

Angelo State University Alumni

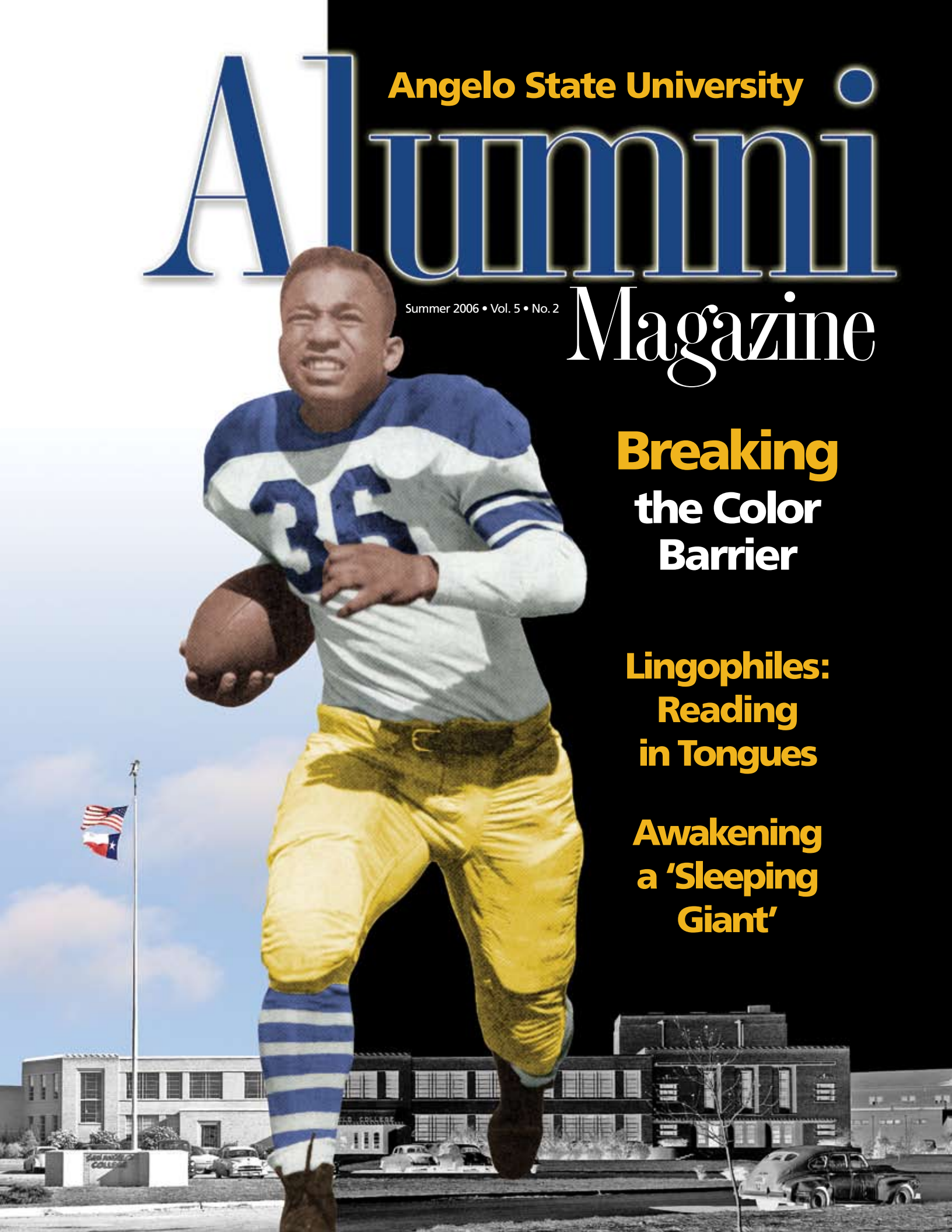
Summer 2006 • Vol. 5 • No. 2

Magazine

**Breaking
the Color
Barrier**

**Lingophiles:
Reading
in Tongues**

**Awakening
a 'Sleeping
Giant'**





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ASU Alumni Magazine

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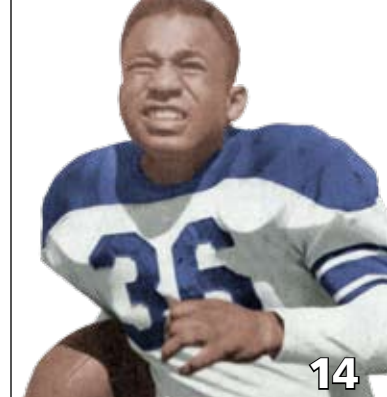
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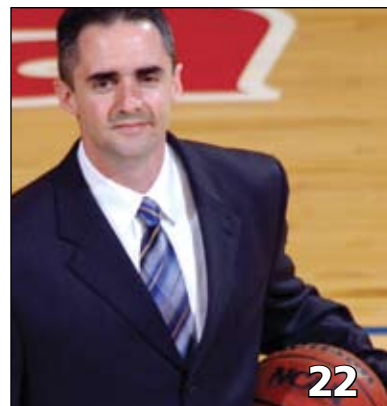
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On the cover: In 1953 Ben Kelly was the right man at the right time, becoming the first black to enroll at San Angelo College and likely the first to play football at a previously segregated college in Texas.



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letter

from the association president



Lawrence Kennedy, Jr.

Dear Fellow Alumni,

I moved to San Angelo 26 years ago to attend ASU and have called San Angelo home ever since. I graduated from ASU in 1983 with a B.B.A. in management and have worked in the solid waste hauling industry since then. My time at ASU introduced me to many wonderful friends as well as faculty and staff who helped shape me into whom I am today. I can attribute much of my business success to the excellent education I received at ASU.

It is truly an honor to be president of the ASU Alumni Association for 2006-07. I am delighted not only to be a part of the very university of which I hold such fond memories but also to represent the many outstanding alumni the university has produced. One of my goals for the Association is to increase alumni participation and membership. It is through membership that we are able to keep the Association growing and to provide monetary and voluntary support to Angelo State University.

We have so many loyal members who give both time and money to support the Alumni Association and university, but there are many alumni that we do not reach. The ASU Alumni Association can offer much to alumni in the form of communication and university involvement. Our task as an Association is to reach as many alumni as we can, educate them about these benefits and get them involved in supporting the university.

In an effort to enhance our resources so we can reach more of our exes, the board of directors has voted to raise the dues at the individual, friend and joint membership levels, effective Sept. 1. Though this is the first dues increase since 2001, our expenses have been rising steadily due to the new LeGrand Alumni Center and the economy, reducing our flexibility to reach out to more of our former students.

With the revenues from the increase, we plan to enhance our website and to continue to improve our publications. Along with the fee increase, the board also voted to provide additional benefits to our members and to make a greater distinction between century club levels. Look for details to come, but I am advising you now in case you want to renew your membership this summer at the current rate.

I truly believe that Angelo State University is an outstanding university, opening many doors for students wishing to further their education. The ASU Alumni Association keeps those doors open, reminding graduates and former students of the lasting impact of their Angelo State education and experience so they can in turn, nurture and help other students grow.

I look forward to this wonderful opportunity I have been given to serve as your new president. Feel free to e-mail me with any ideas or suggestions you may have.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence Kennedy, Jr." in a cursive script.

Lawrence Kennedy, Jr.
Class of 1983
kennedy1@repsrv.com

2006-2007

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Nikolauk

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Barnhart



Blanton



Box

Newly Appointed

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Jeff Hamilton, '85 Pharmaceuticals Representative, Schering-Plough
Stacia Hughes, '00 Product Development, West Central Wireless
Robert Rainey, '96 Sales, Data Management, Inc.
Steve Todd, '94 (not pictured) Manager, Duncan Disposal
Ronnie Willman, '78 Network Support, Verizon



Eustis



O. Gomez



Harrison

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Scott Blanton, '88 Veterinarian, Green Meadow Veterinary Hospital
Kyle Box, '81 System Engineer, Verizon
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Oscar Gomez, '68 Retired, Former Vice President, Verizon
David Harrison, '72 Senior Vice President, Texas Bank
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Joey Henderson, '87 Porter Henderson Implement Company
Lance Lacy, '81/'91 Owner/Realtor, Lacy & Co. Realty
Joe Lee, '80 Owner, Dean's Marine
Jean Ann Block LeGrand, '72 Civic Volunteer
Kathy Munoz, '89 News Director, KLST-TV (CBS) & KSAN-TV (NBC)



Harper



Henderson



Lacy



Lee



LeGrand



Munoz

YOU. said...

Dear ASU Alumni Association:

I just read the Spring 2006 publication of the *ASU Alumni Magazine* and want to congratulate you and your staff for a job well done. The articles were most informative and well written. I especially enjoyed reading the "2028: An ASU 'Space' Odyssey" article by Preston Lewis and reviewing the Class Notes.

Please keep up the good work you and your staff are doing and continue the strong communication effort. We are all proud to be ASU graduates and alumni! Thanks.

Oscar C. Gomez ('68)
Irving

Dear ASU Alumni Association:

I received my *ASU Alumni Magazine* today and that is the best one that I have received since I graduated in '85. Great job!

Jeff Hamilton ('85)
Lubbock

Dear ASU Alumni Association:

On behalf of the Writer's Conference committee, I would like to thank (the ASU Alumni Association) and Board for your generous donation to the 10th Annual Writers Conference in Honor of Elmer Kelton.

Allowing us to utilize the Alumni Center's ballroom for our Friday luncheon enabled us to host a special gathering for our English majors and graduate students in connection with the conference. Students were able to interact and dialogue with our honored guest, Mr. Elmer Kelton, our keynote speaker, Mr. Tim O'Brien, and our other conference speakers....

The Alumni Center is truly one of the finest facilities on this campus, and we are grateful that you allowed us the opportunity to utilize its gracious atmosphere for our luncheon.

Mary Ellen Hartje
Associate Professor of English
Angelo State University

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Exchanging Meetings for Labs

With the precision that you might expect from a physicist, Dean David H. Loyd Jr. will step down from his position 10 years to the day he assumed the leadership post in the College of Sciences.

Loyd will be returning in the fall to full-time teaching, his first love. After a decade as dean, though, Loyd has developed some opinions about the position.

"Deans don't do much," he said, "except help other people do things. I think a very large number of things have been accomplished by the faculty in this college while I have been dean, the vast majority of which would probably have been accomplished no matter who was dean."

Loyd's respect for faculty and their achievement comes largely from his self-perception as a professor who happened to be dean rather than as an administrator who once had been a teacher.

