said. “We had a support program for mohair, so that entailed my going to Congress, giving testimony on a regular basis, both in the House and Senate, and working with senators and congressmen on a regular basis. As they visited West Texas, I coordinated campaign stops and arranged visits related to agriculture issues. Even in my international duties, I was working not only with textile officials, but a number of government officials as well in foreign countries. You had to develop relationships, and working with all kinds of people helped me quite a bit.”

Third, the position helped him realize that all relationships begin with those built within the community, so he became active in West Texas in general and San Angelo in particular.

“I became very familiar with the people living throughout West Texas,” May said. “I know ranching and farming as well as the ranch communities very well. I hope to use those relationships to benefit ASU. As people consider whether they want to donate to

causes, I can help guide them toward ASU. Many of these folks don’t really have an affiliation with ASU, but I can tell you that they have an affiliation with West Texas, and they know ASU’s value to the region because they see our graduates in their communities as teachers, nurses, psychologists, county agents and accountants.”

May’s community involvement ranges from the West Texas Boys Ranch to Sonrisas Therapeutic Riding Association and from the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce to Hospice of San Angelo. He even provides color commentary for the Friday night broadcasts of Wall High School football games.

He takes particular pride in his role in helping pass a half-cent sales tax for the City of San Angelo and a construction bond issue for the San Angelo Independent School District (SAISD). He represented the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo Association for the half-cent sales tax election after two previous failed elections. Revenues from that tax helped build the Spur Arena and numerous livestock barns at the fairgrounds.

“As a result of the new facilities,” May said, “the stock show and rodeo went from a five-day event with 4,000 entries to a two-week event with over 12,000 entries. I didn’t do that by myself, certainly, but it shows what communities can do when people work together.”

After an unsuccessful school bond election, SAISD turned to May to lead a citizen effort to build support for a subsequent bond issue to upgrade schools. Once again, he succeeded, his efforts earning him the

Citizen of the Year Award from the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce in 2008.

“The bond issue really preserved the neighborhood schools,” May said. “Many of those schools had been around for decades with little renovation. We have now refurbished them, and it came when we had a sluggish economy. What it did was keep the economy and a lot of jobs going when there was nothing else here. Since we were, in effect, just paying ourselves, I think the bond was critical, not only for local education but for the economy as well.

In 1994, May got the opportunity to return to the classroom to teach when Dr. Donald Shelby, head of the Agriculture Department, invited him to return to ASU as an assistant professor and research scientist.

“When I came back to ASU, I knew that I had to establish myself as a professor and a researcher,” May said. “Then I started considering my aspirations and thought about maybe one day becoming department head. I became president of the alumni association and was able to use my governmental experience because I had so many legislative contacts, both at the state and federal level.

“Over my tenure at ASU, my skill set began matching what a president’s should be,” May said, “because a president must deal with legislative affairs and with the community. He also must be the face of the university to the community, have academic experience to manage faculty issues and have the broad administrative experience to be a president. I was anticipating the possibility a



Photo by Jim Bean

May family, from left, Mackenzie May Holik, Brian Holik, Patti May, Brian May, Morgan May Christo and Lenny Christo.

couple or more years down the road, but certainly not so soon.”

May moved up through the academic ranks to full professor and research scientist in 2007, when he took on duties of director of external relations under his presidential predecessor, Dr. Joseph C. Rallo.

Then in 2009, he accepted an interim appointment – which became permanent a year later – as dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Under his leadership, graduate enrollment increased from 528 in the fall of 2009 to 880 students this past fall, a 66 percent increase.

In the summer of 2011, May became interim provost and vice president for academic affairs, an appointment that was made permanent in April of last year, just a month before Rallo accepted the position of vice chancellor for academic affairs with the Texas Tech University System (TTUS), opening up the ASU presidential spot.

May was one of four finalists selected from a field of 60 applicants in a national search conducted by TTUS.

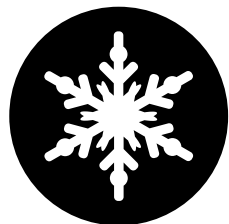
“Dr. May is a proven leader with an impressive record of accomplishment,” said TTUS Chancellor Hance at the campus announcement of his selection as sole finalist for the position. “As an alumnus and longtime faculty member, Dr. May has an unrivalled amount of university knowledge, and I believe he’s the right person to lead Angelo State University.”

President – continued on page 47



Spanning the Globe

by Tom Nurre



With the aid of the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Angelo State Natural History Collections are going global.

Last May, the NSF awarded Angelo State a \$480,865 grant to fund a three-year project to modernize and digitize the Angelo State Natural History Collections (ASNHC). When implemented, the project will improve researcher and educator access to the more than 125,000 specimens of plants, mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and frozen tissue samples in the collections, which are housed in the ASU Biology Department.

“The curators are obviously all thrilled about this award,” said Dr. Loren Ammerman, professor of biology and curator of the Frozen Tissues Collection. “Although the ASNHC has been an important resource in many of the classes we teach at ASU and for scientific research worldwide, it has been somewhat ‘hidden’ from the scientific community. This award will allow us to develop an interactive website that will increase the visibility of our collections, and it will fund important updates that will increase access to all the specimens.”

The ASU project is also part of the NSF’s 10-year “Collections in Support of Biological Research” program to link the scientific information associated with biological specimens in all U.S. research collections into a digitized online database available to researchers and educators throughout the world.

“A lot of university collections and museums have been pushing this idea because the strength is in the numbers,” said Dr. Robert Dowler, biology professor and curator of the Mammals Collection. “If we can tie all these collections together, we can really start asking bigger questions about geography, climate change, shifts in species distribution and other topics. To work on those harder questions, you have to have these really large data sets.”

“They finally realized that even smaller collections have something to add,” he noted. “ASU even has some species the Smithsonian Institution doesn’t have. I went to Washington and donated several rodent specimens from the Galapagos Islands because they didn’t have that species and we had several of them.”

To get the ASNHC ready to link into the larger database, all the specimens must be properly cataloged and geo-referenced, or linked to a specific location. The information must then be entered into updated Specify 6 computer database software. Other components of the grant project include new specimen holding facilities, updated and integrated pest control systems, and creation of Web-based learning modules for K-12 and university-level students. While some aspects of the project apply to all the ASU collections, each presents its own distinctive challenges to the curators and students doing the actual work.



Plants Collection (Herbarium)

The oldest and largest of the ASU collections, the Herbarium boasts about 80,000 specimens, making it the most complete floristic inventory of the Concho Valley in Texas. The specimens are pressed, dried, mounted on archival paper and stored in metal museum cabinets.

As of last fall, about 40,000 of the plant specimens had been entered into the Specify 6 database, and a primary objective of the grant project is to get the other 40,000 cataloged and entered. However, to be fully up to date and ready for entry in the database, each specimen in the Herbarium and all the other collections must also be geo-referenced.

“We now have a technology that allows us to pinpoint where a specimen was collected,” said Dr. Bonnie Amos, biology professor and Herbarium curator. “We’ve always tried to give good location information, but now with GPS so available and software to manipulate geographical data, we want to show the location in latitude and longitude where each specimen was collected.”

“Once the information is summarized, you can do all sorts of things with specimen data,” she continued. “For example, you can create maps using multiple records to show where particular species are found. You can then analyze these distribution patterns in regard to environmental parameters, such as soil type and moisture availability, and by doing so, gain a better understanding about species requirements.”

One aspect of the project specific to the Herbarium is the addition of high resolution images of every specimen. To that end,

grant funds have been used to purchase state-of-the-art photography equipment.

“The images will be magnified four times life size, so viewing an image will be somewhat like using a dissecting microscope to zoom in on particular features,” Amos said. “We also have the camera capability now to take a digital image through a dissecting microscope, which includes enhanced focusing capability. By the end of the project, every specimen in the collection will have an image.”

Currently, the Herbarium ships samples to researchers all over the world, but the digital images and geo-referencing details will make some of that shipping unnecessary in the future.

“We want the specimens used,” Amos said, “because the more they are used, the more valuable our collection is because of the additional knowledge we are gaining about its records. But, we also want to preserve the specimens for as long as possible. With all the digital images and geo-referenced location data, researchers are going to be able to harvest more information much easier. Since much of the data harvesting will be done from the Web-available database, the actual specimens will not have to be shipped or handled.”

“It is not going to replace the specimens,” she added, “because if someone wants to do DNA analyses or study micro-features, they are still going to need specimens. But, the additions to our specimen records are going to enhance the use of our collections tremendously.”



Bonnie Amos assisting a biology student



Robert Dowler



Mammals Collection

The ASU Mammals Collection is the fourth-largest in Texas and is accredited by the American Society of Mammalogists Systematic Collections Committee. It recently hit a milestone when it cataloged its 15,000th specimen.

"We didn't do anything too formal," Dowler said. "We're saving that for 20,000 or maybe 25,000. But, we tried to find something interesting to use as our 15,000th specimen. We decided to use a black-footed ferret, which is an endangered species that used to occur in Texas, but is now only found in Wyoming. They were a major part of the Texas fauna in the 1800s. The breeding colony in Wyoming sent me several specimens."

The biggest part of the grant project for the Mammals Collection is to catalog its backlog of specimens.

