

# Angelo State University • Magazine

Fall 2008 • Volume 1 • Number 3

MEMBER, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

A man with grey hair, wearing a light blue short-sleeved button-down shirt and khaki pants, stands in front of a weathered stone wall. A green cactus is visible on the wall behind him. The background shows a clear blue sky with some clouds.

## Loyal Texan

### Second to None

### Great Expectations



# Message

from the President

Dear Friends:

Our third issue of the *Angelo State University Magazine* completes the first year of this informative new publication. That cycle also coincides with a very successful transitional year as ASU fully became part of the Texas Tech University System. Your support and encouragement for both initiatives have been exceptional and most appreciated.

Faculty define and shape a great university. Whether a new assistant professor fresh from completion of a Ph.D. or a seasoned professional who has impacted generations of students, each represents the institution to a variety of audiences. This edition highlights two exceptional members of the ASU faculty. Dr. Arnoldo De León's impact on Texas and Mexican-American history has been national in its scope. The retiring Dr. Alan Bloebaum can point to more than 500 of his students who are now doctors and other health care professionals. Together Drs. De León and Bloebaum represent the long line of dedicated faculty who have defined ASU over the years.

Athletics also play a central role in the life of a university. This issue includes a retrospective on our 1978 NAIA National Championship football team, as well as a focus on our intramural program, so essential to the creation of a complete residential experience for our students. We also look at our athletics program within the NCAA's new campaign "I Chose Division II" with its emphasis on academics as part of a competitive and winning sports experience.

Finally, a great university applauds the accomplishments of its alumni, while also celebrating the lives of its friends and supporters. So it is fitting that our initial honorary doctorate of humane letters as a member of the Texas Tech University System is to be awarded to Steve and Pollyanna Stephens at the December commencement, while TTUS Chancellor Kent Hance, State Sen. Robert Duncan and State Rep. Drew Darby are to be recognized as Honorary Alumni of ASU during Homecoming.

ASU continues to build on its great traditions while preparing its students for the challenges of the future. Your participation in that journey is appreciated and valued by all of us on campus. You are always welcome to visit and see first hand the excitement that is ASU!

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Rallo  
President



Joseph C. Rallo



## Angelo State University Magazine

Fall 2008

Vol.1, No. 3

### Angelo State University

Member, Texas Tech University System

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#### Alumni Association

Class Notes/Century Club: Julia Valles

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**Editor's Note:** If you had to identify two common features of university life shared by all, then it would likely be faculty and athletics. This issue of ASU Magazine examines two faculty members whose careers have touched thousands and then looks at athletics, both intercollegiate and intramural. In both instances, you will find more than you expect.

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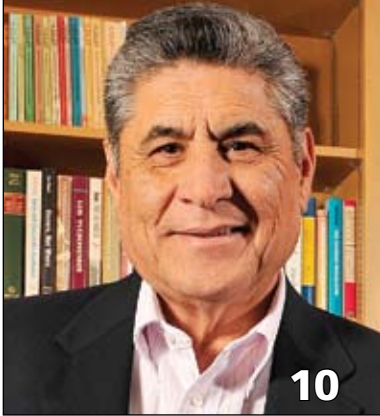
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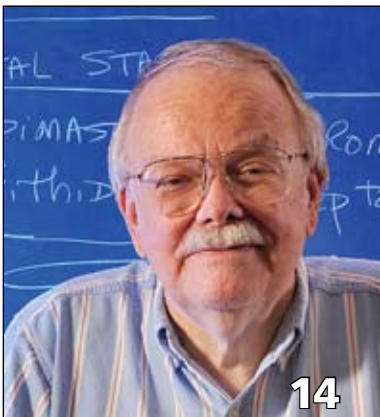
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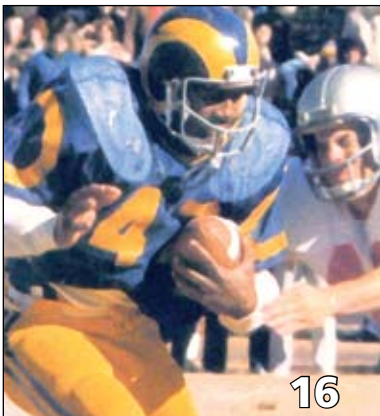
**On the cover:** History professor Arnoldo De León, here among the ruins of Fort Chadbourne, has helped change the horizon of Texas History during his 35 years at Angelo State University. (Photo by Danny Meyer)



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## Plus One and Counting

### What a difference a year can make!

In the summer of 2007 Angelo State University was scrambling to complete the transition to the Texas Tech University System (TTUS). In the year since, ASU has been enjoying the benefits of that new system affiliation.

Many benefits have been visible while others have been less noticeable, though equally important. The most visible result has been the rise of Centennial Village, the new 526-bed, \$28.2 million residence hall, on the western edge of campus. What was a vacant lot under the old system became a beehive of activity under the Texas Tech System, which was committed to having the facility ready to house students this fall.

Out of sight but not out of mind is ASU's newfound presence in Washington, D.C. Being able to utilize Texas Tech's government relations staff, ASU now has greater clout in securing federal programs and funding to complement ASU's strong academic programs.

The legislation that transferred ASU to TTUS from the Texas State University System was co-authored by State Rep. Drew Darby and State Sen. Robert Duncan. Darby said, "The benefits of realignment continue to exceed all expectations — and we started with high expectations."

TTUS Chancellor Kent Hance echoed Darby's sentiments. "It is certainly a marriage that has worked well."

President Joseph C. Rallo, who took over ASU's reins 92 days before the transition became effective, moved quickly to begin to realize some of the advantages of the new alignment to the benefit of Angelo State students.

For instance, ASU and Texas Tech University worked out a 4+1 agreement where ASU graduates in some programs could leave San Angelo with a bachelor's degree and earn a master's degree in Lubbock in a

year. The first of these programs now allows ASU bachelor's degree recipients in physics, math or chemistry to complete a Tech master's degree in physics or applied physics in a year. More such programs will follow.

ASU's Honors Program has arranged for students who successfully complete the program at Angelo State and who meet the stringent admissions requirements for the law and medical programs at Texas Tech to be admitted early, with a guaranteed place to both programs, and, in the case of the medical school, to be admitted without needing to take the MCAT.

Both the 4+1 and guaranteed acceptance program will benefit ASU students as well as Texas Tech, which will have a pipeline of highly qualified students entering the system's graduate programs.

The new system affiliation will also help ASU's Agriculture Department place interns in Washington, D.C. In the past, finding affordable housing for interns was the limiting factor. Texas Tech maintains apartments for just that purpose and ASU students from ag and other academic departments on campus will be able to use the Tech quarters for internships.

Pending Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approval, ASU will estab-

lish a College of Nursing and Allied Health to focus on the region's health care needs in concert with the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. ASU is requesting additional state funding to expand programs that will help augment the region's supply of health care professionals and developing new programs to address the needs of rural health care delivery.

On top of that, ASU is working with Texas Tech to offer new courses in the Hill Country through TTU facilities in Fredericksburg, Marble Falls and Junction.

Rep. Darby is pleased with the progress in just a year. "The creation of a College of Nursing and Allied Health with a new doctoral program in physical therapy at Angelo State is a huge, game-changing advance, something that would never have happened in the old system," he said. "Automatic admittance of graduates with good grades into Tech's advanced degree programs is another huge benefit. I know of almost no one at Angelo State or Texas Tech who regrets realignment."

Rallo sees even bigger things ahead. "We have only just begun," he said, "to tap the potential and the synergies that have been created by our affiliation with the Texas Tech University System." ■



Photo by Danny Meyer

## Dynamic DUO

In the arena that carries their name and on a stage where hundreds of Angelo State University students have accepted their diplomas since 2002, F.L. "Steve" and Pollyanna Stephens will receive ASU degrees of their own this December.

The Texas Tech University System (TTUS) Board of Regents in May voted unanimously to award doctors of humane letters to the San Angelo couple for long-standing support of Angelo State University. The couple will receive the recognition during commencement exercises Dec. 13 in the Junell Center/Stephens Arena.

"It is appropriate," said TTUS Chancellor Kent Hance, "that Steve and Pollyanna Stephens should be the recipients of the first honorary degrees awarded by the university as a member of the Texas Tech University System."

"Over the years," said Hance, "Steve and Pollyanna Stephens have been a successful team in building a thriving business, strengthening their community and understanding the value of Angelo State in the economic development of the region."

From their \$1 million gift to make Stephens Arena a glittering university showplace to their support of donations for numerous scholarships, the President's Circle, the College of Business and ASU Athletics, the Stephenses have demonstrated their commitment to the university and its critical role in the future of San Angelo.

Steve Stephens said, "Both entities are completely inter-dependent and each brings out the best in the other. As ASU grows, so will San Angelo and vice versa. The economic development aspect is obvious, but of perhaps greater importance is the personal impact of faculty and staff on all aspects of the community. Likewise, as some of the graduates



Photo by Danny Meyer

Pollyanna and Steve Stephens

find suitable employment here, they, too, enter into the mainstream of the cultural, civic and business life of San Angelo."

"Our satisfaction," said Pollyanna Stephens, "comes from the continuing growth and development of this community. First our children and now our grandchildren have a wonderful place to grow up and learn to be responsible, caring adults. It is a real pleasure to us to be able to be a part of activities that are of value to the community and that have an impact on the overall quality of life here. Also, as others have set an example for us, we hope that younger people will learn, from our example, the value and the pleasure of giving."

One of the state's most prominent businessmen, Steve Stephens is retired chairman, chief executive officer, and co-founder of Town & Country Food Stores, Inc. He has been recognized nationwide for his contributions to the convenience store industry.

Pollyanna Stephens is the retired co-owner, board secretary and director of public relations and special events for Town & Country Food Stores. She also served two

appointments to the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System, including a term as board chair.

Their business, civic, cultural and philanthropic efforts have touched the lives of virtually everyone in San Angelo, whether they stop at a Town & Country Food Store or attend a July 3<sup>rd</sup> Pops Concert sponsored for years by Town & Country.

Most recently, they have co-chaired the Beacon to the Future campaign to raise \$13.7 million for converting the Hemphill-Wells building downtown into the new Tom Green County Library.

In addition to their many business and civic accomplishments, the Stephenses raised daughters Susan, married to J.R. "Randy" Brooks, and Liz, married to Devin Bates. They are the grandparents of Mason Brooks, Lauren Brooks, Brandt Bates and Madison Bates. ■



# Cellular Engineer



Jeffrey Macklis

Dr. Jeffrey Macklis is doing what once was thought impossible and, in the process, is giving hope to people suffering from degenerative brain disorders and the loss of motor functions due to spinal cord injuries.

As the director of the Massachusetts General Hospital-Harvard Medical School Center for Nervous System Repair, Macklis is at the forefront of the fight against diseases like ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease), Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's. He brought his hopeful message of potential cures for those and other disorders to ASU this spring for the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual West Texas Medical Associates Distinguished Lectureship in Science Honoring Dr. Roy E. Moon.

"Brain and spinal cord repair is no longer science fiction," Macklis said. "Fifteen years ago it was thought to be crazy, but not anymore."

A large part of Macklis' research deals with precursor/stem cells and how they can be utilized to regenerate the nervous system cells that are damaged or destroyed by various diseases and spinal cord injuries.

"My laboratory works on how individual types of neurons, or nerve cells, in the brain develop and how the molecular control over that development can be turned around to provide human therapies," Macklis said.

"What is most exciting is that I can see, for real, that within the next decade, human beings that are dying within two-to-five years from ALS or have lost motor function because of spinal cord injury can be better because of this developmental biology."

In addition to making "replacement parts," Macklis' research also plays a big role in the development of new drugs and pharmaceutical remedies.

"We now have powerful tools to test drugs in laboratory dishes," Macklis said. "If we can make the right kind of cell and make billions at a time, by directing them into diseased tissue we can come up with medications. That, I think, will come about quicker than actually making replacement parts."

Born to eastern European immigrant parents in Cincinnati, Macklis showed the traits of a budding engineer at a young age, often retreating to his basement to make rockets and figure out how to make gunpowder. It was in college at the University of Pennsylvania where a meeting with future Nobel Prize winner Dr. Torsten Wiesel put him on his current path as an engineer of cells rather than rockets.

Also head of programs at the Stem Cell Institute and Center for Neurodegeneration and Repair at Harvard and a full professor, Macklis still sees the importance of taking time to deliver lectures and was particularly impressed with the ASU lectureship.

"Science is communicated by writing papers, communicating with colleagues and at invited seminars and lectures," Macklis said. "That is what makes this WTMA lecture so great. It forms many of those same kinds of connections through the lectures, meetings with faculty and students, and the personal interchange. There is actually more of that here than usually happens at these types of events, so this is a wonderful tradition that I'm honored to be a part of."

"I've never seen a place where the community, a 40-member physicians association and a university work together on a collaborative scientific program," he added. "You are really lucky to live in such a unique community." ■

# King Cotton

West Texas cotton farmers are major players in the arena of international business.

During her presentation for ASU's 10<sup>th</sup> annual International Business Symposium, Dr. Pietra Rivoli said that textile producers in the Far East, particularly China, prefer to buy cotton from West Texas sources, not only because of the quality of the product, but also because of the quality of the producers.

"There is a system of trust and integrity in place that makes these foreign producers prefer to conduct their international trade with this (West Texas) region," Rivoli said.

The Georgetown University finance and international economics professor visited with cotton farmers in the area while researching her award-winning book, *Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power and Politics of World Trade*. In the book, Rivoli follows the path of a T-shirt that started as West Texas cotton, was produced in China and then returned to the U.S. for

sale, a trip that takes about seven or eight weeks and is far from easy.

"If you are a T-shirt from China, you can't just buy a ticket, get on a boat and come to the U.S.," Rivoli said. "There are a number of hoops, limits and obstacles you have to overcome, many in the form of tariffs, taxes, etc."

However, with the U.S.'s new, liberalized trade policies, imports of T-shirts from China have increased 1,200 percent since 2005, which creates a dilemma for West Texas cotton producers. Increased exports of cotton to China to make the T-shirts would mean more profits, but would also alienate the U.S. textile industry, which is currently the cotton producers' biggest political ally.

"The things that dictate the fortunes of a particular industry," Rivoli said, "are often the regulations written in Washington."

Rivoli also addressed the contentious issue of conditions in Chinese textile factories that have recently given public relations black eyes to U.S. companies like Nike and The Gap.

"Things are getting better in China's clothing factories," she said. "But, I still don't think it is a job you or I would want. It's the ones producing non-branded items where you will find the worst conditions."

The final leg of a T-shirt's journey is often back overseas, where it is sold second-hand in places like Tanzania, which buys more used U.S. clothing than any other country. The previous owner of a particular T-shirt even contacted Rivoli when he saw it in a picture in her book.

Another issue that looms on the horizon for West Texas cotton farmers is organic cotton. Rivoli said that Turkey and Peru are the major producers, while only a small percentage of West Texas cotton is organic. The main hurdle is cost, since organic cotton cannot be sprayed with pesticides and must be separated from regular cotton for ginning, transport and fabric production. But, with companies like Nike, The Gap and Wal-Mart committing to use more organic cotton, area farmers may need to take notice.

"The demand will be met," Rivoli said. "It just may not be from U.S. producers."

As Rivoli explained, it comes down to the important concept of comparative advantage, "Whoever can provide the best product at the best price wins." ■



### Bonnie B. Amos

Dr. Bonnie B. Amos, a member of the biology faculty since 1987, has been named recipient of the university's 2008 Teaching Excellence Award.

She and award finalists Dr. Shirley M. Eoff of history and Dr. Roger E. Zarnowski of mathematics were recognized during the 2008 general faculty meeting of ASU's Faculty Senate. Each honoree was presented a plaque and recognized during spring commencement. Amos received a \$1,200 honorarium.

Amos, who holds both her bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from ASU, was recognized not only for her enthusiasm and dedication in teaching and research, but also for her "adaptability, willingness to learn, tenacity and extreme patience." One of her students noted that "Dr. Amos displays an uncanny ability to ignite the fires of curiosity and the desire to succeed."

A Concho Valley native with a fascination for the Chihuahuan Desert, Amos is active in botanical research and has involved numerous students in her various projects in the Chihuahuan Desert and the mountains of the Big Bend region. She is also the curator of the herbarium in the Angelo State Natural History Collections.

### Top Grad Students

The top students in the College of Graduate Studies have been announced for 2008.

Distinguished graduate students by the college of their disciplines were: College of Business, accounting major Kathleen Pruetz MacDonald of San Angelo; College of Liberal and Fine Arts, counseling psychology major Romanus A. Akamike, originally from Nigeria and currently of Eden; College of Sciences, animal science major Chad H. George of Big Lake; and College of Education, reading specialist major Chrissy Eubank of San Angelo.

Other nominees were: counseling psychology major Ashley Ragland of Midlothian; English major Jack F. Wright of San Angelo; educational diagnostics major Shannon Hofmann of Mason; advance practice registered nurse major Jennifer Davis Slaven of San Angelo; and nurse educator major Maria P. Solano of Amarillo.

### Presidential, Distinguished Student Awards

Physics and mathematics major Morgan Henry Lynch of San Antonio was named recipient of ASU's 2008 Presidential Award while four other ASU undergraduate students were selected for 2008 Distinguished Student Awards from their respective colleges.

The Distinguished Student Award recipients by college are: College of Business, accounting major Jessica Dingus of Brownfield; College of Education, interdisciplinary child development and learning major Amanda Jean Kure of

San Angelo; College of Liberal and Fine Arts, English major Caitlin Stern of San Antonio; and College of Sciences, biology major Matthew W. Jackson of Artesia, N. M.

All were recognized during spring commencement ceremonies.

### Nancy G. Allen

Dr. Nancy G. Allen, head of the ASU English Department since 2003 and a member of the ASU faculty since 1984, has been named to a two-year appointment as associate vice president for academic and student affairs.

Allen succeeded Dr. Richard A. Beck, who assumed duties in July as vice president for academic affairs at Rogers State University in Claremore, Okla.

Her areas of administrative oversight will include enrollment management, center for academic excellence, developmental education, first-year experience, student services, student involvement, student government, continuing studies and distance education.

### Brittani Teague

May graduate Brittani Teague, a management major from Lubbock, was one of 10 students nationally to be awarded a H.Y. Benedict Fellowship by the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society.