"I think I probably have been a little guilty of never thinking of myself as a dean," he said. "I was a faculty member here for 27 years so as I interacted with faculty I didn't see myself as different. Sometimes, I may have failed to realize that people perceived me differently."

As dean, Loyd was one who was more apt to drop by a faculty member's office with a question, rather than invite the professor to his.

"There are two reasons for that," Loyd said. "One is I'm impatient and the other is then I can control how long the meeting is."

Coming in as dean, Loyd said he knew he would be involved in a lot of meetings, but "you don't really grasp how many that's going to be and how much of your time that's going to take up."

Even so, those meetings and their results added up to a lot of accomplishments for the College of Sciences during his tenure.

At the top of that list would be the es-

tablishment of the Physical Therapy program. Although some preliminary work had been done on creating that program when he assumed the dean's position, he and Graduate Dean Carol Diminnie spent a lot of their time his first years as dean getting PT up and running.

"I think that is a very important program for Angelo State," Loyd said, "and I'm proud of the part I had in recruiting those faculty, getting the program going and putting together what I think is an excellent PT program."

He is also pleased with the development of the Meats Lab in the Agriculture Department and the initiation of Nursing's on-line program leading to a bachelor of science in nursing. Additionally, new minors and majors were introduced in the Departments of Agriculture, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Physics, Biology, Mathematics and Nursing, all important steps in keeping the curriculum current and attractive to students.

His work with the special academic scholarship program, initiated by President James Hindman, for the Departments of Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry plus Modern Languages in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts has been gratifying as well because of the increased ability for ASU "to attract some very high level students into those departments."

Additionally, he has enjoyed working the last decade with the West Texas Medical Associates Distinguished Lectureship in Science honoring Dr. Roy E. Moon. That lectureship has attracted to campus over the past 30 years some of the top scientific minds in the world, including three Nobel laureates during his tenure as dean.

His contacts with Nobel Prize recipients will fit nicely with his fall teaching plans.

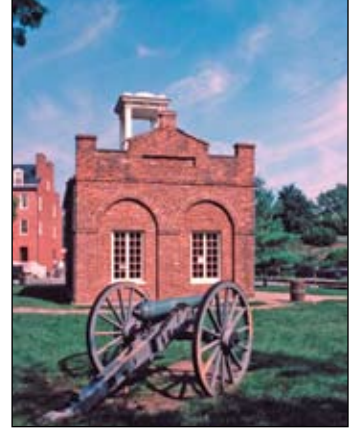


Photo by Jim Bean

Though he has taught introductory physics courses while serving as dean, Loyd is delighted to begin teaching some advanced classes, including modern physics which covers quantum mechanics, x-rays, nuclear physics and other fields that arose in the first four decades of the 20th century.

"We have eight to 10 labs that we do every semester that were Nobel Prize-winning experiments when they were first done," Loyd said. "I am pleased that the rest of the department is perfectly happy for me to teach modern physics in the fall."

Living in the Past



When history professor Dr. John M. Wheeler retired at the end of the spring semester, the university's Information Technology office was able to dispense with its last 16mm film projector as he was the only teacher still using one.

"How quaint, some may have thought," said Wheeler, "but it was really a historical experience."

After all, his last generation of students had grown up in an era of videocassette players, DVDs and PowerPoint presentations and likely never heard the clatter of the standard audio-visual medium of their elders.

Even getting back their papers was a historical experience for Wheeler's students as he typed his comments on an old Royal, the last working manual typewriter in the History Department and possibly the entire university.

"The more people laughed about it, the more defensive I became," Wheeler said.

His devotion to the battered Royal, though, was most appropriate. After all, the typewriter was a product of 19th century America, Wheeler's historical specialty.

A native of Camden, Ark., Wheeler grew up in the home of historically conscious grandparents born barely two decades after Appomattox. Consequently, he heard many stories about the Civil War and about his distant relative, Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg.

In fact, the first book he ever purchased, using money he had saved from his paper route, was *Pictorial History of the Confederacy*. There on page 119 was a portrait of Braxton Bragg, that great Confederate ancestor.

Additionally, his grandmother would take him to Poison Springs, "the local Civil War battlefield," and look at the forested landscape. "'What tales these trees could tell,' she would say," Wheeler recounted.

"Hearing that kind of poetry as a child



probably turned me on to a reverence and an interest in things past. And, I guess part of it was the Civil War experience, especially among Southerners."

In college, first at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark., then at the University of Arkansas and later Tulane University, he learned that Braxton Bragg was not as great a general as his grandparents had believed.

Though he was fascinated by the War Between the States, he studied the Progressive Era and Gilded Age because of a glut of Civil War historians in the wake of the era's centennial. He joined the Angelo State faculty in 1971 and, upon the retirement of the late Dr. Jack Bates, he started teaching the Civil War in 1984.

Wheeler was known for using the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Killer Angels* in his undergraduate history courses. He utilized the novel because it "can personalize a historical story and people can identify with the characters and come to feel it in a way that just straight history doesn't allow." In fact, Wheeler once had a student's father call him and tell him that the book had changed his son's life.

While Wheeler would never claim to want to change people's lives, he did hope to alter their attitudes about history.

"It was always most gratifying to me when some students in a class came however reluctantly to realize history is a story that made things the way they are today and came to really enjoy hearing about it as I did," Wheeler said.

"Many students come to this campus saying 'I hate history' and, because of our department, not because of me, many of them come to say 'I like history,' which is a long way from 'I hate history.'"

"This department has been, from the time I first came until now, really like a family," he said. "I think in our department we have an ethic that students should read and write a lot and that that is a part of their education."

That pedagogical philosophy fit well with Wheeler's belief that he "wanted a grade to be meaningful." Many found his classes meaningful, too, the student body electing him in 2003 as the favorite professor in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts.

In retirement Wheeler is splitting his time between San Angelo and Camden, where he is helping coordinate a preservation effort in the Clifton and Green Streets Historic District.

Additionally, he has put away the Royal typewriter for good and is reading more books on history.

Shear Delight

No manual labor ever produced softer hands than sheep shearing, a skill that has almost disappeared in West Texas and the United States.

Even though shearing sheep was hard, physical labor, the lanolin in the wool kept the workers' hands as soft as down.

Such hands-on details as that are being preserved for posterity by Angelo State's West Texas Collection (WTC), beginning with a major spring exhibit "Clipped: Sheep Shearers and the West Texas Wool Industry." A WTC traveling exhibit of the same name is scheduled to debut in July in Kerrville at the annual meeting of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association (TSGRA).

"It's a dying art," said WTC Head Suzanne Campbell, "even though sheep shearing has been a way of life in West Texas since 1877 when John Arden and Joseph Tweedy brought the first sheep to the region."

But what was once a mainstay of the West Texas economy from the time of San

Angelo's founding until recent decades has declined in importance with the rise of synthetic fibers and low-cost wool imports from Australia and New Zealand. Other factors marking the decline of the industry, which Campbell describes as "quickly and quietly disappearing," are the rise of predators and the development of more profitable land uses, whether for urbanization or hunting.

For Shannon Sturm, the ASU history graduate student who has done the bulk of the research on the exhibit, the greatest satisfaction has come from working with the families of sheep shearers, 99 percent of whom were Hispanic.

"We get to tell the public that what they did was important," Sturm said. "No one ever told them that it was important. It was just a job."

The exhibit also marked the debut of a bronze sculpture of sheep shearing by San Angelo artist Raul Ruiz, whose family has been involved in the industry for many generations.

Other families contributing interviews and materials for the exhibit included the Santiago Uriegas Jr. family of San Angelo, the Daniel Ruiz family of Eola and the Ed-die and Stephen Franco families of Rock-springs. Additional support came from Sonora Wool Warehouse, Sandy Whittle of TSGRA, Dave Richardson of San Angelo, Sue Mims of Water Valley, Rick Albin of Midland and Fred Campbell of Paint Rock.

The traveling exhibit was built by Museumscapes of Richardson and made possible by a gift from Mrs. Eva Camuñez Tucker to the Friends of the Porter Henderson Library and West Texas Collection.

The traveling exhibit, scheduled for several local museums in West Texas, includes sections on sheep shearing and the wool industry, the progression of shearing tools and techniques, sheep-shearing families and demise of the industry.

"Sheep shearing was one of the few occupations that was passed on from father to son, from generation to generation," Campbell said.

The WTC exhibit and research will make the sheep shearers' story, if not their skills, accessible for generations to come.



Photo courtesy of the West Texas Collection.

Woolly Tales

The West Texas Collection is seeking to preserve for the historical record the story of the sheep shearers and the region's wool industry.

All individuals willing to share documents, photos and other materials on the wool industry in West Texas should contact the West Texas Collection at (325) 942-2164 or by e-mail at suzanne.campbell@angelo.edu.



*Honors Senior Lori Loomis with
Program Director Nick Flynn.*

Honors Program Aims High

The Angelo State University Honors Program is hitting its stride, graduating its first full class in May and steadily increasing its numbers.

The first group of 23 honors students entered the program in August 2002, and the program has grown each year since.

"These students," said Honors Program Director Dr. Nick Flynn, "have seen some very interesting and sometimes challenging changes made to a developing program since it started, and the fact that they have stuck it out through our growing pains is a remarkable feat."

The students have traveled to national meetings in cities across the country and volunteered with such organizations as Christmas in April, Habitat for Humanity and Toys for Tots. Honors participants also attend extracurricular events such as symphonies and plays.

"We're really trying to develop well-rounded students," said Flynn, a biochemistry professor. "For instance, we'll have science majors take an honors government course. It takes them out of their comfort zone, and it helps them grow as individuals."

Despite stringent academic and extracurricular activity requirements, enrollment in the program has risen, with 35 students entering in fall 2005. The program's success has helped garner financial support, with the Abell-Hanger Foundation of Midland offering a \$4,350 matching grant to help support student activities. The grant requires the Honors Program to raise comparable money from other sources by Aug. 31.

One especially attractive aspect of the curriculum for prospective honors students is an emphasis on preparing them for graduate and professional school. In one honors course, students are required to write a research proposal, and students are encour-

aged to present their work at the regional honors conference.

"Learning how to write research proposals and how to get reports published, that's a really good enhancement that you receive," said Lori Loomis, a biochemistry major who will attend the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas for graduate work.

The close academic relationships between students and teachers also give those seeking a graduate degree a leg up. During their senior year, students have the option of going before a board comprised of honors faculty.

The board members ask detailed questions about the student's academic work and goals. After the meeting, the committee writes a composite letter of recommendation for the student to use in applying to graduate schools and professional schools or for employment. The board also gives them invaluable experience answering faculty questions in a pressure environment. The atmosphere of the meeting is similar to what graduate students will face for their thesis defense or what job-seekers will experience in an interview.

