

Angelo State University Magazine

Summer 2008 • Volume 1 • Number 2

MEMBER, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Coming Up
Roses

**Bat-tastic
Discovery**

Common Scents



Message

from the President

Dear Friends:

Our second edition of the *Angelo State University Magazine* focuses on one area of academic strength: the opportunity for ASU students, both graduate and undergraduate, to engage in research as part of their degree programs.

While many think of the traditional image of research as a scientist in a laboratory, our students explore many new and imaginative avenues. This exploration is vital for an academic program that leads many of our students to graduate school. For example, the statewide average for student acceptance to medical school is 35 percent, while that for ASU graduates is 55 percent. Even more impressive is the 100 percent acceptance rate to graduate school for students in our Honors Program.

Crucial to the ability of our students to engage in research projects is the willingness of faculty to serve as mentors and guides. One of the great strengths of ASU is a highly qualified, intensely dedicated and student-centered faculty. A perfect example is the research done by students in Dr. Shirley Eoff's modern American history class cited in the acknowledgements of David Oshinsky's *Polio: An American Story*, the 2006 Pulitzer Prize recipient in history.

World class facilities are also essential for high quality research. ASU's Management, Instruction and Research Center (MIR), encompasses 6,000 acres of range and farmland that serves as a research 'laboratory' for our students. Our Natural History Collection, maintained by the Biology Department, contains 2,100 bird species, 13,000 mammal specimens and 14,000 amphibian/reptile specimens, as well as 55,000 plant specimens from Texas and around the world.

This January we created the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research to provide additional resources for faculty as they perfect their skills in the classroom and in the lab, all for the benefit of our students.

As you read these stories and marvel at the accomplishments of our students and faculty, I urge you to think how you might help to ensure that the next generation of ASU graduates is as successful and engaged as its predecessors.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Rallo
President



Joseph C. Rallo

Angelo State University

Member, Texas Tech University System

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Angelo State University Magazine

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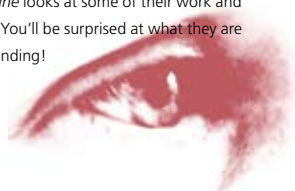
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Editor's Note: Knowledge is where you find it
and, often times, both graduate and undergradu-
ate students at Angelo State are finding it in their
research. In "The Pursuit of Knowledge" section,
ASU Magazine looks at some of their work and
discoveries. You'll be surprised at what they are
doing and finding!



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A university brochure and a Carr Scholarship helped bring Satcha Pretto to ASU. Since graduation, her drive and talent have taken her far in the highly competitive world of television news.



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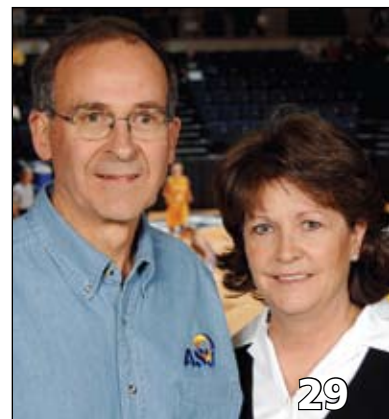
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On the cover: Satcha Pretto, Class of '01, is a reporter and weekend anchor for Univision, the Spanish language network headquartered in Miami and seen across the U.S. and in 13 Latin American countries. (Photo by Rodrigo Valera) **Back Cover:** This photo of 'Belle Nichelle Parks in action this past season earned University Photographer Danny Meyer a Gold Addy Award from the American Advertising Federation of San Angelo.

you said...

Editor:

I felt it a privilege to receive and read the inaugural copy of *Angelo State University Magazine*! It is a beautiful publication. Congratulations!

I noted that in three of your articles you wrote of Fulbright recipients and the impact the experience had in their lives. I, too, received a Fulbright for a year-long study in Guatemala, so I totally connected with those recipients. As with them, it was an unforgettable experience that broadened my vision of the world.

Ruth (Breazeale) DuKruyff, Class of '57
San Antonio

Editor:

Congratulations on your inaugural edition of *ASU Magazine*. It is interesting, informative and of top quality. I look forward to the next edition.

Nina W. Drake
Estes Park, Colo.

Editor:

I just got a look at Vol. 1, No. 1, of the magazine, and congratulations are in order! It's marvelous and you should be proud.

T. Cay Rowe
Assistant Vice President.
University Advancement
Editor, *Hillviews*
Texas State University

Editor:

The magazine is truly first class.

Spencer T. Yantis
Associate Vice Chancellor/Vice President
University Advancement
University of Houston

Editor:

The first issue of the new *ASU Magazine* is excellent. It's impressive both in its visual content and writing style/editing. I really appreciate all the work you and your staff put into it, and I look forward to enjoying future issues.

Linda Kornasky
Associate Professor
English Department

Editor:

I just saw the first *ASU Magazine* last night. WOW...great work! I look forward to the next issue.

Kevin Settle, Class of '86
Creative Director
Stone Settle Advertising Inc.
San Angelo

Editor:

ASU Magazine is topflight from title to cover to contents. Congratulations!

Lisa Delibes
San Angelo

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Strategic Lessons Learned

One of the best college lessons James M. Limbaugh ever learned came from his custodial supervisor in the East Texas State University (ETSU) residence hall where he worked as a janitor to help pay his way through graduate school.

"I scrubbed floors, cleaned toilets and swept stairs for nine months," Limbaugh said. "I was really influenced by the head custodian, an old gentleman named Vince. He was proud of his building and proud of the work that he did to make the environment clean and comfortable for the residents.

"That was my first exposure to the concept of a university being an amalgamation of different points of view from all levels of employment, but with a shared goal of creating a supportive environment for learning."

Beginning June 1, Dr. Limbaugh will put that lesson and others he has gained over the past 31 years in higher education to great use as ASU's new vice president for strate-

Citizen May

At times it seems Dr. Brian J. May of ASU's Agriculture Department is involved in everything.

The professor of animal science responds simply, "I enjoy helping people and the industries that are important to me."

Over the years, the people of San Angelo have noticed, whether May is providing direction for the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo Association; serving on the board of directors of West Texas Boys Ranch and Texas Bank; helping steer Angelo State into the Texas Tech University System; presiding over the ASU Alumni Association as

gy, planning and policy. Since he began his career in 1976 at Nebraska's Kearney State College and continued it at Frostburg State University (FSU) in Maryland for the last 27 years, Limbaugh has worked in every major division of university administration except advancement.

"In effect," Limbaugh said, "higher education is, at its core, a confederacy of groups, each with a different point of view about the goals of higher education. The greatest challenge for strategic planning is respecting the viewpoint of each group while establishing a 'common ground' that allows the university to move forward in a manner that benefits the community as a whole.

"I consider strategic planning to be a fundamental management function, operating in partnership with academic program development, fund-raising, fiscal management, marketing and resource allocation."

A native Texan, Limbaugh was most recently FSU's associate vice president for institutional effectiveness. His previous FSU positions included assistant to the provost, director of special academic services, director of auxiliary services and associate dean of students. He also taught freshman composition and honors seminars in the history of American architecture.

Limbaugh earned his bachelor's degree in general business and English and his master's degree in student personnel and guidance, both from ETSU, today known as Texas A&M-Commerce. He completed his Ph.D. in educational policy and leadership from the University of Maryland by commuting from FSU to College Park, two and a half hours each way, once a week for five years.

Limbaugh's wife, Trish, is a practicing artist who has served on the FSU art faculty. They are the parents of three children: Kevin, a physician in Portland, Ore.; Andrew, an engineer in Newport News, Va.; and Jessica, a junior at FSU.

Looking to his ASU future, Limbaugh said, "Strategic planning as a management function is a vital component of the tactics used by higher education institutions of the 21st century to deal with a rapidly changing, volatile world."

The challenges of today's educational environment include intense competition for resources; expansion of technology and its impact on instructional delivery; globalization trends that demand different skill sets for students and faculty; and the evolution of a market economy because of increased competition not only among four-year institutions, but also from community



James Limbaugh

colleges and for-profit providers such as the Web-based University of Phoenix.

"Strategic planning," he said, "is a key component in identifying and maintaining competitive advantage."

And, as Limbaugh will tell you, lessons in strategic planning can come from behind a desk, from behind a computer monitor and even from behind a mop or broom. ■

president; or announcing football games for Wall High School.

In January the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce recognized his community service by naming May its Citizen of the Year for his longstanding contributions to San Angelo, the Concho Valley and the agriculture industry.

"The most satisfying part of community service is helping people and seeing them succeed, based in some small part that I had in their success or happiness," May said.

A member of the ASU faculty since 1994 and before that the executive director of the Mohair Council of America for seven years, May sees community service as a valuable part of any job, especially teaching.

"The role as professor here at ASU has been dramatically effected by the real industry experience I bring to the classroom," May said. "Using that experience helps gain employment for students, makes them more prepared and gives them more opportunities to volunteer themselves.

"The exposure through volunteering has also helped me to recruit students on a large scale," he said, "not only for agriculture but for all departments throughout ASU."

May earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from ASU before getting his doctorate from Texas A&M. He and his wife, Patti, have two daughters, Morgan and Mackenzie. ■



Brian May

At Home on the Range

(and in the Classroom)



Cody Scott

His extraordinary accomplishments in the field, so to speak, have earned ASU's Dr. Cody Scott the 2008 Outstanding Young Range Professional Award from the Society for Range Management (SRM).

The national award was announced in February, following Scott's November designation as the 2007 Outstanding Young Range Professional by the Texas Section, Society for Range Management.

In announcing the national award in Louisville, SRM President Dennis Phillippi said, "Scott has demonstrated extraordinary promise as a range management professional in his 12-year career at Angelo State. He has gained a reputation as a

great research scientist and range management instructor."