Benedict Fellowships are awarded each spring to seniors who will attend graduate or professional schools in the upcoming fall semester.

Teague received \$2,500 to support her graduate studies which began this summer in Russia through the ASU Study Abroad Program and will continue this fall at the University of Tulsa as she works toward her M.B.A. degree.

### Samantha Caszatt

ASU communication major Samantha Caszatt of Galveston has been named to the 22-member national council of Alpha Chi, a national college honor society.

Caszatt will represent Region I, which covers most of Texas and New Mexico, until 2010. The council is Alpha Chi's governing body. Alpha Chi has chapters at more than 300 colleges and universities.

### Cathy Fritsche

Senior history major Cathy Fritsche of San Angelo has been awarded first place for best undergraduate history paper in the George Wolfskill U.S. History Division of the E.C. Barksdale Essays in History Competition.

Fritsche is the first ASU student to receive the prestigious award sponsored by the Phi Alpha Theta chapter at the University of Texas at Arlington. The award includes a \$200 honorarium and the opportunity to publish the article in an online journal.

Her paper, "Mabel Walker Willebrandt and Anglo-American Tensions during Prohibition," examined how Willebrandt's efforts to enforce domestic prohibition created tensions between the

U.S. and Great Britain as well as between the U.S. Departments of State and Justice.

### Shirley M. Eoff

History professor Shirley M. Eoff has been elected to a one-year term as president of the West Texas Historical Association (WTHA). As president, Dr. Eoff will oversee the organization devoted to preserving and chronicling the history of the region.

Eoff joined the ASU faculty in 1981. Her areas of specialization include modern history, U. S. social/cultural history and historiography. She has written on numerous topics on West Texas history, including the San Angelo polio epidemic, the San Angelo Army Air Field bombardier school, and San Angelo's early judicial system and court rulings.

### Katherine Eyre, Bobby L. Hancock

Katherine Eyre, a senior math major from Kaufman, and Bobby L. Hancock, a junior physics major from Brownfield, have been awarded national Columbia Crew Memorial Undergraduate Scholarships by the Texas Space Grant Consortium for the 2008-09 academic year.

The \$1,000 scholarships are intended to recognize high-quality students and encourage their consideration of graduate studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, ultimately leading to careers in space-related fields. ■

### New College

With May approval by the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) Board of Regents and a \$350,000 grant for startup monies from the San Angelo Health Foundation, ASU has established a new College of Nursing and Allied Health, effective Sept. 1.

The new college will be the administrative home to the Nursing Department and the Physical Therapy Department, which is on schedule next year to offer ASU's first doctorate. Previously, both departments reported through the College of Sciences.

After review by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, TTUS and ASU will seek state funding for ongoing administrative costs and for a new building to house the college's existing and future programs.

Dr. Leslie M. Mayrand, who has been on the ASU nursing faculty more than 25 years, including the last five as head of the Nursing Department, was named inaugural dean of the new college in June. Mayrand has been a leader in developing ASU's online nursing programs.

The expansion of the new college is projected to follow three phases. Phase one, the development phase, will include providing the administrative infrastructure, completing development of the new Doctor of Physical Therapy

Program and securing ongoing legislative funding.

Phase two will develop a Center for Rural Health, Wellness and Rehabilitation to promote the highest level of health and quality of life for vulnerable rural populations.

The third phase will focus on expanding new allied health and nursing degree opportunities, including a bachelor's degree in health care communications and informatics and master's degrees in occupational therapy, rehabilitation counseling and rural and international health care.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said, "We are so pleased that the foundation will play a major role once again in the creation of a vital new program designed to enhance and expand ASU's ability to prepare health care professionals to meet the growing needs of our community, state and nation."

Support from the San Angelo Health Foundation was instrumental in the establishment of ASU's physical therapy program a decade ago.

### Pearl of the Concho

ASU's Department of Teacher Education has received a \$43,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the Pearl of the Concho Writing Project, designed to improve the teaching of writing in area public schools.

The National Writing Project grant funded up to 20 area teachers' participa-

tion in special training opportunities. The new grant is the fifth for the Pearl of the Concho Writing Project under the direction of Dr. Cheryl Hines.

### Tri-Beta Tops

ASU's Epsilon Sigma chapter of the Beta Beta Beta (Tri-Beta) National Biology Honor Society was named the top chapter in the South Central Region at the Tri-Beta regional conference this year.

### San Antonio Role

As part of the university's ongoing efforts to attract more students from along the I-35 corridor, ASU has created a new full-time admissions counselor/minority recruiter position based in San Antonio.

Nick Garcia, an admissions counselor in the ASU Admissions Office, has taken on the new role in San Antonio. His duties include attending regional college fairs and other events in San Antonio and the surrounding areas to expose prospective students to the advantages of attending ASU. He will also engage in community service activities that will demonstrate Angelo State's commitment to involvement within the San Antonio region.

A native of Fort Stockton, Garcia has worked in the ASU Admissions office since obtaining his bachelor's degree in communication from Angelo State last year. ■





Arnoldo De León

Photo by Danny Meyer

From his neat and organized office on the third floor of the Academic Building, Dr. Arnoldo De León has been shaping Texas history for 35 years.

De León's prolific output of books and scholarly articles has influenced not only how we view Texas but also how we see his people, the Mexican Americans whose lives and culture have flavored the Lone Star State's heritage from before it was a state all the way to the present.

"Arnoldo De León has been a major figure in the rewriting of Texas History in the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century," said Dr. David J. Weber, the Dedman Professor of History and the director of the Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University.

"De León," said Dr. Walter L. Buenger, head of the History Department at Texas A&M University, "has done more than any other historian to raise awareness of the contributions of Tejanos to Texas history. He has also been able to bring fresh perspectives on Texas history in its entirety."

Beyond those accomplishments, De León has mentored a generation of young scholars who have broadened everyone's understanding of the importance of the Mexican-American experience far beyond the borders of the state. His influence is national, yet he is as accessible and friendly as your next door neighbor.

"His greatest impact," said Anthony Quiroz, chair of the Department of Humanities at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (A&M-CC), "has been the way he has inspired an entire generation of Mexican-American scholars to pursue these topics with the same fervor he brings to the table."

# Loyal Texan

by Preston Lewis

When the state's seventh graders study Texas history, they are likely to read *Texas and Texans*, the textbook De León published in 2002 with four co-authors for Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.

The most-used collegiate textbook on the state's past is *The History of Texas*, which he co-authored with Robert A. Calvert and Gregg Cantrell. The book is now in its fourth edition with Harlan Davidson. For college courses examining the state's Hispanic history, De León has written *Mexican Americans in Texas*, now in its second edition, also from Harlan Davidson.

If you care to explore the nation's Hispanic past, then look no further than *North to Aztlán: A History of Mexican Americans in the United States*, which will be published in its third edition in 2009, also from Harlan Davidson.

In all, De León has authored 15 scholarly books or monographs, edited another 11, written multiple encyclopedia entries, made 30 academic presentations, published 64 book reviews and produced 27 other publications that he, though not everyone else, classifies as minor.

A couple years ago, Angelo State Sciences Dean Grady Price Blount performed an academic literature search and discovered that De León was by far the ASU faculty member most quoted in the scholarly works of others. A search by fellow history faculty member Brian McKnight on Google this summer showed De León as either the author or a cited source in 492 books and 347 articles.

And, he's accomplished that body of academic work while teaching a full 12-hour load of graduate and undergraduate classes during the long semesters and a six-hour load during the summer terms.

"A particularly amazing aspect of this scholarly production," said Dr. Virginia Noelke, who heads the ASU History Department, "is that Dr. De León has been a full-time teacher for more than 30 years....I doubt if there is another scholar in the United States who has taught so much while publishing so much."

His prolific output is attributable to his love of history and his disciplined devotion to the craft of writing. He regularly arises at 4 a.m. to write before heading to campus to teach.

But long hours and hard work are nothing new to De León, who spent his formative years laboring in the cotton fields around Robstown in South Texas and attending public schools where few Hispanic role models existed. From the age of five until he turned 18, he chopped and picked cotton. The \$110 he had saved picking cotton after he graduated from high school provided him tuition and books for a year at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, but he still struggled financially.

"The military was my way out of poverty and my way off the farm," he said. "I had a long-range plan to go to college and to get a B.A., though I still didn't have an interest in history at that time."

As it turned out, the military was his ticket to Angelo State University because the Air Force sent him to Goodfellow AFB. During his year in San Angelo, he met and married his wife, Dolores. When he finished his Air Force enlistment in Florida, he returned to San Angelo and resumed his college studies at ASU. — continued



## Texas, Our Texas

Think you know the Top 15 events in Texas history other than the founding of Angelo State University?

Then make your list and compare it to the selections of ASU's own Arnoldo De León by visiting the

"Bonus Features" on the ASU Magazine Web site at

[www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine/](http://www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine/)





De León in the classroom

Just as he would later influence students, one ASU history professor would convince De León to become a historian. Barry A. Crouch, who served on the ASU faculty from 1967 to 1970, was an early practitioner and proponent of both social and African-American history. Crouch, who would ultimately spend the majority of his academic career on the history faculty at Gallaudet College in Washington, D.C., was also an incredible researcher.

When Crouch died in 2002, the obituary written by Larry Madaras of Howard Community College in Maryland for the Organization of American Historians listed as one of Crouch's accomplishments that "he inspired one of his students – the well-known scholar Arnoldo De León – to become a historian."

Under Crouch's tutelage and with encouragement from ASU history faculty members Dempsey Watkins, Charles Endress and Bob Holcomb, De León decided to pursue graduate degrees in history. After earning his ASU degree in 1970, De León received a National Defense Education Act Fellowship to study history at TCU, where he became interested in Mexican-American history.

"I won't take credit for being a pioneer in Mexican-American history," De León said, "I just happened to have been in graduate school in the '70s when the field took off."

De León was influenced by the nationwide Chicano movement which was de-

manding better treatment and integration of Hispanics into society.

"When I got to graduate school not only were my goals to become a scholar but also to make a contribution to the movement by writing history," De León said. "The argument had always been that the resources were not there. One of the things that historians realized was actually that the sources were there, but they just hadn't been researched."

De León began to delve into the sources and found a whole historical world that had been overlooked, if not ignored, by Anglo historians. His mentor at TCU was Dr. Don Worcester, who headed the History Department for many years and gave De León one of the most important pieces of advice in his entire career: A page a day equals a book a year.

Crouch's direction on research and Worcester's guidance on writing and discipline combined with De León's strong work ethic, natural curiosity and intellect set him on the course that has made him one of the nation's pre-eminent scholars on Texas and Mexican-American history.

Worcester would later write De León that he "was one of the most productive of the 50 Ph.D.s" he had directed during his career at TCU.

De León returned to ASU in 1973 to teach and has been on the history faculty ever since, including the last 20 years as holder of the C.J. "Red" Davidson Endowed

Professorship in History. He earned his Ph.D. in 1974 and his graduate research at TCU became the basis for his early monographs. First came his two-volume *Apuntes Tejanos* published in 1978 by the Texas State Historical Association.

Next, he published *The Tejano Community, 1836-1900* in 1982 with the University of New Mexico Press because no Texas academic press, reflecting the tenor of the times, was interested in the book, which would go on to win the Border Regional Library Association's 1982 Southwest Book Award.

"Traditionally, the story of Texas centered on the activities of Anglo Americans," said SMU's Weber. "Mexican Americans seldom entered the picture. Arnoldo was one of the first to remedy that oversight with his book *The Tejano Community*."

As De León explained in a subsequent book, "I am particularly interested in portraying Texas Mexicans as subjects in the ongoing Texas story and not merely as the objects in another people's history."

In 1983 his dissertation evolved into one of the seminal works in Texas history, *They Called Them Greasers: Anglo Attitudes Toward Mexicans in Texas, 1821-1900*, published by the University of Texas Press.

Dr. Thomas H. Kreneck, the associate library director of special collections and archives at A&M-CC, said, "I would include *They Call Them Greasers* on the list of top 10 books on Texas history ever written. It has no rival in its subject area."

And while his early writing focused on the Mexican-American experience in the Lone Star State, he did not lose sight of the broader picture of Texas history.

Kreneck pointed out that "as a Texas historian, Dr. De León is among a very small, elite group" of academics who have ever written a comprehensive textbook on the state's past. The standard university textbook was Rupert N. Richardson's *Texas: The Lone Star State* until 1990 when the late Robert A. Calvert and De León published *The History of Texas*.

De León wrote the first seven chapters of the book, taking the state's story from the colonial era until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, then Calvert picked up the narrative with the Populist era. One fact that gives De León pride is that over half the book is about the

20<sup>th</sup> century, giving a more accurate view of the entirety of Texas history.

"I knew the late Robert Calvert personally," said Kreneck, "and he told me many times, and I agree, that only Arnoldo De León could have brought such a wealth of knowledge in Texas history to writing this volume."

His impact on the national view of Mexican-American history is no less significant because of *North to Aztlán*, which he co-authored with Richard Griswold del Castillo.

Dr. Bruce Glasrud, retired dean of arts and sciences at Sul Ross State University and professor of history emeritus at California State University-East Bay, said *North to Aztlán* "reflects mature scholarship and a sharp vision of the Mexican-American past amid overwhelming difficulties but also with positive accomplishments. It is excellent history, something not always easy to accomplish."

Glasrud, who was co-author with De León on *Bibliophiling Tejano Scholarship*, which was published in 2003 to provide historians with an extensive list of secondary sources on Hispanic Texans, calls De León "a professor's professor."

"De León's forte is what university work ought to be all about – excellent teaching, humaneness, critical thinking, solid scholarship and warm-spirited service to the students, the university, the community and beyond," said Glasrud.

Manuel G. Gonzales, a professor of history at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, Calif., said, "Dr. De León has many strengths, including objectivity and intelligence, but the one aspect where he clearly stands out from his Mexican-American peers is his work ethic, which is mirrored in his prodigious scholarly production."



The author of *Mexicanos: A History of Mexicans in the United States*, Gonzales said, "I might mention that most Chicano full professors that I have had occasion to write to over the years have not bothered to respond – possibly because as a community college instructor I don't seem to have much to offer them in return. But Dr. De León not only replies to requests every single time, he generally answers his mail within a day or two. I don't know of any big name professors, outside of David Weber at SMU, who are as responsible."

Without doubt, De León has made friends and a name for himself across the country. His honors are multiple, including being named a fellow of the Texas State Historical Association in 1987, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters in 1996 and an inaugural fellow of the West Texas Historical Association earlier this year.

"Arnoldo is in my mind," said Griswold del Castillo, "the pre-eminent Tejano historian. He has contributed to a wide variety of topics, both contemporary and historical. His impact has been to raise

the bar for others in their scholarship and productivity and to make Tejano history a substantial field."

Gonzales said, "More than any other single scholar, De León has given intellectual credibility to the field of Mexican-American history, not just in Texas but around the country. He is widely respected by historians outside of Texas history and Mexican-American history, one of the few Mexican-American historians who has achieved that level of recognition from peers in the field."

And, all his accolades have brought honor and recognition to Angelo State University, as well.

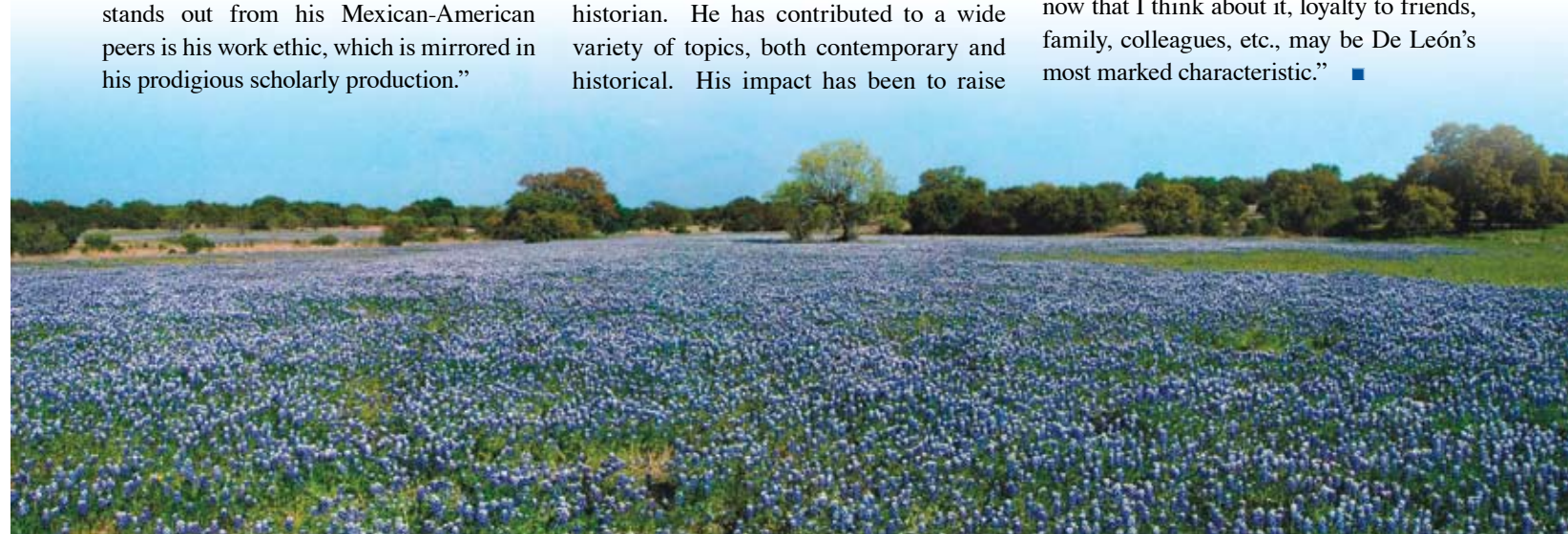
"Arnoldo De León's prominence among historians also makes Angelo State more visible to Americans," SMU's Weber said, "and the university is fortunate to have him on its faculty."

Quiroz in Corpus Christi agreed, "Having a scholar of De León's reputation on your faculty has enhanced your (university's) reputation manifold. When scholars talk about Tejano history, they have Arnoldo in mind. When they talk about leading modern scholars, they have him in mind."

Perhaps Gonzales from California summed up De León best.

"I have always found it incredible that De León has remained at Angelo State, given his reputation," he said. "I would have thought that he would have been recruited away by the major universities in Texas and California, or even an Ivy League university."