"When you're in the Honors Program, then we get to know you really well," Flynn said.

In addition to Loomis, several other students have their sights set on graduate work or professional school. Audrey Sato will graduate with a biology degree and begin medical school in the fall at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth. Calinda Shely will attend ASU as a master's degree candidate in English.

"Though some of the classes may initially be difficult, the opportunity to have frequent open discussions and to interact with those whose opinions are different from your own is definitely valuable," said Shely.

campus Newsbriefs

ASU Takes Academy Awards

Angelo State biology students took top research honors this spring in the competition conducted at the annual meeting of the Texas Academy of Science in Beaumont.

Graduate students Molly McDonough and Carson Brown took first and second place respectively in the master's degree division while Eeshita Dastidar finished first in the undergraduate competition. All three students did their research under the direction of Dr. Loren K. Ammerman of the ASU biology faculty.

Their projects competed against other student research across all scientific disciplines. As TAS competitions are conducted each year in undergraduate, master's and doctoral divisions, ASU students this year took top honors in all the divisions in which they entered. Twenty-nine universities were represented at the conference.

Each first-place recipient received a \$1,500 honorarium and each second-place finisher received a \$1,000 prize. McDonough also received the \$300 TAS graduate student presentation award for her work.

"ASU had a fantastic meeting," Ammerman said. "The results reflect the qual-

ity of our biology program and the research we conduct at both the graduate and undergraduate levels."

Physics Chapter Tops

The national Society of Physics Students (SPS) has once again named ASU's chapter among the top 10 percent of society chapters nationwide.

The award is based upon the chapter's community outreach activities, the number of active members and involvement with the local and national physics communities. The award for the 2004-05 school year is the chapter's fourth consecutive such honor.

There are 100 physics majors at ASU, and the weekly meetings usually attract about 20 attendees – a strong number considering the academic demands of a physics major.

"One of the things we have is a strong sense of community, and SPS is a part of that," said physics professor Toni Sauncy, who advises the group along with professor Christian Poppeliers. "Physics students have rigorous course schedules. It's amazing they can find any time for extracurricular activities."

The chapter's leaders are president Morgan Lynch, vice president Marshall Preas and secretary/treasurer Tina Klepac.

Accounting for Success

ASU accounting graduates once again had one of the top pass rates on the Certified Public Accountant exam, with 18 students passing 16 of 24 sections attempted during the October/November testing window.

ASU's pass rate of 66.67 percent led all four-year colleges that had more than one candidate sit for the exam. This marked the second straight testing period in which ASU students have led the state.

Rosemont Remains

In the spirit of being a good neighbor, ASU President James Hindman has withdrawn the university's request to close Rosemont Drive between West Avenue N and Shamrock Drive.

The action came during a public hearing before the San

Angelo City Council on Feb. 21. ASU's initial request had been turned down by a 4-3 vote of the council in December. The closure had been requested to help make room for a new 500-bed residence hall, Centennial Village.

During the public debate over the request and the city planning staff's evaluation of it, Hindman said he believed the closing of Rosemont had gotten confused with larger, pre-existing city traffic issues around campus. As a result, Hindman said he thought it was in the best interest of the university to abandon the request and to move ahead with the construction because of the urgent need for new housing on campus.

Closing the 840-foot long section of Rosemont had been recommended in the university's Centennial Master Plan 2028. The new resi-



Centennial Village

campus Newsbriefs

dence hall was named Centennial Village in recognition of the master plan.

The university has established a new Facilities Planning and Construction office to oversee master plan implementation and to coordinate related building issues across campus. John Russell will head the office as director and Rick Stinnett will serve as construction inspector.

Let There Be Light

English Professor Chris Ellery has condensed three decades of life into *All This Light We Live In*, a new volume of poetry published in March by Panther Creek Press.

"Poetry is a threshold to self knowledge and deepens our involvement with and commitment to life," Dr. Ellery said.

The life experiences in *All This Light We Live In* range from the mundane of water aerobics in the ASU pool in "Pool" to the poignancy of burying parents in "Palm Sunday." Written over the past 30 years, the book's 84 poems were penned in a variety of styles and forms.

Ellery said the book's title reflects his interest in transcendence. "Most of us are trying to find through our experience in this world something beyond that experience. Maybe words can't get

us there, but they can help us get close."

The 139-page book is available from the ASU Bookstore or Panther Creek Press, P.O. Box 130233, Spring, TX 77393-0233.

Change of Scenery

Eldra Sanford switched costumes, so to speak, during the Arts@ASU's spring production of "Proposals," a Neil Simon comedy.

Sanford, the drama program's costume designer for the past six years, wore the director's cap for "Proposals." While noting that the research involved for a production is much the same for a costumer or director, she indicated the final product "is ruled by the director's vision."

"As a director," Sanford said, "you can fully realize your own creative inspiration."

University Theatre Director Bill Doll had originally been scheduled to direct "Proposals" but wound up directing the musical "West Side Story." In the truest tradition of the theatre, Sanford stepped in so the show would go on.

"The whole turn-around was healthy for the University Theatre and, I would think, it was refreshing for our patrons," Doll said.

The directing opportunity was a great but ephemeral experience for Sanford.

"It was a real joy to see the growth in each individual in the company," Sanford said. "We all learned so much from each other and really worked together ... It was all over too soon."

Top Grad Students

The College of Graduate Studies named outstanding students in each of ASU's other four colleges during the annual spring honors banquet.

Top graduate students were history major Alex-

ander S. Cano, College of Liberal and Fine Arts; biology major Carla E. Ebeling, College of Sciences; professional accountancy major Lacie Hawkins, College of Business; and curriculum and instruction-secondary education major Selina Jackson, College of Education.

Other nominees were Elizabeth Bankhead, Curry Dawson, Brandon Hefner, Regina Howard, Mellisa Huffman, Carrie Pilant, Cathy Richardson and Ingo Rumohr.

Viva la Revolución

Images from Angelo State's West Texas Collection (WTC) will be on display in Del Rio during the month of June as part of an exhibit on the Mexican Revolution.

"The People of the Revolution" features 43 photos from WTC's extensive holdings on the Mexican Revolution and may be seen at Casa de la Cultura, 302 Cantu, Brown Plaza, in Del Rio.

WTC materials on exhibit come from the Meador Collection, John Hardman of Ohio and Joe R. Montelongo. Call (830) 768-2287 for hours of the exhibition.



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BREAKING the Color Barrier



Stories by Preston Lewis
Photos by Tina Miller
Historical Photos Courtesy of
the West Texas Collection
and Ben Kelly

When Benjamin Kelly entered the game for the San Angelo College Rams on a hot September night in 1953, he stepped not only onto the football field at Bobcat Stadium but also into history.

Kelly's appearance against Phoenix College in SAC's 1953 season opener likely marked the first time a black athlete had played for a previously all-white collegiate football team in Texas and perhaps in all the states that once made up the Confederacy.

"To me," said former ASU Athletic Director Phil George, "Ben is like a gift to this institution."

George should know. He was an assistant Ram football coach at the time and was present the day Kelly first inquired about playing for the Rams.

"What Ben did for this school in relationship to integration could not have been written nearly as well even if it had been a movie script because this was a human, walking it on a daily basis without any structure as far as a formula to go by. In other words, there's not enough talent in the film-writing area to tell this story as well as Ben lived it," George said.

In all, Benjamin Kelly suited out for 19 games in a Ram uniform before leaving San Angelo in 1954 for the National Football League. In many, if not all, of his SAC contests Kelly entered the game as a target of dirty play, racial epithets and abusive fans. And though he traveled with the team, he often was forced to eat in the kitchens of segregated restaurants or to find his own accommodations on overnight trips.

Despite the hardships of 1950s Jim Crow segregation, Kelly persevered and earned not only the love of his teammates but also the respect of his opponents, winning All-Pioneer Conference honors in both years of his SAC career.

Though the walls of segregation were beginning to crumble by Sept. 19, 1953, when Benjamin Kelly played his first collegiate game in Texas, it was still eight months before the Supreme Court would make its pivotal decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education*. That May 17, 1954, decision overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine originally ruled as constitutional by the 1896 Supreme Court in *Plessy vs. Ferguson*.

Kelly, though, had not waited for *Brown vs. Board of Education*. Graduating from San Angelo's Blackshear High School in 1950, he had gone to the University of Illinois and played on the freshman team for the Big Ten school. Then he had spent two years in the Army before returning to San Angelo where he desired to resume his education and continue his football career.

Taking matters into his own hands, Kelly visited campus unannounced and walked into the athletic offices in the basement of the old gym located behind the University Auditorium at that time. Kelly found Max Bumgardner, the athletic director and head football coach, and Phil George preparing for the 1953 season. Both coaches remembered Kelly from his playing days at Blackshear and were pleasantly surprised to see him again as they had lost track of him.

George remembered Kelly gently rocking back and forth from foot to foot before he asked if he could come out for the team.

"He wasn't nervous in our presence, even though we were a segregated society in those days," George recalled. "To me I think that is important for people to understand (that) it wasn't pocket segregation. In other words, it wasn't that athletics was segregated and other parts were integrated. The whole civil society in our part of the country was segregated – public schools, everything. I'm even talking about the Mickey Mouse things, the water fountains, the buses, the eating establishments. I mean, to be honest, it was a cruel deal."

Then came the crucial question, as George remembered Kelly saying, "Coach Bum, I want to come to San Angelo College and play football for the Rams."

According to George's recollection, Bumgardner, never one to avoid an issue head-on, responded, "Ben, that's fine. We'd like to have you, but you know we can't have you. We're a segregated school so there's no way that I could let you come here and play football for the Rams."



Paul K. "Buddy" Horne, Max Bumgardner and Benjamin Kelly in 1954.

Kelly then inquired who did have the authority. After Bumgardner told him SAC President Rex F. Johnston would have to make the decision, Kelly asked if Johnston would see him. The football coach replied that Dr. Johnston might and pointed Kelly to the president's office on the first floor of the Administration Building.

As soon as Kelly left, Bumgardner picked up the phone to alert Johnston's secretary, Virginia Feist, that Kelly was on his way over. The line was busy, thus Johnston received no advance warning of

the impending visit.

Educated at North Texas State College, the University of Texas and Stanford University, Johnston became president in 1952 and would leave in 1954 for a position with George Pepperdine College in Los Angeles. But in August of 1953, he was the right man at the right time for the decision.