"We've got specimens that have been in the freezer for 15 years and have not been prepared for the collections," Dowler said. "We've also got some that are prepared, but are not in our database or available for

research and teaching. This grant will help us take care of our backlog of specimens. I'm really excited about that because we keep adding more specimens, but we often don't have the time to get them into the collection properly."

"Most people don't realize all the work that goes into the collections," he added. "You've got to go out and collect the specimens, prepare them and catalog them, and then take care of them forever, if your collection is going to have any value."

The grant funding will also help the Mammals Collection fight its most dangerous enemy – bugs.

"We have expensive cases that are supposed to be bug free," Dowler said. "But, our specimens are moved in and out so much for loaning and for use in classes, it is hard to make sure no bugs or larvae get transported back with them. Part of the grant is for building a system that raises the cases off the ground so we can clean underneath and keep our area bug free."



Amphibians and Reptiles Collection

Mainly consisting of specimens preserved in jars, the Amphibians and Reptiles Collection contains more than 14,000 organisms. Its curator, Dr. Mike Dixon, is the new kid on the block, having assumed supervision of the collection in 2011. He is also faced with a batch of specimens not yet entered into the Specify 6 database.

"The cataloging is what we are working on now," Dixon said. "We also recently received the natural history collection from Texas Wesleyan University. They had hundreds of specimens, including birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, that we picked up. Our Amphibians and Reptiles Collection may have gained the most specimens, so we have to transfer all that data into our computer system."

To aid him with cataloging and geo-referencing, Dixon has joined the other curators in employing students and paying them with grant funds.

"One of the great things about this grant," Dixon said, "is that a significant amount of the money is to pay students to help with the process. That means both undergraduate and graduate students get paying jobs, and they are learning more about this area of science. For a few of them, there could be careers working in museums, so it is job experience for them. They are really doing a lot of work with us."



Mike Dixon





Loren Ammerman



Frozen Tissues Collection

The youngest component of the ASNHC, the Frozen Tissues Collection includes tissue samples from thousands of mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds. Its curator, Dr. Loren Ammerman, is looking forward to getting a more accurate count of her specimens.

“We have tissues from about 10,000 mammals in the collection,” she said, “but some of them have one tissue sample and some have more, so we don’t know exactly how many specimens there are. We also have a lesser number of bird, reptile and amphibian tissues, but we don’t actually have them in a database, so we don’t know how many there are. It will be great to get all that cleaned up and entered in the database.”

“In addition to molecular and DNA studies,” she added, “there is a lot of interest in tissues for disease surveillance, which has

become pretty big in a lot of areas. We have frozen tissues that would be useful in those sorts of investigations, so it’s important that they become more accessible.”

Another major benefit of the grant is funding for a new Ultra Cold storage freezer.

“If our Ultra Cold fails, we are in big trouble,” Ammerman said. “The value of our collection, what it would take to replace all those tissues, is about \$750,000. That is for things like going to the Galapagos Islands, Malaysia and other places again to collect replacements. And, some of the places where these animals were collected don’t even exist anymore; they’ve been developed.”

“The grant has allowed us to get another Ultra Cold as a backup,” she continued, “and the alarm system has been put on that backup freezer as well. So now if one freezer fails, we have a backup to save the collection.”



Terry Maxwell



Birds Collection

Housed with the Mammals Collection, the Birds Collection is the smallest in the ASNHC with about 2,400 specimens. It is smaller by necessity as bird specimen collecting is much more rigidly controlled by federal and state government statutes than for any other animal group. However, being smaller has provided one big advantage – it does not have a backlog of specimens to be cataloged.

“I already used some of the grant funding to finish the cataloging last summer,” said Dr. Terry Maxwell, biology professor and curator of the Birds Collection. “The biggest job for me is the geo-referencing, getting the location by latitude and longitude where every single specimen was collected on the planet. That is a fairly new development in our field, and this is a great opportunity to get that done.”

“It really is laborious,” he added. “Even in the modern technological world, attempting to get a latitude and longitude for an imprecise location written on a specimen tag is time consuming. The opportunity for error can be huge. If somebody writes on a tag that the specimen was found five miles southwest of San Angelo, that is a big area.”

Pest control is also a prime concern for the Birds Collection, and Maxwell is optimistic that the grant funding will help address that issue.

“With plants, birds and mammals, which are all dried specimens, the opportunity for insect damage is extensive,” Maxwell said. “With the birds and mammals being stored in the same room, my needs for pest control are equal to those of the Mammals Collection.”



Learning Modules

In the latter stages of the three-year grant project after all the specimens have been cataloged, geo-referenced and entered into the Specify 6 database, the final phase will be to create the Web-based learning modules. The plan for the initial modules is to target fourth-grade students in conjunction with the annual ASU Science Days, which expose hundreds of fourth-graders to the collections every year. The bulk of that task will fall to Amos and Dixon.

“We plan to create exercises for the students to complete using our databases,” Amos said. “Questions like, ‘Where do you find Texas bluebonnets?’ or ‘Where do you find spotted skunks in Texas?’ The students will do the exercises either after they visit the collections, or do it before their visit so they can then ask us questions about the species they have studied.”

“We would like,” Dixon said, “for students to be able to get on the Web at their house or school and take advantage of the information our collections have to offer. However, if we put something together that is really useful but doesn’t help teachers teach the STAAR, TAKS or whatever the current assessment tests are, the teachers aren’t going to use it. So I hope to meet with the Region XV Education Service Center and some local educators to figure out how we can provide something that can help them and they will use.”

Global Ramifications

For all the curators and their student helpers, now is an exciting time as they work their way through the various phases of the grant project. They are also eagerly anticipating the day when the project is completed, the collections re-emerge on the Internet and they move toward inclusion in the global online databases.

“The curators knew we needed to do all these things with the collections to keep up with changing technologies and participate in worldwide collaborations,” Amos said. “It would’ve just taken about 20 years without the grant instead of three years to get them done. We are right on the cusp of finishing the required preparations, and then we will be able to see progress on our objectives.”

“On a day-to-day basis at ASU,” Dixon said, “it’s important to be able to use the collections to teach our students. But on a broader scale, it’s really about having a resource for researchers and educators. If you don’t continue to improve and update, you become an old relic. If we don’t update the collections, they won’t stay relevant.”

“These types of collections are definitely declining,” Ammerman added. “Many universities can’t maintain them anymore, and there are not many institutions still building them. That’s why getting our collections on the Web is the most important part of this project. We are working not only for our own students and scientific projects, but also for other researchers around the world.”

Maxwell also points to the accountability the curators have to the specimens themselves.

“The organisms in the collections sacrificed their lives,” Maxwell said. “We took them from their lives for the purposes of learning about them and coming to understand those species. It is our responsibility to make sure that as much can be gotten from them as possible. Our specimens are far more valuable and of far more use to humanity when everyone who needs access to them can get it.”

“It would be easy for us to keep our collections in our narrow little world,” he added. “But, it feels good to get out of that and become part of the bigger picture.” ■

Going Digital

by Jayna Phinney



Maurice Fortin

Dr. Maurice Fortin keeps having to upgrade his copy of *Star Wars*.

Executive director of library services at ASU's Porter Henderson Library, Fortin first acquired the movie on videocassette tape. He has since upgraded to DVD and then to Blu-ray, and now the movie is also available to purchase digitally and store in the "cloud."

Fortin's *Star Wars* dilemma illustrates the information storage issues that all libraries and archives face: once information is digitized, how will it be updated and preserved so it remains accessible? Also, is anything really permanent?

Beyond preservation, libraries also have to be concerned with staying relevant for today's scholars and making information accessible to as many users as possible. As with any new technology, digital storage offers advantages and disadvantages.

Selective Preservation

One issue with digital information storage is determining what to store. Another is how to minimize the amount of data lost during digital upgrades. As an example, Fortin said trying to convert old reel-to-reel tapes to a digital format may be a one-time shot because the conversion process could cause the tapes to disintegrate.

"The questions to ask when we digitize," Fortin said, "are, 'What are we going to store? Which version of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* do we put online? Which criticisms of *Twelfth Night* do we store? Do we really try to capture everything that's been written since 1521 about the play *Twelfth Night*, or just the latest? Or what's deemed to be the most definitive version of *Twelfth Night* and the best criticisms?'"

For Fortin, the most critical component of the digitalization process is preserving access over time.

"For instance," he said, "what happens if the PDF format is replaced? Who's going to go back and reformat all those PDF documents to the next new system?"

Even uploading information online is not a foolproof way to ensure access over time. Many websites have not been optimized for the smaller screens of smart phones and tablet devices, so Web develop-

ers like ASU's Jon Wilcox are tasked with using responsive design techniques to allow Web content to be optimally viewed on any type of device. He is currently working to ensure that type of access for some 15,000 pages of ASU's website, but it is no easy task.

"There are a lot of details to consider," Wilcox said, "and you can't plan for every possible issue."

Access to Information

While digital information creates several preservation challenges, it provides accessibility to information that was never before readily available. It also helps limit deterioration of historic documents.