"I'm very impressed by his loyalty to the school," Gonzales concluded. "Actually, now that I think about it, loyalty to friends, family, colleagues, etc., may be De León's most marked characteristic." ■





# Departing with

# flair

by Tom Nurre with Roy Ivey

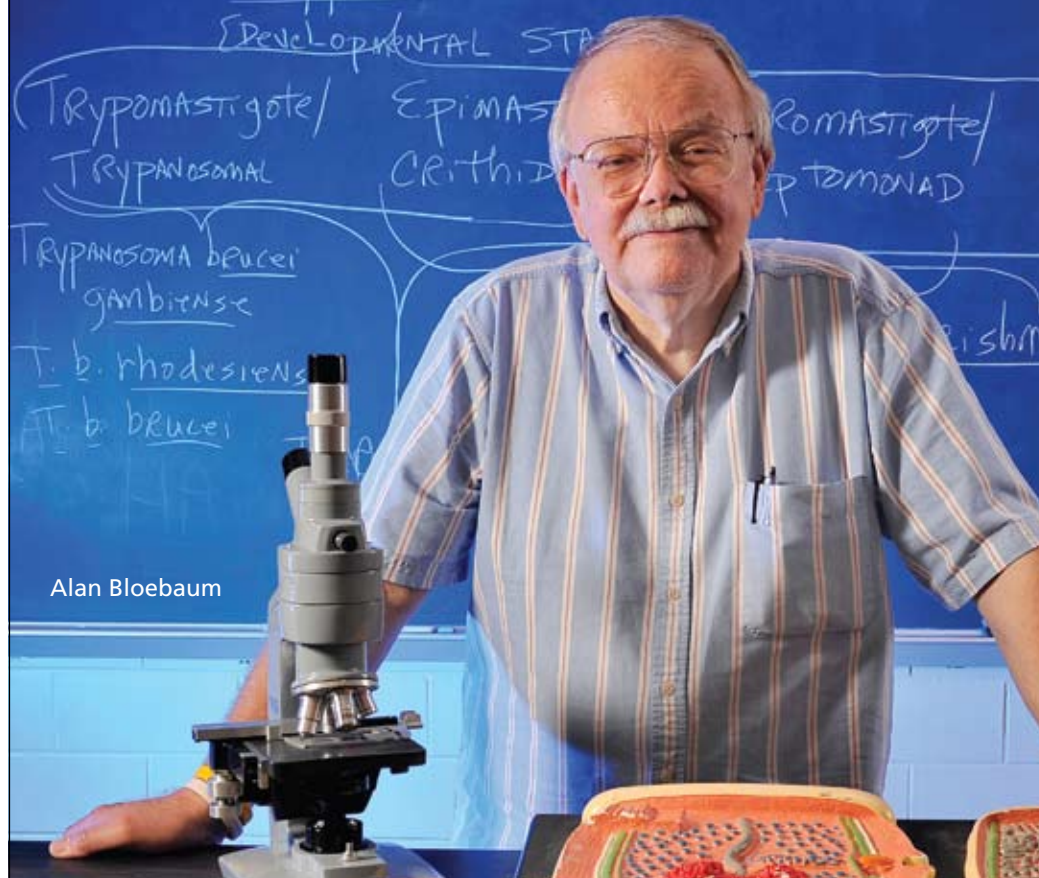


Photo by Danny Meyer

Though he rejected a medical career for himself, Dr. Alan Bloebaum shaped the health professions careers of hundreds of ASU students for almost four decades.

Originally from Austin, Bloebaum came to ASU in 1971 after getting his Ph.D. from New Mexico State University. Along the way, he was a pre-dental student at the University of Texas and even attended medical school for two years before finding his calling as a biology professor.

In 1972 he took over as chairman of the ASU Health Professions Advisory Committee (HPAC), a post he held until his retirement in 2007. Thus began his legacy of helping hundreds of students gain acceptance to professional schools in almost every component of medicine and health-related fields.

"It was something I had experience in that nobody else did," Bloebaum said. "Having recently been in medical school, I had a pretty good idea of what they were looking for and what kind of students they wanted. I was also good at writing, so writing health professions evaluations was something I liked doing."

It's a good thing he enjoyed it because he has written more than 570 evaluations, helping ASU consistently maintain one of

the state's highest acceptance rates to health professions schools during his tenure.

"Alan wrote the most thorough evaluations of students that medical schools would receive," said Dr. Ross Dawkins, ASU chemistry professor and fellow HPAC member. "He found it is best to describe students with their warts and all, not just as supermen. There have actually been students who transferred here from larger schools to take advantage of Alan's letters."

And, it is not just the folks at ASU that think highly of Bloebaum. When Harriet Lewis of the ASU physical therapy faculty goes on recruiting trips, she is constantly meeting other recruiters, counselors and health care professionals that compliment her colleague.

"Many times it was because of his relationship to the Joint Admissions Medical Program (JAMP) or other groups for allied health counselors," Lewis said. "They would all tell me about what a great guy he is, how much they enjoyed working with him and what a great job he has done bringing out the best in students. They are amazed at his ability to get ASU students accepted to professional, medical and other allied health programs all over the place."

But, it wasn't just about writing letters.

To the students in ASU's pre-health programs, Bloebaum was a teacher, mentor, adviser and friend, helping them through each phase of their undergraduate journeys and on to the next level.

Dr. Dale Brancel, a 1974 ASU graduate, is now a surgeon in Hurst. He actually met his wife in Bloebaum's advanced physiology class.

"I've had a lot of teachers all the way through high school, college, medical school and residency," Brancel said, "and I would have to say that Dr. Bloebaum is the best teacher I ever had, bar none."

"He was more of a friend and a confidant than just a teacher," said Gene Cobb, a 1975 ASU graduate and currently a macro-technologist in Big Spring. "He is definitely going to be missed. He is something else, definitely an icon."

Apparently, Bloebaum achieved that status in spite of his unique wardrobe.

"Alan dresses like a bum, almost," Dawkins said. "I think the most he dresses up is to put on his best pair of suspenders. But, he is obviously an incredibly bright and dedicated guy."

Responded Bloebaum, "I would also put pins on my suspenders and the students called it 'flair.' I didn't know it, but I guess

I had a lot of flair. But, that was just in the winter. In the summer my teaching attire was shorts and flip-flops."

Also adding to his students' wonderment was his habit of driving beat-up used cars that rarely cost more than \$300.

"I saw Dr. Bloebaum's car and I said 'that looks like it has leprosy,'" said Pamela Darby, a former student and current ASU nursing instructor. "It was horrible. So, toward the end of school I was taking up a collection because I thought even if I got just \$300, I was going to go buy him a used car and it would have looked better than the one he had."

"I don't know what model it was, but it was something from the '70s," said Dr. Travis Sinclair, now a radiologist at Temple's Scott and White Hospital. "It was about 30 feet long, this big old vehicle, and he never threw away his parking stickers, so he had about 40 of those on it. You always knew if he was in his office because you would see his car there with all the stickers on it."

However, when it came time to get serious about school, his students knew that Bloebaum could always be counted on to give them his best, even if it was to send them in a different direction than they originally planned. Such was the case for 1991 graduate Derek Smith, a chemistry professor at Howard Payne who actually changed his ASU major from pre-med based on Bloebaum's counsel.

"I changed over to chemistry and found a real passion for chemistry and experimentation," Smith said. "Because of his advice, I didn't spin my wheels in a program that would not have been very valuable to me. It is advice that I have carried with me for the last 19 years and have even shared it with students who wanted to go through a pre-med program."

In fact, Bloebaum was so dedicated to his students that he sometimes even dreamed about them.

"He said he had been dreaming about me for three nights," said Johnny Matthews, a San Angelo optometrist who graduated in 1974. "He said 'I know you have been looking to do something for your career, you have good math skills and you like biology, and I think you should go into optometry.' I told him about a booklet I had sent off for about health careers and that one I had selected was optometry. He said 'Good, maybe if you do this I can get some sleep.'"

Another example of Bloebaum's influence was how involved he became in students' lives outside the classroom. When local nurse Debbie Eubanks contracted a rare disease while at ASU and was taken to a distant critical care unit, she looked to Bloebaum for much-needed advice and comfort.

"I called Dr. Bloebaum several times and told him 'now they are saying this and I don't know what it means,'" Eubanks said. "He would explain it to me and he was very patient. I just felt that I could rely on him, trust him and he would tell me exactly what was going on."

Being a full-time professor, adviser, counselor and friend takes a great deal of time and energy and a major commitment to organization and time management. But many of Bloebaum's students never saw that side of his job.

"He loved to tell jokes," said Dr. Joel Dunnington, an associate professor of radiology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. "He had a file cabinet full of jokes on three-by-five cards, all of them labeled to specific topics for different courses. I think we should have a couple of them bronzed and hang them up someplace."

"I remember going into his office," said Dr. Kelly Wilson, in obstetrics/gynecology at Shannon Medical Center, "and it was like you were in a 1940's book store run by somebody a little obsessive-compulsive. There were books piled to the ceiling and stuff stuck all over the walls. I remember him sitting in that chair with all that mess around him, but he was organized at the same time. He knew where everything was, though it didn't seem possible that anybody would be able to."

With those and his many other memories in tow, Bloebaum now heads into retirement with one very definite plan for the future.



Bloebaum at his desk

"Long term, I'm not going to make any big decisions," he said. "Short term, my stock answer is 'I'm just not going to go to work.' I've had a lot of friends that bought new houses, moved off or worked at something like a greeter at Wal-Mart. There is nothing wrong with that, but if I wanted to keep working I would have stayed at ASU."

Bloebaum calls himself and his wife, Laura, "big collectors and pack rats," so you may run into them at a garage or junk sale or driving around in his Kia that is "a little newer." Their plans also include travel, possibly accompanied by one or both of their daughters, Gretchen and Heidi. They will also continue to attend every Rams home football game, continuing a streak that once reached 35 years straight without missing one.

Fittingly, Bloebaum was the first-ever recipient of the ASU Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award and in 1998 was named an Outstanding Centennial Alumnus by New Mexico State,

– continued on page 41

## Wonderful Careers

In addition to Dr. Alan Bloebaum, several other long-time professors have called it a career.

For a glimpse at three of them – [George Shankle](#) of chemistry and biochemistry, [Paul F. Love](#) of sociology and [Sandra S. Love](#) of psychology – visit the "Bonus Features" on the *ASU Magazine* Web site at

[www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine/](http://www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine/)



by Preston Lewis

a 30th anniversary retrospective

# GREAT EXPECTATIONS



Jerry Aldridge (47) and Mark Embry (7) in 1978 action.

**Simply put, their time had arrived.**

In a decade when winning the Lone Star Conference was tantamount to capturing the NAIA National Championship in football, the Angelo State University Rams entered the 1978 season as LSC favorites. Between 1969 and 1977, LSC teams had won eight of nine NAIA national titles in one of the most remarkable conference runs in intercollegiate football history and the Rams were hungry for theirs.

“If you made it through the LSC,” said Jim Hess, ASU’s coach from 1974-81, “you had a good chance to win a national title.”

The Rams lived up to expectations in 1978, winning the LSC when it was still composed exclusively of Texas universities and claiming the national title with the only perfect record in ASU football history.

The Rams did it on offense behind the running of halfback Jerry Aldridge, whose 1,483 rushing yards set a season record that still stands 30 years later, and the timely passing of quarterback Mark Embry, who had a pair of speedy receivers in Alvin Garrett and Johnnie Jackson.

On defense, the Rams ran a 4-3 setup with players who understood the scheme and backed it up with speed. Cornerback Wylie Turner, who was the fastest player in the NAIA by Hess’s recollection, headlined a secondary that possessed the skill and quickness to play man-to-man almost exclusively during the season.

With Hess at the helm, ASU’s coaches brought their own skills to the winning equation. Jerry Vandergriff and Harold Mayo were offensive co-coordinators. Vandergriff oversaw the record-breaking running attack, having recruited Aldridge out of Jacksonville. Mayo, in his first and only year as an ASU assistant coach, managed the passing game.

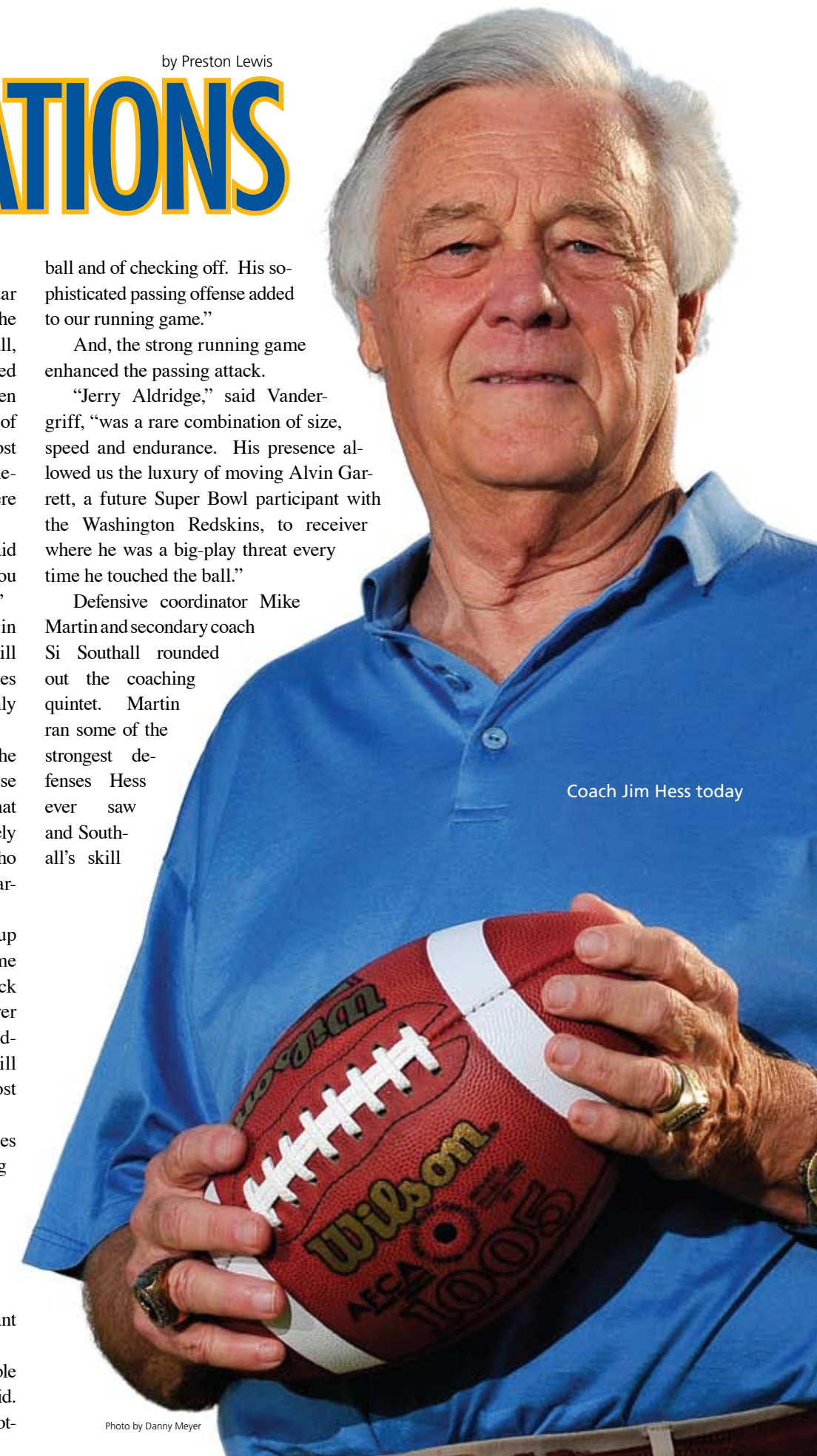
“Coach Mayo was more knowledgeable in pass offense than we were,” Hess said. “He had a good system of throwing the foot-

ball and of checking off. His sophisticated passing offense added to our running game.”

And, the strong running game enhanced the passing attack.

“Jerry Aldridge,” said Vandergriff, “was a rare combination of size, speed and endurance. His presence allowed us the luxury of moving Alvin Garrett, a future Super Bowl participant with the Washington Redskins, to receiver where he was a big-play threat every time he touched the ball.”

Defensive coordinator Mike Martin and secondary coach Si Southall rounded out the coaching quintet. Martin ran some of the strongest defenses Hess ever saw and Southall’s skill



Coach Jim Hess today

Photo by Danny Meyer



with the defensive backs created a secondary that made key plays at critical times throughout the season.

“We had a solid coaching staff,” Vandergriff said, “and Coach Hess provided exceptional leadership and knowledge of the game.”

“Martin, Vandergriff and Southall,” said Hess, “you’ve got to give those guys credit for recruiting, particularly Vandergriff, because it wouldn’t have been possible without the athletes.”

Even before the football championship, 1978 was a special year for ASU, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the college’s opening. The year also saw the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday for Mickey Mouse, the arrival of the computer game *Space Invaders* from Japan, the debut of *Dallas* and the continued popularity of *Happy Days* on television.

Entering the 1978 season, the Rams enjoyed happy days of their own, returning 21 of 22 starters along with the LSC’s No. 1 defense. The year before, the Rams had handed eventual national champion Abilene Christian College its only loss, 21-14, on a windblown day in Abilene. In retrospect, Hess believed the 1977 ACC game was

the confidence-builder the Rams needed to win the LSC in 1978.

So confident of a LSC crown was senior wide receiver Garrett that he convinced his lifelong friend and fellow receiver Johnnie Jackson, who had won All-America honors the year before at Ranger Junior College, to transfer to ASU for the 1978 season.