Kelly marched over to Johnston's office and waited while Johnston finished his phone call. After Feist informed SAC's president of his visitor, Johnston invited Kelly into his office. Through the open or cracked door Feist overheard the conversation, which she later related in substance to

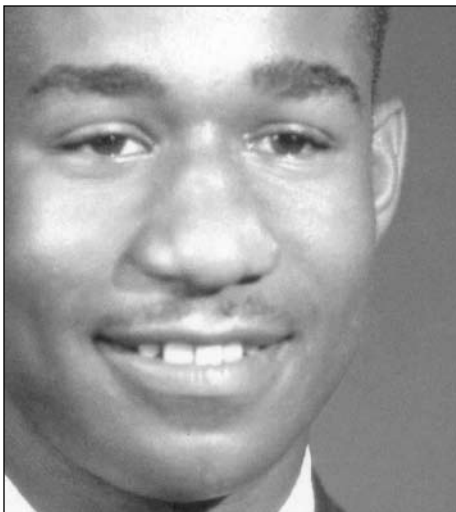
George. After Kelly asked to attend San Angelo College, Feist recalled, as George described it, "a real loud silence."

"You have to understand what a real loud silence is," George said. "That is a response to a profound question of which you are hesitant to answer. And she said it (the pause) seemed like forever, but I bet you it wasn't 40 seconds long at the most."

Johnston finally broke the quiet and addressed Kelly. "If I felt as strongly about it as you do, I'd go across the hall to the registrar's office and I'd enroll."



Phil George



Ben Kelly, 1953

*And that was it.
San Angelo College
was integrated.
No demonstrations.
Nobody barring
the front door.
Just men of principle
doing what was right
and long overdue...*

And that was it. San Angelo College was integrated. No demonstrations. Nobody barring the front door. Just men of principle doing what was right and long overdue, despite decades of southern barriers to opportunity for blacks.

Johnston's decision on Kelly came so quickly and so shortly before 1953 fall classes began that Bumgardner and George had more concerns than time. First, certain Texas laws at that time actually prohibited whites and blacks from competing against each other in an organized venue. "Now, can you imagine something like that being a law?" George asked a half century later.

The coaches, though excited to land a player of Kelly's size and talent, had other worries. "What's going to be the reaction of our student body, our fans because this is something totally unprecedented in the State of Texas?" George recalled.

"Another concern was the reaction of our players, who all came from segregated programs, on showing up for fall workouts and finding this big, strong black man suiting out in the dressing room with them," George said, especially since the coaches had too little time to notify players before they arrived.

And, finally, though weeks away from their season opener, the coaches were most apprehensive about the "reaction of opponents on the field of competition."

Despite these anxieties, the two coaches did not fret, George said. "We knew enough about Ben and his personal character and his ability to play the game of football, which seems to help a lot of people understand."

By the end of August word of Kelly's try out with the team had spread through the community. *San Angelo Standard-Times* sports writer Blondy Cross wrote that the local sports buzz was whether or not Kelly would make the team. "The fellow seems to have quite a hefty backing among the Caucasian fan population," Cross wrote, speculating that the "average American seems to delight in cheering on the underdog in getting on top."

Bob Milburn, another *Standard-Times* sports writer, noted that "pioneering always has been difficult" and "both the college trustees and Coach Max Bumgardner should be commended for their realistic

and progressive attitude in facing the situation of enrolling Kelly and giving him the chance to make the squad." Milburn also observed that Blackshear had drawn its greatest crowds ever during the years that Kelly played for the Leopards.

With the community watching, Benjamin Kelly reported for practice that fall with several other newcomers. Paul K. "Buddy" Horne came from the McCulloch County community of Lohn. Jimmy Gafford and John A. Blocker arrived from Lubbock High School where they had won two consecutive state football titles.

Horne was an undersized halfback, who was forever grateful to Bumgardner and George, for the athletic scholarship that allowed him to get the college education he might not otherwise have gotten.

Both Lubbock High players had aspired to go to the University of Texas before coming to San Angelo. Gafford, who had been an All-State and All-American lineman at Lubbock and had received a scholarship offer from Austin, had just gotten married that summer and realized "marriage would not fit at the University of Texas."

Blocker never received a scholarship offer from UT, laughing today, "I, like a lot of football players, thought I was better than I really was." Blocker came to SAC playing fullback, the same position listed for Kelly.

All were in for a surprise at their first players meeting when Bumgardner announced that Kelly would be joining the team.

Blocker remembered that Bumgardner called everyone together and "told the team that Benjamin Kelly ... was (to be) the first black to play below the Mason-Dixon Line. Now, I don't know that he knew that or that he had researched that or somebody had told him, but that's what he told the squad."

Even coming off two state championship teams, Gafford was familiar with Lubbock's black Dunbar High School and its "strong football team and good athletes." Gafford recalled, "Personally, I knew it was time for us to do that (integrate). I don't remember anybody on the team that had any reservations about Benjamin coming. He became our friend. We supported him and he supported us."

Horne said he remembered a smooth transition. "I guess we were a little hesitant



Jimmy Gafford and John Blocker

to do anything and we were just waiting to see because we didn't know. We didn't know him, but I can't remember anybody being upset, anybody saying I'm not going to do this. Never any of that. I think all of us knew the coaches we were playing for, Max Bumgardner and Phil George, would not have put up with any conversations of those kinds."

Of course, Kelly still had to prove himself on the football field, the great equalizer among pigskin athletes.

"The nice thing about football," said Blocker, "is it really doesn't matter what you've done or who your daddy was or your momma was or what your bank account is, if you can perform on the field."

Kelly could produce on the field, but in his case it likely did matter who his mother was.

"Ben's mother," said George, "evidently was a really special, gracious lady, and Ben shared with me one time that his mother taught him – and see if I can say this right – if somebody is prejudiced toward you or does things negative (to you), that's not your problem. That's their problem. Stop and think how profound that is."

Kelly carried his football talent and the teachings of his mother, Maggie Kelly, over to the football field that first week of fall practice in 1953.

George said, "The first week the players were back, the first one or two days, maybe into the third day, were the most emotional. By emotional we are talking about it was such a graphic step and our players were 18, 19, maybe 20 years old

that had never been in a situation like this that were feeling their way on trying to figure out how to react while watching their teammates go through the same thing.

"Were there some negative terms and a little extra effort on hits, a little more physical activity during that time? Yes," George recalled, but "by the end of the week, it was a whole different reaction. The transition was so fast, not based in my thinking on what the coaches did, but (on) how Ben handled it. He never reacted negatively to anything that could be construed as being a negativism toward him. He was totally positive."

In the end, Kelly won over his teammates with not only his skill but also his attitude.

Blocker, who wound up playing more halfback and slotback than Kelly's fullback position, said "You couldn't have picked a better person to integrate with. And, he set a standard that probably couldn't be matched, too, because not only was he not a hot dog, he was an excellent human being. His work ethics were wonderful and, you know, I think everybody on the team considered him to be their friend."

Gafford said, "I think all of us really took it as an honor that we had the privilege of playing with the first black and I can't think of a better person for it to have been than Benjamin Kelly."

Horne summed up his feelings succinctly. "He was a hero."

By the time of that hot September night in San Angelo when Ben Kelly broke the color barrier in Texas collegiate football, the coaches and players were more worried about winning the game than its historical significance.

While the Rams took the game 26-0, the greatest victory that night came against the racial discrimination that had stained the south's heritage since the Civil War and Reconstruction. While Benjamin Kelly rushed for 35 yards on six carries in his debut against Phoenix College, his biggest gain that evening came against segregation.

"He is the best example that I can remember," said George, "of turning the other cheek."

That cheek would be bruised again and again over the next two football seasons. ■

(To be continued in the fall issue)



Dr. Rex Johnston, 1953

the Black & White of SAC Integration

So smoothly went Benjamin Kelly's admission to San Angelo College in 1953 that Phil George, an assistant Ram football coach at the time, has always believed that some behind-the-scenes activity by President Rex Johnston had laid the groundwork.

"Now I still think in the back of my mind," George said, "that Dr. Johnston and the Board of Trustees had to have at some time or another said someday we are going to need to do this."

George's suspicions are correct. Correspondence from the president's office show that as early as August of 1952, Johnston had written to the president of Del Mar College in Corpus Christi with a simple three-sentence letter:

"How did you handle the registration of Negroes who applied for admission to Del Mar? Mr. Barnes tells me that you were very effective in your treatment of the Negro situation. Since I wish to take the matter up with my Board next Wednesday, I shall appreciate your answering my letter as soon as you can."

The office files also include a typewritten note labeled "Negro Situation" indicating that Johnston or someone in his office had polled other Texas junior colleges that had admitted blacks. Though undated, the note is likely from
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Mary McFall

Kelly, Timing Led to SAC's First Black Graduate



Photo by Ron Bland

For Mary Frances Simpson, football player Benjamin Kelly opened the door to San Angelo College.

She enrolled with him in the fall of 1953, as did Annie Laura Owens. Both coeds were graduates of San Angelo's Blackshear High School, like Kelly. Simpson would go on to become SAC's first black graduate. Today, under her married name Mary McFall, she practices general law in Dallas.

McFall acknowledges that she benefited not only from Kelly's SAC admission but also from the timing of her 1953 high school graduation.

"My sister had applied to San Angelo College in 1951 and they turned her down," McFall remembered. "In fact, they gave her money to go to Prairie View and paid for part of her education. I was really going to go to Prairie View. That's where I had always wanted to go.

"Then we got word that Benjamin Kelly had been accepted, so I applied and it was just that simple. My father thought it would make sense economically to go to school in San Angelo."

McFall, who had turned 17 just weeks before she was to start college, visited the SAC campus with her mother to enroll because the family did not know what to expect from the college. "Nobody even seemed to pay any attention or act like it was anything unusual," she recalled.

"I thought the education was good," McFall remembered. "It really wasn't a bad experience as I didn't experience any hostility."

But indifference and race lines still existed. During those years, she said the city was divided into almost separate racial communities of blacks, whites and Hispanics, all with limited interaction. Downtown San Angelo, though, was the magnet for all races.

"I think there was probably some pressure, in a sense, for people not to embrace you in those days," McFall said. "Downtown was the center of activity and everybody went to town. I remember seeing classmates downtown who wouldn't speak to me or would act like they hadn't seen me before. I just think there was some pressure for white students not to fraternize with people of a different race."

"Benjamin might have had a different experience," McFall said. "It has always been easier for the majority culture to accept athletes. So with me, nobody was overly friendly except a few people, who were very friendly."

At the top of that list was a faculty couple, Rev. C.E. Bludworth of the Bible Department and his wife, Rosa Bludworth, of the English Department.

"They were really kind people," McFall recalled. "Rosa taught English and really befriended me, invited me to events. When I graduated, they gave me a \$50 scholarship, which was a lot of money back then."

