

Angelo State University Alumni Magazine

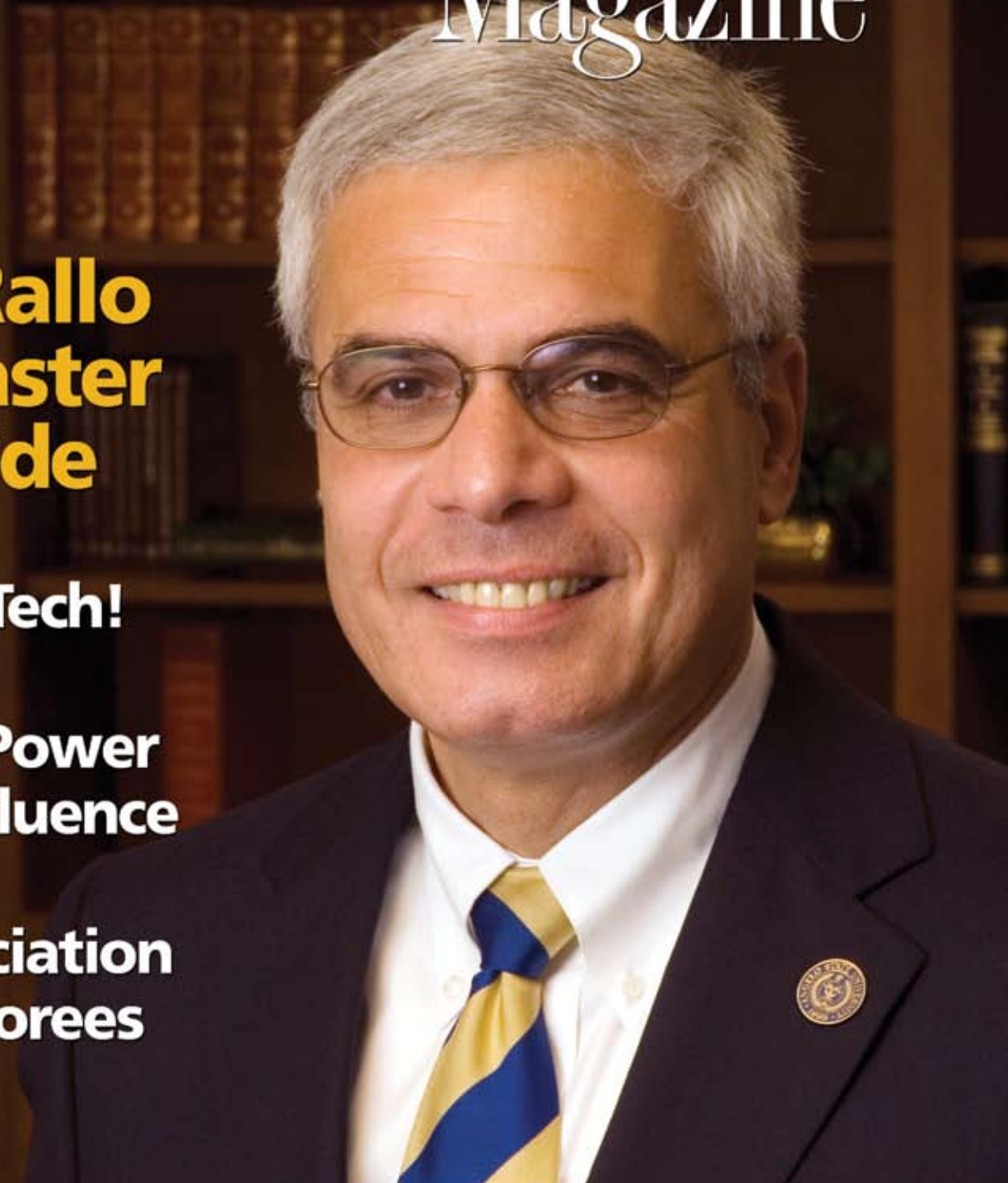
Fall 2007 • Vol. 6 • No. 3

**A Rallo
Coaster
Ride**

Hi, Tech!

**The Power
of Influence**

**Association
Honorees**



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ASU Alumni Magazine

The Angelo State University Alumni Magazine is published three times a year by the ASU Office of Alumni Relations in conjunction with the university News and Publications Office.

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On the cover: As ASU's fourth president, Dr. Joseph C. Rallo is realizing the opportunities provided by the university's new affiliation with the Texas Tech University System. (Photo by Jim Bean)



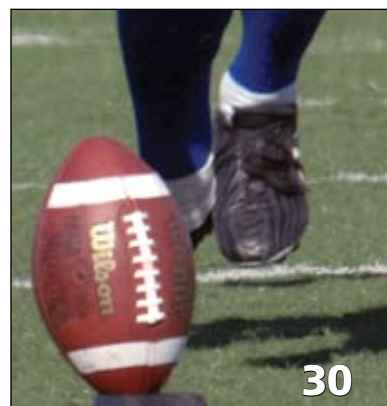
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letter

from the president



Joseph C. Rallo

Dear ASU Alumni:

My first summer as President of Angelo State University has been extraordinary. Our students, faculty, staff and community members have literally radiated the enthusiasm created by the Sept. 1 transition to the Texas Tech University System. The leadership of the Alumni Association spearheaded this initiative and brought it to fruition in record time. We owe them a debt of gratitude in setting the foundation for the next stage in our history.

As alumni you are the permanent trustees of this fine institution and will have a special role in our upcoming strategic planning. My June letter to the campus community shared the guidance offered by Jim Collins in his book *Good to Great*. Collins indicates that organizations tie their plans to goals as part of a “transformational process” to become better. He notes that healthy organizations are honest about what they can and cannot do well. For ASU the most compelling point Collins makes is the need to craft an institutional Vision based on why we exist and what we aspire to become. The unifying focal point to craft a Vision is what he terms the “Big, Hairly, Audacious Goal” or BHAG.

The transition to the Texas Tech University System provides us with an exceptional opportunity to build upon our great strengths, while identifying emergent trends to incorporate into our planning. Critical questions to answer are why students select ASU for their studies, what programs are most likely to increase campus enrollment, and what other factors, for example more residence halls, are needed. To answer these questions and others we will initiate a comprehensive and inclusive strategic planning process this fall. Representatives of key campus and community constituent groups will be asked to take an active role in that process.

Aspects of strategic planning are incremental. In this category we have four planning initiatives. First, to implement a “First Year Experience” for the students entering ASU in the fall of 2008. Second, to address Centennial Village, University Hall and several traffic safety road issues. Third, to infuse an international component into the academic expectations for all of our students. Finally, to enhance our role as an economic engine for San Angelo by becoming an intellectual resource to help attract new employment opportunities to the region.

We must also engage in aspirational planning. This is where the crafting of our Vision, Values and Mission Statements occurs and where, ideally, a BHAG emerges to guide our planning. Our strategic planning process will begin in September and end no later than May 2008. Your active participation is critical as we position ASU to meet the educational needs of its students in an ever-evolving and competitive environment. As Collins’ concludes: “Greatness is largely a matter of conscious choice.” I invite you to choose to join in this exciting and important activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Rallo', written over a white background.

Joseph C. Rallo
President

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you.
said.

Dear Alumni Association:

Thank you so much for the dinner you had in our honor. We appreciate the special comments on our behalf, the beautiful ring you gave Jim, and the pendant you gave me. We have such wonderful memories from our tenure at ASU, and these gifts are so special.

We are so glad our ties to ASU will continue. The Alumni Association is so important to the university, and you are doing a great job.

Thank you for everything. The dinner was so much fun, and we appreciate your kindness.

Go Rams and Go 'Belles,
Ann and Jim Hindman

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Comics Head to College By Tom Nurre

Comic books have grown up.

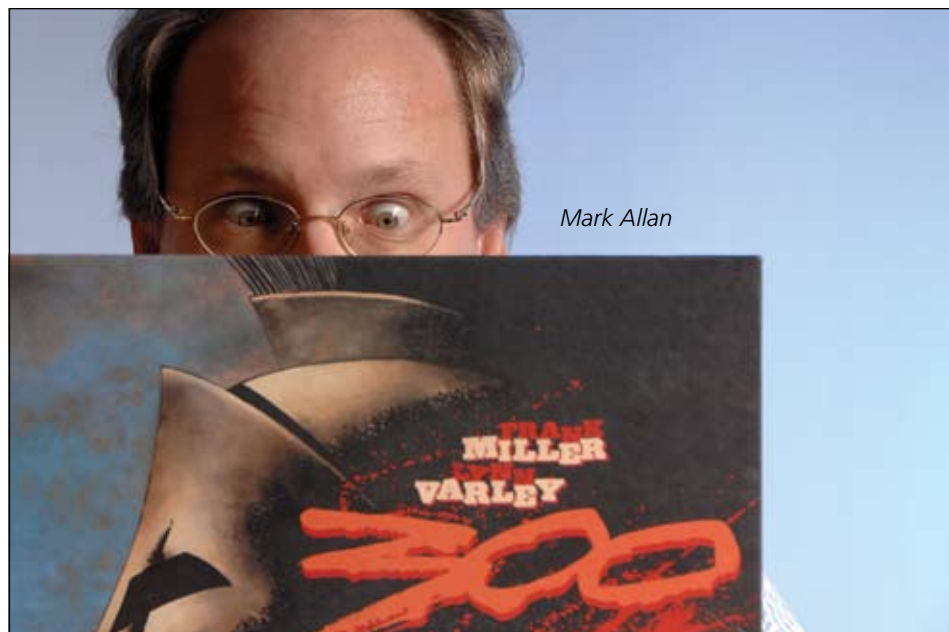
Often called “graphic novels” and increasingly being written for a more mature audience, they are finding their way into university libraries as a resource to pull college students away from their iPods, PlayStations and RAZR phones and perhaps interest them in, of all things, books.

Angelo State University’s Porter Henderson Library is no exception to the trend, now containing nearly 200 entries under the bibliographic heading of “graphic novels,” including fiction, non-fiction and even manuals on how to write and illustrate them.

“Graphic novels have shown a trend toward edgier subjects that appeal to college students,” said Mark Allan, head of the library’s Reference Department. “We’ve become a more visual culture, especially this generation raised on MTV. They are more used to graphic visuals rather than written words.”

Despite their common genre, distinct differences exist between comic books and graphic novels, Allan said. Comic book storylines are normally presented solely through dialogue without a written narrative. Further, comic books are written as serials, meaning the story does not end on the last page. Graphic novels, by contrast, generally include both dialogue and narration with the entire story usually contained in one volume. Whereas comic books are usually printed on newsprint and bound with staples, graphic novels are commonly produced on a higher quality paper and generally bound like a paperback novel.

Traditionally, graphic novels have often targeted juveniles to bridge the gap between the picture books and comics of childhood and the more advanced reading material of older students. The first graphic novels in the Porter Henderson Library were shelved in the Juvenile Collection and mainly utilized by education majors seeking age-appropriate books for lower grade levels, Allan said. Today, though, graphic novels are found throughout the library as their popularity has grown with more mature patrons.



Mark Allan

Photo by Tina Doyle

Some of the most popular graphic novels have drawn the attention of Hollywood and made a smooth transition to the movie screen. The film adaptation of Frank Miller’s graphic novel “300” topped the box office when it was released this spring. Many other recent feature films like “Sin City,” “Road to Perdition,” “A History of Violence,” “Constantine” and “V for Vendetta” also have their roots in graphic novels.

Even Stephen King has gotten into the act. In conjunction with Marvel Comics, the prolific suspense author is releasing a graphic adaptation of his seven-novel epic *The Dark Tower* this year.

As awareness of graphic novels grows, colleges are hoping to use them both as learning tools and as recreational reading, Allan said. Many graphic novels in the ASU library are re-creations of classic literature and illustrated guides to various class subjects.

“Hopefully, they can help students as supplemental texts and/or sources for their studies,” Allan said. “The graphic novel form can provide a different way of looking at a subject that may help a student grasp it better.”

ASU further committed to graphic

novels last summer when more than 150 were purchased for the library. Dr. Maurice Fortin, library director, authorized the purchase after attending a Texas Library Association workshop.

“I asked for attendees’ opinions on graphic novels and they just blew me away,” Fortin said. “I couldn’t believe the stories they were telling me about students standing in lines waiting for the boxes to be opened. They said kids were constantly asking for new graphic novels.”

The new ASU collection includes everything from historical graphic novels and biographies to super heroes and science. Many of the graphic novels have merit for their artwork alone. The art ranges from black-and-white illustrations to color pictures and from realistic drawings to surrealist images.

In the end, Fortin and Allan see graphic novels not so much as diminishing the quality of the library’s holdings, but rather as providing another information resource for the latest generation to reach maturity in the information age.

“If this is what is going to spur them to reading, our students need to see them and have examples of them,” Fortin said. ■

Playing Math

By Tom Nurre

In an innovative twist on teaching math, Dr. John “Trey” Smith moved away from his world of chalk boards, calculators and theories and into the realm of actors, props and plot lines.

Looking for a new way to convey the proof of the mathematical concept “Gödel’s Incompleteness Theorem,” Smith decided to become, of all things, a playwright.

“This theorem basically says that no system in mathematics is complete,” said the ASU assistant professor of mathematics. “There is always some proposition out there that can’t be proved or disproved. Having said all that, which I know is very confusing, my initial goal in playwriting was to write a play that dramatically captured that idea.”

Smith, who received his bachelor’s degree in biology and master’s degree in mathematics from ASU, began his journey into the dark and unfamiliar world of liberal arts by taking a playwriting class with Dr. Bill Doll, director of the ASU Theatre.

“I’d call it whole-brain playwriting with multiple connections,” Doll said. “He uses his analytical left brain with his creative/intuitive right brain and has wires in there that are a natural abnormality. He then took the playwriting class and off he went.”

Smith’s daring right-brain experiment was vindicated when Doll pieced together three of his one-act plays, including his original, into the production “Uncommon Threads” for ASU’s summer Dinner Theatre in 2005.

“I was very much surprised,” Doll said. “His is a different kind of abstraction that is not typically related to hard science. It gives a different kind of light or awareness to the human condition.”

Smith’s work was so well-received that Doll put him back to writing for this summer’s Dinner Theatre. The production was titled “Original One-Act Plays” and included two works by Smith and one by former ASU student Jackie Rosenfeld. The germi-

nal idea behind each work was that reality leaves a lot to the imagination.

“Trey seems to draft notions from wildly different sources to work together,” Doll said. “We all do this with every creative act, but rarely does someone draft notions from such far-reaching, diverse sources. That’s the challenge of his work.”

However, the question still remains as to why Smith crossed over to the “dark side” and took up playwriting. While Doll may have been the “Yoda” to Smith’s “Luke Skywalker,” it was not he who started Smith on his journey. Apparently, Smith has always had a bit of liberal arts character tucked inside his scientific brain. It is a trait nurtured by his wife Laura, a drama teacher at Central High School, and passed on to their son Carl, an ASU drama student.

“I’ve always loved plays and going to theatrical productions,” Smith said. “I know my wife is the drama teacher, but the two of us have always shared that love. I know I went the math-and-sciences direction and my wife went into the drama side, but we’ve always shared that.”

With such strong support on the home front, Smith has apparently breached the great wall that often exists between the two sides of the human brain.

“His plays make me think and laugh and wonder,” Doll said. “They also make me really, really puzzled about how screwed up those wires in his head must be.”