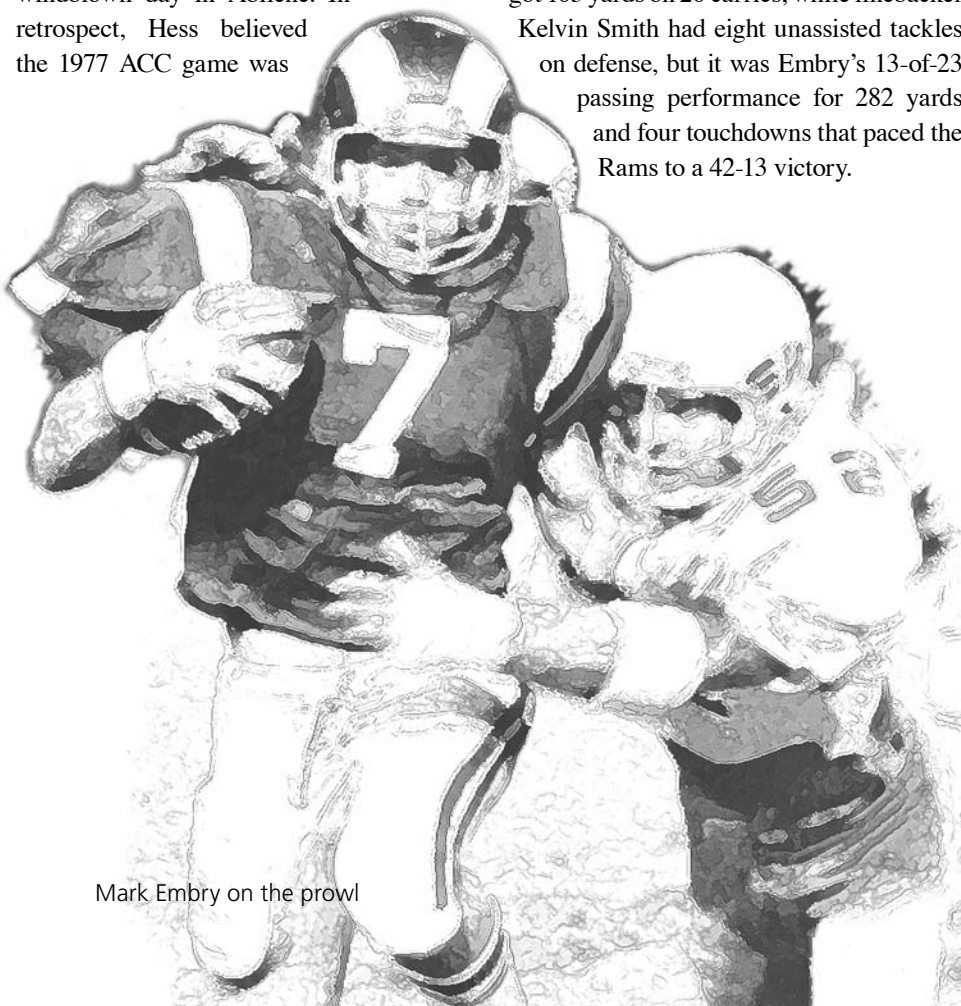
“We wouldn’t have won it without them,” said Hess, “but we had a lot of weapons on that team on both sides of the ball.”

Probably the biggest unsung hero of the season was fullback Arthur Gutierrez, whose blocks sprung Aldridge for many of his gains.

“Arthur would block until his helmet turned sideways and he was looking out of his ear hole,” Hess said.

Vandergriff agreed, “Arthur was an extremely tough individual who complemented a very good offensive line to create a very effective running game.”

The 1978 season began Sept. 9 with a home game against Central Oklahoma in front of 10,500 fans, believed to be the largest opening crowd in ASU history. Aldridge got 103 yards on 20 carries, while linebacker Kelvin Smith had eight unassisted tackles on defense, but it was Embry’s 13-of-23 passing performance for 282 yards and four touchdowns that paced the Rams to a 42-13 victory.



Mark Embry on the prowl

“Mark was a very good passer and an efficient runner,” Vandergriff said of the Rams field general. “His greatest assets, though, were his decision-making and his ability to manage a game.”

Next the Rams began a three-game road tour, starting in Blackwater Draw with a 40-0 laugh against Eastern New Mexico. The defense held the Greyhounds to 72 total yards, scored a touchdown when safety David Knowles blocked a punt and defensive end Darnell White recovered it in the end zone and set up three other touchdowns and a field goal for the offense. Following the game, ASU would be ranked No. 2 in the nation behind ACC.

At Sam Houston State the next weekend, ASU romped to a 42-13 win as Aldridge ran for 201 yards on 18 carries, including an 81-yard touchdown romp that was the third longest in ASU history at the time. Aldridge earned LSC Player of the Week honors for his effort. With ACC falling to Cameron, 17-13, the same day, ASU reached the No. 1 spot in the NAIA Division I Poll on Sept. 27 for the first time. The Rams would remain atop the rankings the remainder of the season.

“We had just been ranked No. 1,” Hess remembered, “and I had a tendency to be cocky when we were going pretty good.”

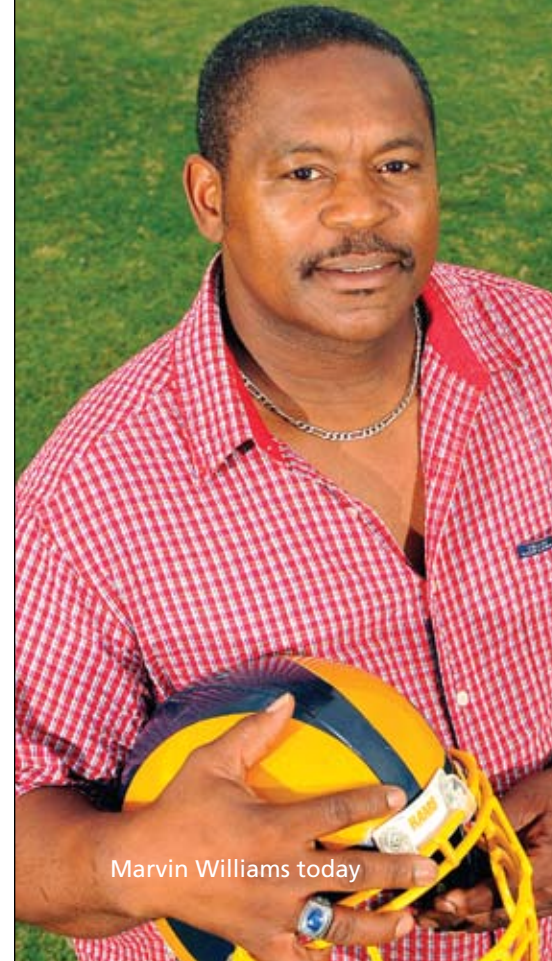
Hess lost some of his swagger in the next game at East Central Oklahoma, where the Rams trailed 7-0 entering the final quarter.

“We got into a hornet’s nest up there,” Hess remembered. “They didn’t have much offense but they had a great defense with Mark Gastineau, who went on to play for the Jets, and Cliff Thrift, who would play several seasons with the Chargers, both at linebacker.”

Quarterback Embry recalled Gastineau. “I don’t know how many times he hit me and we couldn’t get anything going,” Embry said. “We just gutted it out in the fourth quarter and had two drives for touchdowns. It was a character-building game for us.”

Key Ram player in the first half was freshman punter Steve Haynes, whose five punts for a 46-yard average kept the Tigers pinned in their own end of the field. With 11:21 left in the game, Embry capped an 85-yard, 15-play drive with a one-yard lunge into the end zone. The extra point by Vance Jenkins tied the score.

The Ram defense forced the Tigers to punt on their next possession and ASU



Marvin Williams today

Photo by Danny Meyer

started at its own 38-yard line with 8:33 left in the game. A long, methodical march that included a critical 10-yard pass to Garrett, ended with a two-yard dive over the goal line by Aldridge. The Tigers took the ensuing kickoff at their own 37 and in three plays had the ball on the Ram 11 when their quarterback fumbled the snap and defensive back Knowles recovered. The key event in the game may have occurred between halves, however.

“I think one of East Central’s fans hit a referee at half,” Hess recalled, “and that helped.”

Back home before 9,000 fans in San Angelo Stadium for their LSC opener against Stephen F. Austin, the Rams were tied 3-3 going into the final quarter before a defensive fumble recovery led to a game-winning field goal. Gutierrez added a one-yard touchdown plunge for insurance and defensive end Darnell White trapped the SFA quarterback in the end zone for a safety. The 15-3 win set up the 5-0 Rams for a showdown with 3-1 defending champion ACC.

A record crowd of 16,000 fans saw the No. 1 Rams against the No. 3 Wildcats, whose hot-shot quarterback gave defensive

secondary coach Southall nightmares of a potential 450-yard game. However, a solid line rush and stellar play by the corners and safeties helped the Rams hold ACC scoreless until the final quarter. Aldridge ran for 151 yards on 32 carries and two touchdowns, but the player of the game was defensive end Marvin Williams, whose seven unassisted tackles, including three quarterback sacks for 29 yards in losses, would earn him LSC Defensive Player of the Week Honors in the 33-8 win.

“Without everyone doing his job,” Williams recalled 30 years later, “I wouldn’t have been able to get the sacks. It was just a unity deal. We played as a team and I take no credit personally for any of my accomplishments in that game.”

Hess’s assessment of that game: “Any time you beat Abilene Christian, it was a good game.”

By this time in the season, Aldridge’s streak of nine consecutive 100-yard games attracted to Ram practices NFL scouts who were finding more players with pro football potential than just the stellar running back. In fact, of the 12 players in ASU history who have gone on to play in the NFL, four of them were a part of the 1978 team: Aldridge, Garrett, Turner and freshman Clayton Weishuhn.

On the road against LSC foe Howard Payne, Aldridge managed 147 yards rushing and the Rams got a 38-22 win, but it was a rough game, described by quarterback Embry as “pretty bad in the trenches” and cost the Rams senior defensive tackle Harold Stephens, who sustained a torn ligament in his left knee.

The win set up a Homecoming showdown against perennial power Texas A&I, which had won five national titles since 1969. A&I brought the LSC’s leading offense at 408.9 yards per game to face the conference’s top defense at 198.4 yards per game. In honor of the visiting Javelinas, Homecoming activities included a greased pig contest for students. The game crowd set a new attendance record of 16,500 nervous fans.

Though the Rams never trailed, they never pulled away either. They took a 6-0 lead into halftime, thanks to two Jenkins field goals. On the first possession of the second half, Aldridge capped a 78-yard drive with a two-yard dive into the end

zone, then Embry hit Jackson, who tallied 104 receiving yards for the game, for the two-point conversion.

A&I answered with a 46-yard scoring pass and point after, then ASU responded with a 26-yard Embry-to-Garrett touchdown, capping an 80-yard drive. A&I would score the final two touchdowns on a one-yard run and a subsequent pass, but would miss two-point conversions after each TD.

The game was not secure until just over a minute remained and the Ram defense stopped the Javelinas on fourth and one at the ASU 41. For cornerback Mike Millegan, it was the best of games and the worst of games. He was beaten for two touchdowns, but had two interceptions, including one in the end zone, and used a jarring tackle on the final A&I two-point conversion attempt to preserve the ASU lead.

“When you’ve beaten A&I,” Hess said at the time of his first victory over the Javelinas, “you’ve beaten the best.”

Defensive coordinator Martin, who believed it was the toughest game of the season, said “They had been the team to beat for 10 years.”

The final three regular season games were breezes. Against the 5-1 Southwest Texas State Bobcats, ranked No. 4 nationally, the Rams won not only the game, 29-6, but also a share of their first LSC title. Aldridge ran for 150 yards, Embry passed for 184 and freshman Weishuhn intercepted a pass and returned it 14 yards for a touchdown. Two years later against the same Bobcats, Weishuhn would have what Hess called the “greatest individual performance I ever saw” with 37 tackles in an 18-15 loss to SWTS.

In a repeat game, which counted in the conference standings, against Sam Houston State, the 44-17 victory earned ASU its first outright LSC championship. Coach Hess was carried off the field and Embry was named LSC Player of the Week for his 13-of-24 performance for 251 yards and two touchdowns.

The regular season ended in Commerce with a 35-14 victory over East Texas State, which had won the NAIA title in 1972. Embry finished with season records for passing yards, 1,747, and TD passes, 15. Aldridge ended with 1,483 yards on the season. The total would have reached almost 2,000 yards had his ensuing post season rushing yards been added in.





Courtesy of the West Texas Collection  
Coach Jim Hess is congratulated by ASU President Lloyd D. Vincent.

The Rams earned homefield advantage in the NAIA's eight-team Division I playoffs to the chagrin of one player.

Defensive end Williams said 30 years after the fact, "I was a little disappointed. I'd lived here in San Angelo all my life and I wanted to go some places, see some other colleges and see some of the world."

To the student cheers of "We're No. 1" and "Rammit," a season low home crowd of 6,432 watched ASU cruise to a 32-0 win over 8-1 Oregon College. *San Angelo Standard-Times* sports editor Jack Cowan wrote, "I think I saw 6,432 people yawn in unison Saturday at San Angelo Stadium." Gasps rather than yawns accompanied quarterback Embry as he left the game in the fourth quarter due to a knee injury. Garrett earned offensive Most Valuable Player honors with four receptions for 109 yards and a touchdown. Defensive lineman White was the defensive MVP.

In the second round of the playoffs against the 10-0 Western State Colorado Mountaineers, ASU faced the nation's No. 2 team and No. 1 offense at 489.1 yards per game. ASU won handily, 35-3. Wearing a knee brace flown in from Indiana on the Wednesday previous, Embry completed just nine of 21 passes, but one was a 65-yard touchdown to Garrett and another was a 14-yard strike to Jackson. Fullback Gutierrez was the offensive MVP with 20 carries for 111 yards and a touchdown. Martin's defense held the nation's top offense to 162 total yards. Cor-

nerback Turner had three interceptions and earned defensive MVP honors.

"We played a super game," Hess said at the time.

The victory set up a championship game against the 11-1-1 Fighting Christians of Elon College in North Carolina. The game, to be played in the City of Palms Bowl in McAllen, marked the first time since Biblical days that Rams were favored to sacrifice Christians. Despite a flood of trick plays that Elon unleashed before 8,443 spectators, the Rams moved out to a 21-0 lead, let the Christians gain hope with two unanswered touchdowns, then went on to put the game out of reach 34-14.

By the fourth quarter the Elon coach had sent a note via the officials to Hess, in effect conceding the game by asking him to "call off the dogs" and pull his first-team players. The Rams coasted to the national title, setting a NAIA championship record for most offensive plays with 96.

Embry was the offensive MVP after completing 19 of 36 for 197 yards and a touchdown each to Garrett and tight end Eldredge Beverly. Aldridge ran for 119 yards and two TDs on 29 carries, marking his 17<sup>th</sup> straight 100-yard-plus rushing performance. Linebacker Smith earned defensive MVP honors.

"What makes this win even better," said Hess after the game, "is the fact that we were picked to win it all before the season and we performed well under that pressure."

The Rams ended the season with a run of 16 consecutive wins stretching back to the final two games of the 1977 season. Only NCAA No. 1 Penn State with 20 had more consecutive wins than ASU.

Post-season honors came in bunches for the Rams. Linebacker Kelvin Smith was the only Texan chosen to the Kodak College Division I All-America squad. Aldridge was named to the Associated Press's College Division All-America team and seven other players received honorable mention recognition: Smith, guard Robert Nealy, tackle Ken Crouch, defensive end Williams, cornerback Turner, weak safety David Knowles and strong safety John Nunley.

"The first thing that comes to my mind and my heart," said Williams in retrospect, "was the chemistry of the team that year and I mean 'team' as in teamwork. I'd never been on a team with that magnitude of chemistry."

As Vandergriff recalled, "We did not have any glaring weaknesses and featured some exceptional talent and leadership in all phases of the game. And, we were able to stay relatively free of major injuries."

Looking back at the title after three decades, Embry, who has lived throughout the United States and in New Zealand, said, "It's one of those things that can never be taken away. I have often thought back on that year with a lot of pride and satisfaction."

Williams, who has remained in San Angelo since his final year at ASU, stated it simply, "I can say that I was part of something that was perfect." ■

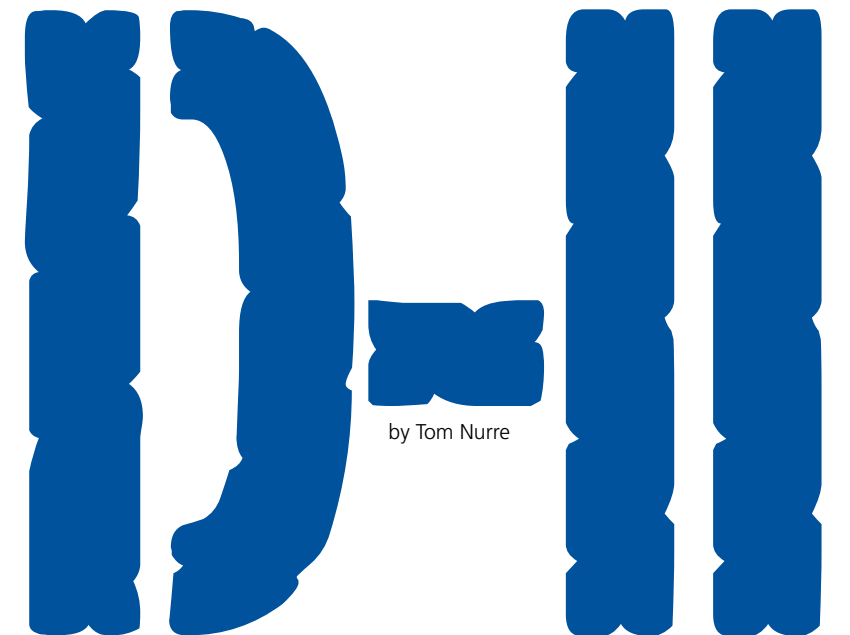
### Return of the Champions

Members and coaches of Angelo State University's 1978 National Championship football team will be honored during 2008 Homecoming activities to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their accomplishment.

Scheduled events Oct. 17-18 for the teammates include a reception at the home of ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, recognition at the ASU football game and a postgame mixer for attendees and their families. Members of the 1978 team needing more information should contact Jerry Vandergriff at (325) 651-7147 or [thevandergriffs@verizon.net](mailto:thevandergriffs@verizon.net).



Trey Mays



by Tom Nurre

## Second to None

Sometimes numbers do lie, or at least shroud perception.

Such is the case with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) system that designates member schools' athletics programs as either Division I, Division II or Division III.

"I think it is unfortunate that the numbers seem to signify to some people that two is lesser and three is even lesser," said ASU Athletic Director Kathleen Brasfield. "It does not necessarily deal with the size of the school. An attractive thing about Division II is that it is still a very competitive division with a lot of opportunities."