She remembers vividly one incident when she, her sister, her mother and her elderly grandmother got on a city bus.

"I think my grandmother sat in the wrong place and the bus driver spoke to her very harshly," McFall said. "This black soldier on the bus stood up for my grandmother, but the bus driver came at him. My grandmother asked the soldier to get off the bus, so he wouldn't get into trouble."

McFall said the driver followed the soldier onto the street, then called the police, though by the time officers arrived, the soldier had disappeared.

"And then, of course, we couldn't eat everywhere," she continued, "not even at a drive-in, even in our own car. I remember one time my family went to a drive-in and ordered our food. They brought it to us (in a sack) and then expected us to drive off with the food. We asked for a (window) tray so we could eat in the car. They refused to get us one so we gave them back the food and drove off without paying."

Her parents, both educators, stressed the importance of an education and helped direct her toward college in spite of the obstacles of a segregated South. In retrospect, she said there was probably more pressure on her at the time than she realized.

"Coming from an all-black school, there was the notion that we had an inferior education," McFall said. "People in the black community were just kind of anxious for you to do well. Of course, there was something good about that, too, because in those days they ran the honor roll in the newspaper and people would come up and say 'Oh, you made the newspaper and we're so proud of you.' In retrospect that is a lot of responsibility for someone 17 years old to think she has to do well so as not to let down the whole race."

McFall was named outstanding student at SAC when she graduated and then went on to Texas Southern University for a year before becoming one of the first blacks to enroll and graduate from the University of Texas when it opened its doors to African Americans. She was among the first black women admitted to the University of Texas School of Law, but marriage and a family sidetracked her law ambitions until she was able to resume her legal education in the 1970s.

Her admiration for those people who tried to right racial wrongs, such as Thurgood Marshall who argued *Brown vs. Board of Education* before the Supreme Court and later became the first black appointed to the high court, and some of her experiences in a segregated San Angelo pushed her toward the legal profession.

"I was really inspired to go to law school by Thurgood Marshall and the Civil Rights movement," McFall said. "Most people think the movement didn't begin until the '60s, but it was a gradual buildup. All the legal cases that led to the '60s began in the '40s." ■

the Black & White

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mid-1952 and it showed "Amarillo, Howard County at Big Spring, Texas Southernmost College at Brownsville, Texarkana and Midwestern University at Wichita Falls" as having admitted Negroes.

The notes listed "the reaction to such policy" at each location. At Amarillo, "students didn't pay any attention ... One or two hysterical people registered protest." In Big Spring, "no change in student attitude" was recorded. Brownsville reported "students didn't mind. No kickback from patrons whatsoever." No decreases in enrollment were reported at those locations.

Texarkana "went to court" and "won case on legal technicality, not on merit," while Wichita Falls had an appeal that would go before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in November though a handwritten note indicated "looks like we will lose it."

Johnston watched the progress of the appeal by Wichita Falls Junior College District and Midwestern, previously known as Hardin Junior College, to a lower court decision to de-segregate. The June prior to Benjamin Kelly's visit to Johnston's office, the Texas Attorney General's office had forwarded to the SAC president a copy of the opinion affirming the lower court decision that Hardin Junior College must admit blacks, stating that "manifest inequalities in the treatment of Negro students may not be condoned for under the clear mandate of the Fourteenth Amendment substantially equality is required."

So even though the currents of legal change were flowing in the direction of de-segregation, Johnston and the SAC Board of Trustees, which included Porter Henderson and Robert G. Carr, to their credit did not fight the issue.

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Lingo•philes

Reading in Tongues

By Jason Hunter

Some ASU professors are showing that foreign language is more than just a laborious degree requirement, but rather a gateway to expanding one's understanding of the world.

Dr. David A. Huckaby of the math faculty has been studying the Bible in ancient Greek and Hebrew for several years, and Dr. Susana Badiola, who teaches philosophy, has been translating works into her native tongue of Spanish for more than a decade.

Foreign languages have a practical place for many people beyond the classroom, said Dr. Elisabeth-Christine Muelsch, interim head of the ASU Department of Modern Languages. About 60 foreign language majors are enrolled at ASU, and many of them combine their foreign-language studies with majors in teaching, the arts, business and psychology.

"You not only convey the language, but also the culture," Muelsch said. "For instance, in other languages, all nouns have gender, and it impacts your world vision."

"In linguistics classes, we learn about Eskimos and how they have thousands of words describing specific types of snow. In English, we just call it 'snow.' What is important in your culture is differentiated in your language."

After choosing to follow Christianity through a comparative process while an undergraduate at the University of Texas, Huckaby said he wanted to use his gift of intelligence to gain a deeper understanding of the Bible.

"I became a Christian through an intellectual route," said Huckaby, who was raised Lutheran. "I studied all the major

religions and even looked at atheism and, after reading the Christian philosophers like Augustus and Aquinas, I chose Christianity because it was the most consistent.

"Learning to read the Bible in ancient Greek and Hebrew seemed like a natural extension. God gave me the gift of intelligence, and this is a way to use that gift."

In 1997, Huckaby picked up a Greek grammar book and began working through it to learn the language in which the New Testament is written. A couple of years later, he began learning Biblical Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament.

Both required him to learn a new alphabet, in addition to a new grammar, a new vocabulary and a new worldview. Huckaby's math background helped him learn both the technical and interpretive aspects of translation.

"Math is extremely creative," Huckaby said. "You don't see that in freshman courses, but, at higher levels, it is very creative. It's a demanding creativity."

"Being good at logic and structure makes you good at studying grammar. Creativity also comes into play. The world of First Century Palestine is very different from ours. When I read an ancient text, I want to read it as an ancient Israeli would read it."

"When I read it in English, it's easy to say, 'I know what this means,'" Huckaby said. "When I read it in Greek, I know it can mean 'this' or 'this' or 'this.' It opens interpretations you've never thought of before."

By reading the Bible as it was originally written, Huckaby said that it adds a new dimension to his faith. "You get a fuller picture. Someone once said, 'Reading the

Bible in English is like watching television in black and white, and reading it in the original language is like watching television in color.'

"In praying, for me, it makes for a more meaningful experience," Huckaby said. "I can pray the Lord's Prayer in Greek, and I can recite the Psalms in Hebrew. It lets me get into the mindset of the writers."

Learning a foreign language can give students a relative perspective on their own language and culture.

"In American high schools today, kids don't study a lot of grammar," Muelsch said. "At the college level, as the students are learning the grammar of a foreign language, they also are learning more about standard English grammar."

"Language has a very interesting emotional component. For example, I was raised in Germany, and there are distinct regional ways of speaking. When I hear someone speaking like they speak in my village, there's an immediate bond. Language is not only a tool of communicating information, but also of making emotional and psychological connections."

While the benefits of learning a language are myriad, most American students begin foreign language education later than students in other countries. Language instructors face an uphill struggle in conveying the salience of a foreign language to cynical students.

"When we teach little kids at our Saturday German classes, they are very enthusiastic," Muelsch said. "All the kids are with it, they want to learn, and it's playful."

"College students are more concerned



Badiola



Huckaby



Muelsch

about fulfilling their language requirements, instead of learning for fun. Film is a good way to get students involved in another culture. Today's students are much more visual."

Susana Badiola, a philosophy professor, grew up in Madrid, Spain, and spent summers in Brighton, England, learning English.

While she was earning her doctorate at the University of Madrid, Badiola translated Robert Louis Stevenson's "Scottish Tales" into Spanish in 1995. Her publisher liked her work so much that she was asked to translate Stevenson's "The Master of Ballantrae" in 1998. She also translated two stories from "New Arabian Nights" in 2001.

"I was very lucky – I've always loved literature," Badiola said. "When they gave me that opportunity, I went for it. I love Stevenson. He's a genius – his mastery of the language is incredible."

Badiola also has translated scholarly books and articles from English to Spanish, and has written Spanish-language journal articles. In her translations, she strives to keep her words as true to the original text as possible, but she understands that her interpretation will never be the definitive one.

"Sometimes the problem is, without betraying the author's intent, to convey what he's trying to say," Badiola said. "It's cruel – you're always leaving something out. English has a precision and accuracy with verbs that's lacking in Spanish. In order to capture the detail of the English verb, you may need a whole extra sentence in Spanish, but you do not want the result to be too wordy.

"Stevenson's style is accurate and precise. He'll choose a verb for its ambiguity.

You try to capture that, but you can't. You have to be a good writer to be a good translator, and you also have to capture the richness of what is being said without leaving something out.

"Without creating my own novel, I was limited in expressing what Stevenson was trying to say," Badiola said. "When they offered the 'Scottish Tales' translation to me, I discovered it was a world that was very challenging, very time-consuming.

"Translating philosophy is much more of a technical matter. You don't need to be a poet when you translate philosophy."

Badiola's impeccable command of two major world languages has opened many doors.

"I've developed beautiful and great friendships because of an ability to speak another language," Badiola said. "With English, you can go places. It really helps with human relationships. The experience of being a foreigner forces you to express ideas in a different way.

"Because of my understanding of language, to speak a different language is to have a different world view. There are differences between languages that convey a different world view. For instance, in American English, people don't 'die,' people 'pass away.' In Spanish, you say someone 'has died.' That says a lot about attitudes toward death.

"When you learn to think in a different language, you open your mind to different ways of seeing things," Badiola said. "You understand different worldviews, and, in a way, you can say you look at the world differently." ■

Awakening a sleeping giant



Rike Photos by Tina Miller

Fred Rike gave up his tickets to the Final Four in Indianapolis last April so he could come to San Angelo and begin his tenure as head coach of the Ram basketball program.

And if he is as good at predicting NCAA Division II basketball results as he was at picking the winner of this year's Division I Final Four, then some championship days are in the future for Angelo State University.

Named the new Ram Basketball coach on the eve of the Division I championship game between UCLA and Florida, Rike said he liked Florida going into the Final Four and was sticking with his choice to take home the national championship, which the Gators did the next day, 73-57.

"During my interview with the athletic director, Kathleen (Brasfield) said she thought ASU was a sleeping giant in men's basketball," Rike said. "Well, we are going to awaken that giant."

His ensuing comments about national championship possibilities certainly kept awake the crowd attending the news conference announcing his appointment.

"If we don't compete for national championships," Rike said, "we'll break down the wall trying. I want our team to be something the people of San Angelo and our alumni can be proud of. We will be 'blue collar' with a pressure defense and play an up-tempo style that is baseline to

baseline for 40 minutes. I believe guys want to play this way and this style of play is fun to watch."

His philosophy is sure to put points on the board, wins in the books and fans in the stands.