Responded Smith, “I guess it was the alignment of several planets that I love dramatic works. It was the right medium for what I was trying to get across.” ■

Trey Smith

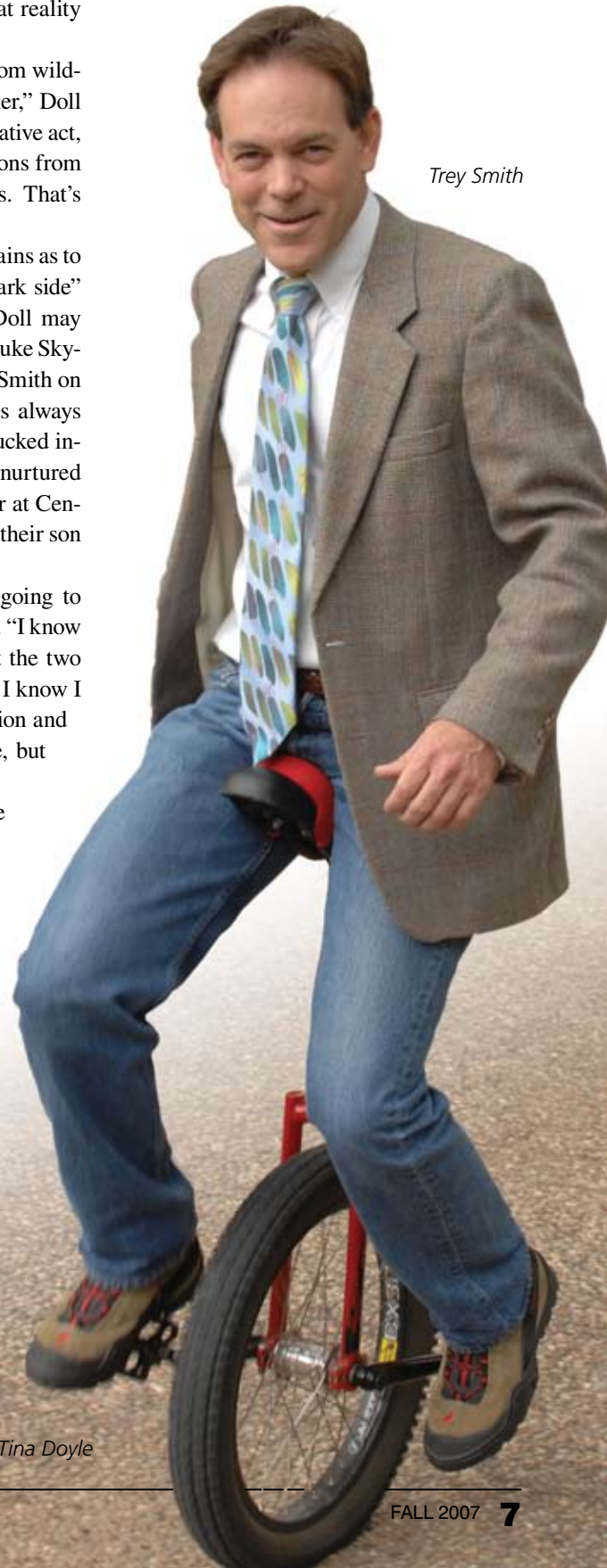


Photo by Tina Doyle

campus Newsbriefs

A Perfect 10

For the 10th straight year, ASU students maintained a 100 percent passing rate on the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) teacher certification test for secondary mathematics.

Seven ASU students took the TExES in February and their average score of 272 out of 300 was well above last year's state average of 232. The perfect passing rate streak began in 1998.

Tri-Beta Tops

ASU's Epsilon Sigma chapter of the Beta Beta Beta Biology Honor Society received the Lloyd M. Bertholf Award this spring as the top chapter in the nation for the 2005-06 academic year.

The award has been presented since 1961 and the ASU chapter is the first five-time winner out of the more than 430 chapters in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. The award recognizes undergraduate participation in research and student-originated programming that promotes biological scholarship at the institution.

Paying the Piper

Dr. Terry C. Maxwell, biology professor and subject of the cover story in the summer issue of the *Alumni Magazine*, has been named a 2007 Piper Distinguished Professor by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation for his achievements in

the teaching profession.

On the ASU faculty since 1976, Maxwell is the ninth ASU faculty member honored with the prestigious statewide award. Only 15 faculty members statewide were designated Piper professors for 2007.

Maxwell received the 2006 ASU Teaching Excellence Award.

High School Prep

Dr. Nancy Allen, English Department head, has been named to one of four statewide discipline-based vertical teams to help develop new College Readiness Standards for Texas high school students.

Allen is one of 40 team members chosen statewide by the Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Her area of concentration will be English language arts for grades eight through 12.

Post to Campbell

Elsie Campbell, professional specialist in mathematics, will serve as vice-chair of the Mathematics Section of the Texas Academy of Sciences (TAS) for the 2007-08 school year and will move up to section chair for 2008-09.

As vice-chair, she will review abstracts from senior TAS members and students for the Mathematics Section and will be program chair for the 2008 TAS annual meeting. As chair in 2009, she will con-

duct the mathematics portion of the program and present the speakers.

Grad Student Honors

The ASU College of Graduate Studies honored outstanding graduate students at its annual awards banquet, presenting a special award to Corey Owens of Big Lake for his exceptional graduate work and research in animal science.

Distinguished Graduate Student Award recipients, by college, were: Susan C. Wallis of Colorado City, Business; Wendy Boatright of San Angelo, Education; Kalton R. May of San Angelo, Liberal and Fine Arts; and Jerrie Smithwick of San Angelo, Sciences.

Top Spring Graduates

During May commencement, Kristen Elaine Truett received the 2007 Presidential Award while four other students received Distinguished Student Awards from their respective colleges.

Truett, a double major in chemistry and mathematics from San Angelo, plans to pursue graduate studies in preparation for a career as an industrial chemist.

The Distinguished Student Award recipients, by college, were: Jacob R. Spencer of San Angelo, Business; Alicia Leanne McNeal of Colorado City, Education; Laura Christeen Calmes of Lubbock, Lib-

eral and Fine Arts; and Melissa Warren of Hereford, Sciences.

Best of the Best

Dr. Trey Smith, a member of the math faculty since 1992, earned the university's 2007 Teaching Excellence Award.

He and fellow award finalists Dr. Gloria Duarte of English and Dr. Carolyn R. Mason of physical therapy were honored during the spring general meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Smith was recognized for his mathematics skill and knowledge and for "his enthusiastic demeanor, dedication to students, encouragement of student involvement and participation in community programs."

The award is offered annually to recognize and encourage teaching excellence.

New Department Heads

Three new academic department heads have been named at ASU.

In the College of Education Dr. James A. Summerlin was appointed for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and Dr. Linda N. Lucksinger was named to the Department of Teacher Education.

In the College of Sciences Dr. Scott M. Hasson was selected to head the Physical Therapy Department.

Summerlin came to ASU from Sul Ross State University (SRSU) where he chaired the Department of Education.

Summerlin holds an Ed.D. and has taught previously at Northwest Vista College and Schreiner University.

Lucksinger also moved to ASU from SRSU where she was an education professor and former Department of Education chair. She has a Ph.D. from Texas A&M and taught for 11 years at Schreiner University prior to her time at Sul Ross.

Hasson reported to ASU after a decade on the physical therapy faculty at the University of Connecticut. He previously taught at Texas Woman's University and University of Texas Medical Branch, where he earned his PT degree. He holds an Ed.D. from the University of Northern Colorado.

Ranching Down Under

Leland Turner, a 2006-07 visiting lecturer in history, has been awarded a Fulbright Post Graduate Fellowship to Australia to compare the ranching industries of the American Southwest and the Australian Outback.

Recipients of the Fulbright awards are selected for academic or professional achievement and demonstrated potential in their fields of study.

Turner's research project is a transnational comparative study of cattle raisers, their economic activities and the harsh environments in which they operate.

The *ASU Alumni Magazine* received multiple honors this spring, including two awards for outstanding feature writing by the Southwest District of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and multiple design awards from the San Angelo Advertising Federation (SAAF).

Editor Preston Lewis' two-part series "Breaking the Color Barrier" and "Breaking the Color Barrier Again" received the CASE gold award in the long-feature category. The stories appeared in the 2006 summer and fall issues of the magazine and chronicled how Ben Kelly not only integrated San Angelo College but also broke the color barrier in Texas intercollegiate football.

Staff writer Tom Nurre's "Comics Head to College," which was submitted in manuscript form and appears in this issue of the *Alumni Magazine*, received a bronze award in the short-feature category.

The Southwest District of CASE includes colleges and universities in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico as well as in Mexico.

Graphics director Michael Martin received multiple SAAF Addy Awards. His three 2006 *Alumni Magazine* covers received a Gold Addy and Special Judges Commendation. Also credited on the award was local photographer and ASU alumnus Jim Bean for his fall 2006 cover shot of Paintbrush Alley.

Martin also received a Gold Addy for his layout of "2028: An ASU Space Odyssey," highlighting the university's facilities new master plan, and a Silver Addy for his digital enhancements of the 2006 summer cover of Ben Kelly.

SAAF is made up of advertising and marketing professionals in San Angelo and the Concho Valley. ■





a Rallo

On the first day of June Dr. Joseph C. Rallo not only stepped into the presidency of Angelo State University but also into a situation unique in the history of Texas higher education.

Hired by the Texas State University System, Rallo would report to the Texas Tech University System three months to the day after he began his tenure as ASU's fourth president. Never had the State of Texas moved a university from one system to another, but that's what a stroke of the governor's pen did just eight days before Rallo assumed his San Angelo duties.

Seizing on the situation as an opportunity that would bring many benefits to Angelo State University, Joe Rallo did what he has done throughout his career: He rolled up his sleeves and went to work.

Photo by Jim Bean

Coaster Ride

By Preston Lewis

With a different perspective and a new idea or question in virtually every sentence, he sent staff looking for information or answers as he prepared to shape the university in his image of a broader, more global future.

At the end of the first month, one administrator called the experience “a Rallo coaster ride.” That description provided an apt depiction of a career journey that has taken him from Staten Island, New York, to San Angelo, Texas.

Along the way, he has sold furniture at Bloomingdale’s and stood in the presence of a squash deity at Woodstock. Rallo became an easy rider after getting his bachelor’s degree and rode his Honda across the country, getting a job at Grand Canyon National Park where he picked up garbage when he wasn’t fighting wildfires. He got a law degree so he would always have something to fall back on and then joined the Navy at 30, an age when most young men considered themselves beyond the reach of the military.

An unstructured and unfocused life? Far from it, Rallo stated.

“Actually, it was very planned,” Rallo said. “I knew I wanted to get a doctorate, but that’s a long, long path, as we all know, and maybe without much light at the end of the tunnel. I figured with either a law degree or M.B.A., you’ll never starve. The only serendipitous piece was the motorcycle trip after college. If you ask my friends and colleagues how they would describe me, it would be ‘very focused.’”

That breadth of experience and education plus his focus not only shaped Rallo’s life, but also his outlook, the same perspective that will now mold ASU’s future.

His immediate goal upon arriving at Angelo State was simply to get to know the campus, the community and the people by “a mixture of observing, conversing and meeting.” He was pleased with what he found.

At the end of the first month, one administrator called the experience “a Rallo coaster ride.” That description provided an apt depiction of a career journey that has taken him from Staten Island, New York, to San Angelo, Texas.

“What impressed me the most is the institution is still bounded by what I call traditional values,” Rallo said, “but at the same time it is open to the future. You don’t always get that combination and that to me is important.”

“It’s been not just fun, but a lot of fun,” he continued. “Clearly to me, I made no mistake in terms of my decision to come here, in terms of what I expected. In many ways, there are more resources here than I anticipated, and I don’t mean just financial, but also people resources.

“Now having said that, I think the institution keeps using the word ‘poised’ and ‘ready’ and I think that is where my skills can match up because I enjoy moving from being poised and ready to beginning change and effecting an outcome. I think it’s going to be great.”

As for his leadership style, Rallo subscribes to the concepts Jim Collins outlined in his best-seller *Good to Great*. While Collins speaks of “disciplined” people, thought and action in a business context, Rallo thinks “focused people, focused thought and focused action” is the more appropriate description for the university environment.

“I am pretty assured personally and institutionally about where we need to go,” he said. “I value people, but at the same

time we live in a world where complacency has no role. I hate to use the term ‘change agent,’ but I value change against a goal and against a vision. I guess that is what leadership is all about, creating the vision while at the same time moving toward that vision.”

His vision for ASU will not be a solitary undertaking but rather a strategic planning process that will involve faculty and staff plus community members, beginning this fall, and “will provide the context for our actions over the course of the next three to five years.”

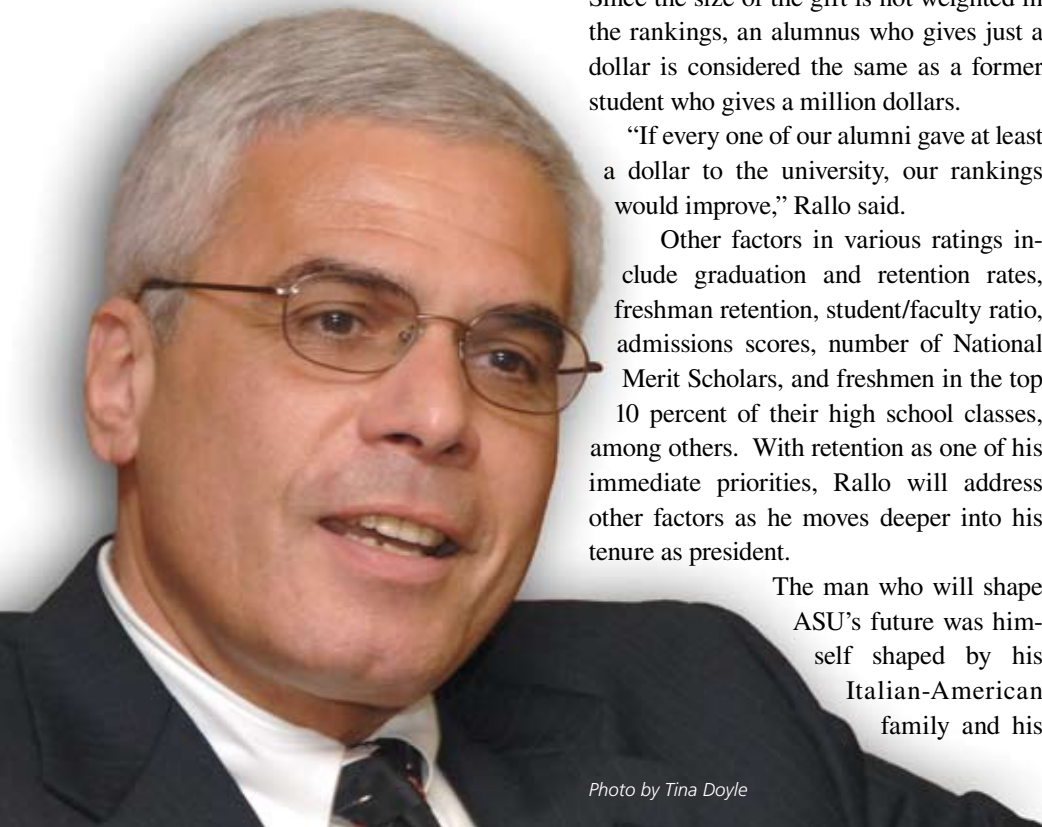
“The campus has done an exceptional job in its master planning process as well as in its initial strategic plan,” Rallo said. “We will build on these initiatives as we craft a vision statement to identify ASU as an institution. How we envision ourselves as an institution, craft strategies to implement shared goals, align resources to sustain momentum and prepare our students for a competitive environment is what defines the strategic planning process.”