"If you want to see the handwritten copy of Lincoln's *Gettysburg Address*, you don't have to go to Washington, D.C., get special permission from the National Archives and then put on the gloves and everything else," Fortin said. "It's now digitized. You can look at it online without ever having to go there. Literally thousands, if not millions, of documents have been digitized and are accessible from websites now, but that also means that paper copy in Lincoln's handwriting does not have to be handled at all."

ASU's West Texas Collection (WTC) recently received funding as part of a Train to Share Grant for digitizing historic materials. The money was used to purchase computer software to scan images and create an online photo database called West Texas Photo Gallery. WTC staff tagged each photograph so that users can search for and retrieve them by typing in keywords.

"What this has done is allowed the general public to search the website and find out what we have, which is really good," said Suzanne Campbell, WTC director.

Before the database was compiled, the only way to search for items in the WTC was to visit the collection and physically search by browsing through albums or original photographs housed in archival boxes.

However, while the grant project allows easier access to the WTC, it also highlights the need to have historians available to put information in context and ensure that it is being properly categorized for storage.

Staying Relevant

While past generations utilized libraries for books and periodicals, current students expect to find the technological capabilities necessary to access digital information.

"The most important lesson for the library and librarians, and especially academic librarians," Fortin said, "is if we don't adapt, we're going to die."

In an effort to keep the ASU library relevant, the first floor was renovated to create the Library Learning Commons. Containing few books, the area is dominated by computers, high-definition TV screens and collaborative workspaces. Its popularity is evident as in October when the library received more than 50,000 visits for the first time, and student use created the need to keep the library open 24 hours.

"We increasingly spend more money on e-books, e-journals and online databases or consortia deals that increase the access to information," Fortin said, "because that's the format that's needed to support blended courses and distance learning environments, as well as having all that digitized information available to help students complete assignments and research papers. And, faculty can't get published if they can't get to the information they need."

When Fortin came to ASU in 1996, the library had 2,200 print journals and three databases. Now it has only 900 print journals, but access is available to nearly 50,000 online journals.

"The decisions and issues that we deal with literally on a daily basis," Fortin said, "are what do we buy in print, what do we buy in digital format, what do we make available online and what kind of technology is needed?"

"We've got the equivalent of a law library through Westlaw and LexisNexis available to our students," he added. "You couldn't do those kinds of things 20 years ago, but it does cost money. And more importantly, it's a never-ending battle of keeping the network up to date."

ASU's Information Technology (IT) staff regularly monitors the university network to create additional capacity as needed, said Doug Fox, associate vice president for IT. The number of wireless devices, like smart phones, tablets and consoles, using the network has increased about 50 percent annually, so the library's partnership with IT is essential in maintaining digital access to the library's holdings.

Long-Term Storage

From 40,000-year-old cave drawings through clay tablets, handwritten scrolls and printed documents, people have been recording information to preserve the history of the world. Now, the digital "universe" provides greater access to more information than ever before, but also requires more time and effort to maintain and preserve.

Under ideal conditions, books on acid-free paper will last at least 300 years, while information stored on microfilm or microfiche will last 135 years. In contrast, a compact disc has a maximum shelf life of about 15 years, and it is debatable that in 15 years there will still be devices available that read CDs. Regardless, the ongoing trend is to "go paperless," and Fortin has the ASU library heading in that direction, though he doubts a true paperless world will ever exist.

"Will we have a paperless society?" Fortin mused. "I'm no expert. I doubt it will happen in my lifetime. It could occur, but I think there's always going to be paper around. It's just going to become less important." ■



Jon Wilcox

The Good, the Bad and the Maybe

by Preston Lewis

“The court records provide a social history of this whole region, a social history that you can’t get any other way, I think, because you see the good, the bad and the maybe, what could or may have been.”

– Suzanne Campbell

Suzanne Campbell lives in the past and, as a result, probably knows more about the Concho Valley, including all the skeletons in various pioneer families’ closets, than anyone else around.

As an archivist and head of Angelo State’s West Texas Collection (WTC), Campbell fills a variety of roles, ranging from historian to scavenger and from detective to confidant of the deceased, who speak to us today long after their passing through the records they left behind. It is the job of Campbell and her staff to collect those materials for posterity. And, to find those materials, she and her crew have been known to frequent estate sales and even rummage through the trash to preserve the region’s history.

Consequently, WTC holdings encompass family letters, business correspondence, photographs, diaries, business ledgers, stock certificates, books, court records, postcards, transcripts of oral histories, money and nearly any other item made of paper. After all, long before there was Facebook and Twitter or, for that matter, cassette tapes and DVDs, there was paper, serving as the social medium of the day.

“The holdings give us insight into who we are,” Campbell said, “because they show us where we came from. I don’t mean to sound trite or like a cliché, but if you don’t know where you come from, then you are not going to appreciate where you are now

or where you will be 10 to 20 years down the road. If you go back and read the letters of some of the region’s pioneers, you really appreciate what people did to settle this area in order to make it what it is today.”

The West Texas Collection was established in 1974 at a time when courthouses throughout Texas were overflowing with and, in some cases, discarding court records that had little contemporary legal value or application, but were taking up valuable courthouse space. Though the court records, many a century or so old, had negligible if any legal or appellate worth, they provided a wealth of historical information that the Texas State Library and Archives Commission wanted to preserve.

When the state commission decided to establish regional repositories for antiquated county court records, Dr. Escal Duke of ASU’s history faculty put in a proposal for ASU to become one of the repositories. When that proposal was accepted, the West Texas Collection was born and designated the Regional Historical Resource Depository for 22 West Texas counties: Coke, Concho, Crockett, Edwards, Fisher, Irion, Jones, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, San Saba, Schleicher, Scurry, Sterling, Sutton, Taylor, Tom Green and Val Verde.

“That’s really what started the West Texas Collection,” Campbell said, “and, to be perfectly honest, those are some of my favorite records because they give you such a glimpse into the past. For instance, in some of the Tom Green County justice of the peace documents, one man was charged for working on Sunday, and another one was not only charged but also fined for carrying a Bowie knife on his person.

“When we created the database for Tom Green County’s civil court cases, beginning in 1875 when our county court system was established, 14 of the first 15 court cases that we had were divorce proceedings,” Campbell said. “I never realized that they did that back then. Since it was men suing women and women suing men, it showed we were equal opportunity divorcees.”

In the criminal dockets were innumerable cases of vagrancy, a Victorian euphemism that varied, depending on gender.

“We have a lot of folks charged with vagrancy,” Campbell said. “If the individual were female, it was a lady of the evening, a prostitute. If it were a man, he was a gambler, most likely. Some of our ladies of the evening would use only their first names, like ‘Maude’ or ‘Aunt,’ but my favorite one – and we decided it had to be a man who was a gambler – was ‘Take da Cake.’ Isn’t that hilarious?”

Taken individually, the court cases provide a few laughs, but taken collectively, they offer a window, albeit sometimes dirty, into the area’s past.

“The court records provide a social history of this whole region, a social history that you can’t get any other way, I think, because you see the good, the bad and the maybe, what could or may have been. You have your criminal court and you have your civil court cases. Between the two, you find out that there really isn’t anything new under the sun. So it’s just an incredible photograph or snapshot of all of the things that made up Tom Green County and the other counties in our region.”

As archives grow, their holdings take varied and sometimes surprising directions. As you might expect, the WTC maintains extensive resources on the families, businesses and organizations of the Concho Valley and West Texas, including extensive holdings on cattle ranching, the sheep and goat trade, the region’s railroads, the Permian Basin oil industry and the area’s military facilities from the 1850s to the present. There are scrapbooks and art of legendary 20th-century journalist Houston Harte, publisher of the *San Angelo Standard-Times*, confidant to presidents and namesake for ASU’s University Center.

What might surprise you are some of the ancillary materials that the WTC holds, like considerable materials on John Wilkes Booth and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, thanks to the papers of one donor, who believed Booth had not been killed by Federal troops after murdering the president, but had instead lived to a ripe old age in Texas. The WTC holds extensive materials on José Doroteo Arango Arámbula, better known as Pancho Villa, and the Mexican Revolution. The Pancho Villa holdings are less surprising since the original Tom Green County, estab-



Photo by Danny Meyer

Suzanne Campbell



Historic photos from the West Texas Collection
Top: a group of motorcycle enthusiasts in downtown San Angelo. Bottom: the Water Valley Orchestra



San Angelo, Texas, 1880



The Rainbow's End – Downtown San Angelo

lished by the Texas Legislature in 1874, encompassed more than 60,000 square miles, extended all the way to the Rio Grande and covered an area that would ultimately be broken up into 66 modern Texas counties.

Speaking of Tom Green, the WTC also holds materials on the San Jacinto veteran, one-time state bureaucrat and Confederate brigadier general, who died in April of 1864 while attacking Federal gunboats on the Red River. Civil War papers and correspondence of other veterans from that time have also made their way to the West Texas Collection.

Although court and other public records make up a significant portion of the WTC's holdings, some of the most intriguing are the personal records of men and women who lived in the region and recorded their thoughts in letters and journals. For in-

stance, Helen Williams came west with her new husband, David Williams, a Tom Green County rancher, in March of 1884. She rode by train to Colorado City, then by wagon to her new ranch home. In a letter describing her trip to her new home, she described eating buffalo for the first time.