"One of the things that caught my eye when this job came open, just from talking to coaches in the league and around the State of Texas, is that you can win here," Rike said. "You have got everything you need to win on the national level."

ASU's assets include facilities and a strong overall athletic program headed by coaches who have proven the university's competitiveness on the national level.

"I've traveled from coast to coast as a coach and a player and have not seen a better facility at the Division II level than the Junell Center/Stephens Arena," Rike said. "The facilities here are first class. I can't wait to show them to our first recruit."

Athletic Director Brasfield said, "Fred's reputation for solid basketball knowledge, commitment to academic achievement and a knack for molding young men into quality people certainly is impressive."

"We believe Fred will build a highly competitive basketball program by recruiting quality student-athletes, supporting their academic pursuits, retaining players who will set a high standard for younger players and establishing disci-

pline and accountability for those participating in the program.”

A West Texas native, Rike was one of seven candidates interviewed out of 96 applicants to become the fourth men’s basketball coach in ASU history. He moved to San Angelo from the University of North Texas where he had served the previous five seasons as associate head coach.

Rike comes from an athletic family, so much so that his mother was known around Haskell and later Tulia, where he graduated from high school, as “Basketball Mom.” His parents, John and Mary Rike of Haskell, broke up many a fight when the new Ram coach and his brother, James, now a coach at Abilene Cooper, played basketball on the driveway.

In addition to the competitiveness, his parents helped instill perseverance in him.

“Once I wanted to quit baseball, not because I didn’t enjoy it but because I wasn’t good at it,” Rike said, “but my parents told me this family doesn’t quit.”

Those home-schooled lessons aided Rike in his athletic and coaching career. He attended Tyler Junior College, where he was named all-conference after his sophomore season. In spite of his success on the court, the best thing that happened to him at TJC occurred in an English classroom when non-traditional classmate Linda Jones asked if she could introduce him to her daughter. Rike began dating Kimberley Jones and ultimately Linda Jones became his mother-in-law. Today, Rike and his wife, Kimberley, have two daughters, Allie Katherine, 10, and Jessie Kay, 7.

After finishing at TJC, Rike spent a season at Sam Houston State University before completing his senior year at West Texas State University where he earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education in 1989. Two years later he earned his master’s degree in health and kinesiology at the University of Texas at Tyler.

He began his coaching career in 1990 as an assistant coach at TJC, where the Apaches claimed both the Texas Eastern Athletic Conference (TEAC) and Region XIV championship, advancing to the NJCAA National Tournament in 1993. The next year, Rike made his first move to NCAA Division I, taking a position as an assistant coach at Louisiana Tech Univer-

sity for a season before returning to TJC to take over the head coaching role.

At Tyler Rike’s squad quickly found success, posting a 27-9 record in 1995-96 and earning conference and region titles en route to another NJCAA playoff berth. Rike was named the TEAC and Region XIV Coach of the Year in just his second season as a head coach. The next year, Rike’s Apaches were ranked No. 1 in the nation by several publications, including Dick Vitale, Street & Smith and College Sports Review.

After three seasons as the head coach at TJC, where he posted a 61-33 record, Rike returned to NCAA Division I when he was named an assistant coach at the University of Memphis along side current UNT head coach Johnny Jones. The two were assistants on the Tigers’ coaching staff for two seasons before Jones was named Memphis’ interim head coach prior to the 1999-2000 campaign. Immediately, Rike was promoted to associate head coach for the Tigers.

In his first season at Memphis, Rike was a key figure in the Tigers’ recruiting class that was ranked No. 7 in the nation. The squad went on to the championship of the North Division of Conference USA and advanced to the second round of the NIT. After his three successful years at Memphis, Rike spent the 2000-01 season as an assistant coach at Georgia State University under legendary coach Charles “Lefty” Driesell before reuniting with Jones at UNT. During his season at GSU, the Panthers boasted a 29-5 record and earned a berth in the NCAA Tournament, where they advanced to the second round.

Over his last five seasons with North Texas, Rike helped guide the program to its best non-league start in 30 years during the 2004-05 season, an accomplishment that led to the nation’s No. 29-ranked recruiting class in 2006.

“I really wanted to be a head coach again,” Rike said, “but not just anywhere. Things had to fit. I want to win and win big.”

He found the fit at Angelo State, despite three straight losing seasons, including an 8-19 campaign in 2006 and 0-12 in Lone Star Conference South Division play.

With time Rike expects to turn his blue collar coaching philosophy into gold collar results for Angelo State. ■



Fred Rike, wife Kimberley, daughters Jessie Kay and Allie Katherine balancing basketball



Christina Johnson

Belles Return to National Tournament

To the outside world, the Angelo State women's basketball team would be rebuilding this past season, but not to Belles head coach Sally Walling Brooks.

"I don't believe in rebuilding years," Brooks said. "My philosophy is to build our program on classes of recruits that come in and continue to improve during their time on the court. Yes, we lost some great players last year, but we knew in the off-season that we had the talent to continue what we had started."

And so they did, finishing 22-9 for their fourth-straight and eighth-overall 20-win season as Brooks inched closer to her 300th career coaching victory (294) and 150th career win (139) at the ASU helm.

The 2005-06 Belles accomplished this in spite of losing two 1,000-point scorers and one of the top shooters in the program's history. Though Brooks entered the season with a young roster without much playing time, that would not stop the youthful squad from making a fifth-consecutive appearance in the NCAA Division II National Tournament.

Angelo State was in the hunt for the LSC South Division crown for the majority of the season, but a pair of losses to eventual division-winner West Texas A&M relegated the Belles to a second-place division tie with Tarleton State,

though ASU held the tie-breaker and claimed the No. 2 seed in the LSC Postseason Tournament.

For the third-straight season, the Belles advanced to the conference title game, but fell short of a three-peat, dropping an 83-68 decision to West Texas A&M in the championship.

The Belles entered the NCAA Division II South Central Regional Tournament as the fourth seed, but lost to Central Missouri State, 79-68, in the first round of the national playoffs.

"Not a lot of programs in the region can say that they have made it to the national tournament each of the last five seasons," said Brooks. "It's just us and Washburn, and the Lady Blues won a national title two years ago. That's pretty elite company."

Though losing forward Christina Johnson to graduation, the Belles will return leading scorer Kandra Lakey and guard Britinee Davis, both second team All-LSC South Division selections, forward Meghann LeJeune, the LSC South Division Co-Newcomer of the Year, and point guard Ashiea Haynes, who took LSC-South honorable mention honors.

"We'll put five seniors on the floor next year," Brooks said, "and seniors play with a lot of urgency."

Tracksters Take Second in LSC

The Angelo State men's and women's track and field teams each finished second behind Abilene Christian University in the Lone Star Conference Championship April 21-22 in Stephenville.

The Rams compiled 162 points, 44 points out of first place, while the Belles scored 167 points, but could not overtake ACU with 290 points.

ASU finished with athletes winning conference championships in seven events. For the Rambelles Adree Lakey won championships in the javelin and shot put while her sister, Kandra Lakey, earned the discus title.

On the men's side Justin Boyd took the 400-meter hurdles while Spencer Tyler grabbed a championship in the discus. Ryan McWilliams earned the conference decathlon title and Dustin Hafernick won the LSC's 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Over the course of the season, the men's squad had two automatic qualifiers and six provisional qualifiers plus a provisional relay team for the NCAA Division II Track and Field National Championships. The women's team had one automatic qualifier, seven provisional qualifiers and a provisional qualifying relay team for the national championship meet.

Rambelles Make Tournament

It came down to the wire, but the Angelo State softball team earned a fourth consecutive trip to the Lone Star Conference Postseason Tournament by taking the first game of an April 22 doubleheader at Eastern New Mexico University.

The 9-3 win left the Rambelles with a 31-24 season record. The Rambelles' 13-9 conference slate earned them third place in the LSC South Division.

The Rambelles are two years removed from the squad which won the 2004 NCAA Division II National Championship. Senior Jessica Stroud ended her ASU career this season as the last remaining player from that championship team.



Ronnie and Tristan Gaines

Capital Gains on the Diamond

Ram left fielder Ronnie Gaines is known for his spectacular fielding but his best catch may be when he snagged his brother, Tristan, to play for Angelo State University.

"I thought it would be fun to play on the same team as my brother," Ronnie said. "I encouraged him to come here. I stayed on him trying to get him here. I told him it would be fun here playing with me."

Consequently, the speedy outfielder did double duty as a recruiter to get little brother Tristan to come to San Angelo from hometown Temple.

Ronnie was named first team All-Lone Star Conference South Division last season after batting .344 with 38 RBI and was on pace to better those marks this season. He has also left his mark with the glove, making catches that fans will still talk about even after he graduates.

"There were other schools," Tristan said, "but I thought that I could learn a lot from him and that would help me."

A two-year letterman for Temple High School, Tristan batted .397 and established himself as a team leader his senior year.

This season at ASU marked the first time they have been on the same team. During high school in Temple, Ronnie was

a senior on the varsity squad while Tristan was a member of the freshman team.

Growing up, the brothers were four years apart and ran with different groups, but that failed to prevent moments of competitiveness between them. "He had his friends and I had mine," Ronnie said, "but when it came to playing each other in the back yard, it would be a fight every time."

The brothers have grown closer in college because they are not only teammates but also roommates.

"We're always together off the field," said Ronnie. "We're always together at the house, hanging out, so it's fun."

Their relationship also gives them the unique opportunity to help each other get better. It also helps the coaches work with Tristan because they can almost use Ronnie as a coach.

"The good thing is that Ronnie gets on to Tristan more than I do," said Ram head coach Kevin Brooks. "I use Ronnie as a coach with Tristan because of his influence and because they live together."

Considering Ronnie's quality of play, including going 7-for-8 with three home runs, five RBI and six runs scored in his final two home games, Tristan's potential bodes well for Ram baseball in the coming years.

Rams Advance to Post Season

The Angelo State baseball team finished the regular season with a 40-14 record, earning a berth in the Lone Star Conference Tournament.

The Rams finished atop the LSC's South Division with a 16-4 record and entered the LSC Tournament as the top seed.

The 2006 campaign was the second consecutive winning season for a baseball program that only began last year.

After sweeping No. 11 Texas A&M-Kingsville in the next-to-last series of the regular season, ASU entered the national NCAA Division II rankings for the first time at No. 22.

After next sweeping Tarleton State in the final series of the season, the Rams jumped up to No. 13 nationally before heading into the LSC Tournament in Abilene.

'Competitive' Spring Gives Rams Focus for 2006

by Dave Wester

The Rams were trading hits rather than Valentines this past February as football coaches started spring practice early this year rather than waiting until March or April, the traditional window for seasonal drills.