An ASU professor of animal science and research scientist, Scott maintains a wide variety of research interests, including using goats as a biological control of juniper; understanding the role of livestock and wildlife in the spread of mesquite seeds; reducing poisonous plant problems; and studying other plant-animal interaction and animal behavior.

A West Texas native, Scott has been on the ASU faculty since 1995. Outside the classroom, he conducts his own research, advises graduate research projects, consults area landowners and directs the public draw hunts at the ASU Ranch. He is also responsible for all

range management decisions at the ranch.

"I really like research and I wanted to leave my mark as a research scientist," Scott said. "Since I've been here, that has changed. When I first came here, if you asked me what I enjoyed most, it was the research part and then teaching. Now, no matter what else is going on, when I walk in the classroom everything is fine. The teaching part is what I enjoy more now."

Scott received his bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science from ASU in 1990 and 1992. He earned his Ph.D. in range science from Utah State University in 1995. He is married to Bridget Scott, manager of Palmer Feed in San Angelo, and they have a son, Brian. ■

Nursing 'Granted' New Programs

ASU's Nursing Department is on the front lines of the fight against the current shortage of registered nurses in Texas.

Against stiff competition from larger universities this spring, the department won grant awards totaling more than \$1.5 million from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to continue its forward advance.

The first grant for \$1.27 million will help fund a partnership program with four area hospitals to speed up the process and reduce the costs for licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) at the partner hospitals to become

registered nurses (RNs). The new program is projected to graduate 140 additional RNs over the three-year grant period.

The partner hospitals are Shannon Medical Center, San Angelo Community Medical Center, Brownwood Regional Medical Center and Scenic Mountain Medical Center in Big Spring.

"We are fortunate to have hospital partners with such a strong commitment to innovation in nursing education," said Dr. Leslie Mayrand, head of the ASU Nursing Department.

The second \$300,000 grant was awarded as part of a \$2.4 million package for the 12 schools in the West Texas Nursing Edu-

cation Consortium (WTNEC). Consortium members are partnering on a new project to standardize the application process for their nursing programs.

Last year, Texas lost an estimated 11,000 qualified nursing school applicants through the current system. By regionalizing the process, WTNEC members can make sure that at least every slot in their nursing programs can be filled.

Linda Ross, professional specialist in the ASU Nursing Department, said, "The ultimate goal is to increase the number of registered nurses in the workforce in West Texas." ■



David Trevino

Grammy by Mail

Sophomore music major David Trevino missed picking up a Grammy Award in person during the 50th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles in February. He had an ASU music class the next day.

"I had a chance to go to the Grammys, but I stayed in school," Trevino said. "I couldn't afford to miss that many days."

As a member of the Tejano band "Little Joe y La Familia," Trevino played saxophone on the group's "Before the Next Teardrop Falls," the TDI Records album which won the Grammy Award for Best Tejano Album this year.

"It's really exciting," Trevino said, even if the Grammy was to come by mail.

A San Angelo native, Trevino was part of the five-horn section Los Hot Horns put together by former ASU student John Ontiveros. The group played with several local bands before being picked up by Grammy-winning artist Chente Barrera. When Little

Joe's horn section left him in January 2007, he brought Los Hot Horns into his band. Trevino also toured with Little Joe y La Familia through nine different states last year before leaving the band to return to school.

"I talked to Little Joe on New Year's night," Trevino said, "and told him I was thinking about going back to school. He said 'school is the best thing and you need to go and finish because this will always be here.' So, I plan on going back and playing, but not until I'm done with school."

At ASU, Trevino plays baritone saxophone for the Wind Ensemble and tenor saxophone in the Jazz Band.

Dr. Tim Bonenfant, assistant professor of music, said, "We're incredibly proud and I don't think it is even sinking in with us yet, how big a deal this is. He is going to have some extra attention for awhile and we're certainly going to talk about it as much as we can." ■

Cherry Blossoms Special

Full *Ram Page* Editor Jennifer Rios spent the spring semester on the banks of the Potomac, where the cherry blossoms bloom, rather than along the Concho River.

Rios was one of five students nationally to earn a prestigious spring internship through the Scripps Howard Foundation's Semester in Washington Program. The senior journalism major pushed back her scheduled May graduation to December so she could get experience in the greatest reporting laboratory in the world, Washington, D.C.

"I can see small improvements in my writing so far and major improvements in other skills, like writing a story from different angles, phrasing my questions for different people and constructing a story during a speech or interview," she said.

During her January-April internship, Rios saw President George W. Bush's last state-of-the-union address and wrote a feature on the young Marine first lieutenant who shared the first lady's box.

"That was amazing, even if I was exhausted afterward," she recalled.

Her coverage assignments included an anti-abortion rally, gender-violence and HIV, various National Press Club speeches, an exhibit opening at the National Archives, and foster care and child welfare.

"In D.C. the issues I've run into are sometimes more complex and take longer to grasp," she said, "but the concept of pulling together a story is the same."

In addition to learning about various political issues, the senior from Colorado City has learned some things about herself and



Jennifer Rios

her ability to cope.

"I've also seen," she said, "that this internship, while big and scary, is definitely manageable." ■

A Bumper Crop

“**G**rowing our faculty” is how Dr. Patricia L. “Trish” Hutchinson describes the mission of Angelo State University’s new Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research (CITR).

As the first director of CITR, Hutchinson is developing programs and initiatives that will assist ASU’s 347 faculty members in enhancing their teaching, research and service endeavors.

“We will be focusing on ASU having the best faculty in the state,” Hutchinson said, “and by doing that, we will be producing the best students.”

Hutchinson, who joined the ASU nursing faculty in 1995 and later served on the physical therapy faculty, has extensive research and university teaching experience. She has planned and developed over a dozen new clinics and rehabilitation businesses on the east coast and in Texas.

Teaching in the 21st century is more complex than in decades past. At one time, a professor could succeed by being an authority in an academic discipline and a good lecturer. Today, the influence of technology in education occurs so rapidly that faculty

often have a hard time keeping pace with the changes, yet the tools are available to vastly expand opportunities in the classroom, in research and in faculty service.

“Information technology is key,” Hutchinson said. “Providing faculty with total digital media opportunities and support is growing in importance to reach the contemporary student. This need was recognized by faculty years ago and recommended by the Faculty Senate.”

As a result, Hutchinson will be working closely with ASU’s Information Technology staff to determine how best to identify and utilize resources to help faculty in all areas of their professional lives.

President Joseph C. Rallo said, “When I first arrived at ASU, several faculty leaders expressed their long-held desire for an office which would provide guidance on innovations essential to excellent teaching and assistance on developing research projects. CITR is a response to these important faculty concerns.”

Indeed, CITR will be involved in an array of faculty-centric activities that will include enhancing new faculty orientation, rewarding faculty for teaching and research



Patricia “Trish” Hutchinson

excellence, creating faculty mentors, establishing faculty development leaves and conducting a variety of workshops, retreats and on-line opportunities for faculty.

Hutchinson and the center will report to the graduate dean/director of research and faculty innovation for the university.

Graduate Dean Dr. Carol Diminnie said, “Trish brings to the position a strong business, teaching, grant writing and instructional design background. She understands how to integrate technology with pedagogy to make a better learning environment for today’s students. She has a thorough understanding of the teaching-learning process and learning assessment.”

To develop a model center, Hutchinson has visited the campus of Western Illinois University, where Rallo served as provost and started a similar center. She has also inspected comparable centers at Western Carolina, North Carolina State and University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

“North Carolina as a state has made a huge commitment to faculty development,” Hutchinson said. “Although I knew the direction I wanted to take with CITR, seeing these other facilities has helped me articulate what we need to do.”

In the end, the center seeks to provide the resources to help faculty members build upon their strengths and deliver a teaching experience in line with the university’s mission and vision.

“What we will be doing is like putting fertilizer on a field to help a crop reach its full potential,” Hutchinson said. ■



Chemistry Experiment

Dr. David Carter, assistant professor of chemistry, wants to see more students succeed in the introductory chemistry courses designed for science majors.

To help him in that endeavor, he has been awarded a \$145,503 grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to redesign the curriculum of ASU's CHEM 1411 and 1412, collectively referred to as "General Chemistry."

The two-year grant, awarded through the THECB's Texas Course Redesign Project, will support Carter's new program "Closing the Gap in CHEM 1411 Using Concept Gateways and IT Enhanced Active Learning."

Nationwide, general chemistry courses have such a high attrition rate that they are frequently referred to as "gateway" or "barrier" courses that often retard students' ability to obtain degrees in the science and technology areas so crucial to state and national competitiveness in a global economy.

In redesigning CHEM 1411, Carter seeks to develop a mechanism that will close the gap between students of different backgrounds in the first half to two-thirds of the semester; improve students' understanding, retention and ability to apply key chemical concepts; improve

course, major and university retention; enhance student attitudes on the value and utility of chemistry in their lives and disciplines; increase students' confidence in their ability to analyze and solve chemistry-related problems; and establish a strong and effective culture of ongoing assessment and curricular reform among the general chemistry faculty.

Plum Assignment

ASU graduate Katie Marie Plum is coordinator of the university's new Office of Sponsored Projects, which will assist faculty and administrators in securing research and programmatic grants from state and federal agencies.

Dr. Carol Diminnie, dean of the College of Graduate Studies and director of research and faculty innovation, announced the appointment.

The Office of Sponsored Programs will serve as a clearinghouse for funding opportunities and assist faculty and staff in developing, writing and submitting grant and contract proposals. The office will maintain university databases and files to meet reporting requirements and will coordinate grant writing workshops for ASU employees.

Plum comes to ASU from the Shannon Health System, where she spent the past

five years working on various aspects of grant writing and oversight. During her five years with Shannon, she was involved in securing grants of more than \$5.3 million from various state, federal and private agencies.

She graduated summa cum laude from ASU in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in English and received the Distinguished Student Award from the College of Liberal and Fine Arts.