“Our breakfast was about the same as supper with the addition of Buffalo meat. I cannot tell you how it tastes, though I think if you should fry a little dried beef and take a bit of that *with* a bite of liver, you will know about how Buffalo meat tastes,” Helen Williams wrote on March 11, 1884.

In the same letter, she described a day of chores once she reached her new home.

“Da and I have been washing today. Used Lidell's soap, began at eight, finished at five. This morning I soaped the clothes while Da washed breakfast dishes. I rubbed awhile, then Da rubbed while I got dinner so we fused along. We had a good big wash.”

Beyond the personal correspondence, others kept business communications which ended up among the WTC materials, like stock certificates with intricate engravings approaching high art or business contracts like a Texas loan signed by Stephen F. Austin, the father of Texas, in January of 1836, a couple months before the siege of the Alamo.

The holdings are as distant as a pair of spurs from the conquistador era of Mexico in the 1500s and an American newspaper from 1711. The holdings are as recent as the

latest issue of the *Ram Page* because the WTC also serves as the university archive, which preserves ASU's critical documents and information for posterity.

“The university archive is a really neat collection,” Campbell said. “While there are a lot of papers in the archive, we also have an old beanie like early freshmen wore and a letter jacket from back when our school colors were black and gold, as well as a later letter jacket after the colors were changed to blue and gold.”

“We have the Massie Foundation papers,” Campbell continued. “Of course, Robert Massie was a major player in the creation of San Angelo College. It was always said that if it hadn't been for the Massie scholarships, SAC would have had to close its doors during the Depression.”

As the WTC holds many original source materials, it also serves as a learning resource for many students, particularly in history and in the Honors Program, and provides an opportunity for the students to help the San Angelo community connect with its past. Additionally, the WTC draws scholars and writers from all over the country to do research in the WTC on the second floor of the Houston Harte University Center. Those scholars have come from universities as close as Texas Tech, Texas State, TCU and UT-Arlington and from as far away as the University of Pittsburgh, Oklahoma University, Kansas State and Vanderbilt.

“I love history like those who come to do research in the West Texas Collection,” Campbell said. “History tells us so much about human nature and a lot about who we are as people. I think for those of us who have grown up in West Texas and for those of us who haven't, but are here now, it shows a certain amount of fortitude on the part of the individuals who were willing to stay here.

“It wasn't an easy life, and it never has been,” she continued. “We have never had a lot of water, even though the boosters made it sound like this was the Garden of Eden. But, what we lacked in water, we made up for in grit and determination, and that was such an important aspect of our nature as a community, as a county and as a region.” ■



Top Ten List

The West Texas Collection, like other archives, has its distinct holdings that separate it from the others. Here are the top 10 most intriguing items from the West Texas Collection as compiled by the WTC staff.

- 1 Texian loan papers signed by Stephen F. Austin in 1836
- 2 Colonial money from 1778, the era of the American Revolution
- 3 Conquistador spurs from the Spanish colonial era
- 4 Nazi banner taken from a castle near the Ludendorff bridge, better known as the Bridge at Remagen during World War II
- 5 World War I “souvenir” belt with buttons and pins taken from dead enemies or shared by soldiers from different allied units
- 6 Multiple Mexican mining certificates
- 7 Mexican coins made of odd materials, like a tank car, from the revolutionary period
- 8 Piece of plank from the deck of the USS Kearsarge, an aircraft carrier launched during World War II and serving through the Vietnam War
- 9 Roller Organ music box
- 10 Tom Green County courthouse book stained with mud from the 1882 Ben Ficklin flood that led to the creation of San Angelo

Though the holdings may be from around the world, each has a West Texas connection through the donors.

Donors Needed

Many times, it is the common day-to-day activities of West Texans that are the hardest to document.

That is why archivists Suzanne Campbell and Shannon Sturm of the West Texas Collection encourage people in the region to contact them before throwing family papers and records away.

“We look for material from this area of West Texas,” Campbell said. “It can be letters, photos, diaries, ledgers, etc. from families and businesses. Never think your material is not valuable. While it may not have a great monetary value, it can have great historical value.

“For instance, many people tend to think their letters and such are not important since they are from this time period. Letters, however, give such a slice of life for the reader/researcher that they are important to the future reader/researcher,” she said.

When in doubt, contact the West Texas Collection for an assessment of family papers, records, photos, documents and even some small artifacts. The results might surprise you.

Contact the West Texas Collection at 325-942-2164. ■



Conquistador spur



Admissions counselor Joe'l Sefcik visits with prospective students in Ira.

by Jayna Phinney

Person to Person

When recruiting prospective college students, the method is often just as important as the message.

ASU's small class sizes, modern residence halls, nationally recognized academic programs and thriving social community make the recruiting message easy for the university's admissions counselors. But, the way that message is delivered to prospective students can make all the difference.

"Recruitment boils down to relationships and the student's experiences in dealing with the university," said Michael Loehring, director of recruitment services and admissions. "If you build a good rapport with the student prior to visiting campus and you give them a great experience while they're here, or give them great customer service over the course of time that they're looking for a college, chances are good that you're going to yield the student."

Building relationships takes time and face-to-face interaction, but it does not start and end with prospective students or their parents. Another crucial audience to reach is high school counselors and administrators.

"In a lot of ways, the high school counselors and administrators are the ones who will promote your institution on your behalf whenever you're not there," Loehring said. "And, if we can cultivate those relationships over time, that is generally what creates pipelines of students coming to ASU."

Access to high schools depends largely on those relationships as well. Some schools may only allow ASU into the cafeteria for a lunch visit, but schools where ASU has developed stronger relationships will often allow recruiters in for classroom visits to talk about the benefits of going to college.

Every year during September and October, ASU admissions counselors hit the road

"Recruitment boils down to relationships and the student's experiences in dealing with the university."

— Michael Loehring, director of recruitment services and admissions

to participate in college fairs throughout the state organized by the Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (TACRO). The fairs serve as an opportunity to get ASU's name out and hopefully develop contacts for future recruiting trips. The days can be long and often frustrating, but for ASU admissions counselor Thinh Nguyen, getting just one student really excited about ASU can make a college fair worthwhile.

"It's about personalizing the experience," Nguyen said. "I ask them questions and I tailor my information to their needs."

At a Fort Worth college fair at Trimble Technical High School, Nguyen smiled at a student who said she was unsure about her major. Then he shared a personal story of changing his major three times. Another student said she was interested in ASU's chemistry program, so he told her about Dr. John Osterhout's HIV research and opportunities for undergraduates to contribute.

"We have an edge on bigger schools in that we're smaller and offer students a more engaging campus experience," Nguyen said. "And, we can hook them with the prestige of our academics."

Nguyen's method of personalizing information to each student is something that all Admissions Office personnel practice.

"We have a hundred different messages in our toolbox," Loehring said. "You don't hang a picture with a tire iron. You hang a picture with a hammer and a nail, so when the situation calls for it, you can reach into your toolbox and bring out the benefits of ASU that match the needs of the student and/or the parent."

Admissions counselor Joe'l Sefcik typically works with students in West Texas, but during TACRO season, she is on the road like the rest of the counselors. She likes to stress that students can be themselves on ASU's campus and they can get involved in anything that interests them.

"Academics do play a big part in it for students, but when most four-year institutions in Texas offer the exact same degree

programs, that's not what's going to get them," Sefcik said. "We could have the most well-known program in the area they are interested in, but if they're not treated like an individual person, they don't care."

Sefcik's big selling point for ASU is the personal attention that students will receive from professors.

"When I tell prospective students that most of their classes at ASU will have about 18 students in them, they're just shocked," Sefcik said, "because by the time they get to their senior year, they're aware that it takes a lot of one-on-one to get a quality degree."

In addition to personalizing information for students, Loehring said the fit and feel of the ASU campus go a long way when recruiting students.

"That's by far one thing that we can promote, an atmosphere that's not intimidating," Loehring said. "We're a smaller residential campus where you're going to get one-on-one attention with the faculty members. And, if we can convince them of that, and you can get them to visit campus, you've got a great shot of getting the student to enroll here."

Nguyen finds that many students who visit campus are pleased with what they see, particularly the new housing facilities and ASU's newly renovated student recreation center, but getting students from his North-east Texas region is not always easy.

"It can be hard to bridge that gap between college fair and campus visit because they have to travel so far to get to us," Nguyen said.

One of the best ways to reach students in areas of the state beyond West Texas is through alumni connections. If a student had a parent, friend or relative attend ASU and that person had a good experience, the student is much more likely to give ASU a serious look.

"If they grow up in a family that has connections to ASU already, in a lot of ways they're already connected to our institution,

and it's up to us in the Admissions Office to take that connection to the next level," Loehring said.

However, while many prospective students prefer personal communication with an admissions counselor, others favor e-mail and Internet searches to find the information they are seeking. To cover everyone's needs, ASU works to make the admission process as easy as possible.

"The mantra that we have out of our office is that if you market as if everyone is a first-generation student, it benefits everybody," Loehring said, "because I don't think you can assume just because a student had a mom or a dad who went to college that it makes this process less overwhelming."

Marketing the information for first-generation students also means responding directly to parent questions and concerns. Nguyen said sometimes he does most of his interaction with a parent until the student visits campus.