Though work on the strategic plan will occupy much of the 2007-08 academic year, Rallo identified three near-term priorities upon his arrival June 1. The most immediate priority was managing a smooth transition to the Texas Tech University System.

“While the full transition will take many months, especially as our faculty begin to define and implement curriculum and research synergies presented by the move, we must quickly match our publications and website to the TTUS format,” he indicated.

He identified his second near-term priority as retention. “We recruit excellent students,” he said, “and those who graduate have exceptional careers. The quandary is the large loss from the freshman to sophomore year, which immediately impacts our fiscal health and places in jeopardy our ability to grow toward our identified enrollment

*"You basically
can distill it
down very
simply, whether
it is the military
or a university:
you do your
mission and
you take care
of your people."*



targets." Rallo intends to provide a more active and supportive first-year experience for new students beginning in the fall of 2008.

The third immediate priority will focus on construction and enhancing the campus environment. This priority includes jump-starting the delayed Centennial Village project so that it will be ready for next fall. Additional projects include demolishing vacant buildings on campus and beginning to implement the facilities master plan which will make for a more student-centered, pedestrian-friendly campus.

"I try to have a great time in what I do," he said, "but I am very focused on outcomes. We have to demonstrate our accomplishments in what we do. I am more supportive of taking chances and failing than of failing to take chances."

One such outcome he plans to address is ASU's standing in many of the college ranking services. Rallo said a university of ASU's academic caliber deserves a higher standing in ratings such as *U.S. News and World Report's* annual college issue each August.

"Granted, it's all smoke and mirrors," Rallo said, "but we know how to make the smoke."

For instance, one of the factors that many of these ratings consider is the percentage of alumni giving to the school. Since the size of the gift is not weighted in the rankings, an alumnus who gives just a dollar is considered the same as a former student who gives a million dollars.

"If every one of our alumni gave at least a dollar to the university, our rankings would improve," Rallo said.

Other factors in various ratings include graduation and retention rates, freshman retention, student/faculty ratio, admissions scores, number of National Merit Scholars, and freshmen in the top 10 percent of their high school classes, among others. With retention as one of his immediate priorities, Rallo will address other factors as he moves deeper into his tenure as president.

The man who will shape ASU's future was himself shaped by his Italian-American family and his

youth in New York City where the fast pace left him, as he describes it, with "the attention span of a gnat," which is another way of saying he is a quick study on issues.

He was a first-generation American on his father's side and a second generation American on his mother's side. His father, who is 90 years old, came from Marsala, Italy, where "he was so poor he had a worm as a pet," as he would later describe his dire impoverishment to Rallo's daughter, Heather. The elder Rallo came to the United States in 1932 to start anew and, after service in the Army during World War II, earned his Ph.D. in modern languages and literature from Columbia University.

His mother was born in Brooklyn in 1922, the daughter of two Italian immigrants who ran several successful small businesses in Brooklyn and later Staten Island. His mother was the first woman in her family to complete college and get a graduate degree. She became a music and art librarian at the New York Public Library, but died suddenly at the age of 47.

Because of his family's old country heritage, Rallo from an early age had a more global view than did many Americans. Attending a public school where his classmates spoke as many as 30 different languages, more than you would find on most university campuses, furthered his perceptions of global realities.

Consequently, when he went to Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., he majored in Russian history. As he described it, "the Cold War was on and it seemed like a neat major." In 1969 he dropped out of school the spring semester to cope with the unexpected loss of his mother. But ever focused on graduating on time, he took makeup courses that summer at State University of New York at Binghamton because tuition was reasonable and the school had coed dorms. He saw an ad in the paper for a concert less than an hour away and that was how he wound up at the Woodstock Music and Art Fair, a seminal event in the history of the Baby Boomer generation and its counterculture offspring.

"It was not an ideological statement," he recalled. "It just seemed like the thing to do." He was there through the rain from Friday to Sunday morning. So many stories developed about Woodstock and its mel-

Photo by Tina Doyle

low outlook that in later years some cynics would say that if you remembered it, you weren't really there.

Rallo was there, unimpaired, and his most vivid recollection was not of Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Jefferson Airplane, Grateful Dead, Arlo Guthrie, Santana or any of the other 30 plus bands and performers. Instead, it was his neighbors, members of a New Mexico commune that had raised a large tent adjacent to his pup tent.

"They had brought this squash along with them," he recalled, "and set it up in their tent because it was their god. They prayed to the squash. So, they let us in and we looked at their squash and went back out. You can figure from that."

After graduating from Woodstock and then Lafayette College, he took the summer motorcycle trip "because he had never been west of Pennsylvania." When he returned to the East Coast, he started on law school, which "teaches you to think coherently and diversely," and worked at Bloomingdale's in New York City.

"I was placed in furniture, which doesn't sound very exotic, but furniture at Bloomingdale's is a different world," Rallo said. "It was my first real exposure to international business."

After a year of training, he would go on buying trips to Portugal, for instance, where he would purchase a chair for \$10 and sell it back in New York City for \$500.

"If you distressed the chair, that is if you had it beaten with a chain," Rallo said, "it sold for a thousand dollars."

So he got real world lessons in comparative economics, international business and trade law that helped refine his interest in global trade and business. When he looked at grad school, the international trade policy program at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University seemed in line with his interests. He earned both his M.A. and Ph.D. in international trade policy at Syracuse, then accepted his first faculty position at Rutgers.

Next, he joined the U.S. Navy and was on active duty from 1981-86 before he was cross-commissioned to the U.S. Air Force. "A lot of my colleagues thought I was crazy, giving up a tenure line position at a major university, but I began to look at things a little bit differently.

"All my focus had been on political, economic and legal issues of the European economic community," he said. "When I went into the Navy, I began to realize there's a whole other dimension, that is the defense and technology sectors."

He spent his 10 years of active duty involved in teaching, research and intelligence. The experience made him much more marketable when he returned to civilian higher education.

"The military's not for everyone," Rallo said. "But, for those people who are interested in certain things, one of which is, obviously, service to your country and another of which is the ability to really have some direct outcomes on your decisions, the military is an incredible place."

A pivotal experience for him was finishing first in his class at Naval Aviation Officer Candidate School, a program brought to the public eye in the Richard Gere movie "An Officer and A Gentleman." The training was most satisfying to him because the top graduate was picked not just on grades and performance but also from the evaluations of fellow classmates.

"I had always tried to use whatever talents I had to help others and so I used to do a lot of tutoring because the classes were tough," Rallo said. "You had aerodynamics and I would tutor a lot of the guys, not that they were dumb but they just didn't have the background. As a result of that, I was basically picked number one in my class. That taught me that leadership is many times about giving back and about having to focus and recognize your responsibility.

"That's what I think the military teaches you. You basically can distill it down very simply, whether it is the military or a university: you do your mission and you take care of your people. That's the formula and that's what I learned from the service."

As of this past July 1, Rallo had served 26 years on active and reserve duty, the last 20 years with the Air Force. Today Rallo serves as the Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the Commandant of the Air Command and Staff College, the equivalent of a university for the most promising majors in the Air Force, at Maxwell AFB in Alabama.

— continued on page 36

Required Reading

Whether sending a letter to donors or an e-mail to faculty and staff, Dr. Joseph C. Rallo is likely to quote a book like Jim Collins' *Good to Great* or Thomas L. Friedman's *The World Is Flat*.

When he is on the treadmill during his lunchtime workouts, he is often reading as well.

"I read zillions of things," he said. "Some things work; some things don't."

But in the end, he has two favorites, both periodicals.

"I tell my students if you are on a desert island and, obviously, can get mail," Rallo said, "you need two magazines — *The Economist* and *Smithsonian*. You can get through life with both of those."

Smithsonian magazine is published monthly by the Smithsonian Institution, which operates 18 of the nation's premier national museums as well as nine research centers nationally. The magazine covers history, the arts, science/technology, travel, nature/wildlife and people/cultures.

"Obviously coming out of the museum, *Smithsonian* has the most eclectic series of articles every month," Rallo said. "You learn about all sorts of things."

With principal offices in London, Paris, Hong Kong and New York, *The Economist* is a weekly international journal aimed at top business executives and political leaders. *The Economist* offers an international perspective on topics ranging from business news to individual country profiles and from the arts to technology.

"*The Economist* is a little different from *Smithsonian*," Rallo said. "It's published in Britain. It has superb international coverage so you focus on the world. Its weekly segment on American politics is better than anything we do.

"And, more importantly, they write beautifully," Rallo said. "That is something we have tended to lose in this country."

Hi, Tech!

Back to the Future

Odd as it may seem, Angelo State University owes its past to Texas Tech University so it is not without some irony that ASU and TTU now share a common future as part of the Texas Tech University System, effective this past Sept. 1.

The change from the Texas State University System (TSUS), which had governed ASU since it became a state-supported institution in 1965, was mandated by the Texas Legislature after a whirlwind lobbying effort by ASU alumni and supporters, who began to see a brighter future with TTUS, primarily because of location and a common West Texas outlook.

"Texas Tech loves Angelo State," said Texas Tech University Chancellor Kent Hance on his first official visit to ASU in June, "and we are proud to have you as a partner in our system."

Those words, as genuine as the West Texas drawl in which they were delivered, conveyed a message that Angelo State backers had longed to hear. Their university was not just "a part of" but rather "a partner in" a system.

And, that partnership has significant implications not only for future educational programs and opportunities for Angelo State but also for the future of higher education in Texas as more realignments are likely ahead for Texas colleges and universities. Texas Gov. Rick Perry has already announced that he plans to re-structure Texas higher education during the 2009 legislative session. When that occurs, the Angelo State-Texas Tech University System mar-

Masked stranger welcomes Texas Tech Chancellor Kent Hance to Angelo State.



Photo by Tina Doyle

riage, as freshman San Angelo State Rep. Drew Darby called the merger, will serve as a model for how it is done.

That such a merger might ever occur, much less be a statewide model for future realignments, seemed a long shot in late February when word first began to circulate around San Angelo that community leaders were working on such a proposal. After all, it had taken three sessions for West Texas State University, then governed by an independent board of regents, to merge with the Texas A&M University System in 1990. What had taken six years for Panhandle residents to do, San Angelo citizens hoped to accomplish in three months.

Despite the odds and because of some local concerns that the TSUS might change the name or modify the arrangements governing administration of the Carr Academic Scholarship Program, Darby, who earned a rare freshman appointment to the House Appropriations Committee, chose what became House Bill 3564 to be the first legislation that he would introduce. His case was helped by the support of Sen. Robert Duncan, who serves on the Senate Finance Committee and represents both San Angelo and Lubbock in the Senate. Duncan and Darby introduced identical bills in the Senate and House on March 9, the final day legislation could be filed in the Legislature.

Barely had the legislation been introduced than the board of directors of the ASU Alumni Association voted to endorse the legislation that same afternoon, becoming the first group to formally support the move. Not long after the board action, both Darby and Duncan held an informational meeting in ASU's LeGrand Center.

"Let me tell you about two things that are sacrosanct," Darby said at that meeting, "that is the name of Angelo State University will remain Angelo State University as long as Angelo State University wants to keep that name. That's non-negotiable. The second thing is every dollar of the Carr Scholarship Foundation will remain in San Angelo, both the administrative and the scholarship dollars."

Speaking at that meeting as well, Sen. Duncan said, "From Texas Tech's perspective, they are as excited as you are. Texas Tech understands the value of Angelo State as an institution. It is going to serve Texas Tech in



Rep. Drew Darby



Sen. Robert Duncan

a way that expands Tech to indeed a Tier 1 flagship institution because of the quality of your programs here....It is just an outstanding, perfect partnership. We call it a blend, a cotton and wool blend, you know cool, no wrinkles, natural, strong, all those things."

Recalling the events following that afternoon meeting in the LeGrand Center, Alumni Association President Lloyd Norris said, "The ASU Alumni Association worked very hard to make the merger with Texas Tech a reality. I think we'll look back on this legislation in 15 or 20 years and say 'That was a very important moment in the life of ASU.'"

Several other groups and entities endorsed the system switch after the Alumni Association. They included, among others, the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, City of San Angelo, City of San Angelo Development Corp., Tom Green County Commissioners Court, Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, Texas Tech Alumni Association, ASU Student Government Association and Retired Faculty Organization of ASU. Even the Tom Green County Republican Party and Tom Green County Democratic Party agreed on the move.

While these groups added clout to the movement, the organization that coordinated efforts to back the move was one created just for that purpose, the Coalition

for ASU's Future. The coalition's executive board included President Dick Robertson, former president of the ASU Alumni Association; Vice President Steve Eustis, Alumni Association board member; and Secretary/Treasurer Brad Fly, Alumni Association first vice president.

Other major coalition volunteers included current Alumni Association board members Lloyd Norris, Kyle Box, Ronnie Willmann, Tom Ridgway, Kathy Muñoz, Jean Ann LeGrand and Louis Gomez as well as San Angelo civic leaders such as Steve Stephens, retired chairman of Town & Country Food Stores, and Matt Lewis, president and CEO of the San Angelo Area Foundation.

One interested observer from afar was Dr. Joseph C. Rallo, who was hired by one system in March and stood to work for another within three months to the day of his arrival on June 1 at his new job. From his office at Western Illinois University where he was provost and academic vice president, Rallo kept abreast of developments through contact with TSUS officials and through web-based news accounts of activities in Austin.

"Texas State University System is a good system as is the Texas Tech University System," Rallo said. "What encouraged me most about this whole process was the knowledge that a lot of alumni and support-

ers of our university loved ASU so much that they were willing to devote their time, effort and money to doing what they believed best for Angelo State and its future.”

The coalition and its supporters organized letter and e-mail campaigns, scheduled proponents to testify for the bill and created a website to keep the public posted. At various stages in the process, coalition representatives met with the governor, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and House Speaker Tom Craddick, who holds both a B.B.A. and an M.B.A. from Texas Tech. For coalition president Dick Robertson the defining moment in the process came when legislators in Austin began calling to request that the coalition cease and desist in flooding their offices with e-mails and letters of support. Austin had gotten the message.

On April 25 the Texas House approved HB 3564 by a margin of 137-4. Twenty days later on May 15, the Texas Senate unanimously approved the bill and forwarded it to the governor’s office. When Gov. Perry signed HB 3564 on May 23, the divergent paths that Texas Tech and Angelo State had taken since 1923 came together. That year the Texas Legislature decided to establish a Texas Technological College in West Texas and both San Angelo and Lubbock, among other cities, submitted bids.

Disappointed when the blue ribbon selection committee opted to put the new university on the South Plains rather than in the Concho Valley, San Angelo citizens decided they would have a college of their own, even if they had to fund it themselves. That they did, opening San Angelo Junior College in 1928 and funding it with their local taxes.

Four decades of work would see San Angeloans’ ultimate dream come true when San Angelo College received four-year, state-supported status and a name change to Angelo State in 1965. Angelo State enrollment peaked in 1989 at 6,408. For the last decade, enrollment has been flat, averaging around 6,221 each fall.

Chancellor Hance said he believed Texas Tech could help increase that number almost immediately.

“We can’t take every student who applies to Tech each year,” Hance said, “but we can refer them to our new sister institution in San Angelo and, in doing so, support

*When Gov. Perry
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divergent paths
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ASU in growing their university and the system as a whole.”