A common misperception is that the numbers do indicate the sizes of the schools and the skill levels of their athletes.

"I think it has more to do with your philosophy and where you want to be," Brasfield said. "Not just as a student-athlete, but as an institution."

In many cases, a Division II school, such as ASU, may be a better fit for a student athlete. While D-I athletics dominate college sports in the national spotlight, D-II programs offer their own set of advantages to their athletes.

"Division I athletics is a business," Brasfield said. "Division II athletics is truly amateur sports at its best because athletes are competing, trying to make good grades and have in mind what they want to do after graduation. To me, what is most attractive about a Division II athletic program is it is affordable for an institution, it is good for a student-athlete in terms of being well-rounded, and it is a good opportunity to compete at the highest levels and still have other priorities."

"Division II schools typically graduate athletes at a higher rate than the general student-athlete population and typically emphasize academics over athletics," she added. "We try to give kids the opportunity to come in and not just grow as competitors, but grow as people, too."

These are qualities that the NCAA is now promoting with its "I Chose Division II" campaign. ASU coaches work daily with the D-II advantages, though they vary by sport.

— continued





Ian Ritchey



Brian Dickey

### On the Field

Division I football is the king of college sports. However, not every D-I football team is a Texas, Michigan, Florida State or USC. While it is the dream of most young footballers to play on ESPN every Saturday and then go pro, there are only so many slots each year for recruits and many good players fall through the cracks.

“There have been plenty of guys that have gone Division II that could have played for plenty of Division I schools, had they been given the chance,” said Dale Carr, ASU head football coach. “Those are the guys that we look high and low for. We don’t go in and tell these high school coaches that we only want to look at the Division II caliber players. We recruit a lot of kids that are talented enough, but have not received offers from Division I schools.”

One such player is junior Rams line-backer Ian Ritchey, a four-sport star at Boyd High School. Though he did receive limited interest from some Division I programs, it was tempered by the fact that he played at such a small high school.

“The myth out there is that Division II is a lower level for players that can’t make it in Division I,” Ritchey said. “But, I don’t think that is true at all. The level of play, especially in the Lone Star Conference, is so high. You’re not playing against nobodies out there. They can really play.”

Once players arrive at a D-II program, they quickly begin to see benefits both on and off the field and realize that not being signed by a D-I team may have been a blessing in disguise.

“I’m really competitive and when I stepped on campus my goal was to get on the field as soon as I could,” said Ian’s brother Brian Dickey, a junior offensive lineman from Boyd. “Here, I was able to start in my redshirt sophomore season as opposed to if I had gone to a D-I program. More than

likely I would not have gotten to play until I was a junior or even a senior.”

Off the field, Division II football programs also lack many of the negative influences often found in Division I.

“A lot of times, big money calls the shots,” Carr said. “I’ve seen lots of good coaches get fired for bad reasons because of powerful donors that didn’t like them. I see coaches, athletic directors and even presidents make decisions that are bending to those pressures and they are not necessarily the more ethical decisions.”

“It is also much more impersonal,” he added. “Coaches don’t have the relationships with their players that we do because they are so covered up with other duties outside the classroom and outside the locker room.”

The major women’s field sport at many schools is soccer. D-II soccer coaches also run into the stereotype that the best players should only go Division I, mainly from the coaches of elite club teams that are the prime targets of recruiters from all levels.

“I just recruit good players and good people,” said Travis McCorkle, new ASU head soccer coach. “It doesn’t matter to me when other coaches say, ‘Oh, that girl is D-I caliber.’ You never know when a university like ASU is a perfect fit for all their interests.”

With no women’s professional soccer league in the U.S. anymore, even the top players often have other priorities that work to the advantage of D-II programs. Junior fullback Kristen Boister is a case in point, choosing ASU over D-I schools Louisiana Tech, Sam Houston State and Stephen F. Austin.

“I wasn’t expecting to like it, but I really liked the other girls a lot,” Boister said. “Also, Dr. Gil Engdahl, my ag adviser, told me that he would help me get into vet school. That is a major goal of mine and what I want to do after college. I also like the small class sizes. I just fell in love with the place.”

“In Division II,” McCorkle said, “a player has a life that includes soccer, but it doesn’t dominate their entire existence. Division II is about balance. We create an environment where student-athletes of diverse interests can succeed on the field and in the classroom.”



Kristen Boister

Photo by Danny Meyer

One hurdle somewhat unique to soccer is that some of the players involved in national and even regional programs are signing with D-I programs as early as their sophomore years in high school, putting them out of reach for smaller schools. Even so, top players are still available, including those early signers’ club teammates, who can often be recruited to successful D-II programs.

### On the Court

Women’s volleyball is another sport offering few, if any, real prospects for a pro career after graduation. But, ego can still influence where a player considers going to college.

“My response is that I only recruit D-I players,” said ASU head coach Chuck Waddington. “In order to compete on the national level, we need to recruit kids that could play for a lot of these mid-major Division I programs. The best D-II programs are filled with players that were considering D-I schools.”

Sometimes, it is the competitive nature inherent in top athletes that trumps their egos and actually pushes them toward Division II programs.

“There are a lot of players that go Division II for the same reason I did, just so they can get more playing time,” said Belles junior Alaina Sivells. “But, I still feel like we play at a very high level of competition.”

Another point in Waddington’s favor is that except for the top Division I programs, the chances for team honors beyond a conference title and individual honors are often hard to come by.

“At the D-II level, those same players can compete not only for conference titles, but also for NCAA regional and national titles as well as earn All-America status,” Waddington said. “I have a pretty good model in my mind of what a D-II All-American is, so I try to pursue those types of kids.”

Also, much like women’s soccer players, netters often have other priorities that rank just as high as athletics, if not higher.

“I think D-II schools offer great programs academically as well as athletically,” said senior setter Tess Brindock. “I feel like I’m getting a great education. Here, classes are on a more personal level and I get to interact with my professors. It really works for me and my personal learning preferences.”

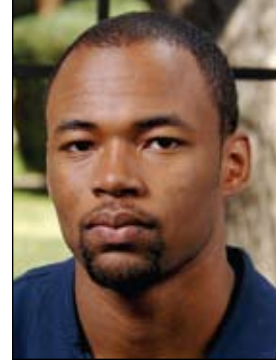
Often sharing the same courts with volleyball players are men’s and women’s basketball teams. Division II men’s basketball has become so competitive that ASU head coach Fred Rike has to shoot for top-level recruits.



Alaina Sivells



Tess Brindock



Trey Mays

“To win in our conference, we are almost to the point where we have to have a couple of guys on our team that are capable of playing at the professional level,” Rike said. “It may not be the NBA, but in Europe or some other minor league. I need that type of player and I don’t think the average fan understands that.”

Rams sophomore guard Trey Mays had Division I options in three sports but chose to walk on at ASU to escape “big school politics” and get a fresh start.

“I play against a lot of players that I think should be in a D-I program,” Mays said. “I also play against a lot of D-I athletes in summer basketball and our skill level is just as high as theirs.”

Added Rike, “I would put the top three or four teams in our division up against any of the schools in the Southland Conference, which is Division I.”

On the women’s side the competition is much the same.

“There are players in our conference that could be D-I players and teams that play D-I schools,” said sophomore guard Camille Perkins. “As far as the level of competition goes, I think it is up there.”

So does Belles head coach Sally Brooks.

“We have a legitimate chance of playing for a national championship,” said Brooks.

– continued



Camille Perkins

Photo by Danny Meyer





Macy Baker

Thomas Veal

### On the Diamond

In softball, unless players are being courted by upper echelon Division I teams, a successful Division II program can often be their most attractive option.

“They know they are probably not going to make money in athletics,” said ASU head coach Travis Scott. “So, they are looking for somewhere they can get a good education, be successful in softball, can play for a coach they enjoy playing for and, when they get their degree, have a chance to use that degree or further that degree.”

Senior shortstop Macy Baker opted for ASU over Oklahoma.

“For softball, there is not a major difference between D-I and D-II except maybe a little bit with pitching,” she said. “You still see big hitters, so as far as a difference between the two levels, there is not much.”

Conversely, many Division II baseball programs are fighting losing battles against the “Division I mentality.”

“The ones that are on TV, those are real Division I programs, but most of them are not that,” said ASU head coach Kevin Brooks. “Many are in a lot worse situation than we are here, financially, facilities, all that stuff. That is the point you try to make to recruits, but unfortunately, it is tough to get through their heads.”

But, not all the good ones get away. Senior outfielder Brian Rasberry transferred to ASU after two standout seasons in junior college.

“It’s every kids dream to go play Division I baseball, but I think it is more for the prestige,” Rasberry said. “I don’t think I’m a worse player because I’m in Division II. Every day I’m trying to get better and trying to compete. It’s not a joke, it’s something we go out and try to work hard at and I’m proud of it.”

### On the Track

Timers and measuring tapes do not lie. Track and field and cross country athletes know how good they are, regardless of what school they attend. Often, they are also the only athletes from D-II schools that get to compete head-to-head with Division I opponents.

“If you run 10.2 in the hundred-meter dash, that is your time and it doesn’t matter if you are in high school, junior college, Division III, Division II or Division I,” said ASU

head coach James Reid. “When our recruits look at our meet schedule and see that we are going to the Texas Relays, the Michael Johnson Classic and to UT-Austin and are competing and doing well against D-I schools, it helps in the recruiting process.”

Senior distance runner Thomas Veal chose ASU over Texas Tech and Rice.

“I think a lot of people choose D-I just because of the label,” Veal said. “But, we are not out of place when we go to D-I meets and the level of competition is getting better and better every year in Division II.”

Division II track programs can also offer “late bloomers” a chance to work toward their full potential.

“They can come here, be competitive and eventually get some scholarship money if they develop to that point,” Reid said. “I can go down a long list of kids who walked into my office, who we had never seen before, and who walked out of here not only with a diploma, but with All-America honors as well.”

### I Chose Division II

Emphasis on academics and getting a degree, the chance to compete immediately, more opportunities for team and personal awards, and the ability to live a complete college lifestyle while still competing at a high level are all advantages offered by Division II athletic programs.

As NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand says in the organization’s public service announcement, “The Division II student athlete experience emphasizes academic and athletic excellence. Learning, service, passion, sportsmanship, resourcefulness and balance, these are the attributes of student athletes, coaches, administrators, alumni and fans who say with pride ‘I chose Division II.’” ■

### Advantage ASU

Check out what Ram and Rambelle athletes and coaches think about the ASU advantage as a D-II competitor by visiting the “Bonus Features” on the ASU Magazine Web site at

[www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine/](http://www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine/)

# the Games Students Play

by Roy Ivey

Recreational activities at Angelo State University may be all fun and games, but they are a long way from your momma’s and your daddy’s intramurals.

They are serious business, not just on the field or court but also in the larger realm of university life and success. Today’s university students have many more choices than their parents did for leisure time, so a strong intramural and recreation program is a necessity to offer them multiple opportunities for participation.

A strong program is also mandatory for the university to not only attract prospects but also to retain current students. The quality of recreational activities and facilities are among key recruiting points when prospective students come to campus to look around, according to University Recreation Director Bradley Petty.

“Recreational facilities are the first place prospective students stop or the last place,” Petty said. “Six other universities I’ve visited recently all have new rec centers. That’s the cornerstone of campus life.”

As a result of strategic necessity and student wishes, ASU is moving toward a recreational cornerstone of its own with plans for a new \$7 million, 12,000-square-foot recreation center north of the Center for Human Performance along the Mall. ASU students so desired a new rec center that in 2007 they voted for a fee of up to \$100 per long semester to help pay for one. The fee is currently \$32 and will increase as new facilities go online, Petty said.

Executive Director of Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions Fred Dietz said, “The opportunity for students to participate in intramurals at the collegiate level is extremely important to admissions. Intramural sports and activities provide a great outlet for students and offer them a sense of belonging to the university. Additionally, many students want to continue participating in sports at the college level, but are unable to compete at the Division II level, so a vibrant intramurals program is a great resource.”

“The new recreation center will be a wonderful outlet for students,” said Dietz.

“From working out to rock climbing, the new recreation center will provide students with a host of opportunities and the university with another strong selling point to prospective students.”

The timing is perfect for ASU to broaden the student opportunities in an already burgeoning University Recreation and Intramurals (UREC) program. UREC registered 2,890 students in 2007, more than triple the 830 students who signed up with the Department of Intramurals in 2000, Petty said. The department’s name was changed in 2003 to reflect recreational activities’ evolution on campus to meet the needs of today’s students.

The staples of the UREC program are team sports, including softball, flag football, volleyball, soccer and basketball. During the 2007-08 academic year, 623 teams participated in the five sports. The favorite sport among students is softball, which fielded 178 teams, Petty said.

Other sports in the program include track and field in the fall and table tennis, badminton, kickball, racquetball, tennis, sand volleyball and golf in both the fall and spring.

Participation today is a far cry from what it was in January 2000, when Petty arrived to find 155 teams in the five major sports. Volleyball was most popular with 43 teams.

Petty followed Larry “Jelly” Rowe, the first full-time intramurals director.

“At that time, it was just Jelly,” Petty said. “Jelly ran intramurals and facilities from the Kinesiology Department. He borrowed kinesiology secretary Ginger Bright to help him.”

Rowe, now retired and living in San Angelo, recalled “Before I got here, intramurals were assigned to coaches. I took over in September 1984 and went to 19 sports the first year, then to 26 the second year. We added different things such as bowling, golf and badminton.

“We gave away T-shirts to winning teams,” Rowe said. “I got with the Alumni Association and they paid for first- and second-place awards, T-shirts and baseball caps. That first year, we also had the Odd-



Brian Rasberry

Photo by Danny Meyer



Intramural softball action



ball Olympics. We included swimming, and we had participants run through an obstacle course. We also used inner tubes to roll around the course.”

Rowe said he generated interest by emulating the Olympic Games with an opening ceremony that featured a student dressed in a toga. The student wore a laurel wreath on his head and held a traffic caution blinker as a faux Olympic flame.

“Teams could pick their own names, such as countries you never heard of,” Rowe said. “That went on for years, but finally kind of died out.”

“I did it for 16 years,” said Rowe, who took the post after retiring from the Air Force and earning a kinesiology degree from ASU. “I never looked back and enjoyed every minute of it. The kids were just fantastic.”

With an explosion of interest in 2003 came a push for more participation.

“We set up tables around the Mall,” Petty said. “That was our first marketing effort. We let students sign up for intramurals right at those tables. Every year since then, participation has about doubled.”

Some of the increased participation resulted from the addition of aerobics classes and club sports.

“Club sports were considered student organizations,” Petty said. “Then the dean of students said we needed to provide additional support for those clubs that competed and traveled elsewhere.”

Club sports today include rugby, in-line hockey, ultimate Frisbee, racquetball, golf and paintball.

UREC’s staff grew with demand. An assistant director and secretary were added and staffing has increased to the current level of 20 work-study students, 15 auxiliary students and 100 student referees.

Another factor in the increase can be traced to the intramural fields, built on the east side of campus in 2003.

“When we got the intramural fields, we got lights,” Petty said. “Before that, we had to limit play to daylight hours. Now, we can play later in the evening – from 6 p.m. to midnight. It makes a lot of difference.”

Teams also play a Sunday schedule of 2-10 p.m.

“Sunday was just for overflow when I first got here,” Petty said. “Now we use the fields all the time.”

The program’s schedule was not always so busy. There were fewer facilities and students participating in the early days of intramurals at ASU.

Dr. Jewell Pye and former ASU football coach Max Bumgardner kick-started intramurals in the 1960s. ASU alumna Shirley Morton, who coordinates special activities at ASU, was a student when the foundation of today’s recreation program was laid. She participated in some of the first organized recreational sports on campus.

Morton said Pye, a physical education professor, started the Women’s Recreation Association in 1963 and organized a basketball league.

“The women’s teams went by colors – blue, gold and white,” Morton said. “It was mostly girls from the small schools who played sports in high school. The girls from the big schools didn’t play sports.”

Morton said the teams played in the “Cow Palace,” the old basketball gym that was located behind the Mayer Administration Building until its demolition in 1972.

Retired ASU dean Paul Horne, who had been a coach at ASU before moving into administration, said the early intramurals were mostly student-driven.

“It grew on its own out of the ground,” Horne said. “Students were very heavily involved in determining what was happening with intramurals. It kind of evolved from people wanting to be energetic, getting out and doing things.” ■

## Extramurals

These days ASU intramural teams are participating against intramural

squads from other universities

nationally. Check out these

extramural activities in the

“Bonus Features” on the

ASU Magazine Web site at

[www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine/](http://www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine/)

## Alumni Association Award Criteria

### Distinguished Alumnus

An alumnus previously enrolled at SAC, ASC or ASU and a former student for at least 10 years and recognized by the Alumni Association for outstanding achievement in his/her business, profession, lifework or worthy endeavor.

### 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.

### Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumnus

An alumnus who attended ASU on a Carr Scholarship and recognized by the Alumni Association for career and/or community service and leadership.

### Distinguished ROTC Alumnus

An alumnus who attended ASU as part of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 847 and recognized by the Alumni Association for significant impact in his/her career or lifework.

### Golden Ex of the Year

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.

### 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.

### Distinguished Faculty Achievement

A current ASU faculty member selected from each ASU College by the Alumni Association for his/her profound effect on the lives and careers of ASU students.

## Distinguished Alumnus Field General

When **Jerry Vandergriff**, an undersized quarterback recruit from Tulia, first stepped off the bus in San Angelo, he remembers a feeling that continues to this day.

“For some reason,” Vandergriff recalled, “I knew I was ‘home.’”

San Angelo became his home first as a San Angelo College (SAC) player and later as an Angelo State assistant coach, head coach and men’s athletic director. Along the way, he made ASU the athletic and academic home for a generation of football players.

By the time he stepped down as coach and men’s athletic director in 2004, Vandergriff had become the winningest football coach in ASU history and an influential – and respected – voice in NCAA football.

For all his personal accomplishments, however, Vandergriff is proudest of his association with the athletes who wore the Blue and Gold.

“I am a person who took very seriously the trust bestowed on me as parents placed their sons in our care during a very critical phase of their lives,” Vandergriff said. “Not many of us are blessed with the opportunity to be a part of the lives of so many young people.

“It is hard to put into words how proud I am of the great young people who came through our program and are out making such a positive impact in their communities,” he continued. “I hope I had a positive impact on their lives as I know they had a positive impact on mine.”