C&M Strikes Gold

ASU's Office of Communications and Marketing (C&M) earned 11 Addy Awards, including four golds and a special commendation, during the annual banquet of the American Advertising Federation-San Angelo in February.

A Gold Addy and Judges Commendation No. 1 went to the "Clean Your Room Mom's Coming" poster designed by Graphics Director Michael Martin for Family Day 2007. University Photographer Danny Meyer received a Gold Addy for his photo "Basketball Blowout" (See back cover) as well as two silvers and a bronze.

The final three issues of the *Alumni Magazine*, which has since been superseded by *ASU Magazine*, received a Gold Addy. The new Angelo State Web site, a joint effort by C&M and Information

Technology as ASU moved to the Texas Tech University System last fall, received a Gold Addy as well.

Welch Grants

The Chemistry and Biochemistry Department has been awarded a three-year, \$75,000 grant from the Robert A. Welch Foundation to support chemical research by ASU chemistry faculty and to broaden opportunities for students to study chemistry.

ASU will receive \$25,000 annually, beginning June 1 and running through May 31, 2011.

Department Head Dr. George E. Shankle said the grant will be used primarily to support faculty-supervised undergraduate student research in chemistry, including research scholarships and lab supplies, travel expenses for students to attend scientific meetings to present their results, and research instrumentation.

"Our Robert A. Welch Foundation Departmental Research Grant allows us to maintain an active, student-oriented research program, which greatly benefits our students as they pursue employment or graduate study in chemistry," Shankle said.

This marks the fifth consecutive three-year cycle, dating back to 1996, that ASU has been awarded a Welch grant. ■

angelostaters

PEOPLE WHO MAKE ASU GREAT

Top Staff

Four ASU staff members have received Employee Excellence Awards for their job performance during the 2007 calendar year.

They are Suzanne Campbell, head, West Texas Collection, Porter Henderson Library; Lee Morris, utility worker, grounds, Facilities Management; Cam Stone, associate registrar, Registrar's Office; and Dwayne Wilson, support services sergeant, University Police.

The Employee Excellence Awards are given each spring semester in recognition of outstanding job performance during the preceding calendar year. The awards recognize non-teaching staff members whose job performance exceeds the customary standards or who exhibit outstanding skills or dedication while performing special projects. Each of the four recipients received a plaque and \$300 honorarium.

Honorees were selected by a committee of the ASU Staff Senate from 25 staff members nominated by their fellow employees for outstanding overall job performance or outstanding performance on a special project.

Science Scholars

Six ASU students from the College of Sciences picked up awards at the 111th annual

meeting of the Texas Academy of Science in March.

First place student awards, including checks for \$1,500, went to Ryan Sonntag in chemistry for his undergraduate research proposal, "Detailed Geologic Mapping of the Slaughter Ranch, Big Bend Region, Texas," and to Dana Lee in biology for her graduate research proposal, "Taxonomic Status of the Davis Mountains Cottontail, *Sylvilagus robustus* (Lagomorpha: Leporidae) Revealed by Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphism."

Jessica Halley Newman received the Dr. Ali Reza Amir-Moez Award and \$500 for best undergraduate oral presentation in math, "A Probabilistic Algorithm for Measuring of Coastline Length."

Other ASU student winners included Ashlee Stiles of biology with a first place for undergraduate oral presentation; Shane Guthrie in chemistry with a third place for undergraduate research proposal; and Gemma Guerra of biology with an honorable mention for graduate oral presentation.

Ned Strenth, David Marsh

Two ASU biology faculty were recognized during the 111th annual meeting of the Texas Academy of Science in March.

Dr. Ned Strenth, professor of biology, received an Outstanding Service Award for his years of excellent contributions to TAS.

Dr. David Marsh, professor of biology and immediate past-president of TAS, was appointed as collegiate counselor by the TAS board of directors.

The Texas Academy of Science is one of the oldest science organizations in the state. Its purpose is to promote scientific research among the colleges and universities of Texas, to promote undergraduate research and to enhance the professional development of its members.

Joseph C. Rallo

ASU President Dr. Joseph C. Rallo has been named to chair the Global Competitiveness Committee of the Council of Public University Presidents and Chancellors (CPUPC).

Dr. Rallo will serve as chair through the fall of 2008 when the committee will make its report to the Texas House Select Committee on Higher Education and Global Competitiveness.

The select committee was established by House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 159 during the last session of the Texas Legislature with a charge to examine a variety of issues in higher educa-

tion to strengthen the state's global competitiveness.

Findings and recommendations of the CPUPC's Global Competitiveness Committee will be forwarded to the select committee for consideration in any legislation proposed during the next session of the Texas Legislature to improve the state's global competitiveness.

'The Invisibles'

ASU's intramural flag football team "The Invisibles" finished as runner-up at the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) National Flag Football Championships Jan. 3-5 in Dallas.

In the championship game of the Co-Rec Division, The Invisibles led for most of the contest until an interception followed by a quick touchdown late in the fourth quarter sparked a 20-10 come-from-behind victory for the University of North Carolina-Charlotte.

ASU's Janna Henderson was named the Co-Rec Division Female MVP, while teammates Nicole Gilbert and Blake McCarthy garnered All-America honors. Other team members were Boyd Brotherton, Reggie Ham, Nick LaFave, Laryssa Hise, Jerrell Jones, Rob Londerholm, Danielle Low, Whitney Monzingo, Apolynne Pilapil, Jason Reynolds, John Reynolds and Joe Walts. ■



Coming Up Roses

by Preston Lewis

As a young girl growing up in Honduras, Satcha Pretto dreamed of attending a Tournament of Roses Parade as she viewed the New Year's Day procession on television in the capital city of Tegucigalpa.

"Watching the Rose Parade on the first of January is a tradition in my family," said Pretto, "so it was standard to have all the cousins, uncles, aunts and grandparents wake up and gather around the television in the living room.

"I loved watching the floats and always wondered what it would be like to be there. I never imagined that five years into my broadcasting career I would have the chance to actually host the Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif."

A 2001 Angelo State graduate with a bachelor's degree in communication, Pretto is today co-anchor of Univision's weekend newsmagazine "Primer Impacto Fin de Semana." For the last two years, she has also co-anchored Univision's New Year's Day coverage of the Tournament of Roses Parade.

As a television journalist appearing on Spanish-language stations throughout the United States and in 13 Latin American countries, Pretto is today one of ASU's most internationally recognized graduates and certainly the most well known alumnus to have earned a degree in the 21st Century.

Her rise to TV journalism prominence in the highly competitive broadcast industry has been meteoric by virtually any standard. So anxious was she to enter the field that she completed her ASU studies in three and a half years and then took a job at KTLE-Telemundo in the Midland/Odessa market where she also did stories for News West 9, the Permian Basin NBC affiliate.

After 20 months in the Permian Basin, she moved to Dallas to work for the Univi-

Satcha Pretto on the Univision set.

Photo by Rodrigo Valera



In front of the camera, Pretto remains at ease.

sion affiliate KUVN-23 where she did one story for CNN's "Anderson Cooper" and another for "Paula Zahn Now." Her D/FW work caught the attention of Univision Network executives who came calling when an anchor slot opened on the weekend edition of "Primer Impacto."

"We always laughed," recalled former ASU Admissions Director Monique Cossich, who hired the then freshman Pretto to work in the Admissions Office, "that one day we would be watching the Satcha show instead of Oprah!"

These days a lot of people are watching Pretto on Univision, whether she's covering the bizarre death of Anna Nicole Smith and the ensuing media circus or the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Brazil during his first trip to Latin America. She's reported breaking news from the anchor desk on stories as varied as Mexico's most recent and controversial presidential election to the fires in Southern California.

Despite her parents' encouragement, her drive to get an education and her strong work ethic, she believes to this day that a simple brochure – from Angelo State – may have been the key, if not to her success, then at least to her current career path.

"I never dreamed of being a television journalist," Pretto said. "However, I always

knew I was going to college. That was a given, no matter what happened in my life."

The problem was, she remained uncertain where to go. She desired to study in the U.S. because she realized "the opportunities in any public university in the U.S. would be greater than those at any private university in my country."

When she took the PSAT in Honduras, she designated ASU to receive her test scores. The university responded by sending her information.

"I fell in love with the brochure," she said. "Silly, huh?"

The brochure caught her eye and the offer of a Carr Academic Scholarship sealed the deal.

"I knew I would need some type of financial aid because my mom wouldn't be able to afford the tuition," Pretto said.

Though her Panamanian father and her Honduran mother were divorced by the time she was five, both parents taught her the value of an education. They gave her educational coloring books, enrolled her in art and ballet lessons, took her to Sunday school and encouraged her to get involved in extracurricular activities at school. Most of all, they insisted that both her and her younger brother learn English, a skill they thought necessary for success. By the age

of four, Pretto was learning English and by the age of nine was fluent.

"Both of my parents taught me from an early age that I was capable of doing anything I set out to do, so long as I did it with passion and using my brain," she recalled.

Success started early for her. In high school she worked on the staff of both the newspaper and yearbook, served as captain of the cheerleading squad, was elected vice president of the student council and was voted by her classmates as "most likely to succeed."

"By the time I graduated from high school, my dad had already passed away and didn't really leave us any money to invest in our future. If I had not received the partial Carr Scholarship and the chance to pay tuition as a Texas resident, I would not have been able to afford my studies abroad."

From the moment her airplane arrived in Houston, she felt an affinity for Texas and its people.

"I loved it even more when my mom and I took the Greyhound to San Angelo and got to see the gorgeous landscape and all the towns that lie in between both cities," Pretto said. "I loved how friendly everyone was, but I must admit that at first I had a hard time understanding the Texas twang, but after a couple of days my ears adjusted to it."

ASU impressed her as well.

"I absolutely adored the campus! It was even prettier than it looked like on the brochure. I was impressed with how clean and well organized everything was....Everyone was extremely cordial and cooperative and made me feel right at home from the moment I walked into the Admissions Office."