"There are several reasons for moving up our spring practices," said football coach Dale Carr, "but the main reason was to deal with any injuries that arose. Someone is going to get hurt in spring ball. We were very fortunate with injuries this spring, but if we had lost anyone, let's say to a knee injury, we could have had him back in August rather than September.

"Many Division I programs have moved the spring schedule in a similar fashion," continued Carr. "We also have several players that participate on the track and field team and this will give them more time to compete in the spring. We encourage that with our athletes and bring it up when we make recruiting trips."

Carr compared his spring drills at ASU with his experiences in the junior college ranks.

"We use the spring to get on the same page," Carr said. "The more we can get accomplished now, the better we will be in the fall. We spend a lot of time on special teams to get where we trust ourselves on the field. In junior college, you only get one spring with each player and don't have time to develop special teams."

Carr bore witness to a very competitive ASU spring. Freshman tailback Kyle Fox, who had a stellar 2005 campaign for the Rams, rushing for 1,407 yards and 15 touchdowns, was not 100 percent this spring due to fall injuries. Fox's limited duty allowed others to show their skills at that position, including Daniel Thomas, who served as Fox's primary back up last season and rushed for 402 yards and seven touchdowns.

"Daniel stepped up and had an outstanding performance spring for us," said Carr on his sophomore-to-be. "We are very happy with his progress. He made some runs that Kyle couldn't make. It will give us some great competition at the tailback position this fall."

Carr is a believer that competition brings out the best in a player. Much of spring practice was focused on players fighting for starting roles as well as starters holding off those who want their jobs.

"If we can develop competition at each position in the spring, then we have accomplished a major goal," Carr said. "There are very few athletes that will go the extra distance and make themselves better if no one is pushing them. This spring was very competitive. These guys want to be good and they want to run with the first string."

Carr and his Rams open up the 2006 season on Sept. 2 when they host Western State (Colo.) in their only non-conference game of the season. ASU's 2006 schedule boasts six home games and four road games as the Rams take a break from the 11-game schedule of the past two seasons. For their evening games this year, the Rams are moving the kickoff up to 6 p.m., an hour earlier than game starts in the past.



Running back Daniel Thomas

2006 ASU Football Schedule

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Sept. 2 | Western State (Colo.) | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 9 | East Central (Okla.) | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 16 | at Central Oklahoma | 6 p.m. |
| Sept. 23 | Open | |
| Sept. 30 | at Midwestern State | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 7 | Eastern New Mexico | 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 14 | at Abilene Christian | 2 p.m. |
| Oct. 21 | TX A&M-Commerce* | 6 p.m. |
| Oct. 28 | West Texas A&M | 6 p.m. |
| Nov. 4 | at Tarleton State | 7 p.m. |
| Nov. 11 | TX A&M-Kingsville | 2 p.m. |

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Campus Traditions

The rituals that have become a part of Angelo State University life and lore.

Gum Tree: Its Bark Worse than Its Bite

Story by Preston Lewis

Research by the Staff of
the West Texas Collection

Angelo State University's "gum tree" stands without a doubt as one of the stickiest traditions among all collegiate rituals anywhere and likely one of the few to have received a presidential reprieve.

Located at the southwest corner of the Porter Henderson Library, the tree never fails to elicit reactions, ranging from "yuck" to "cool," for the thousands of pieces of used chewing gum plastered to the gnarly bark.

The tree is actually a mesquite speckled with the pastel colors of used chewing gum. No one is certain who stuck the first piece of chewing gum to the bark, but many others followed that innovator's lead. Neither is anyone certain when the tradition began, though it was likely after 1967 when the library was built.

Legend has it that a gum-chewing suitor placed his chaw there prior to asking his girlfriend to marry him. When she said yes, the happy young man attributed his good luck to his gum deposit. Since then, hundreds of students have left their chewing gum on the mesquite to bring them good luck on tests and in life.

Another story says the tradition originated from the days when chewing gum was a near felony on campus and students avoided being caught with it in school buildings. One student, according to this tale, had to run into the library to check out a book, so he left his chewing gum on the tree. When he returned, he found another wad of gum plastered nearby. Uncertain which piece was his own, he left them both where they were. Over the years, the pieces multiplied.

In 2002 Monique Cossich, ASU's director of admissions at the time, used the gum tree in part of the university's marketing effort to prospective students. The Ad-

missions Office sent out a postcard with the gum tree on the front and with an invitation to visit campus on the back. ASU recruiters then incorporated a stop at the gum tree on the campus tour in an effort to create a "memorable experience" for visitors.

"We would give them a piece of gum at the start of the tour," Cossich remembered. "Then, when they stopped at the gum tree to hear the story, the tour guide would invite the prospective students to leave their pieces of gum on the tree, to leave their mark at ASU."

About the time that marketing effort began, the tree began to split apart – some said from the weight of the gum – and became a potential hazard. Grounds maintenance considered cutting it down, but ASU President James Hindman gave the gum tree a reprieve, directing the groundskeepers not to remove it without first checking with Cossich.

Cossich asked that the tree be saved and grounds maintenance used cables and turnbuckles to keep it from falling apart as it was apparent gum would not hold it together.

When the gum tree's fate was in doubt, one staff member with a historical curiosity – and apparently not much else to do – inspected the mesquite and counted 3,157 identifiable pieces of gum, including one wad that measured 10 square inches.

Today the gum tree remains a stop on the campus tour given by the Admissions Office. And, it has even gone high-tech, being a brief topic in the office's Power-Point presentations to prospects and high school counselors.

"Prospective students are more interested in it than parents and think it is cool," said Admissions Director Fred Dietz. "Parents think it is disgusting."

Even though the gum tree still draws stares and groans from first-time campus visitors, it has become an accepted, though odd, tradition on campus.

As Dietz said, "It's something to chew on."

Gum Tree Recollections?

If you were the culprit who made the first deposit on the gum tree or if you know something about its evolution, please contact the Alumni Association with your story.

Someone deserves the glory – or the blame – for initiating one of the quirkiest campus traditions anywhere. Tell us your recollections about the gum tree and when you attended ASU.

Your responses will be shared with the University Archivist in the West Texas Collection and will become part of campus lore.

Contact us at

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San Angelo, TX 76909-1049
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Angela Valenzuela

Changing Education for the Better

Dr. Angela Valenzuela, Class of '81, is shaping the way Texas and the nation think about education and about meeting the needs of a new multicultural generation of students.



Whether it is teaching students in her classes, writing her award-winning book *Subtractive Schooling*, serving on Austin's Task Force on Hispanic Quality of Life-Education or shepherding her two daughters through public schools, University of Texas at Austin professor Angela Valenzuela is helping redefine what an education could and should be, especially for minorities.

"What you have is a process that objectifies children more than one that really values them from a relational perspective," Dr. Valenzuela said of today's K-12 education.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the current emphasis, if not fixation, on standardized testing such as the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills or TAKS. "I don't oppose testing, rather it's the use of testing," she said. "Tests narrow the curriculum. They tend to marginalize children and they encourage certain kids to drop out."

The results of most standardized tests, she said, "are flawed because you can't separate out the coaching to the test from the test score itself. As a result, many standardized tests become self-fulfilling prophecies that doom some children to a life of unfulfilled potential."

The fault, as she identifies it, is that schools continue to function the way they always have without regard to the change in demographics, particularly in border states like Texas where more than half the K-12 student population are ethnic minorities.

Valenzuela sees the answer to this problem as more community-centered teaching and greater local assessment of test results. Her 1999 book *Subtractive Schooling: U.S. Mexican Youth and the Politics of Caring*, which earned the American Educational Research Association Outstanding Book Award, articulated some of her findings based on studies at an unnamed Houston-area high school.

First, she determined that the Mexican culture's definition of educación is broader conceptually than the English definition, encompassing both formal learning in school but also family input in determining moral, social and personal responsibility. When schools ignore the family's cultural role, they undermine their own effectiveness in reaching the children.

Second, she demonstrated the importance of maintaining the Spanish language and the children's culture and community-based identities. Where these are diminished in worth, the children's education is devalued in their own minds. Schooling is more about who they are not and what they lack rather than who they are and what they possess as members of a dynamic culture with a rich historic past and present.

Valenzuela's conclusions are borne not only out of her research but also from her personal experience as in the case of the lack of support for Spanish in public schools when she attended. "I like to think I didn't lose it (Spanish fluency) as much as it was taken away from me," she said. Thus, she derived the term "subtractive schooling" to represent how the educational system takes away from rather than adds to the skill sets children bring to the classroom.

At Angelo State, she said, "I feel like I blossomed and I discovered that I had an aptitude in a way that K-12 didn't provide me." As an English major, she found that reading minority literature, primarily African-American and Jewish-American, "really had an impact on my thinking. I could relate to it."

Another "transformative" part of her ASU education was a university trip to Mexico. "I grew up feeling and being a minority and in Mexico I was in the majority. I had never experienced that type of space and I found it liberating, psychically, emotionally to actually be in the center rather than at the margins."

Her excitement at the new world of ideas she found at ASU convinced her mother to attend college when Valenzuela was a senior. "I remember that tingling sensation of going and registering her for her freshman year classes," Valenzuela recalled. Later her mother, who passed away in November, confided in her oldest daughter, that she "never wanted to lose me and that (attending college) was her way of remaining connected to an important part of my life."

After graduating from ASU, Valenzuela earned a M.A. in sociolinguistics from the University of Texas and then attended Stanford University where she earned another M.A. and a Ph.D., both in sociology. She taught for seven years at Rice Univer-

“
...there is no
greater investment
than in people.

”
– Dr. Valenzuela

sity and then a year as a visiting scholar in Mexican American Studies at the University of Houston.

In 1999 she joined the UT-Austin faculty and in December was promoted to full professor, one of only a handful of Hispanic women ever to attain that rank there. Today she serves on UT's curriculum and instruction faculty and holds appointments in the Center for Mexican American Studies and as director of the new Education Policy Alliance, which was established at UT-Austin to provide policy-relevant data to legislative bodies, state boards of education and the public.

Her husband, Dr. Emilio Zamora, is a member of the UT history faculty and they have two daughters, Luz, 10, and Clara, 13, who, Valenzuela laughs, "are probably the most highly educated kids in the State of Texas on high-stakes testing."

Despite her criticism of the current educational system, Valenzuela is an optimist, a trait she gets from her father, a San Angelo minister.