For his many professional successes as well as for his impact on so many young lives, Vandergriff has been named the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus by the ASU Alumni Association.

As quarterback, Vandergriff in 1960 guided the Rams to a Hospitality Bowl berth in what turned out to be SAC’s last football season as the institution temporarily dropped the sport prior to becoming a four-year institution.

Vandergriff then played at Henderson County Junior College before transferring to the University of Corpus Christi where he earned All-Texas and Little All-American honors, the student body presidency and his bachelor’s degree. He would later receive a master’s degree from Texas Tech.

He coached seven years in the high school ranks before being hired by Grant Teaff as an ASU assistant coach in 1971. He served 11 years as an assistant under Teaff, James Cameron and Jim Hess. He was offensive coordinator for 10 of those years, including 1978 when he was co-offensive coordinator for the team that won the NAIA National Championship.

Named ASU head coach in 1982, Vandergriff compiled a 143-101-2 record, including 18 straight winning seasons. He guided the Rams to the NCAA Division II semifinals in 1989 and the quarterfinals in 1987 and 1997 as well as two Lone Star Conference titles and three division titles.

During his tenure as head coach, ASU produced 39 All-Americans. He also led ASU to the winningest record among all Texas universities competing in football during the 1980s.

On the national level, he served on the NCAA’s Recruiting Committee, Football Rules Committee, D-II Football Committee and D-II Legislative Committee. He is a director of the Angelo Football Clinic, which attracts top coaches from throughout the nation to San Angelo each summer, and a director for the Cactus Bowl, the national NCAA D-II Football All-Star game.

In 2005 he was recognized by the All-American Football Foundation for career accomplishments and in 2006 was selected to the LSC’s 75th Anniversary Team.

Vandergriff and his wife, Rose Ann, have a son, Bo, and daughter-in-law, Nicky. ■



Jerry Vandergriff





Drew Darby

By the end of his first term in the Texas Legislature, **Drew Darby** found his elected colleagues referring to him as “Representative Moses.”

While he did not part the Red Sea or even the Concho River, Rep. Darby did separate Angelo State University from the Texas State University System by introducing the legislation that made ASU a member of the Texas Tech University System last year.

Speaking before the House Committee on Higher Education in favor of HB 3564, Darby recalled Charlton Heston’s cinematic Moses and said, “Let my people go.” Then, with a West Texas flourish, he added “Pretty please.”

Darby, though, did not succeed just on his verbal skills and his West Texas sense of humor. He thrived on hard work, personally meeting with every member of the Texas House and asking each to support the legislation. In the end, his House colleagues found his plea pleasing and showed their support with an overwhelming 137-4 vote of approval.

“Realignment,” said Darby, “was a victory by the citizens of West Texas who got involved and made their voices heard in a way no one in Austin could ignore.”

Neither should Darby’s actions be ignored. For his pivotal role in shaping ASU’s future and for his model performance as a freshman legislator from House District 72, Darby has been designated a 2008 Honorary Alumnus by the ASU Alumni Association.

“In the future,” Darby said of ASU’s affiliation with Texas Tech, “I see vigorous growth and the creation of new opportunities and programs. Some are in planning stages now, some have not even been conceived of yet. The synergies are just tremendous. New opportunities reveal themselves almost daily. This is as clear cut a win-win

as you could hope to experience for Angelo State and San Angelo, for Texas Tech and Lubbock, for all of West Texas.”

A native of San Angelo and graduate of Central High School, Darby attended the University of Texas on a football scholarship. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in finance and a minor in accounting. Darby went on to attend the UT School of Law where he received his Doctorate of Jurisprudence.

After completing his formal education, Darby returned to San Angelo and started his own law office, W. Drew Darby and Associates Law Firm. In addition to his legal career, Darby also serves as president of two San Angelo land title insurance companies, serving 12 West Texas counties.

In 2007 Darby was first elected to represent District 72 in the Texas House of Representatives during the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session. His legislative acumen was recognized early on when he received a rare freshman appointment from House Speaker Tom Craddick to serve on the House Appropriations Committee.

Additionally, the speaker appointed him to the Business and Industry Committee and the House Administration Committee. This past April, Speaker Craddick named Darby to the Select Committee on Property Tax Relief and Appraisal Reform, which will oversee all matters relating to property tax relief and reforming the property appraisal system in Texas.

Rep. Darby and his wife, Clarisa, have five children: Derek, an attorney with Shanks Darby, and his wife, Crystin, are proud parents of son Davis; Devon is catering director for ExxonMobil; Taylor is a sophomore at the University of Texas at Austin; and twins Ashley and Regan are freshmen at UT. ■

State Sen. **Robert Duncan** was the right man in the right place at the right time for Angelo State University in 2007.

As a highly respected senator from West Texas and Senate District 28, Duncan played a key role in transferring Angelo State University to the Texas Tech University System (TTUS), effective last September.

It helped that Duncan was a member of the important Senate Finance Committee and that both Texas Tech and Angelo State are headquartered in his sprawling 46-county district, which encompasses 19 percent of the state’s 254 counties and extends from the Texas Panhandle and the Red River to Tom Green County and the Concho River.

Though Duncan played a major role in the successful legislation, he is quick to share credit for the realignment.

“The support given to this legislation from alumni of Angelo State and Texas Tech, as well as the citizens of Lubbock and San Angelo, was the only reason Rep. (Drew) Darby and I were able to get this legislation passed,” Duncan said. “Because Texas Tech and Angelo State are both in my district, it was clear to me that a partnership between these two institutions would be ideal.”

For his leadership in moving Angelo State University to the Texas Tech University System last year, Duncan has been named a 2008 Honorary Alumnus by the ASU Alumni Association.

“The merger between Angelo State and Texas Tech is one of my proudest legislative accomplishments,” Duncan said. “I was so proud of the support from West Texas this legislation was given. I have never carried a bill that was so widely supported by so many of the constituents of Senate District 28.”

Duncan began his legislative career in 1993, serving two terms in the Texas House. Since 1996 when the Lubbock Republican won a special election to represent District 28, he has provided strong and effective leadership on behalf of ASU in the Legislature. Consequently, Duncan viewed the affiliation of ASU with Texas Tech as the “perfect cotton-wool blend” because of its potential economic impact on the region.

“The merger of Angelo State and Texas Tech is an ideal example of how two institutions, similar in geographical, cultural and academic areas, can come together to form a stronger system. Educational partnerships such as this are a boost to the entire state,” Duncan said. “The partnership between Angelo State and Texas Tech is also a model of how a group of citizens can come together to make significant changes in this state.”

Since 2001, Duncan has held a coveted spot on the Senate Finance Committee. His Legislative clout for West Texas is further strengthened through his appointment to the Finance Conference Committee, which works out the final appropriations bill to establish the state budget.

During his dozen years in the Senate, Duncan has received numerous honors based on his tireless work ethic, his keen understanding of complicated policy and his stellar reputation. *Texas Monthly*, which does not pass out honors lightly, has three times named him among the state’s 10 best legislators. The magazine has also listed Duncan as a “Texas Super Lawyer” for his professional reputation in the private sector.

Duncan earned his bachelor’s degree from Texas Tech University and his law degree from the Texas Tech University School of Law. He has two children, daughter Lindsey and son Matthew. ■



Robert Duncan





Kent Hance

Throughout his multi-faceted career in law, politics, business and education, **Kent Hance** has built a record of proven results.

When he became chancellor of the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) in December of 2006, he promised to significantly increase overall enrollment.

Nine months to the day after he assumed his duties, Hance saw system enrollment jump by 6,200 in a single moment as Angelo State University became the newest member and the second largest campus in the Texas Tech University System on Sept. 1, 2007.

Though he gives credit for that successful legislative move to the leadership of State Rep. Drew Darby and State Sen. Robert Duncan, Hance provided a vision for how that affiliation would work.

His political connections, his administrative savvy and his goals for West Texas, not to mention his down home sense of humor, helped ease any concerns about ASU's new affiliation with Texas Tech and make the transition almost seamless. In the process, Hance created an excitement about ASU's future that was contagious.

"This has been a great transition for both the Texas Tech University System and Angelo State University," Hance said. "I feel great pride when I drive through the ASU campus and see the sign that reads 'Member, Texas Tech University System'."

For his role in making the TTUS affiliation a reality and for his strong support of ASU in the months since, Chancellor Hance has been named a 2008 Honorary Alumnus by the ASU Alumni Association.

Hance's varied career began in Dimmitt on his father's tractor when he realized farming was not his calling. Higher

education opened the door to his future. He attended Texas Tech University where he was elected vice president of the student body before receiving his bachelor's degree in 1965.

Three years later he earned his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law, where he was elected president of the Student Bar Association as well as class president. He practiced law and taught business law at Texas Tech, where he was named an outstanding professor.

His political career began in 1974 when he was elected to the Texas Senate. In 1978 he defeated George W. Bush to earn a seat in Congress, succeeding longtime Congressman George Mahon in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. In the Summer of 1981, Hance authored and won passage of President Reagan's tax bill, which provided the largest tax cut in the nation's history. While a member of the U.S. Congress, Hance served on the Ways and Means Committee, the Agriculture Committee and the Science and Technology Committee.

He has served on the West Texas State University Board of Regents, the Texas Railroad Commission and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. After leaving politics in 1990, Hance practiced law in Austin as a partner with Hance Scarborough Wright, specializing in state and federal administrative, regulatory and legislative law. He also shared his expertise in oil, gas and energy-related matters with clients, frequently attending OPEC meetings and helping acquire international oil and gas drilling rights on behalf of U.S. and international clients.

Hance and his wife, Susie, also an attorney, have five children and seven grandchildren. ■

If **Dr. Michael Patyrak** had a bumper sticker on his vehicle, it would read "I didn't start college at Angelo State, but I got there as fast as I could."

A San Angelo native and Central High graduate, Patyrak attended Tulane University as a freshman, then transferred to ASU where he received a Carr Academic Scholarship. He graduated in 2002 with the Presidential Award as the top student in his class, but topping all that was finding his future wife, Shae, on campus.

"We met my senior year as we were both quite involved in many school-related functions," Patyrak said. "She came right up and introduced herself one day and the rest is history."

Patyrak's recent history includes graduating No. 1 in his class from the University of Texas Health Science Center and working today as a doctor of radiology at UT-Southwestern/Parkland Memorial Hospital in

Dallas. Those accomplishments earned him 2008 Distinguished Carr Scholar recognition. They also led to what he calls his most meaningful ASU accomplishment, giving the 2006 fall commencement address.

"What a humbling experience," Patyrak said. "I'm sure many of the graduates still ask, 'Who was that speaking again?' But, the opportunity to directly address so many on such a momentous occasion will be something I never forget."

His other fond ASU memories include the learning, guidance and friendship he gained from many of the faculty and an impromptu science experiment.

"We were outside with the liquid nitrogen, a garbage can and a plastic two liter bottle and BOOM!" he said. "It literally sounded like a very large bomb went off and that was not the anticipated outcome. Let's just say we found out the ASU police's response time was under two minutes." ■



Michael Patyrak

## Distinguished ROTC Alumnus **Mission Accomplished**

**Col. Ernie Felts'** distinguished 30-year Air Force career ended the same place it began, in ROTC.

In between, he served as a missile launch officer, command pilot and squadron, group and vice wing commander, receiving some of the Air Force's highest honors along the way. His latest honor is being named ASU's 2008 Distinguished ROTC Alumnus.

A 1976 ASU graduate from Pecos, Felts said he immediately felt at home on the ASU campus and credits his professors with helping him attain his educational goals. Almost as important were his friends in the Men's High Rise.

"There were no co-ed dorms, so at night we would flash our telephone numbers between high rises," Felts said. "Thursday night was steak night in the cafeteria then ladies' night at the discos and Ray Stevens'

'The Streak' was more than just a song. We used slide rules instead of computers and Roscoe was cool even back then."

In the Air Force, Felts held command positions at bases in Japan, North Carolina, Nebraska, Kansas, Mississippi, Texas and England. His military honors include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Readiness and National Defense Service medals, and the NATO Medal.

In 2002, Felts returned to command the ASU ROTC program for two years, then took his final assignment as commander of Air Force ROTC's Northwest Region based at the Air Force Academy until retiring in 2007.

"Home is where the heart is and for me and my family, that is San Angelo," Felts said. "After 14 moves, I think we are here to stay."

Felts and his wife, Sharon, have twin sons, William and Travis. ■



Ernie Felts





Carrol Payne "Pinto" Nokes

**Carrol Payne "Pinto" Nokes** counts her time at San Angelo College as a pivotal point in her life.

Although the Pecos native spent her formative years in Fort Worth, Nokes sees her two years on the campus that became Angelo State University as vital in bringing her out of her shell.

"My life changed at SAC for the better," Nokes said. "I was a very shy person and had never taken an active role in organizations or activities. My SAC years were 1960-62, and I was involved in many organizations, received many honors and became a much stronger and confident person."

Throughout the years, Nokes has boosted ASU in a variety of ways. In recognition of that, the ASU Alumni Association has named her the 2008 Golden Ex.

"I have remained in touch with many of my SAC classmates," Nokes said. "One

of my daily goals still is to make someone happy and feel good about themselves as I reflect on what SAC did for me."

One thing her time at SAC did was provide her with a nickname.

"I tried to frost my hair in the dorm one night, but instead of frosting it, I had big spots in my hair," she said. "The cowboys said my hair reminded them of the backside of a paint horse, called a 'pinto.' I am still called 'Pinto' today."

Armed with a strong educational and social foundation from SAC, Nokes returned to Fort Worth to earn a Bachelor of Science in education at TCU. She retired in June 1999 from a distinguished 30-year career with the Arlington Independent School District.

She is married to Arlington attorney James Nokes. She has two children and two stepchildren. ■

## Outstanding Retired Faculty **Force of Physics**



C. Varren Parker, Jr

Without the efforts of faculty like **Dr. C. Varren Parker, Jr.**, the ASU Physics Department would not have gained the national recognition that it enjoys today.

Recognizing in the mid-1970s that physics was a small department with a small number of majors, Parker worked with colleagues Dr. Ray Dawson and Dr. David Loyd to expand the curriculum.

"In order to survive we needed some larger classes," Parker said, "and physical science and later astronomy became the courses that would pay the bills, so to speak, for the department. The courses in digital electronics and mathematical physics were two of my contributions to the new curriculum."

In recognition of his 35 years of service in the Physics Department, Parker has been named this year's Outstanding Retired Faculty member.

An ASU faculty member from 1966-2004, Parker relishes being part of ASU's foundation years when major milestones were achieved by both faculty and administrators. He savors times spent with students, whether in the classroom, on research trips to McDonald Observatory or over Trivial Pursuit games at his home.

"It seemed the faculty always won," Parker said. "That is, until the students discovered that most of the questions involved events that occurred before they were born. Needless to say, the games came to an end after that."

Upon his 2004 retirement, Parker was designated Professor of Physics Emeritus by the board of regents. He holds a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Texas and bachelor's and master's degrees from Sam Houston State University.

Parker and his wife, Doris, have two sons, John and Kevin, and six grandchildren. ■



## **Dr. Gil Engdahl** **College of Sciences**

Dr. Gil Engdahl has been influencing the lives of students in ASU's Agriculture Department for more than a quarter century.

A West Texas native, Engdahl joined the ASU faculty after turning down a job at Texas A&M in 1976. He became department head in 1997. In recognition of his tireless efforts on behalf of the students, faculty and staff of his department, Engdahl is this year's Distinguished Faculty Achievement honoree for the College of Sciences.

"It was a lot more of a challenge to come to a new program and try to be a part of growing it into something that we could really be proud of," Engdahl said. "We have as good a program now as a lot of big schools."

Engdahl earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Texas A&M, but his heart belongs to ASU.

"When you've been with the school as long as I have, it's part of your life," he said. "To be honored for coming in and having fun for 30-plus years, maybe I should be giving someone else an award for allowing me to do that."

## **Dr. Mary Ellen Hartje** **College of Liberal and Fine Arts**

When she was a little girl, Angelo State University English professor Dr. Mary Ellen Hartje knew she wanted to teach.

"I picked the profession I loved from the get-go," said Hartje, this year's Distinguished Faculty Achievement recipient from the College of Liberal and Fine Arts.

Hartje's enthusiasm for teaching is matched by her love, which she conveys



to her students, of 19<sup>th</sup> Century British literature. What inspires Hartje most are Romantic poets, such as Wordsworth, Keats, Coleridge and Browning.

"Literature is a reflection of our lives no matter when it was written," Hartje said. "It reflects the human experience. Students come to literature class thinking it is just stuff they have to read. They do catch on that it is really about them and it becomes very relevant by the end of the semester."

Hartje holds a B.A. in English from Baylor University, a M.A. in teaching from ASU and a doctorate in English from Baylor. Hartje received the ASU Teaching Excellence Award in 2002 and was named to *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* in 2004-05.

## **Dr. Tom Bankston** **College of Business**

While becoming a teacher was not his original plan, Dr. Tom Bankston soon found his calling in his own back yard.

A San Angelo native, Bankston worked as an economist for Phillips Petroleum before earning his Ph.D. and joining the ASU faculty in 1974. Today he heads the Accounting, Economics and Finance Department.

"There were more jobs available teaching than there were industry jobs for a Ph.D. in finance," Bankston said. "There was an opening at ASU for a finance professor and I thought it would be fun to go home for a few years. So, I've been here for the rest of my life."

This year's Distinguished Faculty Achievement honoree for the College of Business, Bankston has also reaped other benefits from the teaching profession.



From Left:  
Dr. Gil Engdahl  
Dr. Mary Ellen Hartje  
Dr. Tom Bankston  
Dr. Susan Keith

"It gives you a false sense of how young you are" Bankston said. "The faces never change; they are always about 20 years old. So, you are always in this young world."

Bankston earned his B.B.A. and M.B.A. from the University of Texas and his Ph.D. from the University of Florida.

## **Dr. Susan Keith** **College of Education**

Advocating physical activity is the driving force behind Dr. Susan Keith's teaching philosophy in the Department of Kinesiology.

"The ultimate goal for me is to see students apply the knowledge they gain in my classes and be able to use it in the real world," Keith said.

Keith's outlook earned her the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award from the College of Education.