"If you can just demonstrate that these people matter to you and take the time to write a thank-you note or take the time to give a student a call, that goes a long way," Loehring said. "I think what a lot of these folks want to know is that they matter, and they do. One of the things we really try to instill within our admissions counselors is that everybody who calls matters, so take your time."

And, once students are successfully recruited to apply to ASU, their relationship with the Admissions Office continues. Counselors work year round to help students with every step of the admission process – from applying for financial aid and housing to registering for student orientation and getting a parking permit – until they arrive on campus for classes.

"A lot of times we play Mom, Dad and best friend to kids because they might not have it at home, so that's kind of our job to be flexible and meet whatever need that they're coming at us with," Sefcik said. "We're like a jack of all trades." ■



Michael Loehring

On the Recruiting Trail

Angelo State University admissions counselors hit the road every September and October to attend statewide college fairs organized by the Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (TACRO). The following chronicles one day on the road with Thinh Nguyen, ASU's admissions counselor for the North-east Texas region, as he navigates college fairs in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

7:30 a.m. – Nguyen leaves the hotel for Trimble Technical High School, where he will participate in the first college fair of the day.

9-11 a.m. – Nguyen is one of about 30 representatives of both Texas and out-of-state colleges and universities to set up a display table at the fair in the school gymnasium. A number of students stop by ASU's table, with many asking about the university's programs in nursing, pre-med, computer science and pre-law. As is the case at all the college fairs, the din of conversation in the gymnasium makes it challenging for Nguyen to not only be heard, but also to keep the students' attention.

11 a.m. – Nguyen stops by the Trimble Tech assistant principal's office to drop off a few ASU T-shirts. The assistant principal is an ASU alum and a great contact for recruiting students.

11:45 a.m. – Nguyen uses a mapping app on his phone to navigate to Joshua High School, the location for the next college fair. He grabs a quick lunch on his way.

12:15 p.m. – As Nguyen is signing in at the next college fair, the Joshua High School coordinator says his daughter attends ASU. He says that they toured several college campuses, but when they were at ASU, his daughter turned to him and said, "Dad, this is it."

1-3 p.m. – Several students stop by ASU's table, which is one of about 40 at the fair. Many Joshua High School students carry a barcode with them and have Nguyen scan it as a way to add them to ASU's mailing list.

3:45-4:45 p.m. – Nguyen returns to his hotel room to reply to e-mails and check in with the ASU Admissions Office.

5:30 p.m. – Nguyen arrives at Grapevine High School to set up for a joint college fair between Grapevine and Colleyville Heritage high schools. About 100 other colleges, both public and private, from Texas and other states are also setting up.

6:30-8:30 p.m. – A handful of students and their parents visit with Nguyen at the college fair, but the big break of the night is when a high school counselor comes by and says she is a Texas Tech graduate and is glad to have ASU in the Texas Tech University System. She asks if Nguyen would like to set up a one-on-one visit at her high school, which he is more than happy to do.

9 p.m. – Nguyen meets up with a fellow ASU admissions counselor, Kevin Owens, for dinner at a restaurant across the street from the hotel to compare notes and share stories from the day. Owens has also been attending similar fairs at schools in the Dallas area.

9:45 p.m. – Tired from a long day, Nguyen heads to his hotel room to sleep.

7:30 a.m. – Nguyen leaves the hotel once again for another day of college fairs and recruiting. ■



Photo by Jayna Pinney

Thinh Nguyen



Photo by Danny Meyer



My future on the Web

The **Angelo State University** Office of Admissions took a whole new approach to online recruiting in August when it rolled out its new website, myfuture.angelo.edu.

Commonly referred to as "My Future," the new website is a microsite, meaning it uses a separate Web address from the main ASU website and maintains a different look and feel. It is intended to serve as a hub for all prospective students with content specifically designed to answer their questions and provide the information they need about every aspect of the admission process.

"What we tried to do with the website was portray the student experience and make that come through over the Web," said Michael Loehring, ASU director of recruitment services and admissions.

The previous Admissions website was mostly informational with pages that outlined admission requirements and office contacts. With the new site, Admissions staff

wanted to provide a clearer path for students to learn more about campus life at ASU.

"A lot of students aren't interacting with us at the college fairs, they're not even interacting with us prior to the point of application," Loehring said, "and that's what makes the website so important, because a lot of students are making their decision on where they want to go and paring down their decisions based on the content that's on the website."

A key component of the My Future site is the section for admitted students. The Office of Admissions identified this as an important element because admitted students still have several tasks to complete – applying for financial aid, applying for housing and registering for student orientation, to name a few – before they can enroll at ASU.

The decision to name the site My Future was also strategic. Because the university's office infrastructure is not typically impor-

tant to prospective students, the Admissions Office chose a name and a brand intended to get students to think about the big picture – a college degree that will help them achieve career goals.

The My Future site is also the university's first venture into creating Web content that uses responsive design, meaning it has been formatted to display on multiple electronic devices. Jon Wilcox, ASU Web development specialist, created the responsive design.

"It's not just mobile friendly," he said, "it's device friendly." ■





Photo by Danny Meyer

Unforgettable Experience

For one Saturday in September, the Angelo State Rams were at the center of the football universe.

Cowboys Stadium in Arlington was the venue for the 2012 Lone Star Football Festival presented by Firestone. Six Lone Star Conference football games were played over three days in front of a total of 33,180 fans in the largest domed stadium in the world. The Rams met No. 18 Valdosta State in ASU's first appearance at the annual festival.

"It was a great experience," said senior defensive tackle Wayne Blackwell. "We got there a day early to look around the stadium and watch one of the high school football games. It was a life-changing experience."

The Rams took on the Valdosta State Blazers in the first of three Saturday afternoon games on the festival schedule. The game was close for the entire first half and the Rams had cut the Blazers' lead to 17-10 in the third quarter before Valdosta State

scored 26 unanswered points to put the game out of reach and claim a 43-10 victory. The outcome was not what the Rams or their fans had wanted, but the experience stood above the outcome.

Sophomore defensive back Jarred Ross said, "It was fun to be out in front of all those people in such a big stadium."

Home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, the \$1.3 billion Cowboys Stadium has hosted many of the country's top sporting events, including Super Bowl XLV in 2011, NCAA basketball games, an NBA All-Star Game, world championship boxing and numerous Texas UIL high school football state championship games. It boasts two high-definition video screens that are each 60 yards long, plus more than 3,000 LCD televisions strategically placed throughout the stadium to allow for constant viewing of the action on the field.

Several ASU Rams players are longtime Dallas Cowboys fans, and being able to play

in the same stadium as some of their favorite players made the festival experience even more memorable.

"Being a Cowboys fan my whole life, it felt like a dream," said senior tight end Antwon Williams. "I didn't know if I wanted to wake up."

For some of the other Rams, the best part of the festival was their families getting to watch them play in the majestic stadium, which has been playfully nicknamed "Jerry World" after Cowboys owner Jerry Jones.

"It was pretty awesome," said senior running back Donovan Roberts. "I live close to the stadium, and it was nice to get to play close to home, especially in that environment."

"It felt great," added senior defensive end Shiloh Hickman. "My mom got to see me play for the first time in a few years, and it was great to see my mom, my brothers and my sisters. Even though we didn't come out with the win, it was still fun to play in that stadium."

Playing on the ultimate stage also seemed to help the Rams the following week when they hosted arch-rival Abilene Christian University back in San Angelo. In the two teams' final LSC matchup before ACU moves to Division I, the Rams upset the No. 19 Wildcats, 28-23. ■

No Place Like Home

by Wes Bloomquist

Staying at home has taken Hanna Horeis everywhere she wanted to go.

From finding success on the soccer field to building for her future in class and working on campus, Angelo State University provided the San Angelo native opportunities to remain connected with her family while also developing new relationships and experiencing personal growth.

"Going to college and playing soccer here in San Angelo was perfect for me," Horeis said. "Not only do I have all the people I met while here in college, I also have my entire family here supporting me. My old high school coaches and friends come to our games, and it's a really exciting feeling looking around at a game and seeing so many people that you know."

A former standout player at San Angelo Central High School, Horeis instantly became an instrumental piece of the Angelo State soccer program's success during her tenure. A four-year starter for the Rambelles, she helped the team advance to its first NCAA Division II postseason appearance as a sophomore, and to the Lone Star Conference Tournament the last three years. She was selected as a team captain in her senior season and finished her career with 12 goals and 11 assists.

"She has a tremendous personality to go along with being a great soccer player," ASU head coach Travis McCorkle said. "She has a great competitive spirit, but combines that with a positive temperament in practice and in games. It can be difficult for some athletes to find that balance of being a nice person and competitive at the same time, but it just comes natural for Hanna."

"Her confidence has grown over the years on the field and off," added her mother, Debbie Horeis. "The overall experience has instilled life skills that she can utilize in the many years to come. We were extremely happy that Hanna decided on her hometown university to continue her education and to play college soccer. This allowed us to watch and attend the vast majority of her games and show support for her and the team."

There was certainly a lot for her parents to cheer about last season as Horeis helped the Rambelles advance to the semifinals of the LSC Tournament for just the second time in program history. She scored the team's lone goal in a 1-0 quarterfinal win over Texas Woman's University, and then converted a penalty kick in the team's heartbreaking semifinal loss to Incarnate Word. One of the most aggressive offensive players in the conference, she finished her senior season with three goals and led the team with 51 shots.