Just as the campus impressed her, she started impressing people as well. Then Admissions Director Monique Cossich hired her as a student assistant.

"Satcha worked in the Office of Admissions as a freshman," Cossich said. "Her personality and work ethic made her a perfect fit with the rest of the team members. She was always eager to learn new things and quickly started assuming responsibilities equal to full-time workers."

Before long, Pretto started leading campus tours for prospective students and their families.

"Parents and students just loved her," Cossich said. "Satcha's outgoing personali-

ty combined with ASU's wonderful campus always earned her great comments about her campus tours. There was never any doubt in my mind that Satcha would accomplish her career goals, then set new ones."

Communication Instructor Pat Turner first encountered Satcha when she took the television production class as a sophomore.

"Satcha had a plan for herself and never wavered from that plan," Turner said. "She was talking about network television from very early on in the curriculum. Her international perspective and her Spanish skills were tremendous assets."

Dr. Cathy Johnson, associate professor of journalism and adviser for the *Ram Page*, said Pretto took the copyediting class, even though she was a communication major. "That's rare for someone who is neither a journalism nor English major or minor."

Johnson had Pretto for another class as well. "She was more alert and involved in the class than most of the other students,"



Pretto shares a laugh in makeup.

Photo by Rodrigo Valera

During her ASU days, Pretto strolls the Mall with French Professor Elisabeth-Christine Muelsch.



Johnson said. "Satcha brightened the classroom with her demeanor."

"Every course I took at ASU has helped me in one way or another during the course of my career," Pretto said. "I believe the 'hands on' communication classes were definitely the best, especially those in which we were responsible for producing, writing and editing stories and, sometimes, even entire shows."

Pretto holds a special fondness for Pat Turner, who taught most of those courses.

Turner said Pretto's talent was enhanced by her work ethic, recalling how the young journalist went to the Junell Center construction site to do some spots for her resume tape.

"Somehow, she got one of the construction workers to loan her his hard hat and she did a whole series of on-camera stand ups in front of cranes, bulldozers and all sorts of big, heavy equipment in action," Turner said. "So, here's beautiful Satcha reporting away in some beat-up hard hat on the construction progress in both Spanish and English."

Her ASU experience plus an internship at KLST-TV helped prepare Pretto for broadcasting after college. By the time she graduated with her bachelor's degree in communication, Pretto had won first place in the TV-announcing competition of the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association, becoming the first ASU student to receive that honor.

Pretto was also one of only 12 students from the United States chosen to participate in "El Noticiero," the newscast put together by students at the National Association of Hispanic Journalists. As part of the student project, she was selected to co-anchor the show in June 2001. Pretto was honored four years later by NAHJ when she was asked to serve as a mentor for the association's Fort Worth convention.

After graduation, which Pretto shared with both her mother on her only return trip to Texas to visit her daughter and her brother, she went to work for the Midland/Odessa Telemundo affiliate KTLE.

"I was hired to anchor a show without any experience," Pretto said. "Every time I watch the airchecks of my first shows, I crack up for hours! I was terrible, but was lucky enough to work with a group of colleagues who taught me a lot.

"There's a quote in the business that

goes: It's not how bad you mess up; it's how well you recover. To err is human and to this day I remember that quote whenever something goes wrong while I'm on the air."

Her biggest story at KTLE came by accident while she was reporting along the Mexico-Texas border with U.S. Border Patrol agents. They came upon three undocumented immigrants who had been lost in the desert for three days with no water and only a couple cans of beans for food.

"The story was so heart-breaking for me," Pretto recalled.

Heart-breaking and good! Her coverage earned her an award from the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters and helped catch the attention of TV journalists across the state.

"It was there (KTLE), with the support of a great news team, where I had the chance to cover a variety of stories and get the confidence that I needed to jump to the D/FW market," Pretto said.

Even though no openings were posted at KUVN, Pretto sent a resume and demo tape to the Univision affiliate in Dallas. The news director called a week later, saying that she liked Pretto's work, but had no openings. Fewer than eight weeks later a job came open and Pretto received a job interview. She was hired shortly after that.

In the Dallas market she covered everything from the breaking news of the drowning of a father and four children in Fort Worth's Water Gardens to an investigative piece that took more than a year to do with the Homeland Security Department and resulted in indictments of several individuals who were selling fake identification documents. That investigative piece earned her an Emmy nomination in 2005. Several other of her investigative pieces resulted in legal action by the state Attorney General's Office.

"I take pride in every story that I do," Pretto said. "That comes from being taught to always give 110 percent. Besides, they say that a reporter is only as good as his last story, so I try to make sure every piece I do is outstanding."

Turner said, "Satcha has the journalist's talents of having news judgment, being able to write news and deliver news on air. But, she has the rarer gift of knowing how to tell the stories of the world in a way that connects her with her viewers and her listeners on a human level."

Pretto's reportorial skill and her human empathy helped catch the eye of Univision network executives in Miami. While at KUVN, Pretto had done stories for "Noticiero Univision" and "Ultima Hora," the equivalent of "World News" and "Nightline" on ABC.

"One of these stories that I tossed live from a flooded area in Dallas caught the attention of Primer Impacto's executive producer and I was later called to fly to Miami for a casting and an interview. I was thrilled."

"My dream of working on Univision Network came true in a shorter time than I expected," Pretto said. "It was hard to leave



Dallas, though. I made great friends there and loved the team that I worked with.”

She loves her new home in Miami, “the Latin capital of the U.S.,” and the job, despite its hectic pace and the demands on her time, all determined by what is going on in the world.

“If there are no big stories and I’m not traveling, I usually work from Saturday through Wednesday, from noon to 7 p.m.,” she said. “‘Premier Impacto’ Weekend Edition is a news magazine show that brings the viewers the latest news from around the globe along with innovative and unique stories that you don’t see on a regular newscast.

Our format allows us to provide bolder segments, longer stories and series delivered in a provocative yet informative way.”

Pretto sees her anchor position not as a job so much as a duty.

“As a broadcast journalist, I have a great responsibility to give our viewers the latest, most accurate information while remaining unbiased at all times,” she said. “So many of our viewers depend on the information we give them during a catastrophe and, therefore, I don’t take my words lightly. Unlike a talk show host, as a broadcast journalist I am in the business of giving facts not opinions.”

The downside of her highly visible job is simply the scheduling demands, which keep her from spending as much time as she would like with her family in Honduras.

“My family is my rock,” Pretto said. “It is the support that I get from my loved ones that keeps me going when I feel I’m about to hit rock bottom.”

And though she may not get to see as much of her family as she would like, her family and the Latin world certainly get to see her regularly, whether she’s reporting the news or covering the Tournament of Roses Parade, fulfilling her Honduran childhood dream of years ago. ■

Pretto graces the Miami skyline.

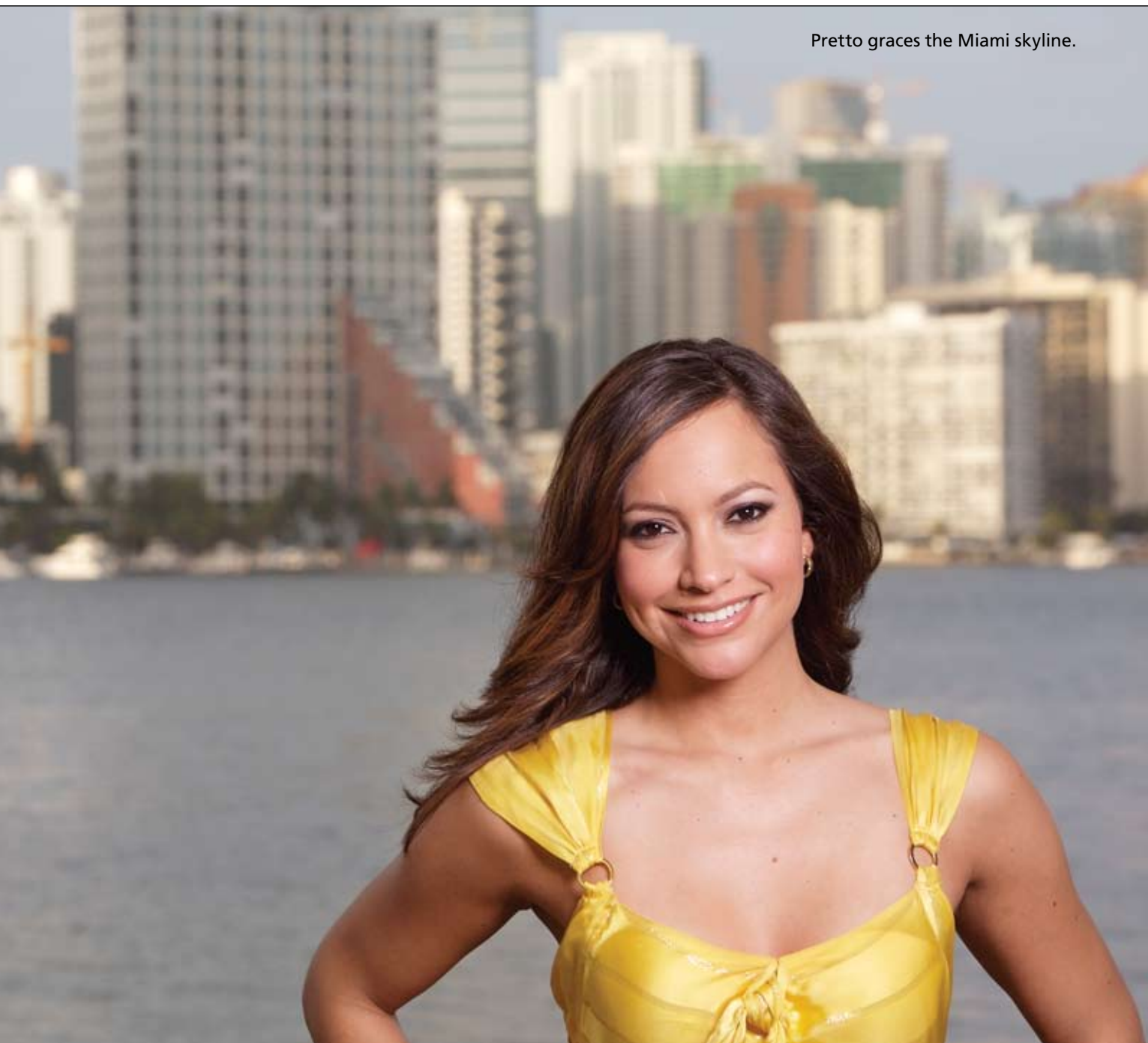



Photo by Rodrigo Valera



the Pursuit of Knowledge

THOUGH universities may be viewed as purveyors of higher education, they are also, more appropriately, creators of knowledge.