"Leading a healthy lifestyle is very important to me," Keith said. "I just can't think of a better job to help me stay in shape, to help me be a lifelong learner and to be around bright, fun individuals."

Keith strives to instill professional behavior in students.

"We can help students become young professionals, not when they start a job, but prior to their careers," she said.

Keith earned a Bachelor of Science in office administration from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, a bachelor's degree in physical education from the University of Central Oklahoma and a master's in education from Baylor University. She did her doctoral work in health studies at Texas Woman's University. She has been a member of the Angelo State University faculty since 1997. ■



# Balancing Act

by Ronn Rowland

**Amber Korb** gets her kicks not only on the soccer field but also in the classroom where she is a role model for her Angelo State University teammates.

In the classroom, the 5-foot-5 defender from Sandy, Utah, is a two-time Lone Star Conference All-Academic selection with a 4.0 grade point average. She balances her strong academic credentials with her solid play. On the field Korb has earned recognition as an All-LSC second team selection in 2006 and honorable mention selection in 2007.

Just as importantly, her example as a leader both on and off the field earned

her election last fall as one of the Ram-belles' captains.

"Freshmen tell me what stresses them the most is balancing the academic and athletic sides of soccer," Korb said. "I show them it takes really good time management and scheduling."

As she enters her senior season under new soccer coach Travis McCorkle, Korb has goals both on the field and off.

"I would like my grade point average to stay at 4.0 and to help keep the soccer team with the highest GPA of all the athletic teams," Korb said. "I would also like to see us advance in the conference tournament and win the tournament title. Those things would make me happy." ■



Amber Korb

Photo by Danny Meyer

# Size Matters Not

by Dave Wester

**Daniel Thomas** always dreamed of playing college football, but as a 5'5", 160-pound high school sophomore, the odds were stacked against him.

Now a little taller and 30 pounds heavier, he enters his third year as Angelo State's full-time starting tailback. As one of the top running backs in the Lone Star Conference, Thomas will be a potent weapon for the 2008 Rams.

"By my senior year in high school, I had established myself as starting tailback and served as the team captain," Thomas recalled. "My size, however, limited my opportunities even though I had the speed, strength and grades."

Thomas had legitimate speed and strength as a senior at Taylor High School, running the 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds and becoming an All-State powerlifter. He had all the intangibles as well, serving as president of his senior class, but the doors to the big schools weren't opening for him.

"I wanted to find a home," Thomas said. "I had my chances to go to a junior college, but I didn't want to spend two years at a school and move. ASU gave me the home I was looking for."

Angelo State was in the right place at the right time to recruit one of the top running backs in school history. With over 2,000 career yards, Thomas begins his senior season this fall ranked fourth on the Rams' all-time rushing list, even though he did not make ASU's initial recruiting list.

As ASU assistant coach Hank McClung recalled, "I went down to Taylor to look at another player and I met Daniel. I looked at his speed and his quickness along with his off-the-field habits, which his coach spoke so highly of. Daniel has made the most of his God-given ability and has peaked more than any other player that I have ever been around. He's a special athlete."

And, Thomas stands to make ASU football games special this fall. ■



Daniel Thomas

# Close to Home

by Dave Wester

It may not be home, but Angelo State sure feels like it to **Travis McCorkle**, ASU's new women's soccer coach.

A former assistant coach for the 'Belles from 2000-02, McCorkle jumped at the opportunity to return to ASU after spending the past five seasons leading the women's soccer program at Eastern New Mexico University.

"I always felt welcome when I was here before," McCorkle said. "Even though I was 'only' an assistant coach, I always felt like my contributions to ASU were important. Angelo State has a reputation of always looking to improve. You're either moving forward or moving backward and I believe that ASU is definitely moving forward."

McCorkle takes over a women's soccer team that has had its share of success over the past several seasons. He has high ambitions for the future of the program.

"There is no reason that the success of women's soccer at ASU will not continue," McCorkle said. "After speaking with the team, I think they have high expectations of themselves and the program. The next hurdle is to create a culture where players are excited about the program and they become ambassadors for ASU and the soccer program."

Part of the soccer culture McCorkle envisions is the relationships that his athletes form not only with each other but also with the program and the university.

"Over the next several years, I hope that we have developed a culture that has lots of players coming back to ASU for alumni games and maintaining an interest in the progress of the soccer team," he said. "Players will have graduated from the program and what they tell others about ASU will have an impact on our recruiting."

A native of Colorado, McCorkle has been involved in soccer since his playing

days at Mesa State College. As a player/coach of his club team, he discovered a love for the sport that drove him into the profession. He posted a 40-46-4 record with ENMU after starting the program from scratch in 2003.

"I really enjoy helping people and I also enjoy the competitive part of athletics," McCorkle said. "Coaching is about teaching and assisting players how to problem solve. When I'm able to help a player improve their soccer ability and/or help them get through a non-soccer related issue, I get a great feeling." ■



Travis McCorkle

Photos by Danny Meyer





# SPRING 2008 Sports

## recap

### Rams Persevere

Despite some early season injuries to key players, ASU's Rams hit and pitched their way to another successful season, finishing second in the Lone Star Conference with a 39-19 overall record and making their third straight trip to the postseason.

Highlighting the 2008 season was the play of junior first baseman Clay Calfee, one of four ASU players to earn first team All-LSC honors. Calfee was named honorable mention All-America and tabbed the Rawlings/ABCA National Gold Glove winner at first base. The Conroe native hit .418 and led the team in doubles, triples, home runs, total bases, runs scored and walks. Calfee also put together a school-record 28-game hitting streak during the season.

Other first team All-LSC picks were junior pitchers Joe Key and Sean Wincher and junior third baseman Shan Sullivan. Seniors Brett Nightingale and Jimmy Cox along with juniors Kenny Elkind and Trey Carter were each honored as second team All-LSC picks.

Two Rams, Bradley Durst and Sullivan, were rewarded for their performance in the classroom as they received academic recognition by the conference. Senior Durst was named the LSC's Academic Baseball Player of the Year, the first-ever Ram to receive the honor. Durst was also named to *ESPN The Magazine's* Academic All-District first team, the first such honor in program history. In addition to his athletic accolades, Sullivan was selected to the LSC Commissioner's Honor Roll.

Calfee and Sullivan added one more honor to their list of 2008 accomplishments. On June 6, they became the first two ASU players ever selected in Major League Baseball's First-Year Player Draft. Calfee was selected in the 14<sup>th</sup> round and Sullivan in the 32<sup>nd</sup> round, both by the Los Angeles Dodgers. Both signed contracts and reported to L.A. Rookie League affiliates, with Calfee going to the Ogden Raptors and Sullivan to the Gulf Coast Dodgers. ■

Clay Calfee

Photo by Danny Meyer



Adree Lakey

### On Track (& Field)

Junior Adree Lakey earned her second national title in two years and became one of five ASU All-Americans to return home from the 2008 NCAA Division II National Track & Field Championships in May.

Lakey claimed the individual national championship in the discus with a throw of 161'7" and became the first-ever two-time Rambelle national champion, having won the hammer throw in 2007. She finished fourth in the shot put and fifth in the hammer throw for a total of three All-America performances on the national stage this year.

Now a seven-time All-American for the Rambelles, Lakey was also named the 2008 D-II Women's Field Athlete of the Year for the South Central Region by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Lakey led a contingent of 13 ASU student-athletes, eight women and five men, to this year's national meet. The Rams returned home with All-American honors for the foursome of Richard Covington, Raymond Hickem, Brian Holik and Jeremy Jones in both the 4x100- and the 4x400-meter relays.

Other qualifiers for the 2008 national meet included junior Chase Moore in the decathlon, junior Kyndel Howell in the heptathlon, junior Yavette Pender in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, junior Ashley Painter in the 400-meter hurdles and junior Whitney Law in the pole vault. Jones also qualified individually for the 110-meter and 400-meter hurdles for the Rams while the Rambelle sprint relay team of Pender, Sara Hooker, Jessica Kinney and Tialyssa Lewis also qualified. ■

### Diamond Heartbreak

A promising 2008 season for the Lone Star Conference Champion Angelo State softball team came to a screeching halt as the Rambelles suffered back-to-back walk-off losses at the NCAA Division II South Central Regional Tournament.

For the second straight season, ASU hosted the NCAA D-II South Central regional tournament, but after advancing to the World Series a year ago, the home event broke the Rambelles' hearts this time around.

After two solid victories in the tournament, the top-seeded Rambelles were relegated to the losers' bracket with a 1-0 loss to third-seeded Southeastern Oklahoma on a two-out bases-loaded single in the bottom of the seventh inning. The next day, ASU saw its season end with a 3-2 loss to eventual regional champion St. Edward's on a one-out seventh inning sacrifice fly.

The exit from the regional tournament marked the end of the playing career for eight Rambelles, including the first four-year senior class in program history. Seniors Brittney Cargill, Kari Galm, Whitney Meeks and Cara Redmond were part of the first recruiting class by ASU head coach Travis Scott after the team's national title run in 2004 and became the first players to come to campus as freshmen and complete all four years with the Rambelles.

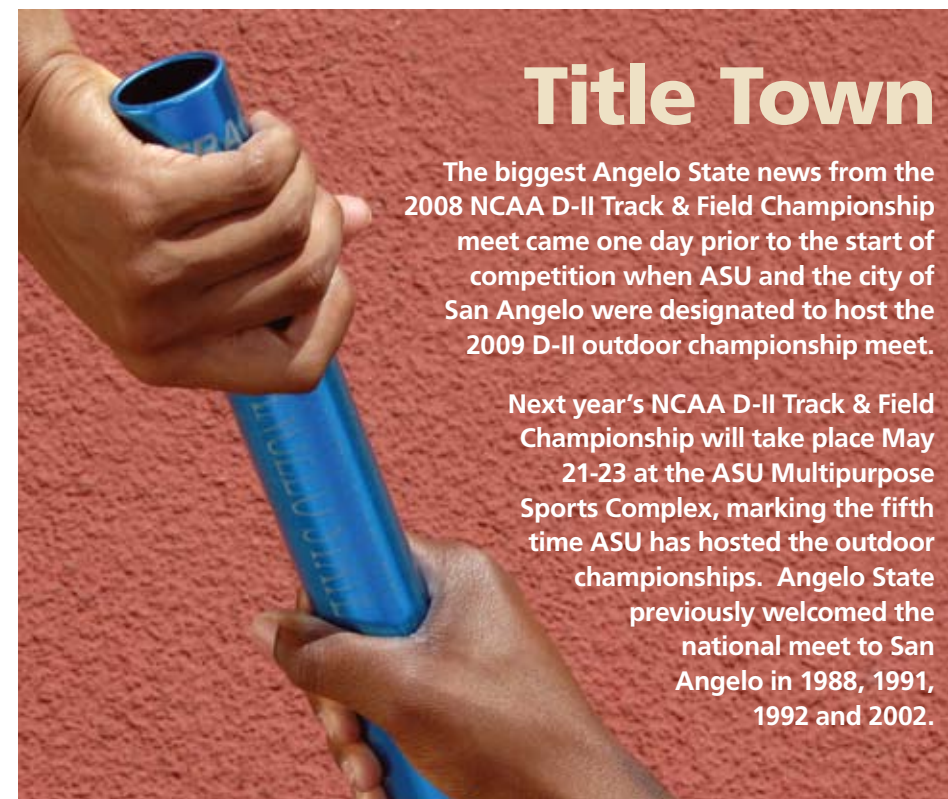
The Rambelles had two players named to All-America teams with Galm earning first team honors and junior shortstop Macy Baker receiving second team accolades. ASU placed six on the all-region teams and had nine selections to the All-Lone Star Conference South Division squad. Galm was named the division's Pitcher of the Year for the second straight season while Baker collected the league's Player of the Year honors for the second consecutive year as well.

The Angelo State softball team finished 2008 with a 48-12 overall record and claimed the LSC Championship for the third time in school history. ■

## Title Town

The biggest Angelo State news from the 2008 NCAA D-II Track & Field Championship meet came one day prior to the start of competition when ASU and the city of San Angelo were designated to host the 2009 D-II outdoor championship meet.

Next year's NCAA D-II Track & Field Championship will take place May 21-23 at the ASU Multipurpose Sports Complex, marking the fifth time ASU has hosted the outdoor championships. Angelo State previously welcomed the national meet to San Angelo in 1988, 1991, 1992 and 2002.





## FOOTBALL

**COACH:** Dale Carr (4<sup>th</sup> year, 14-18)

**LAST YEAR:** 2-8 (2-7, T-12<sup>th</sup> in LSC; 1-5, 6<sup>th</sup> in LSC South)

**OUTLOOK:** After a playoff appearance in 2005, head coach Dale Carr stated that he wanted to build a football dynasty at Angelo State, but knew it would take time. Now in his fourth season, Carr feels that the hard work and effort will pay off as his young, talented team has evolved into a mature, hungry squad.

**TOP RETURNERS:** Senior tailback Daniel Thomas, junior quarterback Josh Neiswander and junior linemen Jorrie Adams and Brian Dickey on offense and junior D'Angelo Waites on defense.

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** On defense, junior defensive end Calvin Fance, a transfer from Cisco Junior College; redshirt freshman Nick Williams at cornerback; and freshman safety Jared Reynolds. On offense, wide receiver Damien McCradic, a transfer from Trinity Valley Community College, and senior Terrell Lee, who is moving from the defensive backfield to tailback.

**TELEVISION:** ASU's road game against Tarleton State will be nationally televised at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30, from Memorial Stadium in Stephenville. The game will be produced by CBS College Sports Network, formerly CSTV, and syndicated through

regional sports networks as well as made available via broadband at [www.ncaa.com](http://www.ncaa.com).

## VOLEYBALL

**COACH:** Chuck Waddington (first year)

**LAST YEAR:** 6-21 (4-8, 10<sup>th</sup> in LSC)

**OUTLOOK:** The 'Belles will have a new look on the floor and on the bench as first-year head coach Chuck Waddington implements changes that he hopes will end three-straight losing campaigns and return Angelo State volleyball to one of the elite programs in the Lone Star Conference.

**TOP RETURNES:** Senior setter Tess Brindock, junior middle blocker Alaina Sivells, junior Kimber Duncan at both libero and outside hitter plus returning starters Brittany McNeal and Adrienne Taylor.

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Junior college transfer Alex Allard, a junior from Laredo Community College; freshman Kayla Smith from Kerrville's Tivy High School; freshman right side hitter Cara Turney from Albuquerque; and freshman Shelbi Chipman from Round Rock.

**STRENGTHS:** The setter and middle blocker positions have the experience to take the 'Belles a long way. Some much-needed depth was added in the offseason to the outside and right side hitter positions. Also, the element of surprise will work in ASU's favor with a new coach, a new system and a desire to win.

## SOCCER

**COACH:** Travis McCorkle (first year)

**LAST YEAR:** 8-8-3 (5-4-1, 3<sup>rd</sup> in LSC)

**OUTLOOK:** After five straight trips to the Lone Star Conference Postseason Tournament, Angelo State will call upon new coach Travis McCorkle to continue the success of the 'Belles. McCorkle, a former ASU assistant, inherits a talented squad that placed third in the LSC last fall and returns nine starters, including three all-conference performers.

**TOP RETURNES:** Seniors Amber Korb and Christy Knaub and junior Kristen Boister.

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Sophomore transfer Melanie Peterson from the University of North Texas plus freshmen forwards Brandie DeBacker of New Braunfels and Courtney Eastep of Grand Prairie along with midfielder Lauren Fritsch from Corpus Christi.

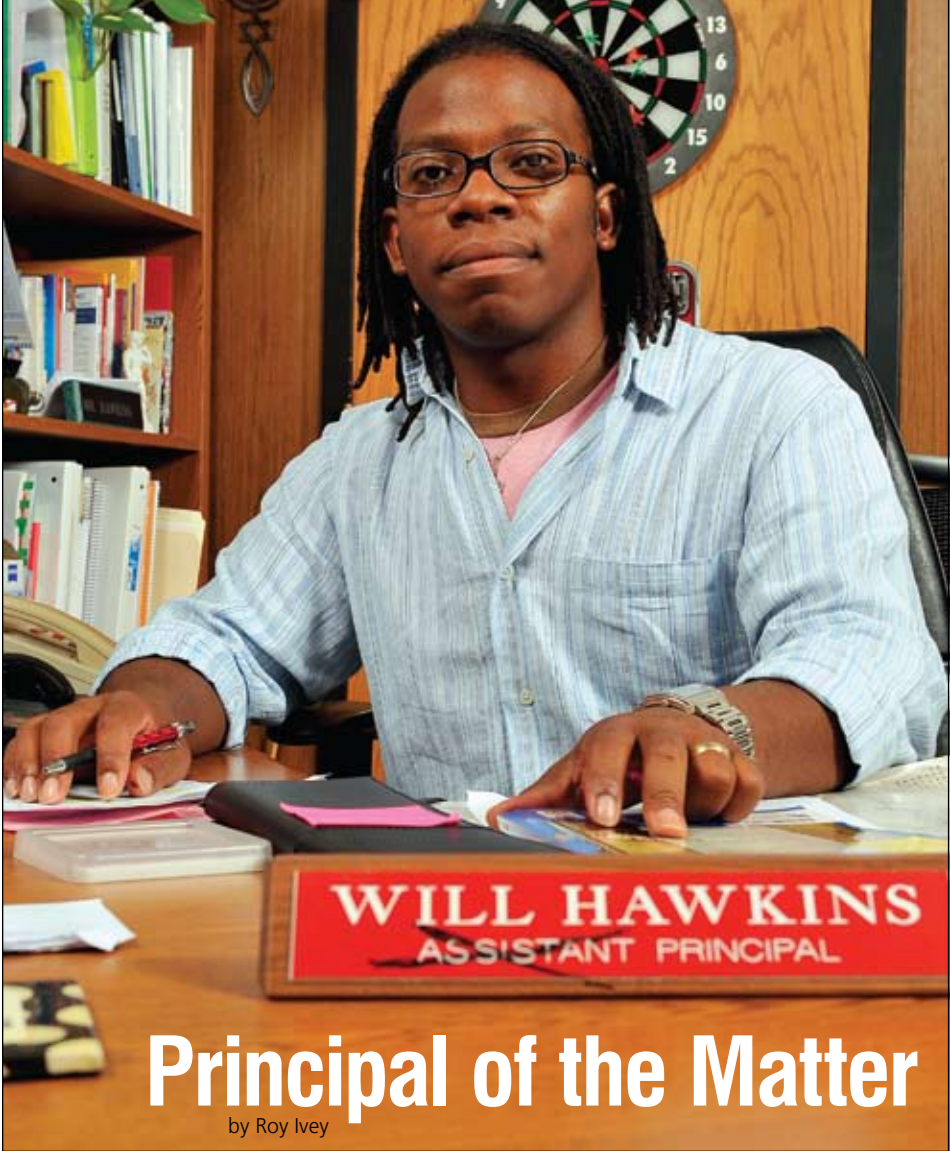
**STRENGTHS:** A tradition of success and new leadership bodes well for the 2008 'Belles. ASU has boasted one of the stingiest defenses in the LSC the past several seasons and looks to remain a tough defensive team. ASU returns every midfielder and defender, which will be crucial in the development of the 12 incoming freshmen, one of the largest frosh classes in program history.