His ultimate goal is for the system’s Texas Tech-named components, currently with 28,000 students, to have an enrollment of 40,000 and for ASU to have 10,000 enrolled students by the year 2020.

“It’d be great for the economy, but it’d be great for West Texas,” Hance said, noting that larger enrollments mean bigger appropriations and better opportunities to develop special programs and invest in research.

Many of the benefits of the merger are immediate, not years in the future. For instance, Hance said the pulsed power research group in Texas Tech’s Electrical Engineering Department is researching how to neutralize the improvised explosive devices (IED) so deadly to U.S. troops in Iraq. The research could bring in \$20 million in Department of Defense monies this year and Texas Tech will examine the possibility of subcontracting some of that work to ASU’s nationally recognized physics program.

“One of the things we want to do is to have collaborations with Angelo State on a lot of projects that will help both schools,” Hance said.

Already ASU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Don Coers and his staff are discussing articulation agreements with Texas Tech officials about securing admission to graduates of ASU’s Honors Program to Texas Tech graduate schools, including law and medicine. They are exploring broadening ASU’s international studies program, perhaps initially at the TTU Center in Seville, Spain.

Texas Tech stands to gain as well from some of ASU’s strengths, said Coers.

“We would also like to explore the creation of a joint public-private program with IBM and our Texas State Data Center that might offer internship opportunities to both ASU and Texas Tech students,” Coers said.

So, the possibilities are as limitless as the West Texas horizon. Some can be as elaborate as the IED or computer research or as simple as announcing Angelo State football scores with all the Big XII and top 20 results at Texas Tech football games, which Hance plans to initiate this fall.

“We have a Phi Beta Kappa chapter that we just got this year,” Hance said. “There are only three public universities in the state that have those and I’d like long-term for there to be another one and that would be at Angelo State.”

Whether it is Phi Beta Kappa or announcing football scores, this mutual vision is possible, Hance said, because of a common trait shared by the two universities.

“I tell you where these two schools fit so well is the culture,” he said. “You know we’re going to grow, but our culture’s not going to change. We’re still going to be friendly campuses. The culture of West Texas is hard work, a good work ethic.”

Hance’s work ethic was instilled in the wheat fields of his native Dimmitt where his father put him to driving a John Deere tractor from daylight to dusk.

“How’d the day go?” Hance asked. “Well, I saw three cars and a pickup that had a dog in the back. I knew there had to be something better, but I just didn’t know what it was.”

Turns out it was higher education, said the first-generation college graduate.

During his June visit to ASU, Hance met with the members of the various foundations and organizations that support ASU. He told the story of two West Texans finding a horny toad atop a fence post.

“One thing is certain,” Hance said, “he didn’t get there by himself.”

So, Texas Tech and Angelo State, two institutions that shared the same genesis but evolved by different courses, find themselves headed in the same direction. Now together, they will find themselves sitting atop more fence posts overlooking the broad horizons of West Texas with a vision that goes even farther. ■

Hi, Tech!

The Hundred Days

When proponents of realigning Angelo State University with the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) first approached Lubbock representatives about the move, they planned for the transition to occur Jan. 1, 2008, but Tech officials said it made more sense to do it Sept. 1 at the start of a new fiscal year.

Backers of the bill did just that changing the effective date to Sept. 1, 2007, but there was a catch.

"We were thinking '08, but the backers of the bill were interested in the fast track, not the slow track," recalled Jim Brunjes, TTUS vice chancellor and chief financial officer.

Thus, a transition period that had been envisioned as 15-plus months was compressed into 100 days from the time Gov. Rick Perry signed the legislation on May 23 until Sept. 1. Plenty of work had to be done, much of it behind-the-scenes tasks like reconciling policies and operating procedures.

Not all the work, however, was invisible to the public. New ASU President Joseph C. Rallo saw the transition as a blue-and-gold marketing opportunity and assigned the News and Publications Office to develop a new university logo to replace the "Flaming A," which had been used for more than a decade and to come up with a new tagline to supersede "Genuine Education," which had been used for six years. Further, he wanted a revamped, more dynamic website.

Initial priority was given to developing the new logo and tagline since everything as simple as business cards or as complex as the website would hinge on those decisions. After input from the Admissions Office was emphatic that the letters "ASU" should be incorporated into the logo, ASU Director of Graphics Michael Martin developed six new options and included a seventh, the logo that had been used by athletics for the past five years.

While the artistic work progressed, the News and Publications Office began looking at a new tagline, a concise slogan or statement that captures what an organization or institution is all about. The News and Publications Office identified one possibility while the Admissions Office came up with a list of seven.

When both the sample logos and taglines were completed, they were made available for an on-line survey of students, faculty and staff. Input was also solicited from the ASU Alumni Association Board of Directors. The surveys tallied 909 university responses for the logo and 570 for the tagline, plus numerous replies from the Alumni Association.

For the logo, the overwhelming favorite was the athletic logo, which received 70 percent of all first-place votes and was listed as one of top three choices by 90 percent of all respondents. "This was a popular and easy choice," said Rallo.

News and Publications Director Preston Lewis was not surprised by the decision. "The athletic logo has been popular on campus since Michael Martin developed it in 2002. Unless you have tried to develop a logo, you can't fully understand the difficulty in visually representing the university in a distinct and popular manner. As I have told Michael, he came as close to perfection in this design as in any of the hundreds of jobs he has handled in my tenure at ASU."

While the logo was an easy choice, the tagline was a more difficult decision. The survey produced no significant favorite, but did bring in 154 additional suggestions, enough for ASU to have a new tagline every week for the next three years. In the end, the president made the decision.

"Throughout the process, 'Touching Tomorrow' appeared to me as an effective tagline," Rallo said. "The Double T provided subtle acknowledgement of our new affiliation with the Texas Tech University System in a succinct, powerful message."

Additionally, Rallo said he was struck by a comment by ASU Distinguished Alumnus and Alumni Association board member Arnold Garcia of Austin. Garcia, who is the editorial page editor for the *Austin American-Statesman*, wrote "Touching Tomorrow is short but eloquent and delivers a good message for a part of the country perceived to be a captive of its past."

"I believe his explanation," Rallo said, "nicely captures the challenges we face in West Texas, even as we transition to the opportunities inherent in the alignment with the Texas Tech University System."

With the logo and tagline decisions in place, the university moved forward with re-designing publications, letterheads and business cards. A major revamping of the website followed with 25 temporary employees being hired to convert existing sites to the new look and format. The results are visible at www.angelo.edu.

Though all the realignment work made for a hectic summer as offices scrambled to adapt to the new affiliation, new procedures and a new look, in retrospect it was probably beneficial that the transition was compressed into a hundred days.

"Now," said Rallo, "we can move forward with educating our students and determining how our new affiliation with the Texas Tech University System can enhance our ability to fulfill our mission." ■



Touching Tomorrow

Grant Teaff Plaza

The

Though he started his career as a football coach, Grant Teaff is ending it as a cheerleader for the profession that earned him national acclaim.

In the process, the executive director of the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) has become one of the most influential individuals in all of NCAA sports and most especially in college football, which he first played at San Angelo College (SAC) in 1951 and 1952 and which he coached at Angelo State from 1969-71.

Since he took over leadership of the AFCA in 1993 after 21 seasons as Baylor University's head coach, he has literally elevated the football coaching profession from the locker room to the ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria.

Along the way he has raised AFCA membership from 3,800 to more than 10,000 coaches at all levels of the game; built a new AFCA national headquarters in Waco; established an AFCA Foundation to support the association's work; increased AFCA staff from three to 15; and, in general, raised the reputation of the profession.

"Grant Teaff has made a difference," said NCAA President Myles Brand. "Through his commitment to higher education and college football, based on his personal integrity and professional approach, and because of his tireless dedication to the concept of teacher-coach, he has made a difference for the AFCA and all of intercollegiate athletics."

By 2004 *Street & Smith's Sports Business Journal* was calling Teaff one of the most influential people in college sports. The *Journal* reported that "the former Baylor coach's input is sought for every major football rules decision made at the NCAA level."

For all of that, the accomplishment he is most respected for is the integrity he helped instill in the game, according to his peers.

Teaff bronze outside
Baylor's Floyd Casey Stadium
(Photo courtesy of Baylor University)

Power *of* Influence

By Preston Lewis

“Coach Teaff,” said Ohio State coach Jim Tressel, “has been an extraordinary role model for coaches in the past four decades.”

University of Texas coach Mack Brown said, “Coach (Teaff) has been one of the bigger influences in modern-day football through the AFCA.”

Coach Bob Stoops at the University of Oklahoma noted, “His lasting influence is probably his passion for the sport and the ethical standard he maintained throughout his career.”

That ethical standard has been a part of his life from the very beginning, Teaff said.

“I came from a family of very strong values, work ethic and then doing things the right way for the right reasons,” he said. “That was just ingrained in me. I refer to it now as my West Texas values.”

The principles his parents instilled in him were nurtured first by his coaches at Snyder High School and then at San Angelo College by head coach Max Bumgardner, who had been an All-American end at the University of Texas, and line coach Phil George, another UT grad with a basketball pedigree.

As Teaff wrote in the latest of his five books, “I’ve learned something from every coach I’ve come in contact with since I first picked up a football.”

And, many coaches and players have learned from him. Some even believe his influence is shaping ASU’s impact on Texas football to this day. Many would see as an anomaly the fact that ASU, with its modest enrollment of 6,200, has more graduates coaching football at all levels in Texas than do universities with enrollments five, six, seven and even eight times larger. Teaff does not. The reason is simple, he said, “The power of influence.”

According to the 2006-07 edition of *Texas Sports Guide of High Schools and Universities*, ASU had 103 graduates coach-

ing Texas high school and college football. Texas Tech University and Texas State University-San Marcos were tied for second with 58 apiece.

“The coaches that coached at Angelo State had a great love for the game and the profession,” Teaff said. “Many of my teammates and players went into coaching as did Jerry’s (Vandergriff) players.”

At the age of 14, Teaff decided to be a coach even though he realized he lacked the physical skills to be a great player. Self-described as “too little and too slow” for college football, Teaff was forever grateful to Bumgardner who gave him a chance to try out and play for the Rams.

“I didn’t have a lot of athletic ability or skills,” he said, “but the game of football above all sports fit me best because I could utilize the two assets I knew I had – mental and physical toughness.”

Bill Lane, who played beside Teaff on the SAC offensive line and as a linebacker and later served 25 years as an assistant coach under him at ASU and Baylor, said,

“I don’t remember him being real fast, but he always made the plays.”

With Teaff making plays, the Rams went 6-3 in 1951 and earned a berth in Galveston’s Oleander Bowl, which provided Teaff the first of his nine bowl appearances. In 1952 San Angelo College reached No. 1 nationally before losing four of the Rams’ last six games to end up at 5-4.

During those two seasons he always learned from his coaches, not just the X’s and O’s of the game, but also how to lead, motivate and challenge a team.

“He was a student of the game,” George said, “and, I think, a student of life.”

Student athletes in those years received partial scholarships and had to work to pay for the balance of the scholarship. Teaff took a job working at a radio station KTXL “because it fit with my plan, my perceived concepts of what I needed to do to become a successful coach. And, one of the things that I knew that I would have to do is to be able to communicate.”

As a disc jockey, he often fielded late



AFCA Headquarters in Waco

night calls from Bumgardner, suggesting a song for airing. In addition to taking musical requests from Bumgardner, Teaff learned some of his motivational techniques.

"I never remember going into a game when I played for Coach Bum that I didn't believe that we were going to win. Some of the things I did," said the man who in 1978 put an earthworm in his mouth and inspired his Baylor team to a 38-14 upset of UT, "became very famous or notorious, however you want to look at it, but he (Bumgardner) was much like that. He was quite a motivator, a confidence builder."

For instance, Teaff remembered half-time of a 1952 game against the Del Mar Vikings when the Rams had played poorly. Bumgardner did not show up in the dressing room for his usual talk. Finally, moments before the team was about to return to the field, he stuck his head in the door and said, "I'm sorry I didn't come in here, I was just too embarrassed to be around you." It didn't matter that the Rams were ahead at half-time, they played better in the second half and won 27-12."

"Having been exposed to the best in our (coaching) profession," Teaff said, "I found nobody that I felt was more sincere, that had more common sense, that loved his players any more than Phil George. Phil George, to me, was a model that I felt like I wanted to incorporate all of his characteristics as a coach."

Teaff said the low point of his career at SAC was when he and some fellow players

got in some minor off-the-field trouble that George had to address. "He didn't yell at me. He didn't say a curse word. He didn't threaten me. He didn't penalize me. He just looked at me and said, 'I'm very disappointed in you.' That was all it took."

"Coach Bum and Phil both set really good examples because they were good men. They loved their families and they were, you know, true to their wives. These two guys were just solid, which was a great example for us as well."

After leaving SAC, Teaff finished his college eligibility at McMurry where he earned All-Texas Conference and All-Texas honors as a tackle and linebacker. After graduating he coached at Lubbock High School for a year. In Lubbock he met and married Texas Tech cheerleader Donell Phillips. He then returned to McMurry as line coach and head track coach. A year later in 1960, he was promoted to head football coach and at 25 was the youngest head coach in the nation. In 1960 he awarded, to his knowledge, the first full athletic scholarship for a black player to attend a four-year college in Texas.

From McMurry, he returned to Lubbock as a football assistant coach at Texas Tech. After three years on the South Plains, he returned to the Concho Valley in December 1969 as head coach at Angelo State where Phil George was athletic director. Teaff said his background with George and his discussions with President Lloyd D. Vincent sold him again on ASU.

"He (Vincent) wanted a football program and he wanted one built the way I wanted to build it, with a strong emphasis on recruiting kids with character and academic potential and then to be able to build a program based on integrity that could win and be successful because they hadn't won as a four-year institution when I came in there."

Teaff kept Wade Turner on the staff, brought in his former teammate Bill Lane, who had taken Daingerfield to its first state championship in starting that high school dynasty. He later hired Jerry Vandergriff, who would eventually become head ASU coach and follow in Teaff's footsteps as the only Ram player to return as head coach.

During Teaff's three seasons at ASU, the Rams went 6-4 in 1969 and 1970 and 7-3 in 1971. The high point was a 38-21 victory over No. 1-ranked Texas A&I in 1970. That victory caught the attention of many in the coaching profession nationally, including Jack Patterson, the athletic director at Baylor and a friend of Teaff's from days when both men coached track.

When Baylor's head coaching position opened up in 1971, Patterson had the ASU coach at the top of his list, but told Teaff, "I don't know if I can really sell a small college coach" to the selection committee. Teaff said that suited him fine because he had no interest in Baylor, especially after how the university had fired Coach John Bridgers in 1968.

However, after dozens of better known coaches had turned down consideration and one coach, Rudy Feldman of the University of New Mexico, had accepted the job one day and reversed his decision the next, Patterson felt he could finally sell Baylor on Teaff.

After hearing of Feldman's hiring on the evening sportscast, Teaff remembered turning to his wife and saying, "Good, they got them a coach." He recalled a strange look on Donell's face and her response, "You're going to Baylor."

"Donell was right. I was going to Baylor," Teaff said, "and I just didn't know it."

Sure enough Patterson called Teaff and asked him to come to Waco, just to visit. Teaff said he would visit, if Baylor would send a plane. Patterson answered Baylor didn't have a plane and asked him to lease one. Teaff did so, "full well expecting Baylor to pay him back, which they never did, by the way."