Sure, universities are charged with conveying knowledge to successive generations of students, but they have an equally important role in producing new knowledge. Research is the tool that manufactures new knowledge in disciplines as disparate as history and physics.

Research has long been the staple of graduate schools around the world, providing the rite of passage from a baccalaureate diploma to a master's or doctoral degree. A few enlightened institutions, such as Angelo State University, have incorporated significant research into various undergraduate programs as well.

In fact, the opportunity to conduct undergraduate research is one of the key selling points for an ASU education and one of the distinctives that separates ASU from many other universities. ASU's undergraduate research and its longstanding graduate programs allow students to explore and push back the frontiers of knowledge. Their discoveries add to our understanding of the past, our response to the present and our ability to shape the future.

Often times, however, university research is relegated to the professional or academic journals read primarily by peers in that narrow field. Consequently, the public seldom sees the results of that hard work. For that reason, the editorial staff of *ASU Magazine* decided to look at the breadth and impact of ASU research at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

What we found was impressive. One student has discovered a new bat species in South America. Another has developed algorithms that can help map coastlines worldwide. One is tracking water moccasins to determine their distribution. Another is looking at the political settlement in Northern Ireland that ended decades of conflict. Yet another is studying how film techniques influence our perceptions of the movies. And, one has worked on spectroscopic measurements that can help tame nuclear fusion and create a green energy source. The list goes on.

Our life today, indeed our civilization, is built upon the discoveries of those who preceded us. Research has touched all aspects of our lives from the social realm, where it promotes an understanding of history, society and culture, to economic development, where it provides a foundation for emerging technology to innovative advances.

In the end, we as members of society all benefit from research, often directly but most often indirectly. And, we as the ASU community benefit from the findings our students, both undergraduate and graduate, produce. After all, knowledge is the ultimate product of a university.





Molly McDonough

Texas Tech Photo by Artie Limmer

Bat-tastic Discovery

by Tom Nurre

When Molly McDonough decided to come to Angelo State University for her master's degree in biology, she had no idea that she would end up making school history.

As a result of her research efforts, McDonough will be recorded in university annals as the first ASU student ever to have a hand in discovering a new species. Her study of *Eumops glaucinus* bats, found mainly in Central and South America, led to the identification of a new species of bat that inhabits western Ecuador and visually resembles *Eumops glaucinus*.

"Here at ASU, I looked at genetic information and determined that there was enough variation, or differences, in the western Ecuador bats from those found in other populations, that it is a unique species," McDonough said.

That may sound simple, but it took nearly three years of lab and field work to obtain the necessary evidence to identify the new species. Throughout her project, McDonough worked closely with Dr. Loren Ammerman of the ASU Biology Department as well as with faculty and student researchers at Texas Tech University.

As a group they have submitted their findings for publication, the first step that should eventually lead to inclusion of the new species, which they will also name, in the official registry *Mammal Species of*

the World distributed by the Johns Hopkins Press.

"We have an excellent Natural History Collection at ASU," Ammerman said. "We also have a state-of-the-art molecular lab and that is a good combination. Since this project was done prior to recent additions to our lab, what made it even more successful was the collaboration with Texas Tech."

The road to McDonough's new discovery began when she was an undergraduate student at Texas State University in San Marcos. She got interested in bats after accompanying TSU graduate student Stephanie Shelton on research trips to the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area near Fredericksburg.

"Stephanie was looking at the Mexican free-tailed bats out there," McDonough said. "The more I did research with her, the more I realized that was exactly what I wanted to be doing."

It was also through Shelton that McDonough first met Ammerman, who just happened to be on Shelton's graduate committee. After hearing from Shelton about Ammerman's field research classes that study bats in Big Bend State Park, McDonough sought out Ammerman at a professional meeting in San Antonio.

"So, I started talking to Dr. Ammerman and I came out to Angelo State," McDonough said. "I especially liked that there

was a really strong emphasis on natural history here. She told me about a project she wanted to get started looking at the molecular systematics of a free-tailed bat species and that if I was interested, we could work together on it."

After earning her bachelor's degree in wildlife biology from Texas State, McDonough entered the master's program at ASU and started on the project that would eventually become her master's thesis.

"I first began working on the *Eumops glaucinus* project with Dr. Ammerman in order to gain experience working in a molecular lab," McDonough said. "At that time, I didn't realize that the project had the potential for uncovering a new species."

As she and McDonough spent time together in the lab and in the field, Ammerman realized she had found a kindred spirit.

"My major role was really just picking out the perfect student to do the project," Ammerman said. "I also taught her different techniques she needed and helped her acquire the funding for the project. She has very similar interests to mine. She likes to be out in the field, but then is also really amazed by molecular data. So, I just figured it would be a good fit."

— continued



Loren Ammerman

The project itself was actually a continuation of research started by a Texas Tech group led by their professor, Dr. Robert Baker, which brought back samples of *Eumops glaucinus* bats from Ecuador as part of the Sowell Expedition in 2004. They recorded chromosomal information and found some initial differences in some of their samples.

Ammerman helped McDonough obtain from Texas Tech those samples that came from all seven countries in the bat's range dating back to the 1970s. In addition to further molecular study of the samples, McDonough talked Ammerman into helping her conduct field work in Ecuador.

"She was the reason that the project got done," Ammerman said, "especially the work in Ecuador. It was her coming in here and saying 'we need to go to Ecuador to do some more collecting' and 'we need money for this.' She was persistent and really took the lead on the project once I gave her the tissue samples."

In the summer of 2006 they were joined by ASU students Adam Ferguson and Carson Brown for the trip to Ecuador, where they traversed the country searching for samples of the new species to support their findings.

"We had all of our gear in two huge duffel bags and we would just get on buses and go to different field sites," McDonough said. "We spent one month in eastern Ecuador and one month in western Ecuador. We went to field sites in 11 of their 13 provinces and tried to catch this bat."

Their retrieval efforts included searching for the bats roosting in buildings and trapping them in-flight using "mist nets."

"They are like volleyball nets," Ammerman said. "They are thin, like a hair net, and they are stretched between two poles. The bats fly into them and get tangled."

The trip to Ecuador was followed by more lab work at ASU, then further research at Texas Tech that helped confirm McDonough's initial findings that there was an unidentified species of bat native to western Ecuador.

"What she did with her project was Ph.D. quality work," Ammerman said. "It just kept blossoming and growing. She kept saying 'why don't we do this' and 'why don't we add this,' 'why don't we do this other technique' and 'why don't we go to Ecuador.' It just constantly grew bigger and bigger from what I originally had intended."

As the project grew, the need for funding expanded along with it. McDonough's lab work was paid for through an ASU Research Enhancement Grant and the Ecuador trip was partially funded by a grant from the ASU President's Circle. She was also awarded grants from the Texas Academy of Sciences (TAS) and the Southwestern Association of Naturalists. She even conducted a garage sale and received donations from friends and family.

But in the end, McDonough said it was worth all the time, money and effort. In addition to being in line to have her name included in the official registry of the world's mammals, McDonough has received presentation awards for her research from TAS and the Texas Society of Mammalogists.

"For me, this project was a constant source of motivation to get into the lab because we were making a new discovery that only a handful of people in the world knew about," McDonough said. "I can't thank Dr. Ammerman enough for inviting me to be a part of this project and for introducing me to molecular biology."

After graduating from ASU in December, McDonough started work as a research technician in Dr. Baker's molecular biology lab at Texas Tech. ■

Snake Charmer

by Tom Nurre

Jason Strickland likes to slog through the shallows and comb the banks of the South Concho River looking for the type of snakes most people try to avoid.

The junior biology major from Seminole is in the middle of a two-year demographic and population research project on the western cottonmouth snake (*Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma*).

"The South Concho River is about the western-most edge of its range," said Strickland, an active member of the ASU chapter of the Beta Beta Beta (Tri-Beta) Biology Honor Society. "We are studying the age breakdowns, male-female ratio, how large they are getting, and diversity within the population. We are also looking at the size of the population and whether it's a healthy, reproducing population."

Along with Dr. Kelly McCoy, head of ASU's Biology Department, Strickland has been capturing snakes since the spring of 2007 for testing, marking and documentation. His research will be compared to previously published literature on western



Jason Strickland works in the field.

Photo courtesy of Jason Strickland

cottonmouths and, possibly, data being compiled in similar projects at other universities, including Sam Houston State, Texas State and the University of Missouri.

"I've always been fascinated by reptiles," Strickland said. "Ever since I was a little kid, I've wanted to be a herpetologist. My favorite reptiles have always been venomous snakes, so that is what I wanted to work on."

While Strickland has been gung-ho about the project from the beginning, McCoy was not nearly as excited when he was asked to be the faculty adviser. It took three separate visits from Strickland and a lot of cajoling to get the professor on board.

"It's always fun to get in the field and I really enjoy that," McCoy said. "It's why I'm a biologist. If I had my choice, though, I would not work with big, smelly, nasty, poisonous snakes. But, if you are interested in snakes, it's a good species to work on because you can catch a bunch of them around here."