During her stellar ASU career, Horeis helped lead the Rambelles to 40 victories and their first two postseason wins. Though her career is now over, her influence is not.

"Hanna is my biggest mentor and showed me how to work hard at all times," said teammate Jordan Benfield. "She is always going the extra mile to prepare for anything and to be there for anyone on the team."

Off the field, Horeis also thrived in the ASU campus community. A psychology major, she plans to pursue a graduate degree in industrial-organizational psychology at ASU and to continue working in the e-Learning Center.

"I've had a great time being a part of this team and school," she said. "I really wouldn't change anything." ■



Photo by Danny Meyer

Hanna Horeis

Reaching New Heights

by Wes Bloomquist



Chuck Waddington paused, took a deep breath and collected his emotions before telling a group of reporters assembled for a postgame press conference why the Angelo State volleyball team that he coaches has become one of the nation's elite.

"I love my team, and they fought hard," said Waddington, moments after the 'Belles' season ended with a defeat by archrival West Texas A&M in the finals of the NCAA Division II South Central Regional Championships in Denver.

"This was a remarkable group that had chemistry and camaraderie that was only matched by their talent on the court," he said.

ASU's season that featured a 29-6 record and the 'Belles' first Lone Star Conference regular season championship since 1992 ended one win away from their first-ever trip to the NCAA national tournament, but not before the 2012 team established itself as the most decorated group in program history. The accolades came throughout the season with 14 LSC Player of the Week honors, six players earning All-LSC recognition and three players being named All-Americans.

"Our team went on the court with confidence every match and with the mindset that it takes to be a championship-level team," said Waddington, who has led the 'Belles to 118 wins in his five seasons and was named the 2012 LSC Coach of the Year for the first time. "They played as a unit throughout the season and always remained focused on their goals and what it was going to take to get there."

The 'Belles finished the season ranked No. 11 in the nation after spending most of the year ranked No. 9, and advanced farther in the regional tournament than any team in ASU history. Senior setter Alex Woolsey and junior middle blocker Maddie Huth were both named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association's All-America

first team while junior outside hitter Shelbi Goode earned third team All-America status. The three joined Brenda Virjan (1980) and Rose Molinar (1992) as Angelo State players to be named to All-America teams since the program was started in 1976.

Even while acquiring individual tributes, the 'Belles also continued to show the unity that made them an extraordinary group.

"I'm so proud to be a part of this team, and I understand that I couldn't have won any awards without them," said Woolsey, who ended her four-year ASU career as the 'Belles' all-time career assists leader (5,175) and a three-time All-LSC first team selection.

Angelo State finished the regular season with a perfect 11-0 conference record and hosted the LSC Volleyball Championship Tournament in San Angelo for the first time since 1992. The 'Belles swept 20 matches – including 3-0 wins over Adams State and Regis University in the regional tournament – were third in the nation in assists per match (13.97) and were fourth in digs per set and kills per set. Woolsey was fourth in the nation in assists per set with 12.16, while Shelby Wilt led the conference in digs with 5.23 per set, and Goode had an LSC-leading 3.73 kills per set.

The 'Belles have been a surging program under Waddington the past five seasons and will look to continue the progression in 2013. They will need to replace the talents and leadership of a departing senior class that included Woolsey, Chelsea Gibson, Emily Booth, Katie Coleman and Alisa Meredith, but few other programs in the nation will return the stockpile of gifted athletes who call the ASU Junell Center home.

"We've already been talking about what we're capable of doing next season," said Goode on the return trip home from Denver. "We're really excited about getting better in the offseason and the goals that we are capable of achieving." ■

Contagious Belief

by Wes Bloomquist



Alisa Meredith

Sometimes injuries are not career ending, they instead are life changing.

When a second torn knee ligament finished Alisa Meredith's time as an ASU Ram-belles volleyball player, she found new ways to contribute off the court. There was no proper name for her new role, which combined the best attributes of a fan and an assistant coach.

"I kept my positive attitude because the girls still needed me," Meredith said. "I never lost that feeling that I was a really important part of the team. My position just changed. Great teams are not only great on the court, but they are also great on the benches."

A senior from Amarillo, Meredith arrived at ASU as an energetic athlete who was an all-state and four-time all-district player at River Road High. Known for her excellent service game and her ability to excel at multiple positions, she could make the defensive plays with digs and attack the opposition with thunderous kills. Unfortunately, she could not avoid injuries, including two torn ACLs in college, a meniscus tear and a labrum injury that ended her sophomore season.

Her first setback was a torn anterior cruciate ligament in her left knee at a 2011 summer Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) volleyball camp. Her career-ending injury also happened at a FCA camp last summer when she tore the same ligament again. After sitting out the previous season with the first injury and enduring a strenuous rehabilitation process, Meredith was forced to accept that she would never again play the sport she loved.

"It was a realization that I wasn't supposed to play volleyball anymore, but also that I still had a role on this team," Meredith said. "Being around the sport and my teammates has kept me comforted and pushes me to be the best person that I can be. My spiritual beliefs tell me that He has done it at two FCA events for a reason, and that I'm still supposed to help my team to stay positive."

Practice after practice and win after win, Meredith's enthusiasm was there throughout the 'Belles' historic 2012 season. She helped in any way her teammates or coaches needed, and was on the bench at every match.

"She is always on the sideline encouraging us no matter what is going on," said junior Maddie Huth. "Her attitude is beyond contagious, and it's impossible to fully explain what she means to our team. We are a better team because she is always there for us."

Before being relegated to the sidelines, Meredith was a force for the 'Belles. Her 23 aces as a freshman were third on the team, and she also added 102 digs. She led the team with 24 service aces as a sophomore, and finished that season with 165 digs and 147 kills. ASU head coach Chuck Waddington has nothing but praise for her positive effect on her teammates over the last four years.

"Regardless of her role, her attitude has always been the same," Waddington said. "She gives our entire team encouragement that makes us a better team. Even when she wasn't injured, she was entirely about the team. She never cared about playing time or got down if she wasn't playing up to her expectations. She is an exceptional leader who lives to see others succeed."

"The team," said Meredith, "was at practice last season to get better at volleyball. I was there to get better as a person." ■

Women's Basketball

Coach: Sally Walling Brooks
(13th year, 237-115 at ASU)

Last Year: 13-15 (10-10 in LSC)

Outlook: The Rambelles welcomed back Lone Star Conference Freshman of the Year Haylee Oliver and four starters who helped lead them to the semifinals of the LSC Championships last season. Ten returning players will provide consistency for Sally Walling Brooks' 13th season as head coach of the 'Belles.

Top Returners: Oliver is the highest returning scorer, having averaged 11.1 points per game last season. Seniors Ashley James and Morgan Youngblood will provide leadership to a young team. Juniors Lauren Holt and Leah LeMaire plus sophomore Cassi Stegall will see extended playing time after last year averaging 7.6, 7.1 and 5.8 points per game, respectively. Sierra Honea and Devon Wilde all saw valuable minutes last season and will provide experience and depth. Karli Kellermeier and Giselle Aguirre are coming off injury redshirt seasons and will play early for the Rambelles.

Top Newcomers: Transfer Chesney Neely joined the 'Belles this season after being a starter for St. Mary's University last year. Freshmen Jennifer Lapp, Bria Platenburg, Faith Hunt and Amanda Weaver will also see playing time this season.

Men's Basketball

Coach: Fred Rike
(7th year, 85-80 at ASU)

Last Year: 11-17 (4-14 in LSC)

Outlook: With just three returning players, the Rams welcomed 12 newcomers in the offseason to their overhauled roster. Meshing all the new personalities and learning the offensive and defensive schemes will provide a challenge not only to the players, but also to head coach Fred Rike.

Top Returners: Zach Jones, Dakota Rawls and Justin Walling returned to the Rams for the 2012-13 season. Sophomores Rawls and Walling both averaged about three points per game as freshmen, but saw increases in playing time toward the end of the season. Jones has improved both offensively and defensively down low for the Rams.

Top Newcomers: Six freshmen and six transfers have joined the Rams. Local San Angelo Central standout Reggie Sutton headlined the freshman group along with Jovan Austin, who was the District 7-5A offensive player of the year at Grand Prairie High School. Fellow freshmen Hunter Burttschell, Andrew Costello, Sydney Holloman and Hunter Kinyon will all provide depth. Transfers Bryan Hammond and Chris Talkington both have Division I experience at Nicholls State University. Antonio Dye (McCook Community College), Ryan Marsh (Dallas Baptist), Darrion Tillman (Allegany College of Maryland) and Ryan Whitehead (UT-San Antonio) all bring experience and maturity to the Rams basketball team.

Softball

Coach: Travis Scott
(10th year, 418-128 at ASU)

Last Year: 48-11 (23-4, LSC Champions)

Outlook: The Rambelles will look to continue their success after winning a sixth Lone Star Conference Championship and advancing to the NCAA Division II South Central Super Regional.