Grant Teaff, No. 33, during his SAC playing days.

Photo courtesy West Texas Collection

Teaff and Donell met Patterson at his Waco home. The three spent most of the evening cleaning carpet of the dog poop Teaff had inadvertently tracked throughout the house. Finally, convinced that Baylor needed him, Teaff agreed to take the job, only if Baylor would make no announcement until he had had a chance to tell George and Dr. Vincent of his decision.

"One of hardest things I've ever done was to call them the night that I had decided to take the job and tell them that I was going to Baylor," Teaff said.

When the decision was announced, many felt Teaff had stepped into a bigger mess than he had tracked across Patterson's carpet the night before. Teaff himself wasn't so sure that they might not have been right.

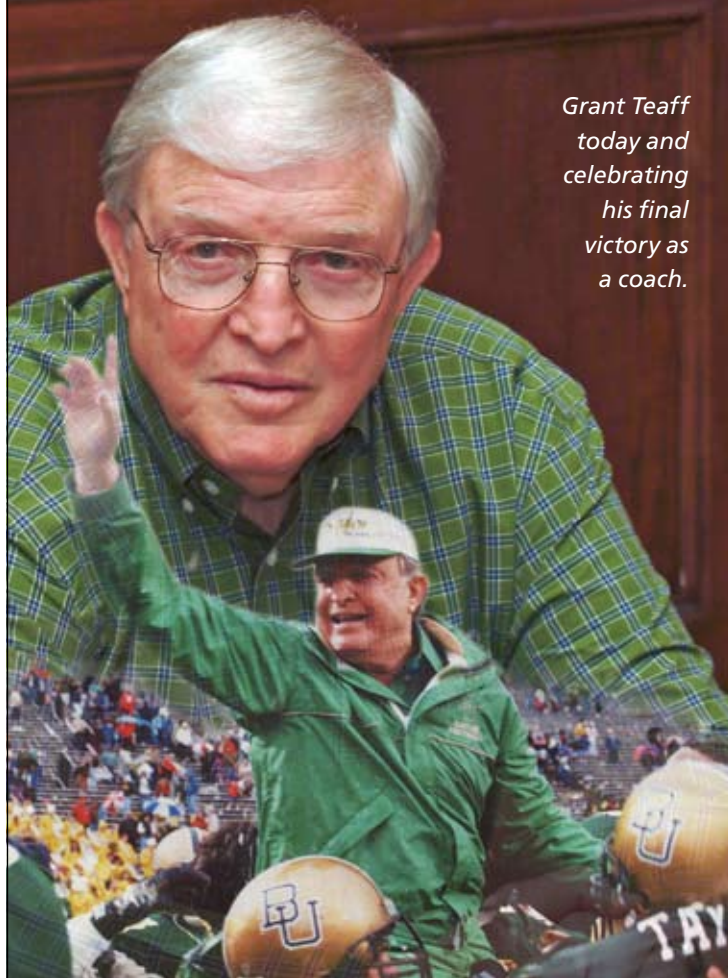
"I knew the facilities were bad," Teaff said. "I had no idea how bad they were. It's a good thing I probably didn't see them because we had better facilities at Angelo State. I had no idea how decimated their team was in terms of players or how poor the recruiting had been. I had no idea."

But he had confidence and began to build a championship program, starting by taking Lane and Turner with him to Waco and building a coaching staff around his philosophy.

"He was easy to work for," Turner said. "I don't mean he wasn't tough at times because when something had to be done, you got it done. And, he had a great way with kids, a great way of visiting with recruits."

Within three years of arriving on campus, Teaff in 1974 took Baylor to the Southwest Conference Championship for the first time in 50 years. He did it again in 1980 when the Bears went undefeated in conference and took the SWC crown by three full games. Baylor ended the 1980 regular season with a 16-0 victory over the University of Texas. It would be 24 years before UT would go scoreless in another football game.

Teaff stood toe-to-toe with Texas, earning 10 victories against the Longhorns in his



Historical photo courtesy of Baylor University

Grant Teaff today and celebrating his final victory as a coach.

21 seasons at Baylor. The 1974 game was likely the most important, coming barely two months after *Texas Monthly* had declared the private universities could no longer compete in the Southwest Conference. Behind 24-7 at half, Baylor blocked a punt and outscored Texas 27-0 in the second half to win 34-24.

"Historically," Teaff said, "it was an extremely important game for our conference because what it said was that the private schools not only can compete, but can win. From 1974 through the end of my career, we were 10-9 against Texas. Nobody in conference history had ever done that, not Arkansas or anybody else ever had that kind of record against Texas."

UT alumnus Phil George said, "Texas always had a bigger dog in the fight and for him (Teaff) to win half of them, he had to have a meaner dog, a dog that bit more often and that, I think, had a lot to do with the trainer who was the coach."

As a coach, Teaff was well known for his emphasis on the kicking game, which helped turn around the 1974 UT game, and for overseeing his players' conditioning, which he had done since his days at McMurry.

On Sept. 14, 1990, one of his players, sophomore offensive lineman John Karkoska collapsed with heat stroke while running laps. Eight days later, Karkoska died.

"It was never the same for me after that," Teaff said. "I really had a hard time with doing the things that I had to do to condition teams. I always took that role on as being responsible for the conditioning because I felt it was extremely important. When John died, it was just painful to run them, to do the things we had to do. It really ate on me."

Too, the cheating scandals that tarnished the Southwest Conference during the 1980s bothered him and he saw that the influence of the big money from television would ultimately bring about the demise of his beloved SWC.

"I went through times in the Southwest Conference that really tested me because I was seeing people win and cheat and get away with it," he said.

In 1992, Teaff left coaching to become Baylor's athletic director. In his 21 years at Baylor's helm, he had become the Bears' all-time winningest coach with a 128-105-6 record for a .548 winning percentage. He was a six-time SWC coach of the year and the 1974 AFCA and Football Writers Association of America National Coach of the Year. At his coaching retirement, he was tied with Notre Dame's Ara Parseghian as the 33rd winningest coach in NCAA Division I history. He guided his teams to a 4-4 bowl record with appearances in the Cotton (2), Bluebonnet (2), Peach, Liberty, Copper and Sun Bowls.

Along the way, he had coached against some of the legends of the profession, including Darrel Royal of Texas, Frank Broyles of Arkansas, Vince Dooley of Georgia, LaVell Edwards of Brigham Young, Joe Paterno of Penn State, Barry Switzer at Oklahoma, Bear Bryant of Alabama, Ralph "Shug" Jordan of Auburn, Woody Hayes of Ohio State and Bo Schembechler at Michigan.



Bill Lane



Myles Brand

In 1975 he outwaited Bo Schembechler and his Michigan Wolverines at the Big House in Ann Arbor because he refused to take the field before the home team. The officials kept coming to the dressing room, saying “Bo says you gotta go.” Teaff’s answered, “I checked the contract and there’s nothing says when we go out on the field. You tell Bo I don’t have to go.” That day before the third largest crowd in the history of college football, Teaff’s team held Michigan to a 14-14 tie.

“It probably had nothing to do with the outcome of the game – I think our offense and defense had more to do with it – but it was a psychological thing that we weren’t going to let them bully us around up there,” Teaff said.

The next week, legendary Ohio State coach Woody Hayes called Teaff, wanting to know how Baylor had shut down Michigan’s running game the previous Saturday. Three years later, Teaff would lead Baylor into the Horseshoe in Columbus, Ohio, and face Hayes in his last season. The Bears lost by a touchdown, 34-28.

His success was more astounding when you consider that in the 15 years since he left coaching, Baylor has had four different coaches and only two winning seasons, both of those with players he recruited. As Bill Lane put it, “You don’t want to succeed Grant Teaff.”

But solid as his coaching credentials were, his personal credentials were even better.

“I worked for him for 25 years,” Lane said, “and I never once had to compromise anything I had to believe in.”

Phil George summed it up, “He’s always consistent. He’s not off on a tangent over here one time and back over here another. He’s pretty much what you see is what he is.”

Teaff has an explanation for his consistency. “I was a Christian coming out of high school,” he said. “Then as I began to set my own values and my own beliefs about

how to coach, I realized that how I wanted to coach was to be a sermon people could see. In order to be a sermon, I had to find the best way to live my life that would keep me most consistent and that, to me, was the Christian life. That would keep me in a consistency with what I wanted to be as a coach and the influence that I wanted to have...I think inconsistency is a loser.”

It was a life’s choice that others noticed, like legendary Alabama coach Paul “Bear” Bryant. At an AFCA meeting in San Francisco about three months before he died, Bryant, who had beaten Baylor in two matchups during Teaff’s tenure, approached Teaff and asked, “You know what I’d do differently?” Teaff thought he would say something like he would not have run the wishbone as long as he did or he would have switched to the 4-3.

Instead Bryant paused, then answered his own question. “If I had it all to do over again, I’d let people know that I’m a Christian,” he said. “I never did that. I should have. I’m a Christian, Coach, but my image is not. If I had it to do over, I’d do that.”

Though Teaff has known the biggest names in the game, he has opened up the AFCA to coaches at all levels. He is proud that every NFL coach, whether a head or an assistant coach, is an AFCA member. He’s equally pleased that many junior high and high school coaches are members as well.

“We only charge \$60 for membership and for a convention fee we don’t charge a penny so that these young coaches can participate and learn,” Teaff said.

Prior to Teaff’s arrival the annual convention was more party than professional meeting. Teaff changed that.

Jerry Vandergriff, ASU coach from 1982-2004, said, “As big as what he did for Baylor, he did even more for the AFCA. He was the right man at the right place at the right time when he assumed control of the association.”

R.C. Slocum, Texas A&M coach from 1989-2002, said “Grant brought the AFCA into the modern era. He changed the face of the annual convention and molded it into a great educational opportunity for coaches.”

“In cooperation with the NCAA,” said organization President Myles Brand, “Grant has introduced professional development courses during the AFCA Convention that

provide instruction on not just coaching, but sports medicine, personal conduct and how to better prepare oneself to meet the demands of the profession.”

Convention topics, for instance, cover football strategy and coaching techniques but also dealing with the media, managing your money and ethics. The 2007 AFCA convention in San Antonio, for instance, had some 200 individual sessions, committee meetings and presentations.

To keep the association affordable, Teaff spends a lot of time raising funds. Just this spring he raised \$800,000 during a Waldorf-Astoria ballroom dinner recognizing a former Dartmouth player who went on to become CEO of General Electric.

His influence extends beyond the AFCA into the NCAA. Every piece of NCAA legislation that affects college football comes through the AFCA office and Teaff spends a lot of time at NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis, providing “an opportunity for our coaches to become proactive instead of reactive.”

“While there are many ways in which Grant has made significant contributions over the years as both coach and administrator,” the NCAA’s Brand said, “one of his great legacies will be his invigorating the American Football Coaches Association to become a significant voice in the conduct of intercollegiate athletics...He has placed the AFCA in a position of influence within the NCAA governance structure. His advice and counsel is invaluable as the NCAA considers rules and policies that impact the game.”

Despite his numerous administrative responsibilities today and the influence he wields more as a cheerleader for the profession than an actual coach, Teaff attributes his success to the game and the men who taught him.

“Football really embodies so much of life because of the fact that we’re dependent on each other and our own effort and ability is paramount to the success of others,” Teaff said.

“Deep down,” Teaff said, “I want to make a difference.”

And the lessons that Teaff learned as a player at San Angelo College and later as head football coach at Angelo State University helped give him the power of influence to make that difference. ■

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Feb	March 2007	Apr
25	26 27 28 1 2 3	4
4	5 6 7 8 9 10	11
11	12 13 14 15 16 17	18
18	19 20 21 22 23 24	25
25	26 27 28 29 30 31	1
1	2 3 4 5 6 7	

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Mr. Steve Zohn
Class of 1991
1234 Here Street
Anytown, Texas 44311
United States

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EDUCATION INFO

Major: Business Administration
Minor: Psychology
ASU Degree Earned: Bachelors Degree

BUSINESS INFO

Business: IAC
Title: CIO
Business Address: 520 South Main Street
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Mark Homer

Distinguished Alumnus

A Sonic Ride to Success

Lessons learned at home and in graduate classes at Angelo State University helped propel **Mark Homer** to business and political success.

The owner of 18 Sonic Drive-Ins in two states as well as a Texas State Representative for the past decade, Homer is both an accomplished entrepreneur and a respected public servant, earning him recognition as a 2007 ASU Distinguished Alumnus.

Homer saw the benefits of hard work early in life when his father – whose dedication as manager of a Shawnee, Okla., paint store was noticed by an acquaintance – was offered the chance to manage what would be Texas' first Sonic Drive In. That Sonic, the 19th store in a chain that today encompasses more than 3,300 outlets, opened in Paris in 1964.

"I can proudly say that one of the biggest reasons that Sonic is successful today is because of people like my father," Homer said. "They are Depression era kids and they know how to work and promote their product. They could also do it on a shoe-string budget...Thankfully, I am old enough to have been able to see this work ethic in action and I think I have put many of those principles into action in my career."

After graduating from Paris High School, Homer attended Texas A&M University where he earned a bachelor's degree in animal science. A job took him to San Angelo where ASU's accommodations to working students made it possible for him to get a graduate degree in 1989.

"My M.B.A from ASU opened my eyes to finance and marketing, for example, things that someone must have knowledge of to have a successful business," Homer said. His graduate school success he attributed largely to professors who "were accessible, very willing to work with their students to make sure that everyone was grasping the subject matter."

With lessons learned from his father's work ethic and from ASU business professors, Homer joined the family business, which by 1989 included four Sonics. Today, Homer operates 18 Sonic Drive Ins with over \$15 million in annual sales. The Sonics include 14 in Texas and four in Florida. His interests in those communities are not solely business, however.

"My parents have always stressed the importance of getting involved in your community," he said, and that he did, working for local charities, the chamber of commerce and Crime Stoppers, among others. Such commitment convinced the leaders of Paris that he would make a good state representative. In 1998 he was elected to the first of five terms in the Texas Legislature, representing District 3, which encompasses Lamar, Delta, Hopkins, Franklin, Titus and Red River counties.

"Economic development is an area of great interest to me and I have worked hard in that area," Homer said of his legislative career.

He has passed legislation to ensure that economic development corporations are good stewards of taxpayer money and not a detriment to existing and established businesses. He was also instrumental in passing the Texas Enterprise Fund that helped make Texas the No. 1 state for business expansion or relocation.

For all of his accomplishments that have helped the many, he is perhaps proudest of his actions that have helped the individual, like assisting a constituent to navigate the state bureaucracy or hiring a new Sonic employee.

"I love giving kids their first job and helping instill a work ethic that will stay with them for life," Homer said.

He and his wife, Jennifer, have three children: Hanna, 8, Harrison, 6, and Hayden, 5.

"I can proudly say that one of the biggest reasons that Sonic is successful today is because of people like my father."

An alumnus enrolled at SAC, ASC or ASU and a former student for at least 10 years who has shown outstanding achievement in his/her business, profession, lifework or worthy endeavor.

Forging an Impressive Trail

From being one of the first baccalaureate graduates of Angelo State College in 1967 to her current position as director of governmental affairs for Verizon in Austin, **Helen Soto Knaggs** has been a ground breaker for women and Hispanics in Texas.

To her already extensive list of honors and awards, Knaggs can now add this year's designation as an ASU Distinguished Alumnus.