In an attempt to bolster McCoy's commitment to his project, Strickland accompanied him to a meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, where he hoped to find some professional support for his idea.

"My initial reaction was that I really didn't want to do that project," McCoy said. "So, we went to the meeting in Stephenville where I talked to a bunch of my friends who have been working on water moccasins for years and they said it was a worthwhile project."

Another result of the meeting was that Strickland and McCoy were invited to visit Sam Houston State to look at an ongoing cottonmouth project and learn how to handle the snakes in the field and in the lab.

"Having other people in the field who were willing to give us a good opinion about whether the project was worthwhile and to help us learn how to actually do the process, that made it okay," McCoy said.

So, out into the field they went and, within just a few excursions, rounded up more than 20 snakes to begin their research.

"Snakes are very hard to work with unless you have a good population that is very isolated," Strickland said. "You can go out and try to find a bull snake and go all day without finding one. But here, how confined the population of cottonmouths is and the size of the population has made it easier to work with."

Basically, they search areas along the river favored by the cottonmouths, snare them with tongs and put them in five-gallon buckets for transport.

"We just go out and catch them in the field," Strickland said. "Then we bring them back to the lab, where we do all the processing. That's pretty much our standard procedure."

While most people knowing they were going to seek poisonous serpents might opt for a wardrobe of chain mail and hip waders, that is not the case for Strickland and McCoy.

"We are not out there in protective gear," McCoy said. "But, so far, our experience with the snakes in the field is that they are not aggressive at all. They are trying to get away or trying to hide. We do have a lot of specialized equipment for handling them in the lab, so nobody is handling venomous snakes bare-handed."

Strickland's passion for the project is not only fueled by his love of snakes, but also by what he sees as the role of scientists to keep people informed about the world around us.

"I can use my conclusions to illustrate the behavior of this snake and try to remove some of the stereotypes given to venomous snakes," Strickland said. "They may be potentially hazardous to people, but these snakes were here long before we were and have the same right to be on Earth. If they are respected, admired and not persecuted due in any part to my efforts, then I would consider my research a success."

Though not initially thrilled to be involved with Strickland's project, McCoy is pleased that his department has the necessary components in place to attract and retain such quality students.

"We have a very active research program, especially for a university this size," McCoy said. "The combination of small classes, low student-to-faculty ratio, plus having this really good research program, is unique. We have always had a large number of very good students because all of those things are going on."

"I'm incredibly proud of the Biology Department," Strickland said. "We have one of

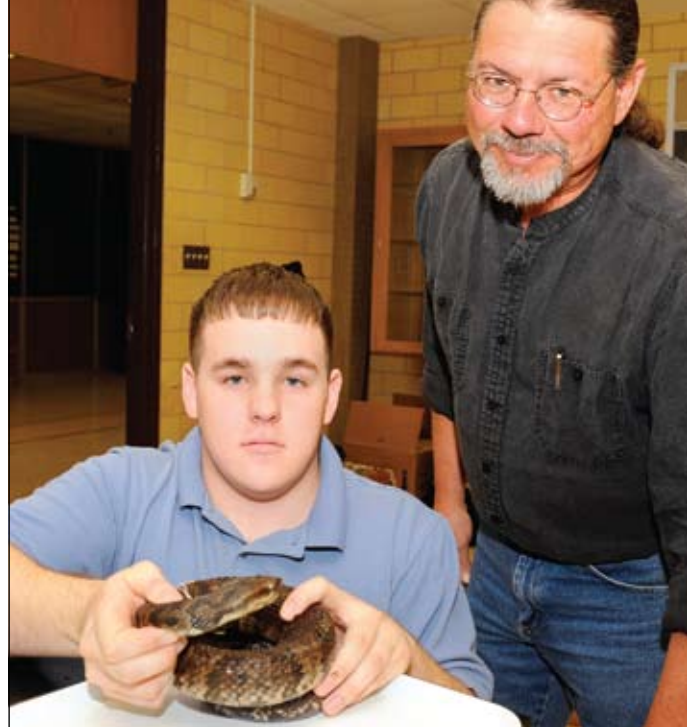


Photo by Danny Meyer

Even with lab specimens, Professor Kelly McCoy prefers that Strickland handles the snakes.

the best Biology Departments in the state, especially for field biology like I'm interested in. We have great professors in all the major fields. Every professor I've ever had, I've been able to go to their office whenever I wanted to and talk to them."

Having just completed the first year of his project, Strickland has already received a research grant from the National Tri-Beta Foundation and presented his current findings at a Texas Academy of Sciences meeting in March and the Tri-Beta Regional Convention in April.

When he is not out scouring the South Concho River for snakes, Strickland is the ASU Tri-Beta secretary and webmaster as well as regional Tri-Beta president for Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. He is also a member of the ASU Honors Program, Honors Student Association and Alpha Chi. He can also often be found on the job with ASU Residential Programs as a resident assistant in the Texan Hall.

Scheduled to graduate in May 2009, Strickland plans to pursue a Ph.D. and then a career in college teaching or government wildlife service. ■



Adam Ferguson and Professor Terry Maxwell on the skunk road again.

Common Scents

by Roy Ivey

Adam Ferguson's research subjects have a certain air about them.

The Angelo State University graduate student is studying the hog-nosed skunk as part of his master's degree in biology.

"I have always been interested in mammalian carnivores, especially those that we know little to nothing about," he said. "I like working with animals that are difficult to capture and hard to study."

His research seeks to determine the distribution and conservation status of the hog-nosed skunk in Texas. The goal is to get information on how populations of skunks might be changing in the state and to identify factors that might be affecting those changes.

Three skunk species live in the San Angelo area. The hog-nosed skunk is the biggest with an all-white tail, but it is less familiar than the striped skunk or the spotted skunk because of its cryptic nature, Ferguson said.

Skunks are shy of the spotlight, but do get caught in the headlights.

"The hog-nose will amble along, go into the brush and sit there if someone comes along," he said.

The hog-nosed skunk is 18-35 inches long and weighs as much as two pounds while the other two are smaller, down to less than a pound. The other two also are more aggressive, Ferguson said. Both the striped skunk and the spotted skunk will lunge and stomp their paws before they spray.

The spotted skunk weighs as much as one pound and has a span of 10 to 27 inches from head to tip of the tail, he said. It will try to make itself appear more imposing by doing a handstand on its forelegs as a threat display.

"It will walk toward you to show a 'leave-me-alone, I'm-a-threat' attitude," Ferguson said. "Then it will drop down and spray you."

The Biology Department collects and uses skunk specimens for research, Ferguson said.

"We have the Angelo State University Natural History Collection here in the Bi-

ology Department which has about 13,000 museum specimens of mammals,” he said.

Ferguson uses the specimens to document historical distributions.

“In my study, all the records are based on previously collected specimens from as early as 1886 in South Texas and the eastern Big Thicket region where they no longer exist,” he said. “Hog-nosed skunks used to be in four or five counties on the edge of the Big Thicket near Houston, including Harris County. They haven’t been seen there since about 1910.”

Researchers hypothesize the decline is due to a reduction of the skunks’ insect prey because of insecticide, changes in land use and urbanization, causing a reduction in habitat, and competition with feral hogs.

“One of the major goals of our study is to find out what’s going on in the East Texas portion of the range and the South Texas plains eco-region,” Ferguson said. “Biologists from Texas A&M-Kingsville recently reported the first documented record of a hog-nosed skunk in South Texas in 17 years.”

“Here in the Concho Valley, they seem to be doing pretty well,” he said. “We have records taken as recently as two weeks ago. What we want to know is why, in certain parts of the range where they historically occur, they are still there and, in others parts where they historically occurred, they are no longer found.”

The protocols in Ferguson’s study call for two people to drive a 100-mile-long route from San Angelo to Mertzon, south to Eldorado and back to San Angelo. Ferguson and his faculty collaborators, Dr. Robert Dowler and Dr. Terry Maxwell, cover the route every two weeks.

“We drive 55 miles per hour maximum, slow enough to spot them,” Ferguson said. “We are treating them as random samples because we are going to miss some no matter what.”

We stop and check everything that’s dead on the road,” he said. “We get out, inspect them and determine the species. Then we shovel them off the road and discard them. Basically, we clean the road every two weeks so that we can see what accumulates in between. I have seen live

hog-nosed skunks on the side of the road, although only rarely. Most that we find and collect are dead.”

Although the research route covers the San Angelo area, they keep statistics on skunks statewide, Ferguson said.

“We are using a geographic information system, which is a computer program used to map spatial information, to predict the distribution of skunks in Texas,” said Ferguson, who has been working on the project since January.

“My research focuses mainly on numbers and population demographics,” he said. “We hope to get some information on skunks’ home range and habitat usage in the future.”

He plans to continue research in carnivore ecology and conservation in a doctoral program.

“The idea is to get an entire year of data and, hopefully more than that, to look at the long-term trends. I want to extrapolate population changes for the hog-nosed skunk compared to other skunk species in Texas,” Ferguson said.

His research has its hazards, and Ferguson has paid the price. He has been on the receiving end of skunks’ defense mechanisms four times.

“You usually get sprayed when you catch them,” Ferguson said. “It’s kind of like a loaded gun. If you aim the rear end the other way, you can reduce how much you get sprayed.”

However, that technique doesn’t always work so well, Ferguson said.

“Once, I got sprayed in the face. I was running after a hooded skunk, which is like a striped skunk,” he said. “It was moving pretty fast, trying to get into the brush. It sprayed while it was running and didn’t have good aim.”

The spray hit his face.

“That was nasty and intense but we had to get the specimen,” Ferguson said. “We’d been trapping and hadn’t had any success. It was like playing skunk football, and it got me right in the mouth. It tastes like it smells. I had a bottle of water and tried my best to wash it out.”