## GOLF

**CO-COACHES:** Jason Hase, Jimmy Tidwell

**OUTLOOK:** The new Angelo State women's golf team looks to establish itself as a contender in the Lone Star Conference and South Central Region when the Rambelles begin their initial season this fall. The Rambelles will play a split regular season with four tournaments in the fall and five in the spring, plus the LSC Championship in April.

**TOP PLAYERS:** Brooke Jackson, the top golfer for Western Texas Community College and holder of a top-20 finish at the 2008 NJCAA Championships in May, plus several San Angelo-area players, headed by freshmen Megan Cisneroz of San Saba; Serena Sosa and Kelcey Wells, both of San Angelo Central; and Ashley Timm of Sweetwater High School. ■



Will Hawkins knows what growing up in hard times is like.

When the Brownfield High School principal sees beleaguered students who need understanding, he is there for them.

That is one of the reasons the Angelo State University graduate was honored by his peers from the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals in April when he was named the outstanding principal for his region, which includes 57 school districts in 20 South Plains counties.

Hawkins understands students with problems because he grew up in a single-parent home in San Antonio with four brothers and an adopted cousin.

"Mine is a typical story," Hawkins said. "My mother had to work hard to get us through school. There were tough times, but many kids had it worse than I did. Mother provided for us."

Hawkins said there were times when his family had to go without electricity or water.

"That's life," he said. "You deal with it and move past it. I don't resent those days. That prepared me for the job I'm doing now. I can relate to the situation and better understand at-risk students."

Hawkins said his philosophy is to offer a good learning environment for all students and to recognize that every student has the potential to be successful.

He takes alternative approaches with troubled students.

"With many at-risk students, you can't just have a traditional classroom where students sit and receive instruction," Hawkins said. "That won't work. You have to try to provide an atmosphere where the student is constantly in pursuit of knowledge. The teacher must be the facilitator."

Hawkins said he takes pride in building a positive culture in the school environment among his teachers, students and himself.

"You can take people on a journey if they trust you," Hawkins said. "I plan on

being here for several years, if I'm fortunate enough, and I plan to improve instruction and test scores."

One of Hawkins' goals is to lead the school to exemplary status.

Hawkins is aiming high since his school was rated unacceptable last year. He said the exemplary rating goes to schools that excel, and that is what he wants for his students.

He said he draws from his own classroom experience to boost his students' performances. Before moving to Brownfield, Hawkins taught for eight years in San Angelo Independent School District's Glenn Middle School.

Hawkins motivates both students and teachers with recognition and rewards.

When students meet goals, they get such things as a movie day, a disc jockey spinning music during lunch, doughnut breakfasts, pizza parties for classes that are well behaved during six-week segments, exemptions from "intervention classes" and extended lunches.

Teachers who perform above the norm are not forgotten, either. Hawkins honors them with the "Golden Apple Award," which is coupled with a \$25 gift card to the supermarket and other perks.

Hawkins has been formulating his administrative philosophy since he graduated from ASU in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts in history with a minor in English. He also earned a master's in education from ASU in 2005 while teaching at Glenn. He accepted the assistant principal post at Brownfield High School in 2006 and was promoted to principal last fall.

Hawkins met his wife, the former Tiffany Manuel, at ASU and she joined him in the Brownfield school system where she teaches second grade at Oak Grove Elementary School. They have two children, Rachel, a 7-year-old second grader, and Simon, their 1-year-old son. ■

## Steel and Selenium

To see what new graduate [Travis Sherrill](#) and former chemistry professor [Ed Drake](#), who taught at ASU from 1965-99, are up to, check out the "Bonus Features" on the *ASU Magazine* Web site at

[www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine/](http://www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine/)

## 2008 Football Schedule

|                     |  |               |
|---------------------|--|---------------|
| August 30           | at Texas State                         | 6 p.m.        |
| September 6         | at Texas A&M-Commerce                  | 7 p.m.        |
| September 13        | at Southwestern Okla.                  | 6 p.m.        |
| <b>September 20</b> | <b>East Central (Family Day)</b>       | <b>6 p.m.</b> |
| September 27        | at Midwestern State                    | 7 p.m.        |
| <b>October 4</b>    | <b>Eastern New Mexico</b>              | <b>6 p.m.</b> |
| October 11          | at Abilene Christian                   | 7 p.m.        |
| <b>October 18</b>   | <b>Southeastern Okla. (Homecoming)</b> | <b>6 p.m.</b> |
| <b>October 25</b>   | <b>West Texas A&amp;M</b>              | <b>6 p.m.</b> |
| October 30          | at Tarleton State                      | 7 p.m.        |
| <b>November 8</b>   | <b>Texas A&amp;M-Kingsville</b>        | <b>6 p.m.</b> |



## Major Gift Benefits Alumni Association Foundation

A \$250,000 gift from Midland alumni Mickey Long and wife Renee Heckaman Long, both ASU Class of 1976, has been donated to the upcoming Horizon Campaign, benefitting the Angelo State University Alumni Association Foundation.

“Mickey and Renee Long are alumni every university would be proud to claim,” said ASU Alumni Association President and Foundation Trustee Kyle Box. “We are also very appreciative to Chancellor (Kent) Hance for his support and encouragement to alumni to contribute. He values our association and recognizes the positive impact a financially sound association can have on the university.”

The Horizon Campaign of Promise is a \$1.5 million project to benefit the newly established ASU Alumni Association Foundation. The commitment from the Longs is the largest gift since planning began on the campaign’s kickoff, which will occur this fall.

“Renee and I are making the contribution to support a university that gave us so much,” Mickey Long said. “A lot of good things happened for us there and we made a lot of good friends. It’s important for all of us to give back to the ASU Alumni Association, which in turn supports and helps define the future of Angelo State.”

An additional gift of \$25,000 from ASU alumnus Jim Ratcliff and his wife, Marion, of Georgetown, recently pushed the total gifts received by the foundation to more than \$500,000.

“Marion and I are honored to help build a sustainable future for the ASU Alumni Association,” Ratcliff said. “The association was the pivotal, driving force behind the move to the Texas Tech University System and it is critical to keep the association, our representative and voice, as the major advocate and contributor to ASU and the Texas Tech System.”

Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance said, “The Longs have been

long-time personal friends and Jim Ratcliff and I played together on our high school basketball team. Their gifts, as well as all alumni contributions, are critical to the success of the foundation’s campaign and make it possible for us to continue doing what we do best – making sure our students receive more than a great education and are prepared to be successful in life.”

Foundation President Lloyd Norris said, “On behalf of the 35,000 alumni of Angelo State, I want to thank the Longs, Ratcliffs and other donors who have given to this campaign and have helped the successful launch of the Horizon Campaign this fall. Every gift

has an impact on the foundation and gifts of all sizes can be combined to provide vital resources that strengthen the association. A gift can help maximize tax benefits, while providing the opportunity to support the Alumni Association in perpetuity.”

Hance added, “These gifts are an indication of the many positive benefits the association and Angelo State will experience in the future as part of our great Texas Tech University System.”

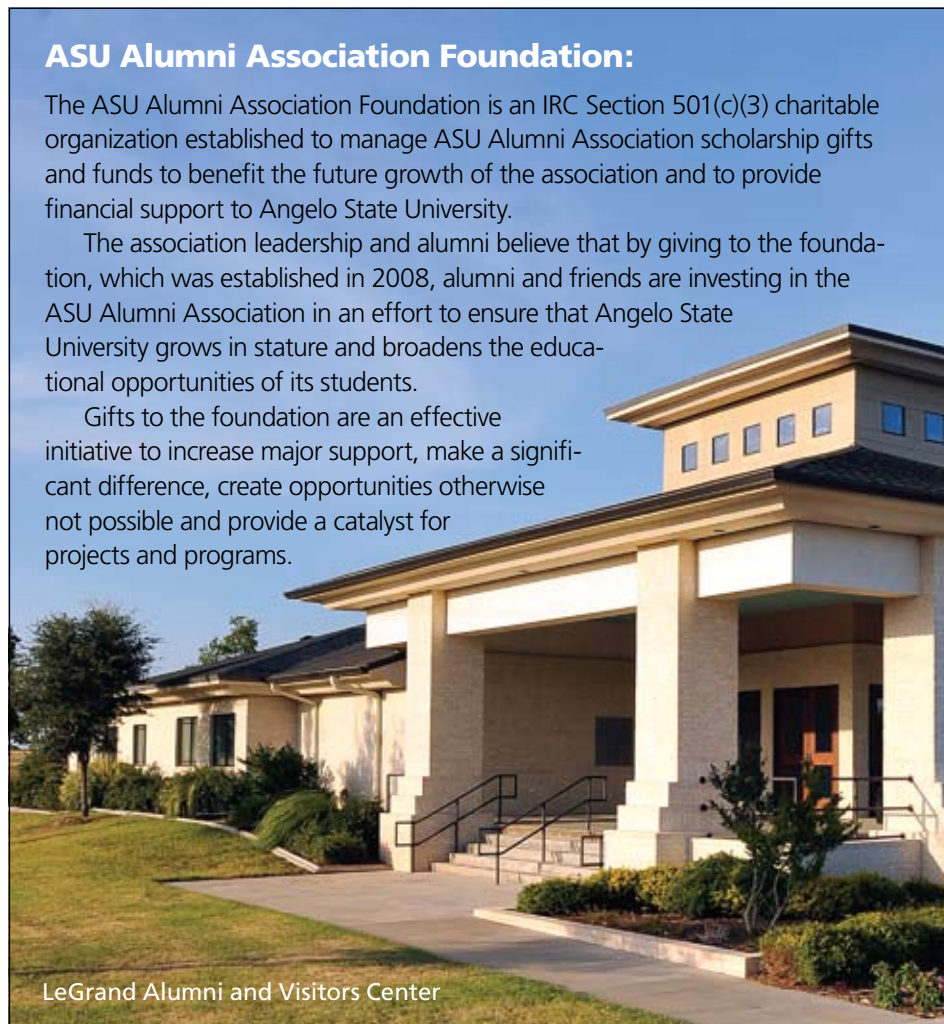
For more information about how to give to the ASU Alumni Association Foundation, contact Sande Harrison at (325) 942-2122 or [sande.harrison@angelo.edu](mailto:sande.harrison@angelo.edu). ■

### ASU Alumni Association Foundation:

The ASU Alumni Association Foundation is an IRC Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization established to manage ASU Alumni Association scholarship gifts and funds to benefit the future growth of the association and to provide financial support to Angelo State University.

The association leadership and alumni believe that by giving to the foundation, which was established in 2008, alumni and friends are investing in the ASU Alumni Association in an effort to ensure that Angelo State University grows in stature and broadens the educational opportunities of its students.

Gifts to the foundation are an effective initiative to increase major support, make a significant difference, create opportunities otherwise not possible and provide a catalyst for projects and programs.



LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center

## Ram Jam returns

Nothing gets fans in the mood for a Ram football game better than Ram Jam, the Angelo State tradition hosted by the ASU Alumni Association each Saturday prior to a home game.

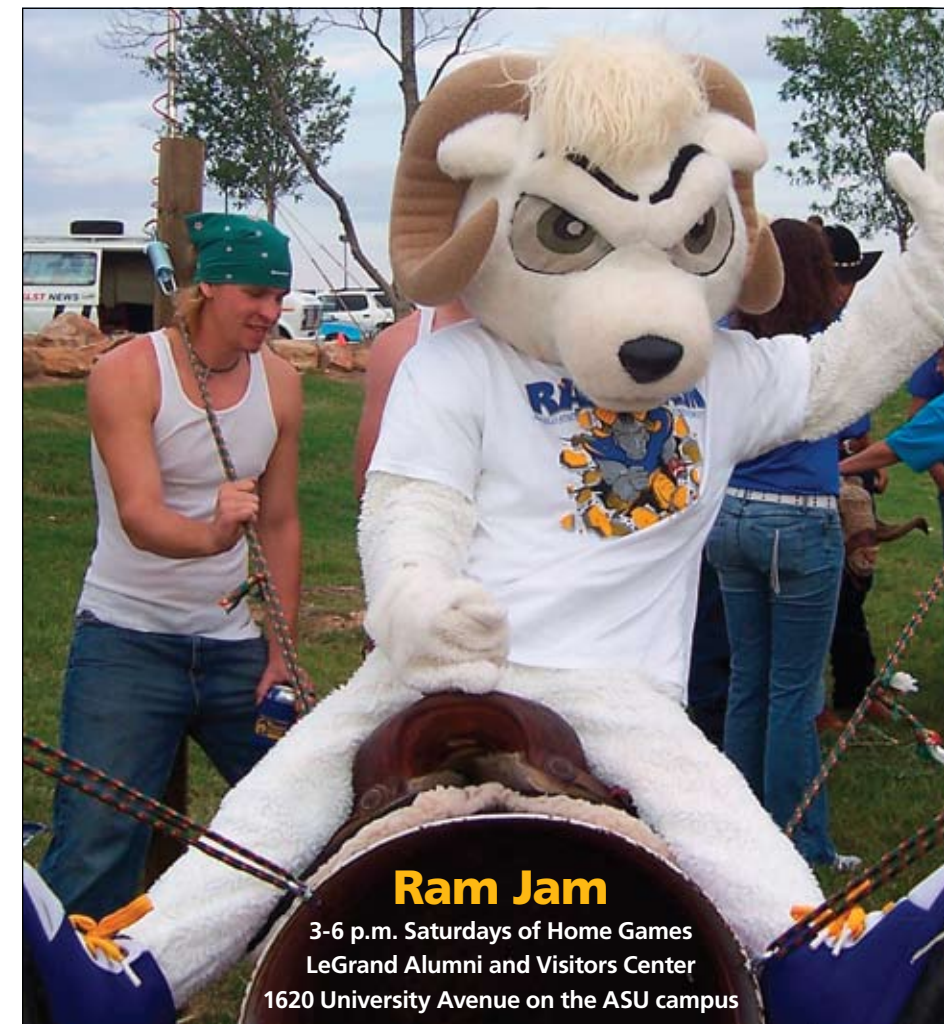
Ram Jam is Angelo State’s answer to tailgating with all the fun but none of the headaches of cleanup. Food and beverage vendors, live entertainment, cash prizes and merchandise are available at each Ram Jam at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center on campus.

Ram Jam, which begins three hours before kickoff at each home game, is shoulder-to-shoulder football fans gearing up for

the ensuing contest. This year during Ram Jam, each game’s official ASU Tailgate Champion will be selected and presented a great Ram Jam Tailgate Award.

Make plans to attend them all from 3-6 p.m. Saturdays of home games. This year’s schedule is: Sept. 20, Family Day, East Central; Oct. 4, Eastern New Mexico; Oct. 18, Homecoming, Southeastern Oklahoma; Oct. 25, West Texas A&M; and Nov. 8, Military Appreciation Day, Texas A&M-Kingsville.

In addition to the ASU Alumni Association, Ram Jam is sponsored in 2008 by Gandy Ink, Coca-Cola, Bud Light, Pinkie’s and KIXY 94.7 FM. ■



### Ram Jam

3-6 p.m. Saturdays of Home Games  
LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center  
1620 University Avenue on the ASU campus

### Bloebaum

– continued from page 15

designating him one of the top 100 graduates in the first 100 years of the school. But, his favorite accolades are the ones that cannot be hung on the wall or stashed in a trophy case.

“My awards and rewards are when students come up and tell me that they got into medical school, got into dental school or nursing school,” Bloebaum said. “Or, they tell me that they were at a critical juncture in their life and that I helped or inspired them to figure out what they wanted to do. Those are my biggest awards and I’m good with that.”

“ASU has been a wonderful place to work,” he added. “There is no way I could have made a better choice.” ■

### Scholarship Honors Dr. Bloebaum

Alumni and friends of Dr. Alan P. Bloebaum are invited to contribute to a new scholarship established by the ASU Alumni Association in his honor.

The Dr. Alan P. Bloebaum MPOD Health Professions Scholarship will go to an eligible junior or senior interested in going into medicine, podiatry, optometry or dentistry (MPOD). Eligible students must have successfully completed 60 semester credit hours toward a degree in pre-medicine, pre-podiatry, pre-optometry or pre-dentistry at ASU.

In May the Alumni Association hosted a reception that drew dozens of friends and former students from across the country to honor Bloebaum. ASU alumni Sande Harrison, Dr. Dale Brancel, Dr. Joel Dunnington, Monie Nuckles, Julie Sinclair, Dr. Shivraj Sohur and Dr. Kelly Wilson make up the committee establishing the scholarship.

To make a donation or to seek additional information, contact Harrison, executive director of the association, at (325) 942-2122 or [sande.harrison@angelo.edu](mailto:sande.harrison@angelo.edu).



Homecoming 2008

Friday, October 17

- 6-8 p.m. Wells Fargo Homecoming Dinner (C.J. Davidson Conference Center)
- 8 p.m. Pep Rally (ASU Multipurpose Sports Complex)
- 9:15 p.m. Torch Parade
- 9:30 p.m. Bonfire (Knickerbocker & University)

Saturday, October 18

- 11 a.m. Homecoming Parade
- 3 p.m. Ram Jam Pregame Tailgate Party (LeGrand Alumni & Visitor’s Center)
- 6 p.m. ASU Football Game vs. Southeastern Oklahoma (San Angelo Stadium)

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The Class Notes section will return in the spring issue of *ASU Magazine* with updates on your former classmates. Class Notes is a service of the ASU Alumni Association.

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