Knaggs began her 38-year tenure with Verizon as a labor relations representative in 1969, then moved in 1975 into the governmental affairs office where she worked her way up to director in 2003. Now responsible for lobbying efforts with U.S. congressmen and senators, state legislators and business leaders, she credits much of her lifetime of achievement to her years at Angelo State.

"The conservative and disciplined environment at Angelo State strongly influenced my success in life," Knaggs said. "As students we learned how to adhere to strict campus rules and academic excellence."

Knaggs attended Angelo State during a time when tardiness to class was not tolerated and the dress code called for female students to wear skirts or dresses, with pants allowed only on weekends and at sporting events. But, it was also a time when she made lifelong friends and had a bit of fun along the way.

"I worked my way through college by bookkeeping for a sand and gravel company, but probably enjoyed attending dances a little too much," Knaggs said. "Though a person would probably have had to attend Angelo State in the 1960's to really enjoy my stories, I remember sneaking people back into Carr Residence Hall after midnight was not easy back in those days."

"My first day at freshman orientation is still one of my fondest memories," she added. "Standing on the stairs were two Hispanic

girls and, to this day, one of them is one of my best friends and a constant supporter of encouraging me to reach for the stars."

Though she was a business major, it was in English classes taught by Dr. Rosa Bludworth where Knaggs picked up some of her most valuable lessons.

"It was in her literature classes where I found one of my adopted motivational quotes by Ralph Waldo Emerson: 'Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.'"

Knaggs' trail has included the Texas Women's Political Caucus; recognition as the first Hispanic woman lobbyist in Texas; appointment by President Reagan to the Small Business Administration Advisory Council; membership in the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas and Texas Senate Hispanic Research Council; being named Who's Who of Texas Women; and the Texas Hispanic Leader of 2000 award from the League of United Latin American Citizens. But, to Knaggs, those are just the window dressing of her life.

"The most important accomplishment in my life, so far, is realizing who I really am and not trying to play up my ego or pretend to be someone I'm not," she said. "Thus far, I have been able to maintain my faith, my family, my friends and, last but not least, my integrity in my personal and professional life."

Helen is married to John R. Knaggs and has four stepchildren, Bart, Ryan, David and Lisa. Her brother, Sammy Soto, and her mother, Christine Soto, still live in San Angelo.



Helen Soto Knaggs

"The most important accomplishment in my life, so far, is realizing who I really am and not trying to play up my ego or pretend to be someone I'm not."

Honorary Alumnus

A special friend and supporter of ASU who has made a significant impact on the university or the Alumni Association through support, recognition or career.

A Golden Touch

Though not San Angelo natives, **Al and Licha Herrington** have been touching the lives of people in their adopted home town through their business, civic and social activities for the past half-century.

Their longtime support of ASU is highlighted by their contributions to both the President's Circle and the Friends of Art and Music Education (FAME). However, that support reached a whole new level in 2003 when they donated the property for the ASU Herrington House, where the Division of Continuing Studies, Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, and Institutional Research and Assessment are now located.

In recognition of their dedication to ASU, the Herringtons have been named 2007 Honorary Alumni.

"Having a college in town is a real asset to the community," Al said. "Of course, I'm in business here and it's good for my

business, too, to have a college here. In fact, we lived right behind the college for several years. I've always been impressed to have a college in town."

Licha added, "We are all so very proud of ASU. It's our hometown university."

Al came to San Angelo with Exxon in 1957, then opened his first dry cleaners in 1959. Since 1962, he has owned and operated Holiday Cleaners. Licha has been a resident since 1960. Civically, they have been involved in the United Way, Boy and Girl Scouts, Bradford PTA, Cultural Affairs Council, Sonrisas, Rio Concho Communities, First United Methodist Church and ASU. However, their ASU honor came as a surprise.

"It was a very humbling experience for me," Al said. "I had no idea that we could be selected for something like this."

"My husband is very unpretentious and very humble," Licha said. "He never does anything just to get recognition. We still



just can't believe it, the great honor that ASU has bestowed upon us."

Between them, Al and Licha have seven children.

Carr Scholar Alumnus

An alumnus who attended ASU on a Carr Scholarship and has received significant recognition through career and/or community service and leadership.

Doing it All and Doing it Well

Maintaining her family, furthering her education and managing a career while trotting the globe with her Air Force husband are all in a day's work for **Dr. Suzy Harrington**, this year's ASU Distinguished Carr Alumnus.

Currently manager of the Air Force's Health Education and Fitness Program, Harrington started her journey to success at ASU with Carr Academic and ROTC Scholarships that financed her nursing degrees. She returned the favor by graduating cum laude and as the ROTC Distinguished Graduate in 1986.

"I attribute a lot of my success to the leadership opportunities offered at ASU, especially in ROTC," Harrington said. "I also benefited greatly from the support of my professors, particularly in ROTC and nursing."

However, Harrington's fondest memories of ASU are mostly social, including going dancing, lake activities and late night food ventures.

"The best was my senior year," she said. "After a late night of studying, I'd go out for

beans, cheese and flour tortillas at Ricardo's with my now-husband of 20 years."

Since then, Harrington's career has included various duties in the Air Force, at healthcare facilities in six states, and now in Germany. She has served as director of education, manager of clinical services, and outcomes management project director. Her nursing experience includes critical care, community health, recruiting, radiology and school health.

She is also a freelance healthcare writer and has completed comprehensive projects for several respected publishing houses.

"I'm lucky that I've had the ability to get my doctorate and maintain a career, despite the nomadic life of a military spouse," Harrington said. "I earned my master's degree in three years, three states, three kids and three jobs. Now, I'm back with the Air Force in health promotion and I love my job!"

Harrington holds a master of science degree in health services from California College for Health Sciences and a doctorate of nursing practice from Rush University in



healthcare business and leadership. She is married to Lt. Col. Sean Harrington, Class of 1987, and they have three children, Michelle, Tommy and Laura.

Aiming High

During his impressive 26-year military career, **Col. David Sammons Jr.** has lived the Air Force slogan "Aim High" and more often than not has been right on target.

In recognition of his Air Force service that is liberally sprinkled with honors and awards, Col. Sammons has been designated the 2007 ASU Distinguished ROTC Alumnus.

A Carr ROTC Scholarship recipient, Sammons was a 1981 Distinguished ROTC Graduate in education and biology. He was also a member of the Arnold Air Society where he built lasting friendships during leadership training, chili cook-offs and building the Homecoming bonfire.

"ASU's ROTC program built on a rock-solid foundation of values, work ethic and sense of patriotism already established by my parents," Sammons said. "Central to the success of the ROTC program was the personal dedication and devotion provided to each student by our instructors and the cadre staff. It was their example of caring

leadership, professionalism and commitment to excellence that provided an early and lasting influence on how to conduct myself as an officer in the U.S. Air Force."

Currently the chairman of the Department of Aerospace Studies/ROTC at North Carolina State University, Sammons' Air Force career has also included command positions with the 55th Electronic Combat Group and the 15th Special Operations Squadron. He is a Master Navigator with over 4,600 flight hours, including 124 combat hours over Afghanistan, Iraq, Colombia, Kosovo and Bosnia.

Sammons' military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Gallant Unit Citation and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor.

Sammons holds master's degrees from Troy State and the Naval War College. He has also completed the Air Force, Army and Marine Command and Staff Colleges, the



Air War College and was a Distinguished Graduate of the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell AFB, Ala. He is married to Rene Sammons and they have three sons, Josh, Nathan and Kyle.

Golden Ex

An individual enrolled at SAC or ASC at least 50 years ago who has continued a lasting relationship with ASU and/or the Alumni Association.

Respect for the Rule of Law

Mary Simpson McFall never intended to be a pioneer.

All the San Angelo native wanted was a college education like her parents. So, when San Angelo College (SAC) voluntarily opened its doors to blacks in 1953, a year before *Brown vs. Board of Education* made desegregation mandatory, she was one of the first three African Americans to enroll.

"I think San Angelo College was a good example of how things can happen," McFall said, "when you have courageous people like the college. Most institutions were waiting around so they could blame desegregation on the Supreme Court. I thought desegregating the college was a courageous thing to do at that time.

"In so much of the South you had bad examples like a governor standing in the doorway to prevent black children from entering," McFall continued. "People like those at SAC set a positive tone."

Two years after enrolling, McFall would receive her diploma, being named outstand-

ing SAC student and becoming the first of her race to graduate from San Angelo College.

Today she is a successful Dallas attorney and the ASU Alumni Association's choice for the 2007 Golden Ex.

From SAC she went to Texas Southern University a year before becoming one of the first blacks to enroll when the University of Texas opened its doors to African Americans. She graduated in 1957 and became one of the first black women admitted to the UT School of Law, but marriage and a family sidetracked her legal education. That family today includes son Brick McFall and daughter Jamila Agbon, both of Dallas, and five grandchildren.

Her admiration for attorneys 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, drew her back to UT Law School where she graduated in 1978. Today her law practice handles about 75 percent family law, wills/estates and probate as well as about 25 percent miscellaneous cases.



Looking back at her SAC experience, McFall sees her junior college years as a bridge to her subsequent bachelor's and law degrees and to her success.

"It was a good experience," McFall said, "in that I was able to make good grades and I got a good background."

Outstanding Retired Faculty

A former ASU faculty or staff member who had a distinguished career at ASU and has continued his/her support and involvement with ASU and/or the Alumni Association after retirement.

A Legacy of Excellence

Dr. H. Ray Dawson spent almost his entire professional life at ASU where he helped guide the Physics Department from a one-man faculty in 1966 to its current status as one of the outstanding undergraduate programs in the U.S.

For his almost 40 years of distinguished service, Dawson has been named this year's Outstanding Retired Faculty member.

"I'm very proud of the development of the Physics Department and of the students who have graduated from the department," Dawson said. "They have been fantastically successful. But, it was not a one-man deal. I had a wonderful faculty and some wonderful students, and we all worked together to achieve that."

Head of the department from 1976-1998, Dawson helped develop courses in astronomy and physical science, initiated degree programs in applied physics and

geology, and helped create dual degree programs in engineering with several other universities. He also chaired key administrative committees and was nationally recognized for his research in experimental atomic physics. But, to him, it was all about the students.

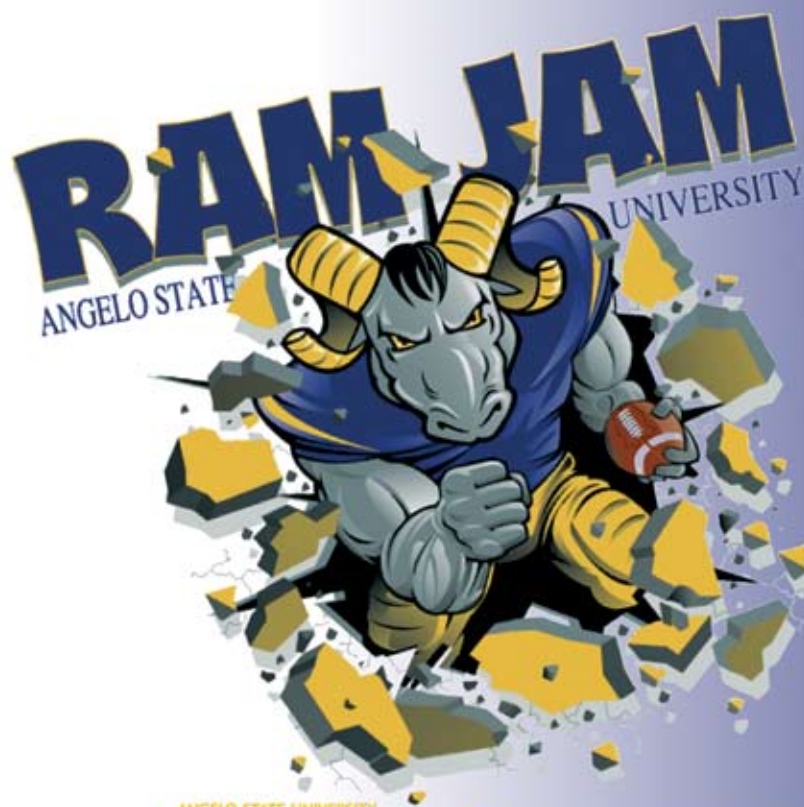
"I had almost a family relationship with the students and it was always fun to come in and see them grow and see them be successful," Dawson said. "I was really fascinated by the different ways that students learned or tried to learn. I liked to see if I could find teaching approaches that would help them get around their obstacles. I spent 39 years in a college classroom and I think I was still learning the last year I was there."

In 2003, the Texas State University System Board of Regents named Dawson Distinguished Professor of Physics Emeritus. He holds a Ph.D. in physics from the Univer-



sity of Arkansas and bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of North Texas.

Dawson and his wife, Carolyn, have two daughters, Cheryl and Donna, who are also teachers.



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September 29 (Family Day)
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Distinguished Faculty Achievement



Terence Dalrymple



David Loyd



Karen Torres



K. Fritz Leifeste

A current ASU faculty member selected from each ASU college who has had a profound effect on the lives and careers of ASU students.

Dr. Terence A. Dalrymple **College of Liberal and Fine Arts**

A teacher can experience no greater joy, as Dr. Terence A. “Terry” Dalrymple phrases it, than “seeing the light dawn in students’ eyes.”

Since he began teaching English at Angelo State University in 1979, Dalrymple has turned many a set of eyes into beacons of joy for the pleasures of literature.

“I recognized early on how much literature had to offer in regard to understanding human experience,” said Dalrymple, holder of the John S. Cargile University Professorship and this year’s Distinguished Faculty Award recipient from the College of Liberal and Fine Arts.

Praised by colleagues for his “amazing enthusiasm and energy,” Dalrymple said, “the emphasis on teaching at this university suits me perfectly.”

He attributes his success to his colleagues, starting with Dr. Perry Gragg, who first hired him and chaired the Department of English for many years.

Dalrymple earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Southwest Texas State University and his doctorate from Oklahoma State University. He has published two books and numerous short stories, articles and reviews.

David H. Loyd Jr. **College of Sciences**

All good teaching has in it “an element of performance,” says Physics Professor David H. Loyd Jr.

Since 1969 when he joined the faculty, Loyd has been performing well in the classroom, earning him this year’s Distinguished Faculty Award for the College of

Sciences, which he served as dean from 1996 through 2006.

Loyd loves the interaction with students. “The most rewarding of all,” he said, “are the occasional ones who come back two, five or 10 years later and tell you what a difference you made in their lives.”

He attributes his own career to Central High School physics teacher Claude Woolley. “I never had a better teacher,” Loyd said. Woolley’s influence overrode that of Loyd’s own father, a plumber who wanted his son to become a mechanical engineer.

“I think he finally decided that a Ph.D. in physics was almost as good as a bachelor’s in mechanical engineering,” Loyd said.

Loyd holds his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Dr. Karen Torres **College of Business**

Known as “Miss Ethics” by her doctoral classmates, Dr. Karen Torres brings that same passion to her ASU students in the Department of Management and Marketing.

In recognition of her efforts, Torres is this year’s Distinguished Faculty Achievement honoree from the College of Business.

“I consider teaching not a job, but a vocation, and I feel like it’s been a calling for me,” said Torres, who teaches ethics and business strategy. “To have somebody publicly recognize that really makes me feel good.”

Prior to her six years at ASU, Torres’ dedication also led to an Excellence in Teaching Award at Robert Morris College in Chicago.

“What I enjoy most about teaching is when I know I’m having an impact on somebody’s life,” she said. “It doesn’t happen with every student, but there are some that you can really see a change in them.”