Researching skunks has its pitfalls, but Ferguson is staying with it in his quest for the sweet smell of success. ■



Double

by Tom Nurre

Twin sisters Alexandra and Zoë Rogers look alike, live together, work together and even have the same double major, but when it came to choosing research projects, they went in entirely opposite directions.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, Alexandra and Zoë are senior international students majoring in French and communication. When they had to formulate research proposals for a class in the ASU Honors Program, both decided to actually complete the proposed projects. Alexandra is working on a case study of French explorer and artist Theodore Gentilz and his role as a chronicler of French culture in Texas during the mid-1800s.

Alexandra Rogers

Photos by Danny Meyer and Michael Martin. Painting courtesy of the Witte Museum, San Antonio, Texas



Zoë Rogers

Feature

"I'll be looking at the social and historical context that he lived in, the Romantic Era," Alexandra said. "Also, what other factors influenced him to move to Texas, because he came from a wealthy family and he could've entered his father's business and lived a rich lifestyle instead of traveling into the unknown."

Zoë, on the other hand, went to the other half of their shared major, choosing to study different aspects of interpersonal communication in Hollywood movies.

"I think movies are really important in people's lives," Zoë said. "People go to movies every day and there is a reason why certain movies reach people the way they do. I was also taking an interpersonal communication class at the time and I thought it would be interesting to tie all the subjects together."

Also, while Zoë's project is completely grounded in English, Alexandra is utilizing their second language for much of her research.

"I was very excited when I learned that Alexandra wanted to do a French-based research project," said Dr. Elisabeth-Christine Muelsch, French professor and Alexandra's faculty adviser. "She has an excellent command of the French language and will be able to read French documents that, until now, have not been evaluated. I believe her research will shed new light on this important artist."

The first part of Alexandra's project will explore Gentilz's motivation for moving to Texas in the 1840s with Henri Castro, who was commissioned by the French government to set up colonies in the "new world."

"Some previous research has been done on certain aspects of his life and his paintings," Alexandra said. "I'm going to look at why he came over, probe more into his formation growing up in Paris and how that effected the person he became in Texas."

Much of her information on Gentilz's early life is gleaned from his diary that is kept in the archives of the Witte Museum in San Antonio. Since it is written in French, it is one of the items that has not been fully evaluated in any previous research.

The second part of the project deals with Gentilz's life in Texas, not only how he helped preserve French culture, but also how his paintings provide a historical record of that period in Texas history. Many of his paintings are of American Indians and the Alamo and are currently displayed at the Witte Museum. His cultural influence is still evident in Castroville, where he settled with Henri Castro in 1844 just south of San Antonio.

"Going to Castroville is almost like going to Europe," Alexandra said. "You can see the French influence in the architecture and there are even restaurants where the people will speak French to you. Their menus feature more traditional French food than you would normally find in Texas restaurants."

While researching the French explorer, fittingly, Alexandra has also done some traveling. Besides the Witte Museum, she has visited the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin and the Daughters of the Republic Library in the Alamo.

Conversely, Zoë has done most of her research from the comfort of her couch in front of the television and DVD player. She is studying the different aspects of interpersonal communication in the movies "All Quiet on the Western Front," "Saving Private Ryan," "Bringing Up Baby" and "Love, Actually."

"Zoë is looking at how the camera is used in movie-making to simulate the viewer's eyes, as if we were present and observing the action, or as if we are one of the characters in the film," said Dr. June Smith, communication professor and Zoë's faculty adviser. "She is attempting to determine if we have either the same or different sets of nonverbal behavior expectations and responses to films as we do in face-to-face conversations."

First, Zoë had to set up her criteria. She is judging each movie based on lighting, sound, camera angles, what is happening on the screen, and blocking, or position of the actors.

"When I watch the movies, I have a table of these variables and I take notes on how they are used in the different scenes," Zoë said. "I realized that there are many of those aspects that I never would've picked up on, but you can tell that each shot was

put there intentionally to provoke the viewer to think in a certain way. I'm also exploring how, non-verbally, you can 'say' so much in a movie without actually using narration."

She is also comparing those variables in the newer films, "Saving Private Ryan" and "Love, Actually," to the two older, black-and-white movies that were made without some of the more sophisticated technology and techniques that are available today. Eventually, she hopes her research will aid film students and movie-makers to refine their own projects.

"For different people the same movie may have different meanings," Zoe said. "But, it's the shots, camera angles, lighting and sound that provoke them to believe certain things. Sometimes if you think a movie isn't convincing, it's because the makers didn't employ enough of these elements to guide you to their ultimate goal of what the story is."

The story of Alexandra and Zoë began in South Africa and continued through Canada, Columbia and Switzerland before entering its current chapter in West Texas. Born to Australian parents, they followed their chemical engineer father to his various assignments and then visited him after he relocated to San Angelo. They discovered the university after meeting an ASU student who boarded her horse at their father's property in north San Angelo, where the twins now live.

Having probably met almost every student on campus through their jobs at the ASU Bookstore, the sisters have been most impressed by that legendary West Texas hospitality.

"People here are really welcoming and friendly," Zoë said. "A lot of people don't realize initially that we are international students, but when they do, they ask us all about where we are from. Even in the classroom, we like how the teachers aren't just lecturing; they really care about how you are doing and are passionate about what they are teaching."

Both Alexandra and Zoë are scheduled to graduate in December and both plan to attend graduate school, most likely in their parents' Australian homeland where they have visited but never lived. Both also tentatively plan on future careers in public relations, advertising or TV production. ■

a Troubling Past

Flags courtesy of Cortese Flag and Silkscreen Co.



Ashley Wallace

A Carr Academic Scholarship led graduate student Ashley Wallace to ASU, but it was “the troubles” in his native Northern Ireland that first brought him to the U.S.

With memories of that conflict still fresh in his mind, Wallace is researching the events that shaped his early life with help from Dr. Shirley Eoff of the ASU history faculty.

Like thousands of his countrymen before him, Wallace left the emerald shores of his homeland to escape the ongoing hostilities between Protestants loyal to England and Catholic separatists fighting for an independent state.

“I came over every summer since I was 10 years old through an exchange program called Project Children,” Wallace said. “They brought 1,000 people over to the U.S. from Northern Ireland every summer to get them away from ‘the troubles.’ It was usually 500 Catholics and 500 Protestants. I kept coming to the same family and when I graduated high school back home, they offered me the chance to come over here to do some more schooling.”

After two years at Community College of Rhode Island, Wallace transferred to ASU, where his research project has direct ties to both his native land and his adopted second home.

In 1998, Irish and English political leaders signed a historic peace accord that went largely unnoticed in many parts of the U.S., despite the prominent role then-President Bill Clinton played in the process. Wallace hopes his project, titled “The Contributions of the Clinton Administration to the Irish Peace Process,” will help remedy that lack of awareness.

“Without Bill Clinton, I don’t think the peace process would have moved as quickly as it did during that period,” Wallace said. “The process had stagnated for years, but when Clinton came in, he brought new energy. He appointed Sen. George Mitchell as a special peace envoy to Ireland and that helped bring the parties in Ireland together.”

Born and raised in Londonderry, a historic Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland border town and a hotbed of “the troubles,” Wallace saw first-hand the struggles between English authorities and the separatist Sinn Fein political party as well as between the English military and the Irish Republican Army (IRA). It was that centuries-old animosity that was the major obstacle to the peace process.

“Usually, Sinn Fein was excluded because it has ties to the IRA, which is considered a terrorist organization,” Wallace said. “But, Clinton stressed the importance of bringing everyone to the table and getting everyone’s point of view. It was he who really pushed everyone to move faster. Before Clinton, most U.S. presidents really avoided the Ireland issue. So, it was definitely a big shift in American policy by him getting involved so actively.”

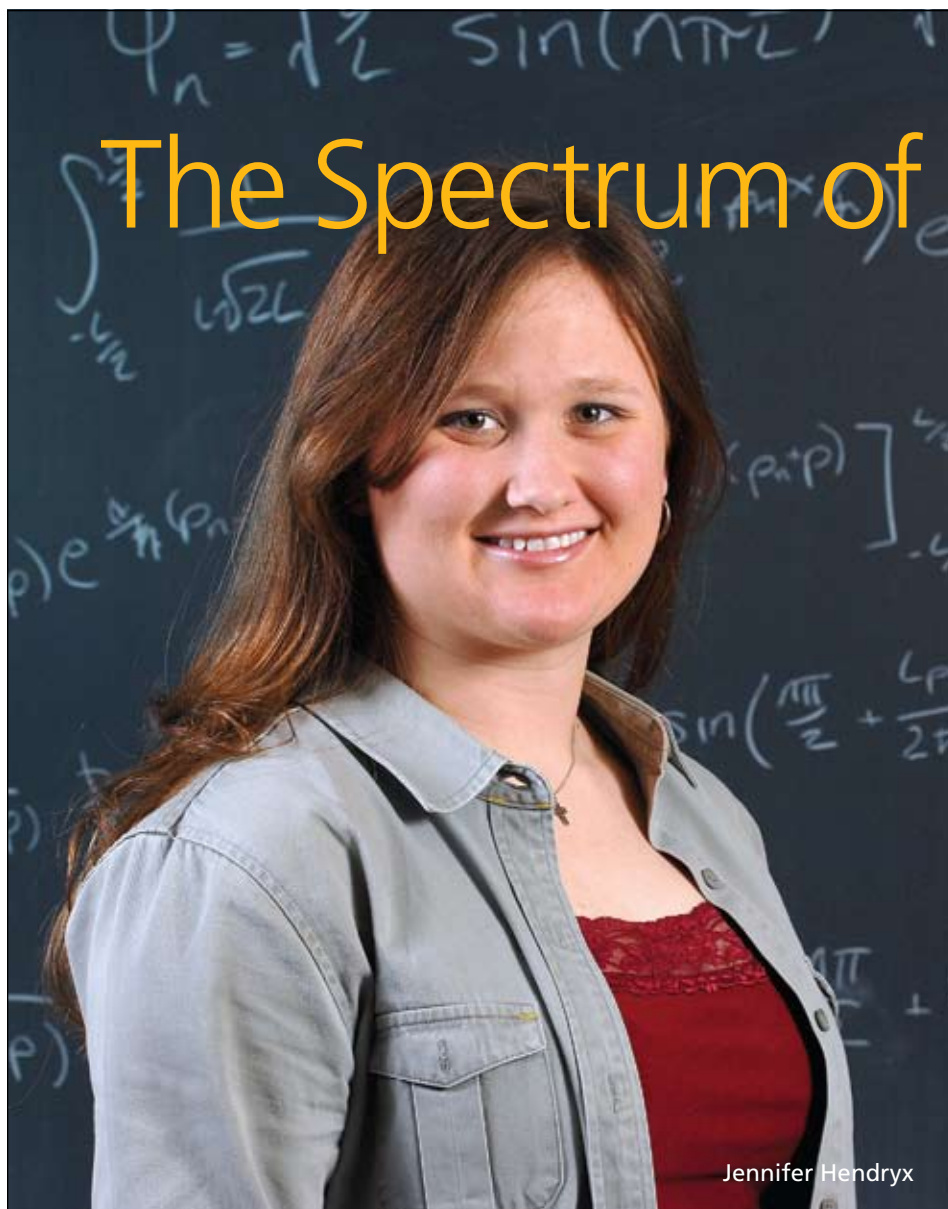
Wallace gleaned much of the information for his project from historical documents, Irish and U.S. newspaper archives