Top Returners: All-American catcher Kacie Easley returns for her senior season after hitting a career best .408 and 10 home runs. All-LSC selection April Breshears hit .414 and will play first base. Morgan Spearman hit leadoff last season and led the team with 16 doubles. Pitching will feature Mary Kate McKay, who had a 22-6 record last year and a 2.83 earned-run average. Senior Lauren Smith, the team's returning home run leader with 12, will start in the outfield. Taylor Jensen, Brittney Davis, Amanda Wilhelm, Luz'Ce Baca and Holly Vanden Bossche will provide depth and experience for the 'Belles.

Top Newcomers: Coach Travis Scott has several newcomers who are expected to contribute early. Lanie Robinson, a freshman from Hitchcock, will be looked at to start at third base. She was an all-state softball player at O'Connell Prep. Madelyn McGarity, an outfielder from New Braunfels, could see action. Transfer Rachel Moore brings Division I experience after playing at Nicholls State last year. On the mound Kacie Brann will look to pick up the production lost by the graduation of Claire Molina, who won 26 games last year. The 2013 season starts at the St. Mary's Invitational on Feb. 1, and the first home dates will be at the ASU George McCorkle Classic Feb. 15-17 at the ASU Softball Complex.

Baseball

Coach: Kevin Brooks
(9th year, 305-166 at ASU)

Last Year: 40-17 (20-8, LSC Champions)

Outlook: The Angelo State baseball team looks to defend its Lone Star Conference Championship from last season and get back to the NCAA Division II postseason in back-to-back years. The Rams, who went 24-4 at Foster Field in 2012, return four starting positional players, two starting pitchers and two shutdown relievers.

Top Returners: Lee Neumann returns for his senior season after earning All-America honors last season for the Rams. Neumann, who was also named the LSC's Player of the Year, hit for a .389 average with seven home runs, nine triples, 19 doubles and 45 runs batted in. Ryan Greer will return to left field and as the LSC's top run producer after driving in a conference-leading 58 RBIs and stealing 29 bases. Quaid McKinnon hit .355 for the Rams as a junior and was named the LSC Championship Most Valuable Player. ASU also returns Michael Lange, who went 9-1 as a starting pitcher; Jake Feckley, who threw two complete games; and Michael Weatherly (9 saves) and Austin Church, who both had strong junior seasons out of the bullpen.

Top Newcomers: The Rams signed five players to join last season's championship team and will look for them, along with a strong redshirted class, to add depth. Reggie Rodriguez will be a player to watch for in the outfield this season while Tyler Coughenour will fill a middle infield spot. Rodriguez transferred in from North Central Texas College and will add strong defensive play in right field and another strong bat for Brooks' lineup. Coughenour transferred in from Wichita State. ■

2012 Fall Awards

Each of Angelo State University's fall sports teams had several members honored for their stellar play by the Lone Star Conference.

The 'Belles volleyball team raked in the most LSC awards after finishing first in the conference and hosting its first LSC Tournament since 1992. Maddie Huth, Shelbi Goode, Shelby Wilt and Alex Woolsey were selected to the All-LSC first team. Woolsey was also named LSC Setter of the Year while Wilt won Libero of the Year and Goode was named Newcomer of the Year. Head coach Chuck Waddington was named the LSC Coach of the Year.

Three members of the Rams football team, Avery Rigg, Blake Smith and Joey Searcy II, earned All-LSC first team honors. Clayton Callicutt also became the sixth Ram in team history to be named LSC Freshman of the Year.

Lauren Carnes and Danielle Edwards of the Rambelles soccer team were named first team All-LSC, and Edwards was also voted LSC Goalkeeper of the Year.

The ASU cross country teams were also represented on the all-conference lists. Jamin Goecker was named All-LSC for the Rams while Annifer Flores and Emeline Crutcher made the All-LSC team for the Rambelles. ■



Danielle Edwards



Marcus Altamirano

Photo Courtesy of Marcus Altamirano

A Magical Ride

For 2003 alumnus **Marcus Altamirano**, Angelo State University was the key link between “The Heart of Texas” and “The Happiest Place on Earth.”

“The Heart of Texas” is the town slogan for Brady, located about 75 miles southeast of San Angelo, where Altamirano grew up as the eighth of nine children born to parents who immigrated from Mexico. From Brady, Altamirano followed in one of his older sister’s footsteps to ASU.

“I was very shy and afraid of leaving home, but I had been to San Angelo before and I liked it,” he said. “After I went to visit ASU, I fell in love with the campus, and once classes began I realized the university had some wonderful professors. I still went to visit my family every opportunity that I had, but I also became involved with extracurricular groups and opportunities on campus.”

Those activities included the Association of Mexican-American Students, American Chemical Society, Beta Beta Beta biology national honor society and Pi Gamma Mu social sciences national honor society. They not only helped Altamirano stay the course to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in psychology (biology minor), but also prepared him for the upcoming very unexpected phase of his life.

After graduating from ASU, Altamirano enrolled at Texas Tech University hoping to enter the physician assistant program. But then a chance invitation to a Disney recruiting presentation totally changed his outlook.

“I was instantly mesmerized by the recruiter and the opportunity,” he said, “so I decided to interview. I had never been to Walt Disney World or even Florida. Vacationing to that extent was almost unattainable and I had never had that option. A few weeks later, I received an acceptance letter that said

I would be moving in January! I was afraid of what my family would think, and also of being so far from home, but I had to do it. When would I be given that gift again?”

Since starting in the Disney College Program in 2004, Altamirano has held several positions with Disney and currently works in recruitment and development, providing analytical reports to recruitment teams in Florida, California and Hawaii.

“My organization employs around 400 people,” Altamirano said, “and our entire resort here in Florida employs approximately 62,000 people, making it the largest single site employer in the country. My reporting helps identify trends and needs for our hiring, as well as forecasting for future growth, and also helps influence talent acquisition.”

“I even had the opportunity to live in Hawaii last summer for three months to help open our newest Disney resort, Aulani,” he added. “So I didn’t end up being a physician assistant, but I realized that sometimes dreams change. Angelo State University gave me the confidence, a strong academic preparation and the ability to connect with people every day.”

In addition to the Florida and Hawaii Disney resorts, Altamirano has also had the opportunity to visit Disneyland in California and Tokyo Disneyland in Japan. He lists among his favorite attractions the Haunted Mansion and Expedition Everest in Florida, the Matterhorn and Space Mountain in California, and Pooh’s Hunny Hunt in Tokyo. After growing up without the option of Disney vacations, he is now letting the magic take him wherever it can.

“The best part,” he said, “I get to play in the parks with Mickey Mouse whenever I have free time.” ■



Photo Courtesy of BET, Tina Rowden

Randy Barbee from Bronte to the Big Apple

Growing up in the small West Texas town of Bronte, ASU alum **Randy Barbee** never imagined he would end up in big-time show business.

His first steps toward that dream were taken at Angelo State, where in 1974 he earned a bachelor’s degree in theatre, and returned a few years later for a master’s degree in theatre management.

“For me, going to ASU was like being in Disneyland,” Barbee said. “It was a great awakening for me, just realizing the vast possibilities that were out there.”

Chasing those possibilities led Barbee to New York, where his show business career began in humble circumstances.

“I came to New York literally knowing only one person,” he said. “At first, I worked as a circus rigger setting tightropes and shoveling up after the elephants. Everyone starts out paying dues.”

His early efforts eventually landed Barbee a job on Broadway and a faculty position at New York’s famous Juilliard performing arts school. But despite the prestigious surroundings, he struggled to make ends meet.

“The money was terrible,” he said, “but it was a faculty position at Juilliard. I loved it, but I couldn’t afford to stay there.”

Luckily, Barbee had been learning the production side of show business, and that

helped land him jobs on several hit movies, including “Parenthood,” “Cadillac Man” and “Presumed Innocent.” A producers’ labor lockout then sent him packing to Los Angeles to work in television, most notably on the original “Twin Peaks.”

Finding the small screen to his liking, Barbee returned to New York and signed on with the NBC series “Law and Order” and later with HBO’s smash series “The Sopranos.” Initially a temporary replacement for the assistant director of “The Sopranos,” he ended up spending five seasons working on one of the most acclaimed cable shows of all time.

“I didn’t have a particular job on that show,” Barbee said. “Usually, I worked as the assistant director or second assistant director. I kind of bounced around the show.”

In the show’s fourth season, he bounced into the recurring on-screen role of trial judge Whitney R. Runions.

“I got to work on the other side of the camera,” Barbee said. “I have great respect for those people, like the Harrison Fords of the world.”

“Pauley Walnuts’ (Tony Sirico) had actually done some time in the ‘big house,’” Barbee said of one of the “Sopranos” stars. “He was a hoot. I had a different background from him and most of the people

on the show. They mostly had names like Vinnie or Tony, and were from places like Brooklyn while I was out of West Texas.”

Despite the glamour of working on camera, Barbee still prefers a behind-the-scenes role. He now splits time between a home in New York’s Catskill Mountains and Atlanta, where he and his wife, scene designer Ina Mayhew, work on original programming for the BET cable network.

From cleaning up elephant droppings to his name rolling in the credits of popular movies to an acting gig on a hit TV show, Barbee has enjoyed his winding show business path that began in his own theatre of dreams in West Texas.