Torres holds a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois-Chicago, an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago and a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern. She has a 9-year-old daughter, Claudia.

Dr. K. Fritz Leifeste **College of Education**

After almost 30 years as a public school teacher and administrator, Dr. K. Fritz Leifeste is now passing on his “real world” experience to the next generation of education professionals in ASU’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

“I just enjoy imparting knowledge to students,” said Leifeste, associate professor and this year’s Distinguished Faculty Award recipient from the College of Education. “After 20 years as a school administrator, I decided it was time to get out of the rat race and prepare others to enter the race.”

In his eight years at ASU, Leifeste has helped his students build quite a reputation for their department.

“Friends of mine in school administration from all over Texas tell me they will hire every teacher that ASU graduates, if they can,” he said. “They like what we do here and I think they are right. We have a tremendous program.”

Leifeste earned his bachelor’s degree at ASU, master’s degree at Lamar University and his Ed.D. at Texas Tech. He and his wife Margaret have two daughters, Karla and Laura, and three grandchildren. ■



Daniel Thomas

Football

Coach: Dale Carr (3rd year at ASU and overall, 12-10)

Last Year: 3-7 (5th in LSC South)

Outlook: After an injury-plagued second season, head coach Dale Carr looks for his squad to turn the corner in his third year with the program. After two very impressive recruiting classes, Carr has the talent he needs to return the Ram program to the level to which fans had become accustomed. ASU returns eight starters on offense and six more on defense to give Carr a more mature team as well.

Top Returnees: Leading the way offensively is junior tailback Daniel Thomas, the Rams' top rusher from 2006. Thomas scampered for 748 yards as a sophomore and accounted for every Ram rushing touchdown last season. Also returning are ASU's top six receivers, including junior wide out Drew Peterson. As a sophomore, Peterson averaged three catches per contest last fall and led the team both in yardage and touchdowns. Defensively, the Rams return three of their four top tacklers from a year ago,

fall sports Season Outlook

led by senior linebacker Daniel Smith, who tallied a team-best 80 stops as a junior.

Top Newcomers: By returning so many players from last year's squad, Carr will not rely heavily on transfers this fall. Instead, he will look towards his first two recruiting classes at ASU to help carry the load. Young talent will fill up both the offensive and defensive lines this fall.

Strengths: Overall athleticism stands out with the 2007 Rams. Carr boasts that this year's squad will be the fastest he has coached at ASU, especially on the defensive side. The Rams will also take advantage of maturity as every position on the field could be filled by a player returning from last year's squad.

Volleyball

Coach: Ruth Lawanson (3rd year at ASU and overall, 13-44)

Last year: 4-21 (2-8, 5th in LSC South)

Outlook: With six starters returning, plus a wealth of talent, the Rambelles look to return to the upper echelon of the Lone Star Conference. Coach Lawanson's squad will have one of the taller and more athletic teams in the league, creating a formidable wall for opponents to penetrate. Starting this season, LSC competition will be unified as a single conference rather than two divisions as in past seasons.

Top Returnees: Senior libero Natalie Crow and junior setter Tess Brindock will anchor the young, but experienced squad. Junior Cristina Doris and sophomores Brittany McNeal, Alaina Sivells and Adrienne Taylor will give Brindock multiple options for attacking the opposition. Sophomore Kimber Duncan will team with Crow to keep opponent's shots from hitting the floor.

Top Newcomers: Baylor transfer Lauren Keeton will add her 6-3 frame and two-time 3A All-State credentials to an already loaded front row. True freshman Rene' Crockett from Keller Central should see some playing time as a backup to frontline starters. Sara Sietsma, a freshman from Austin, has playing time in several positions and has club experience at a high level.

Strengths: Versatility will be the biggest strength for the Rambelles this season as several players have seen action at different positions. The returnees have one year together under their belts and are familiar with coach Lawanson's system, giving the newcomers time to adjust.

Soccer

Coach: Tom Brown (11th year at ASU, 82-85-18; 15th overall, 122-110-25)

Last Year: 12-6-1 (5-3-1, tied for 2nd in LSC)

Outlook: Last season, the ASU women's soccer team set a school record for wins and advanced to the Lone Star Conference postseason for the fourth straight year. After losing just two seniors, Coach Brown's Rambelles' return eight starters and look to make more noise in 2007.

Top Returnees: Brown's young squad boasts just two seniors in forward Ashley Tatum and goalkeeper Becky Martin. Tatum, a second team All-LSC pick in 2006, was ASU's top scorer last fall with 12 goals, the most by a Rambelle in six seasons. Martin earned second team All-LSC honors for the second straight season as a junior last fall, recording 104 saves, the third highest single-season total in school history. The Rambelles also return a pair of All-LSC picks in the defensive backfield in junior Amber Korb and Kristen Boister.

Top Newcomers: With the bulk of his squad returning from a year ago, Brown searched the high school ranks to add depth to his team. Key additions to the team this fall are midfielders Natalie Shannon, Lindsey Gebo and Courtney Crowson in the middle while Shannon Dean will add depth at goalkeeper.

Strengths: After several seasons where "defense" was the battle cry for the Rambelles, ASU became one of the top offenses in the LSC last season. Now with a more balanced squad, the Rambelles will rely on maturity and confidence to make a fifth straight trip to the LSC Tournament and possibly grab ASU's first berth in the NCAA Division II playoffs. ■

Third Year a Charm for Rams

by Ronn Rowland

In 40 years of NCAA Division II Baseball, no team had advanced to the World Series in its first three years of existence. That was until 2007.

The Angelo State baseball team did what no squad had ever done before, as the Rams closed out their record-breaking season with a 51-20 mark and a fifth-place finish in the DII College World Series.

The Rams' historic ride through the playoffs faced several obstacles. Angelo State was relegated to the losers' bracket in each of its three postseason tournaments. The Rams posted a 7-1 record when their backs were against the wall, the lone loss coming in their final game of the season, a 12-10 defeat to Southern Indiana to finish the World Series in fifth place.

"This is really special for the guys who have been with our program since the beginning," said third-year head coach Kevin Brooks. "What we've done here at ASU in just three seasons is a testament to the players that we have brought in and the administration that has supported us."

It is also a testament to Brooks, who was named ABCA/Diamond NCAA DII South Central Region Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association.

ASU claimed opening-round victories in each post-season tournament, including a 12-3 World Series victory over Northeast Region champion Franklin Pierce, after a 10-run explosion in the 10th inning of the Rams' inaugural World Series contest.

In the Rams' second game at the World Series, ASU fell behind early to South Atlantic champion Columbus State, a team that claimed the national title in 2002, but battled back before falling to the Cougars, 5-4.

The Rams' postseason run began in Abilene at the Lone Star Conference Tournament where ASU entered as the No. 3 seed after finishing in second place in South Division play. After a 4-1 win over Southwestern Oklahoma, the Rams fell to the losers' bracket with a 6-2 loss to defending league champion Central Oklahoma. ASU battled back with a win over Texas A&M-Kingsville, 14-3, and avenged its loss to UCO, 7-6 in 10 innings, to advance to the Rams' first-ever LSC title game. With 8-2 and 3-1 wins over rival Abilene Christian, on the Wildcats' home field, ASU advanced to the NCAA Division II South Central Regional, another first in the Ram program.

Superb pitching made possible the Rams' run through the conference tournament, as both senior Cody Broussard and junior Michael Gunter earned wins over ACU, despite long outings earlier in the event.

"Michael and Cody both are guys that have the ability to come back on short rest, which is very valuable in the postseason," Brooks said. "We relied heavily on them and both threw unbelievably well. We don't get far without those two."

Gunter and Broussard would lead ASU to the regional title as well. Gunter collected wins over No. 4-ranked Ouachita Baptist and No. 26-ranked Montevallo by identical 8-1 scores, while Broussard used a nine-strikeout performance against Montevallo to pick up a 3-2 win in the championship game as the Rams went 5-1 in the regional. For his efforts on the mound, Gunter was named the regional's Most Outstanding Player.

Along the way the Rams tied or broke several LSC records. Individually, Drew Caraway tied the single season record with 87 runs scored, one more than teammate Steven Allred. Allred broke the records for hits with 108 and at-bats with 265. Gunter set a new innings pitched record, tossing 121.2 innings.

Additionally, the Rams set five team records in the conference with 585 runs, 518 RBI's, 802 hits, 166 doubles and 1,247 total bases. ■



Kandace Kubat

No Place Like Home

by Dave Wester

Three years after the Angelo State softball team claimed the NCAA Division II national title, the Rambelles this spring returned to the national tournament by claiming their second regional championship, this time on familiar San Angelo ground.

The Rambelles, hosting the South Central Regional Tournament for the first time in the program's six-year history, took advantage of the home-field opportunity. A 25-2 regular-season home record gave the Rambelles the confidence they needed to compete against the best in the region. However, a first-round loss forced the Rambelles to reel off six consecutive wins, including two victories over perennial regional powerhouse St. Mary's, in the championship round to claim their second trip to the College World Series in four years.

After being relegated to the regional losers' bracket after a 10-inning loss to Northeastern State, the Rambelles found comfort in superstition. Due to regional rules stating that the home team would occupy the third-base dugout in all regional tournament games, the Rambelles opted to be the visiting team in all subsequent games in the losers' bracket to ensure they could occupy their traditional home dugout down the first base line.

"We're a superstitious team to begin with," said fourth-year head coach Travis Scott. "We have routines that we are com-

fortable with and after the loss (to NSU) I wanted to make sure that we could get back into our rhythm.”

The Rambelles answered with wins over Western New Mexico, the champion out of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, Lone Star Conference champion Midwestern State, Tarleton State and St. Edward’s setting up the title round with St. Mary’s. This was no easy task since six of ASU’s 10 losses entering the regional tournament came from that slate of teams.

The chance to square off with St. Mary’s on the Rambelles’ home turf appealed to Scott. In 2005, ASU was forced to play the regional tournament in San Antonio, battling its way to the championship game against host St. Mary’s, only to fall in a run-rule decision. This year the Rambelles triumphed, 5-2 and 4-0.

“To be able to come out of this region two out of the last four years is such a testament to our players, coaches and administration,” continued Scott. “I feel that whichever team represents the South Central has a chance to win it all every year. This region is just that good.”

After taking the regional crown, the Rambelles opened up the NCAA DII World Series with an old-fashioned pitchers’ duel as they defeated C.W. Post, the Northeast Region champion, 2-1. ASU then suffered a 6-5 loss to reigning national champion Lock Haven in the second round, falling to the Eagles on a walk-off home run after the Rambelles erased a five-run deficit during a spectacular fifth inning.

Angelo State’s season came to a close one day later with a 5-1 loss to Florida Southern in a rematch of the 2004 title game. The Rambelles ended the year with a 53-13 overall record, setting a new school mark for wins in a season.

The Rambelles placed four players on the All-America teams, including two first team selections – senior Kandace Kubat and freshman Kaycee Taylor. Centerfielder Kubat earned her second All-American honor in as many seasons. Selected as a first team designated player, Taylor became the first freshman All-American in school history. Junior Kari Galm became the first Rambelle pitcher to earn All-American recognition with second team laurels. Junior Brittney Cargill earned third team honors as a utility player. ■

Track Springs Eternal at ASU

by Dave Wester

Springtime at Angelo State always blossoms with track and field successes and this season, for the fourth time in school history, the Rambelles and Rams brought home a bouquet of top 10 team finishes at the NCAA Division II National Championships.

The Rambelles recorded their best-ever finish, placing fourth, while the men came in 10th nationally.

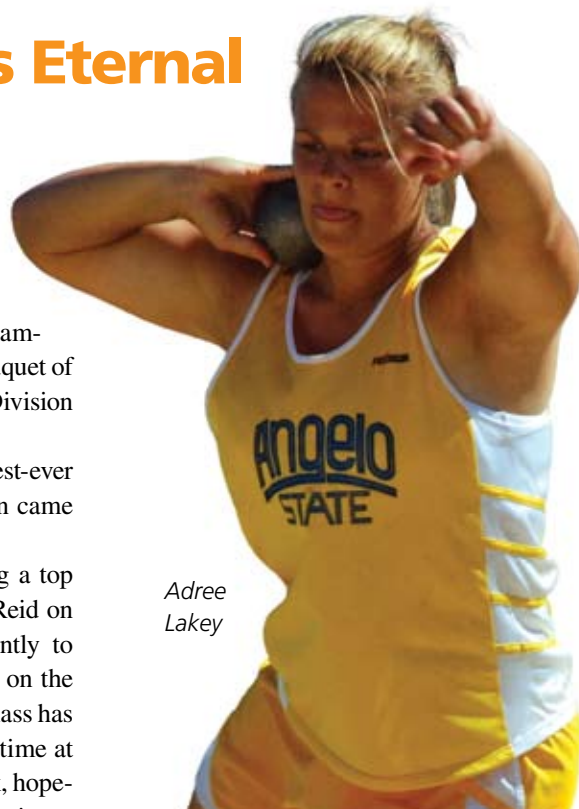
“We talk every year about being a top five team,” said head coach James Reid on his Rambelles, “but more importantly to finish in the top four, so we can get on the awards stand as a team. Our senior class has seen a bunch of ‘firsts’ during their time at ASU. It is a tribute to their hard work, hopefully establishing a tradition that continues for years to come.”

Leading the way for the Rambelles’ seventh all-time Top 10 finish was sophomore thrower Adree Lakey, who became the eighth ASU female to earn a national championship, claiming the title in hammer throw. She returned home as an All-American in three events, finishing second in the shot put and fourth in the javelin.

“Adree was definitely the highlight of the meet for us,” Reid said. “We are accustomed to having people in positions to win national championships individually most years, but it does not always work out. So her getting the championship was a definite delight. I think we will see even better things from her in the future.”

Just weeks earlier, Lakey earned the Lone Star Conference Meet crown in both the hammer and the javelin throw, while finishing second in the shot put and third in the discus. For the second straight season, she received the David Noble Award as the top female field athlete at the LSC Meet.

In all the Rambelles sent 12 athletes to the national meet and six returned as All-Americans. Junior Culley Jo Dawson repeated as national runner up in the discus; senior Kandara Lakey took third in the javelin and sixth in the discus; junior Trista McIntyre placed third in the 1,500-meter run; senior Daniela Swearingen finished fourth in the 400-me-



Adree
Lakey

ter hurdles; and sophomore Kyndel Howell placed eighth in the long jump.

On the men’s side, four Rams advanced to the national meet with three athletes gaining All-American awards. Junior Ryan McWilliams earned a double honor with a third-place finish in the decathlon and a fourth in the 110-meter hurdles. Junior Justin Boyd placed third in the 400-meter hurdles and senior Spencer Tyler finished third in the discus throw. This was the 24th time the Rams had returned from the national meet after placing in the top 10.

“With the women, we knew going in we had a chance to do well, but with only four men qualifiers, we feared we would not be able to score enough points to finish high as a team,” Reid said. “When we ended up in the top 10, it was truly exciting.”

At the LSC Meet, both Angelo State teams claimed second-place finishes and swept the individual awards. McIntyre was top female track performer after claiming the title in both the 800- and 1,500-meter runs. Boyd was the top male runner after winning the 400-meter hurdles for the third consecutive season. For the second straight year, Tyler was honored as the top male field performer after earning the league titles in both the shot put and discus. Reid was named the LSC Women’s Track and Field Coach of the Year for the fourth time in five years. ■

LSC 75th Finale

Two ASU athletes and two coaches were named to the Lone Star Conference 75th Anniversary All-Sports Team, announced in the spring.