"One thing he taught me that always stayed with me is that there is no greater investment than in people," Valenzuela said. "I really feel that so many of these matters are issues of will and they're issues of policy and that my purpose is to be part of these discussions and to bring many others into the discussion as well." ■

Landel Hobbs

Life in Balance



Working as a high-level executive at one of the nation's largest corporations can be a time-consuming endeavor, but for Landel Hobbs, Class of '84, life is all about balance.

Work has its place, but so does family and avocation.

The chief operating officer for Time Warner Cable has exhibited strong business acumen in his rise from an associate at accounting firm KPMG upon graduation from ASU to his current position, but he also takes time out for his family and for satisfying his passion in music.

Even though his job keeps him busy weekdays in Connecticut, he devotes his weekends to be with his family in Atlanta. In addition to previously playing in jazz ensembles and small professional recording groups, Hobbs also is a major patron of the musical arts.

"You always have to have a balance," Hobbs said. "I always had a good balance when I was at ASU."

"Now, I work 12-13 hours a day, five days a week, and on the weekends, I fly back to Atlanta to see my wife and kids. When I go home, my weekends are for family time. I like that balance."

Hobbs, who earned his bachelor of business administration from Angelo State, has also been vice president for financial analysis and operations for AOL Time Warner and chief financial officer of Time Warner Cable. Hobbs has also worked for Turner Broadcasting in Atlanta and Banc One Illinois Corp. in Chicago.

To him, business is business, whether you are counting beans or calling the shots.

"I try to understand business from the customer's perspective," Hobbs said. "If you really understand business, then the numbers fall out naturally. The only difference now from when I began is that I spend more time with people, making sure we have the right people in the right roles."

As an executive in one of the world's largest corporations, Hobbs often comes into contact with graduates of the nation's best-known business schools, such as Harvard, Penn and Yale. But, their Ivy League pedigrees don't intimidate him.

"What I've found is that we're all put together the same way," Hobbs said. "Education is important, but it isn't everything. It's all about your work ethic and attitude. I work with a lot of folks from a lot of different back-

grounds, and it's about what you can do."

Before taking on the COO duties, Hobbs was vice president for financial analysis and operations support at AOL Time Warner. He oversaw budgeting, financial forecasts, operational analysis and profit improvement for the corporation's various divisions, including AOL, Warner Brothers, Time Warner Cable, Warner Music, Time, Inc., HBO, Turner Broadcasting, New Line Cinema and the WB Network.

Hobbs previously worked for Turner Broadcasting in Atlanta, joining the firm in 1993 and working as senior vice-president, controller and chief accounting officer. His initial purpose in working for TBS was to improve the communications giant's budget process. Subsequently, he acquired risk management, financial reporting, treasury, shared services, tax, accounts payable, payroll, purchasing, credit and long-range planning responsibilities.

Hobbs also was executive sponsor for the corporation's information technology functions. He helped improve the timeliness and quality of financial reporting, enhanced shared services in the payroll area and implemented staff counseling and career development programs. Hobbs' services were vital to the company during the Y2K scare. He and his team worked diligently to make sure that all TBS systems would continue to function well into the new year, the new century and the new millennia.

Before joining Turner Broadcasting, Hobbs was senior vice-president and audit director for Banc One Illinois Corp. in Chicago. In that capacity, he oversaw the internal audit group that focused on real estate, acquisitions and mergers. Hobbs was also a senior manager for KPMG Peat Marwick from 1984 to 1990.

A graduate of Azle High School, near Fort Worth, Hobbs has returned to San Angelo as an ASU Distinguished Alumnus in 2001 and as the Wells Fargo Distinguished Lecturer in Business in 2002.

Those trips back to campus have been most meaningful to Hobbs, who believes ASU placed him onto his upward track.

"It was the foundation for everything," Hobbs said. "It gave me the basis for everything I've done. I've always been inquisitive, and I learned that throughout my college years."

CLASS notes

1967

James Milton Swift, married to Terri ('64-'67), has retired from his position as general manager – human resources at Chevron Corp.

1978

Rhonda Ruffin Halfmann, married to Brian, is a teacher in Wall ISD and lives in San Angelo. They have two daughters, both of whom are ASU graduates.

1981

Alan Mark McNeil, married to Janet, is the vice president of program operations at Edvance Research, Inc., in San Antonio.

1984

Maj. Tim Shelton, U.S. Air Force (retired), married to Sheryl, is currently a senior operational security analyst at the Joint Information Operations Warfare Command in San Antonio.

1986

Lt. Col. Bryan N. Angle, married to Suzen ('79), returned from Iraq in December. He is currently chief of ophthalmology, aerospace vision, at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico.

1988

Lt. Col. Jaime Sampayo, married to Sarah, is the chief of military justice, 19th Air Force at Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio. They have three children, Gabriel, Isaac and Rachel. Lt. Col. Sampayo earned a juris doctor degree from Creighton University School of Law in 1991, an LL.M. in International Law from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, and is pursuing a Ph.D in criminal law.

1995

Kent Kuykendoll, married to Roberta, is an account executive for Dell Computers in Woodstock, Ill. They have three daughters, ages 5, 3 and 7 months.

Capt. Jo Henderson returned to the United States in January from deployment in Iraq, where she was part of the nursing staff at the Air Force Theater in Balad.

1996

Dr. Sara Paton, married to Neil, is a professor of epidemiology at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

Brian Ricci, married to Katie, is a casualty team manager for State Farm in Allen. He has a beautiful baby girl, Sophia Katherine, and is an avid runner, participating in his second marathon last December. The family resides in McKinney.

1998

Charles Shanley was recently hired as an executive recruiting consultant with the Baytown recruiting firm John M. Floyd and Associates.

Capt. Jerrod Duggan

was relocated in May to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, near Fairborn and Beavercreek, Ohio.

1999

Summer Holubec is a patient and family educator at Children's Hospital of Boston and lives in Brighton, Mass.

2000

Matthew McMillan is currently an assistant professor in animal science at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

Capt. Kristofer Johnston, married to Deborah, is a logistics readiness officer at Misawa AB in Japan.

2004

Orlan Simpson, married to Vickie ('80), is the assistant principal at Robert Lee ISD.

Johanna Gonzales is a teacher at SPCAA SHAPES Head Start in Idalou.



SALUTE – Rams gather in San Antonio to celebrate the promotion of John Blumentritt to the rank of colonel. Attending are, from left, Lt. Col. Jaime Sampayo ('88), Maj. John Landolt ('92), Col. Blumentritt ('83), Maj. Darcy Maloney ('86) and Col. Kurt Pfitzner ('84).

– continued on page 32

CLASS notes

C O N T I N U E D

Keely Kolar is an account service representative for Kolar Advertising and Marketing in Austin.

James Joshua Nelson, married to Crystal, is in the U.S. Air Force and is currently stationed in North Dakota.

Kevin R. McSpadden is a high school tennis coach and English teacher at Sterling City.

ROTC Deployments

Capt. Ronnie Jewell ('99) was deployed to Erique Soto Cono, Honduras, in April for four months.

Capt. Aaron C. Milner ('00) was scheduled for deployment to Ali Al Salem, Kuwait, in May.

Capt. Monyca Byrne ('98) is a C-17 pilot scheduled in June for deployment to Al Udeid Air Base in Doha, Qatar, for four months.

As George later recalled for the West Texas Collection, Johnston "and the board, especially Porter Henderson, acted responsibly. They didn't play politics with the issue for their own gain. The whole affair was handled with dignity. They took positive steps toward making changes they recognized needed to be made."

In fact, according to a *New York Times* article in October of 1954, Texas junior colleges had responded quicker to *Brown vs. Board of Education* than had the state's four-year colleges. "Integration was well underway in Texas public junior colleges," wrote *Times* correspondent John N. Popham, who listed successful efforts in Amarillo, San Angelo, Big Spring and Corpus Christi the previous year and in Victoria, Odessa, Borger, Edinburg and Wharton in 1954.

While Benjamin Kelly became the first black to enroll in SAC and likely the first to play intercollegiate football in Texas at a previously segregated school, he was not the first to attend SAC classes. SAC faculty taught some night courses at Goodfellow Air Force Base in the early 1950s. After President Harry Truman ended segregation in the military in 1948, blacks were able to take SAC courses on the base, though the names and numbers of those servicemen have been lost to history.

Will You Respond to the Call?

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

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Angelo State University

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If you would like more information call (325) 942-2116 or learn more at http://www.angelo.edu/services/giving/giving_opportunities.htm

Angelo State University

Alumni Chapter Contacts

If you are
interested in
being an ASU
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james_seaton@jmcpa.com

San Antonio

Gregory Metz ('99)
greg.metz@morganstanley.com

Arizona

Anna Kinsey Nickell ('67)
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Georgia

Atlanta

Cindy Wright ('91)
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New York

Ray Vohra ('95)
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Tennessee

Nashville

Kirk Banfield ('89)
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Virginia

Southside

Tim Gette ('68)
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Kevin Schwalb ('97)
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Washington

Tacoma/Seattle

Marty Wooten ('84)
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Adisak Laosirirat ('86)
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Vicki Wilkinson Hall ('89) and **Brian Hall** ('90), along with big brother Andrew, welcomed Travis William on May 30, 2005, in Bedford.

Jodie and Shawn Uptergrove ('97) are proud parents of Kolsen Michael, born 9 lbs., 4.5 oz., on July 15, 2005.

Stacy ('96) and **Scot Albert** are the proud parents of Reagan Caroline, born July 28, 2005.

Samuel David, born on Aug. 12, 2005, was welcomed by his older sister, Georgia Grace and his parents **Jeremiah and Leslie Ardoin** ('92) **Williams**.

Kathy and Sam ('96) **Robinson** celebrated the birth of their son Baran, on Aug. 30, 2005.

Amy ('02) and **Brian** ('00) **Lindahl** welcomed their new arrival, daughter Elizabeth Jean, on Aug. 31, 2005.

Paige Avery was born on Oct. 16, 2005, to **Tanya** ('98) and **Brian Norris**.

Roe Anne Reinhardt Day ('93) and husband **Capt. Eugene Randall Day**, U.S. Army, welcomed their first child Cash Moreau, 9 lbs., 1 oz., on Nov. 29, 2005.

Alison and Brad Romike ('98) celebrated the birth of their daughter Georgia Lea, 9 lbs., 8oz., on Jan. 18, 2006.

Celeste Pharr and Scott Hecox ('02) welcomed Noah Scott, 6 lbs., 2 oz., into the world on Jan. 25, 2006.

Austin Michael arrived on Feb. 6, 2006, to proud parents **Karli** ('98) and **Chuck Jenkins**.

Shandy Reyes Copher ('03) and **Larry Copher** celebrated the birth of their son Dylan Charles, 8 lbs., 9.6 oz., on Feb. 22, 2006.

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