“I’ve managed to do pretty well,” he said. “I have no complaints, and I have gone much farther than I could have imagined growing up in Bronte. No day is ever the same, and every time we shoot, it is unique and always interesting. You can’t complain about something that is always interesting.” ■



Adnan Mahmud

by Tom Nurre

Philanthropic Techie

His computer science education that began at Angelo State is helping **Adnan Mahmud** enjoy a successful career and also aid less fortunate people around the world.

A 2001 ASU graduate, Mahmud got his master's degree at the University of Southern California and then went to work for Microsoft, where until recently he was based in Seattle as a program manager for the Microsoft research lab in Beijing, China. During a visit to his native Bangladesh about five years ago, he came up with the idea for Jolkona, a Web-based foundation that funnels donations to hundreds of charities and nonprofit organizations worldwide.

The impetus for his idea was meeting a man on the streets of Bangladesh who could not even afford the \$2-\$3 it would have taken to give his recently deceased young son a proper burial.

"I thought then that clearly there were things I could be doing to help out," Mahmud said. "You don't need to be a millionaire to give back. After a few months of research, I landed on this idea of providing a platform that would allow people to give to good organizations around the world."

"We focus on providing feedback," he added, "so every donor gets a report on what happens with their donation, no matter what

size it is. We are leveraging that to attract a new generation of donors who may not have a lot to give, but they still want to give."

Launched in 2009, Jolkona ("drop of rain" in Bengali) is now run by Mahmud's wife, Nadia, and through its website, Jolkona.org, has generated about \$500,000 in donations to support more than 150 charitable projects across almost every continent. That success led to Mahmud being one of 15 nominees for the Microsoft Alumni Association's 2012 Integral Fellows Award that recognizes the philanthropic efforts of current and former Microsoft employees.

Though he did not end up winning the award, Mahmud continues to use his technical skills for humanitarian purposes. In April, he left Microsoft to begin his own tech startup company, Geocko.

"We are building Web-based software that will help nonprofit agencies and businesses manage all their charitable giving and donations," Mahmud said. "We are proud of what we are building and we've had a great response so far. Now we are just trying to make sure we can scale it up quickly and effectively, and turn it into a successful business."

Mahmud – continued on page 47

Each issue of the *Angelo State University Magazine* highlights selected alumni and invites you to visit the Angelo State University Alumni Association website for the latest on your former classmates. To learn more about Angelo State alumni, visit www.angelostatealumni.com.

Better yet, see what your friends are up to and then update the site with news about you, your family and your accomplishments.

1979

Brian Shannon, the Charles B. "Tex" Thornton Professor of Law at the Texas Tech University School of Law, has been elected president of the 1A Faculty Athletics Representatives association, known as 1A FAR.

The mission of 1A FAR is to advocate for effective interaction and academic and fiscal balance between a university's academic mission and its intercollegiate athletics program.

Shannon has served as the faculty athletics representative at Texas Tech for the last four years and as the Big 12 Conference's representative to the 1A FAR board for the last year. He previously has been honored by ASU as an Outstanding Alumnus.

1981

Veribest Independent School District has named **Robert "Bobby" Fryar** superintendent of schools. Previously, he was the superintendent of Crosbyton

CISD, a Class 1A district of about 400 students east of Lubbock.

A 1981 graduate of Angelo State University, Fryar earned his superintendent certificate from ASU in 2004.

1984

Deputy Chief of Navy Reserve **Eric Coy Young**, who is assigned to the Pentagon and involved in leading the Navy's 65,000 reserves, has been promoted to the rank of rear admiral in the U.S. Navy.

Young is a 1979 graduate of Abilene Cooper High School and a 1984 graduate of ASU, where he received a Bachelor of Science in chemistry. He holds a Master of Science in financial management from the Naval Postgraduate School and a Master of Arts in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College.

Young's decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various unit and campaign awards.

1989

ASU alumnus **Col. Bret Burton** has assumed command of the 375th Medical Group at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

In his ninth assignment in his 19 years in the Air Force, Burton took over his duties in July. Burton entered the Air Force after completing the ROTC program at ASU, and earned his medical degree at the University Health Sciences Center in San Antonio. He trained at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center and is a board certified pediatrician and physician executive.

CLASSnotes

1994

Todd Newberry has been named principal at Frenship Independent School District's Westwind Elementary School.

A graduate of Frenship High School, Newberry completed his undergraduate degree in elementary education at Angelo State University.

Ricardo Maldonado has been named Teacher of the Year at Indian Creek Elementary in the San Antonio area. He graduated from ASU in 1994 with a B.B.A., and received his Master of Education/Bilingual from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Maldonado is originally from Del Rio and has lived in San Antonio for the past 13 years.

2010

Meagen Mohr has been appointed the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent for family and consumer sciences in Karnes County.

Mohr grew up in Karnes County and attended ASU, earning a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in social work.

2012

Emily Hendryx, a May ASU mathematics graduate, received a first-place award for her research presentation "A Cable Equation Model of Electrical Signal Transmission in Non-Uniformly Deformed Nerve Cells" at the 2012 annual meeting of the Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America last summer.

A native of Alpine, Hendryx is now enrolled in the Computational and Applied Mathematics graduate program at Rice University.



Kimberly Adams

New Alumni Director

Angelo State alumna **Kimberly D. Adams**, who earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in 2004 and her Master of Education in student development and leadership in December, has been named director of the ASU Alumni Association.

An ASU development staff member since 2008, Adams had most recently served as corporation and foundation officer in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Jamie Akin, executive director of development and alumni relations, announced the October appointment, saying, "Kimberly's dedication to Angelo State University and her experience in the Development Office over the last four years makes her the ideal person to move forward with the ASU Alumni Association."

Adams said her goals in her new role will be to promote alumni communication, to increase community outreach and activities for alumni and to assist ASU in achieving its goals and academic mission.

In her new position, Adams will report to the university's Office of Development and Alumni Relations and will work with the alumni association's board of directors. The ASU Alumni Association is a 501(c)(3) organization established to support the university and its educational efforts. The association owns and operates the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center and sponsors numerous campus events and activities in support of ASU. ■

as of November 15, 2012

alumni association century club

DIAMOND

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Noel and Jacqueline Williams, Franklin, Ky.
Kimberly Woods, Houston
Eric Zeittler, Bulverde

SMALL BUSINESS CLUB

Friendly Flower Shop, San Angelo
Legend Jewelers, San Angelo
Legacy West Investment Services, San Angelo

BLUE BUSINESS CLUB

Reflections Hair Salon and Day Spa, San Angelo

GOLD BUSINESS CLUB

Wells Fargo Bank, San Angelo

President – continued from page 19

Accompanying May at the announce-
ment were his wife, Patti, who is con-
troller for the San Angelo Area Founda-
tion; daughters Morgan May Christo and
Mackenzie May Holik; and sons-in-law
Lenny Christo and Brian Holik.

“My whole family attended ASU and
I love Angelo State,” May said at the an-
nouncement ceremony. “I will continue to
support the success that we have had so far
... So, when it comes to Angelo State, we’re
all in. We love this school and ... we will
do our best to make this region proud.”

Speaking in an interview after his
appointment, May looked to the future
of his presidency and the administra-
tive support team.

“I’m lucky that we have a close-knit
group (of administrators) that I feel com-
fortable with and a great group of dedi-
cated faculty,” he said. “I’m comfortable
working with Chancellor Hance and, of
course, with Dr. Rallo. He’s just a phone
call away. It’s like we still have the same
team together, just in different positions.
Dr. Rallo is still working for us, so that
makes the situation unique.”

As president, May’s goals for ASU will
be an extension of his vision as provost:

1) to grow all programs, both graduate
and undergraduate, that focus on the uni-
versity’s strengths; 2) to hire a diverse, en-
gaging faculty and staff to deliver the best
education possible; 3) to excel in com-
munity involvement of faculty, staff and
students; 4) to diversify ASU course deliv-
ery, both through face-to-face and online
offerings; 5) to increase graduation rates
and reduce student debt burdens; and 6)
improve retention rates, especially at the
freshman level through the newly created
Freshman College.

Probably the question he answered
most after being named president was
whether or not he would move from his
San Angelo home to the Tippet House,
the university’s presidential residence.
The answer is yes. And, he will still drive
his pickup to work.

Regardless of where he resides or what
he drives, May will have a single focus
as president.

“I am a builder,” he said. “I am always
trying to make things better. If you look
at my history, wherever I worked, I always
tried to improve things. I am going to get
up every morning thinking of ways I can
make ASU better.” ■

Mahmud – continued from page 44

Much of Mahmud’s current and fu-
ture success has its roots at Angelo State,
where a Carr Scholarship lured him to be-
gin his educational journey.

“I really learned a lot at ASU,”
Mahmud said. “The professors were good
at what they were doing, and I really
liked some of the projects we worked on
in class because we were challenged to
be creative and try our own ideas. There
were also opportunities for other special
classes and internships that helped me
understand what the corporate world in

America was like before I got into it. ASU
was very good to me, and I’m very grate-
ful for that.”

“San Angelo was also a very welcom-
ing community,” he added. “Coming from
a city of 14 million to a town of 100,000
could’ve been difficult, but the people and
environment here made it very easy for
me. That human contribution was just as
important for me as ASU’s academic con-
tribution. I still love coming back at least
once a year because part of me has always
remained in San Angelo.” ■



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