The honorees were Joshua Owusu, track and field, 1971-74; Alexis Wing, softball, 2002-04; Kathleen Brasfield, volleyball, 1978-2004; and David Noble, track and field, 1972-82, 1985-99.

A six-time national champion, Owusu is the only three-time winner of the LSC's Oscar Stahan Award for top male field event athlete at the conference meet. He competed in the long and triple jump.

Wing was a two-time first team All-American for the Rambelles in 2003 and 2004. The second baseman and leadoff hitter helped lead ASU to the 2004 NCAA DII National Championship in softball.

Over a span of 27 seasons, Brasfield led the Rambelles to six conference titles while being named the LSC Coach of the year a record eight times. At retirement, Brasfield ranked fifth among all-time NCAA DII coaches in wins (647-386-2) and winning percentage (62.6 percent).

Noble served as the coach of the men's and women's track and field teams over a nearly 30-year stretch. Noble coached ASU athletes to more than 150 All-America performances. He guided the men to 17 top 10 national performances and the women to seven-straight top 10s.

Holland's Jewels

A dozen students involved in ASU athletics have been honored with Holland's Awards, given each spring to recognize students who have shown exemplary sportsmanship, teamwork, conscientiousness and ability during the school year.

Each honoree received a gold watch from Holland's Jewelry, sponsor of the awards and recognition banquet. The 2006-07 honorees were:

Shannon Cunningham, men's cross country; Bradley Durst, baseball; Kyle Green, football; Casey Halamicek, soccer; Scott Itz, athletic training; Meghann LeJeune, women's basketball; Ryan McWilliams, men's track and field; Whitney Meeks, softball; Jenna Mitchell, women's cross country; Turner Phipps, men's basketball; Amber Smith, volleyball; and Daniela Swearingen, women's track and field.

'Coach Bum' Remembered

Unlike the old days when they would have been cracking heads, they were cracking jokes and sharing stories about their San Angelo College (SAC) football days under Coach Max Bumgardner, the focus of a spring reunion in the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center.

Spike Dykes, the winningest football coach in Texas Tech University history, was there to emcee the Ram Reunion in Bumgardner's honor. Bill Lane, who in 1968 had coached Daingerfield to its first state football championship, was there. Paul K. Horne, who played and coached for the Rams before becoming dean of students, was there, too.

So was Wade Turner, who had played at San Angelo College, then coached for Grant Teaff at both ASU and Baylor. Teaff himself had planned to attend, but inclement weather after a South Bend, Ind., speaking engagement disrupted plane flights to Texas and prevented him from joining the other past lettermen.

The list went on and on, former players who came back to campus, some for the first time in decades, to memorialize the coach who had helped them get a start, not just in football but in life as well.

Bumgardner, an All-American end at the University of Texas, oversaw football at San Angelo College from 1950 through the 1960 season, compiling a 61-38-2 record, winning the institution's first football championship as a member of the Pioneer Conference in 1950 and guiding the Rams to a No. 1 national junior college ranking in 1952. SAC dropped football from 1961-63 before resuming in 1964 with Bumgardner as coach until 1968. He ended his career in San Angelo with a 74-74-2 record.

Phil George, who served as Bumgardner's line coach, told the former players, "If it hadn't been for Max, I doubt I would've known any of you." George, who came to San Angelo College on a six-month contract prior to Bumgardner's hiring, was retained by Bumgardner and went on to spend his

career at Angelo State.

Former players like Ken Fuqua said, "He was a great coach and if you didn't like playing for Max Bumgardner, you just didn't like football."

Jerry Sessom said, "He gave me an opportunity to play after high school and continue my education. I loved playing for him. He was an emotional coach and that carried over in my lifetime. I, too, coached and I remember giving the same talks that he gave."

Jim Slaughter said, "The thing I remember about Coach Bum is that he surrounded himself with great people....Coach Bum touched my life a lot. He shared and touched each and every one of us."

All the players remembered Bumgardner's training regimen – or free-for-all – called "boxer ball."

"I'll never forget," said Sessom, "his description of the rules: 'It's just like basketball except you've got (boxing) gloves on and you can hit anybody.' As far as I know, the ball was never touched."

The reunion last March, however, touched a lot of emotions and memories for the late coach. The reunion was organized by former player Ron Adams and his wife, Alice, and co-sponsored by the ASU Alumni Association. Guests at the dinner included former players as well as surviving members of the Bumgardner family.

As a tribute to their late coach, the former players purchased a memorial bronze plaque to be on permanent display in the Dale and Joy Chase Courtyard of the LeGrand Center.

The plaque reads:

Remembering
Coach Max Andrew Bumgardner
All-American
Christian, Husband, Father, Mentor,
Friend
Ram Reunion
March 31, 2007

Campus Traditions

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

Ramifications

Research by the Staff of the West Texas Collection

Through several name changes, different handlers and an unknown number of animals, Angelo State University's official mascot – today known as “Dominic” – has always been a purebred Rambouillet ram.

San Angelo College's first mascot ram, named “Shorty,” was donated by Carlsbad rancher D.T. Jones in 1940. For some reason, Shorty was nicknamed “Ramses I,” but no record survives of how many other “Ramses” followed in Shorty's hoof prints through the 1950's.

In 1963, the first “Dominic” ram was loaned to the SAC Circle K Club by R.O. Sheffield, a local rancher and member of the college board of trustees. The new moniker was chosen after a “name-the-mascot” contest sponsored by the Circle K Club. Though references to “Dominic II” and “Dominic III” follow in later editions of the *Ram Page*, no one since then was counting sheep so the exact number of successor Dominics has been lost to history.

Dominic today lives a life of relative luxury compared to the other members of the ASU herd. Since he stays penned up most of the time, he remains cleaner, doesn't have to fight for mating time and doesn't have to forage for food. He also gets special training.

“Mainly, we get him halter broke so he'll lead,” said Dr. Mike Salisbury, associate professor of animal science and head trainer. “Usually, we pick the ram that is most naturally calm and has a nice set of horns. When I get one that the kids like and



likes the kids, I keep him around for as long as he can last. He has just one purpose in life and that is to be Dominic.”

Despite his pampered lifestyle, Dominic is no wimpy mascot. Dr. Gil Engdahl, head of ASU's Agriculture Department, tells of opposing football players ending up on the ground near Dominic after being shoved out of bounds. Apparently, the headstrong Dominic has a particular glare that sends them scurrying back to their teammates, no ifs, ands or butts about it.

Back in the 1980's, Dominic also took a personal dislike to Rams assistant basketball coach Mike Jones. No one knows the cause of the animus, but the community profited from it by getting sponsors to pay to watch Dominic chase Jones around the track during the annual San Angelo Walk Fests.

The privilege of handling the mascot rams has passed through several organizations over the years. The Circle K Club managed the duties during the “Ramses” era through the first Dominics, then the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity took over until the Block and Bridle Club assumed the responsibilities in 1979 through today.

The handlers also form strong bonds with the rams. Both Engdahl and Salisbury keep in their offices as mementos the skulls of Dominics past that they were especially attached to. Salisbury has been at work training a new Dominic for the fall semester. The most recent Dominic, who was the Supreme Champion Ram at the 2001 Fort Worth Stock Show before his days as the mascot, died this spring.

Look for the new Dominic at football games and other athletic events as well as at Ram Jams, various parades, Discover ASU and the annual Alumni Association Ring Ceremony, where new graduates rub their ASU rings on his wool for good luck.

Through thousands of events over more than 65 years, regardless of his name or his handlers, the Rambouillet ram has been a fitting mascot for the university in the heart of West Texas wool country. ■

Alas, poor Dominic! Mike Salisbury knew him well.



Photo by Tina Doyle

CLASSnotes

1942

Stratton W. Beesley, married to Jean Stepp Beesley ('42), is a retired geophysicist living in San Angelo.

1945

Engedi W. Parmer, married to Dewey, is retired after working 18 years for Tom Green County and Judge Edd B. Keyes. She lives in San Angelo and has three children and nine grandchildren.

1948

Ruberta Tucker McMillan, married to Bill, is retired and living in Rowlett.

1949

Clifton F. Dews is self employed as an accountant in San Angelo.

1955

Donald Abell, married to Jean, lives in San Angelo. Donald was the assistant city manager of San Angelo and retired after 37 years.

Ron Adams, married to Alice, played football for the SAC Rams. He coached high school football and retired from Spring ISD after 31 years. Ron currently is a publisher and Alice is a writer in Austin.

1965

Lynn Eddy Granzin, married to Stacy, works for the Education Service Center Region XV and lives in Miles.

1967

M. Dale Dodson, married to Sherry, is chief executive officer at Dalcors in Plano.

1969

John L. Multer works for the Texas Veterans Commission in San Angelo.

1970

Gordon Dabney Schrank, married to Yvonne ('70), is a professor of biology at St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minn.

1971

Betty Beckham John, married to Douglas, is a retired teacher of the San Angelo Independent School district and lives in Miles. Douglas is a retired ASU professor.

1973

Sebastian S. Guerrero, married to Carmen, works at San Angelo National Bank. Carmen is a supervisor at Verizon in San Angelo.

1974

Mark W. Pape, married to Marsha, is on the physical therapy faculty at ASU.

Suzanne S. Wessels, married to James, lives in Kerrville and is an educational diagnostician for Fredericksburg ISD.

1975

Ed R. Nalepka, married to Erika, is a firefighter for the City of Grand Prairie and lives in Midlothian.

1976

Cheryl Hines is a professor of teacher education at ASU.

1981

Bill Ashley, married to Lisa, is an insurance agent with State Farm in Levelland.

He ran track for ASU from 1977-1981 and his son began studies at ASU this fall.

Suzanne Orr Davis, married to Scott, is the owner/operator of Sterling National Gas Inc. in Sterling City.

Randy Dews, married to Debbie Spencer Dews ('82), is a chief finance officer for Georgeco Inc. in Dallas. Debbie works in asset management and investor relations for Emerson Partners.

Greg Pecina, married to Gina ('81), is ASU's director of special events. Gina is a medical technologist at West Texas Medical Associates in San Angelo.

1983

Eddie Smith, married to Melissa, is a principal software engineer for McAfee Inc. in Plano. Melissa is employed by Prestonwood Baptist Church.

Steve L. Barrett, married to Diana, is a colonel in the U.S. Air Force, serving as an Air Force planner for joint and national Security Council matters at the Pentagon in Alexandria, Va.

1986

Jannell Werner Eckert, married to Danny ('87), is a CPA at Evans, Eckert and Peterson while Danny is a math teacher at Lincoln Junior High in San Angelo.

1987

Jeb B. Henderson, married to Genny ('87), is a farm equipment dealer for Porter Henderson Implement Co. in San Angelo.

1990

Susan Hammons-Mautner, married to Keith, performs at various San Diego, Calif., theaters as an actor/singer. She has recently begun directing.

1994

David Wayne Bryant is the owner of Sonic Drive-In in San Angelo.

Brenda Imler Wellen, married to Donald, is a teacher for San Angelo ISD. Donald is the inventory manager for Universal Display and Fixtures Co. in San Angelo.

1995

Heather Treadwell, married to Gary ('68), works in Fort McKavett as postmaster for the U.S. Postal Service. Gary is a self-employed rancher. They have two children, Bennett and William.

1996

Louis A. Perez, married to Amy ('02), is a bail bondsman for Concho Bail Bonds in San Angelo and Amy works as a teacher for San Angelo ISD.

1997

Rickie Lee Gipson, married to Kathy Welch Gipson ('97), is an information technology consultant in Allen.

2001

Mark Werpney is a teacher for Crowley ISD and currently lives in Fort Worth.

2004

Jennifer Ruff is a registered nurse at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

A Legacy of Generosity

Eva Camuñez Tucker

1911-2007

Some might say that San Angelo philanthropist Eva Camuñez Tucker died childless, but they would be wrong for she touched the lives of hundreds of young people, including numerous Angelo State University students, with her generosity.

Mrs. Tucker, who began her career as an educator and ended it as a benefactor of education, the arts and history, died June 24 in the modest home where her parents Reynaldo and Josefa Lara Camuñez had reared her.

A woman of substantial means but modest ways, Mrs. Tucker was the first Hispanic graduate of San Angelo High in 1930 and the recipient of a teaching certificate in 1932 from San Angelo College. She taught in Mertzon from 1932-1937, then moved to Ballinger to teach. It was there she met independent oil man Art Tucker, whom she would marry in 1948.

After his death in 1975 left her independently wealthy, she returned to San Angelo wisely investing her money in the markets and her faith in humanity through the generosity of her monetary dividends.

Of her philanthropy, she once told an interviewer, "I am just being a good steward. What I have belongs to the Lord...I only want to do the most good for the most people."

And good she did. At ASU Mrs. Tucker was a long-time supporter of the Up and Coming Scholars program. She paid for the bronze ram and ewe statutes that proudly stand guard in front of the Junell Center. She gave generously over the years to the West Texas Collection, including an anonymous \$100,000 gift in 2006 that had allowed the collection to purchase a major collection of photo postcards and other materials related to Texas-Mexico borderlands history between the 1870s and 1940s. Her last gift to the WTC provided the administrative fund for a program to support two post-doctoral fellows to write about West Texas history.

Additionally, she supported numerous scholarships at ASU, but the full extent of her contributions to the success of Angelo State students may never be fully known.

"She would call (me) at all hours," said Suzanne Campbell, head of the West Texas Collection, "to ask how much it cost to go to ASU. Some parent would be there wanting help!"

Joe Muñoz, ASU assistant to the president, had known Mrs. Tucker all his life and even admitted "misappropriating a cookie as big as a hubcap" from her parents' store, something Mrs. Tucker often teased him about in later years after he had admitted his childhood misdeed.

"She was," said Muñoz, "a profound example of the impact an individual with a good heart can have on a community."

In her final days, Muñoz delivered a big wrapped cookie to her bedside, drawing her smile when he said his debt was now paid in full.

Muñoz was but one of many with ASU ties indebted to Eva Camuñez Tucker. ■



Rallo Coaster

– continued from page 13

"The people here (ASU) happen to be called faculty or staff and over there they happen to be called airmen or majors, but the reality is the same thing," Rallo said. "You are motivating them toward an outcome and you are trying to not only take responsibility but also to be accountable for what happens."

Rallo sees the military and higher education as having more in common than many people might expect.

"The military and universities create the fabric of our society," he said. "Sometimes you don't see it for 20 or 30 years, but that's where it is."

After leaving active duty, he resumed his full-time academic career, starting at Michigan Technological University, where he headed the international exchange program. At Ferris State University he chaired the Department of Management before becoming dean of the College of Business. Next Rallo was dean of both the College of Business and Administration and the Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, where he also directed the Colorado Institution for Technology Transfer and Implementation for two years. Immediately prior to becoming ASU's fourth president, Rallo served as provost and academic vice president at Western Illinois University.

"These experiences conjoined when I began to look for a university presidency," Rallo said. "I sought an institution whose traditions and strengths matched well emerging areas created by changes in technology and global activity, but whose focus still remained on the success of its students on campus and after graduation.

"I also sought a challenge where tradition and history still provided boundaries," he continued. "Angelo State University met and exceeded those criteria and I am so pleased that this leadership opportunity was offered to me."

Reminded of the administrator's comment about his first month on the job being "a Rallo coaster ride," Rallo laughed. "That may be the easiest month of all." ■

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