and academic journal articles, as well as interviews with current Irish politicians.

He is also doing his own part to solidify the current peace. Born and raised Protestant, he is in the process of becoming Catholic, like his fiancé.

A history major, Wallace earned his ASU bachelor’s degree in 2006 and his master’s degree earlier this month. During his time at ASU, he delivered a paper on Eva Camuñez Tucker to the West Texas Historical Association and was nominated for *Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities*. His review of the book *The Irish General* is scheduled for publication in the journal “Military History of the West.”

Ultimately, Wallace plans to get his Ph.D. and teach either Irish or English history at the collegiate level. ■



Jennifer Hendryx

Students like Jennifer Hendryx are one reason that ASU's Physics Department continues to be regarded as one of the top undergraduate programs in the country.

A junior physics major, Hendryx can most often be found in the lab, currently working on a research project involving optical spectroscopy with faculty advisers Dr. David Bixler and Dr. Charles Allen. Even more impressive is the work she did towards nuclear fusion during her internship at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico last summer.

Working side-by-side with the Los Alamos scientists, Hendryx was charged with calibrating a spectrometer for use in plasma physics research. She describes plasma as a very energetic gas, or a gas "with the elec-

trons popped off."

"A spectrometer allows you to see the different spectral lines, or different colors of light, emitted from a specific element," Hendryx said. "We were looking at hydrogen and we know what hydrogen is supposed to look like, so we could tell by the spectral lines how hot it was. The more excited or hotter an element gets, the faster it moves and it creates a blur of the spectral lines. That blur is what we were measuring."

Getting the spectrometer calibrated correctly could have wide-ranging effects, including being a step toward the production of a "green" energy source.

"Basically, the magnetic fields reconnect and that causes an instability in the plasma," Hendryx said. "One reason that is important is because plasma is just one step away

Going Green

from nuclear fusion. Fusion is a very green source of energy and there are several reasons to study it, including especially stars, because fusion is what causes them to burn. Just trying to understand the solar system and ways that we can hopefully create and sustain fusion, that's why they (Los Alamos scientists) cared about these instabilities."

Other scientists at Los Alamos will use Hendryx's spectrometer in their experiments as they try to produce fusion in the lab.

"That's what scientists do," Hendryx said. "We poke and prod at things to see what happens. There are multiple applications for fusion and the study of plasma."

Hendryx has presented the results of her project at a Los Alamos student showcase, a Society of Physics Students (SPS) Zone 13 meeting, and the ASU Student Research Showcase. Her experience at Los Alamos was so rewarding that she is exploring several other internship opportunities this summer.

When she is not poking and prodding in the physics lab, Hendryx is involved in the Angelo State SPS, where she is a member of the Peer Pressure Team that performs physics demonstrations for area school districts. She is also active in the Baptist Student Ministry and Christian Campus Center as well as being a member of Alpha Chi and the Pi Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honor Society.

Scheduled to graduate in May 2009, she plans to attend graduate school and then pursue a career in either plasma physics research or engineering. ■

Coasting Through Math



Halley Newman

For Halley Newman, formulating and deciphering complex mathematical algorithms is a day at the beach.

As an undergraduate, she demonstrated those abilities in her research project to create a new algorithm that would more accurately measure the length of the world's coastlines.

"Right now they have very crude methods," Newman said, "like taking one of those little measuring wheels and rolling it down the coast, estimating from aerial photos or just guessing. Taking a wire and spreading it along the coastline, then straightening it out and measuring it is another way they do it right now. You have all the curvature and all the little jigs and jags along a coast that are not taken into account in the current measurements."

With the help of her faculty adviser, Dr. Trey Smith of the ASU Math Department, Newman has devised an algorithm that they believe accomplishes the project's objective. They are in the process of writing an article on the research that will be submitted to "Math Horizons" and other undergraduate math journals.

Ultimately, they believe the new algorithm could benefit mapmakers, surveyors, geologists and possibly even the Coast

Guard. Newman has already presented her research at the ASU Student Research Showcase, during the intradepartmental "Slow Pitch" series, and at the Texas Academy of Sciences annual meeting, where she won the Dr. Ali Reza Amir-Moez Award for best undergraduate oral presentation in math.

Faced with having to craft a research proposal for one of her classes in the ASU Honors Program, Newman decided to actually do the research. A math major, she chose a subject that would allow her to work with her favorite professor.

"Trey is a lot into logistics, 'fuzzy math' and topology, those kinds of courses," Newman said. "So, it just kind of went together that we would do something with probability and something that was a far-fetched kind of idea that was going to take a lot of thinking."

Good thing thinking things through is one of her specialties. She used the same approach when choosing where to attend college and actually passed up major scholarships to TCU and Baylor to come to ASU.

"ASU has a lot of good academic credentials behind it," Newman said. "It's got a top biology program and a top physics

program. The math program is great and the education and psychology programs are great. For all-around academics, I knew that I was going to get a quality education for not too expensive."

Carr and Special Academic scholarships helped with tuition and fees and a Carr Research Grant paid for her project. In return, Newman served as president of the ASU chapter of the Beta Beta Beta Biology Honor Society, made the National Dean's List and was named *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*. She was also in the ASU Honors Student Association, worked as a resident assistant in the Texan Hall and is a member of the Mathematical Association of America.

"I visited several campuses before I decided on ASU and I really felt like this was the most 'homey' place for me," she said. "I don't like the squirrels, though, they throw acorns at you."

A native of Fritch in the Texas panhandle, Newman received her ASU bachelor's degree this May. She plans to attend graduate school and study biomedical science, biostatistics or pharmacology, with the ultimate goal of going to medical school to become a neurosurgeon. ■

Taking Wing

by Roy Ivey

The journey from the shores of Chesapeake Bay to semi-arid West Texas came on the wings of wild birds for Chris Snow.

The Angelo State University graduate student is focusing on bird-counting methods to see how effective they are at predicting scaled “blue” quail abundance in the fall.

“What we’re trying to do is look at different techniques to see which one is better at estimating fall abundance or what the hunter is going to see in the fall,” Snow said. “We are looking at game management techniques to see if there is anything that could be done a little better that would give us a good estimate of the quail population.”

Such projections allow ranch owners and hunters to estimate how large the quail population will be during the fall hunting season and plan accordingly.

Several methods, like the call count, are employed to count birds, Snow said. Researchers go out in the spring and listen for calling males during the breeding season. In the fall, researchers also drive along the roadside and count the number of birds they see. They go off-road, too.

“For my study, I pick random compass bearings from pre-selected points. I then travel a mile from each point and count the number of birds I see as I follow that line,” he said.

Another method utilizes a helicopter, a global positioning system and three observers.

“I did some flying with a student whose work utilizes the helicopter count,” Snow said. “We followed a transect line using a GPS-enabled light bar to keep us on track. One observer watches forward and two watch each side.

“We then count the number of birds flushed by the helicopter,” Snow said.

The helicopter flies slowly about 100 feet off the ground to more effectively flush the birds.

The quail study, started last spring, is done year round.

“We do a call count starting at sunrise for 2 ½ hours, when they are most active,” Snow said. “We survey each site three times and then take the average to get a more realistic number.”

Quail tend to stay where they are found. “They live their lives in an area that is about 50 acres,” Snow said. “They walk everywhere they go and only fly when they must to escape danger.”

The main two species in Texas are the more common bobwhite with its distinctive “bobwhite” call and the scaled quail, which is also called the “blue quail.” The scaled quail is named for the scaly appearance of its breast and head feathers. The scaled quail and the bobwhite are similar in size, about 10 inches long at maturity.

Assessing counting methods means tracking birds in the field and covering a lot of ground. Snow works three ranches near Big Lake and three near Andrews.

“Some of the ranches are thousands of acres,” Snow said. “One of the ranches is at least 8,000 acres. Each site contains an 11-mile transect and each mile has a survey point.”

The Maryland native’s journey of discovery has been more than just in miles.

“My undergraduate degree is in wetland science,” Snow said. “So, here I am in West Texas studying desert quail. It’s a chance for me to diversify my knowledge of bird species and study new habitats at the same time.”

Snow came to ASU because the university and San Angelo had the synergy he and his wife needed. His wife is in the military and Goodfellow Air Force Base was one of the choices she had available. ASU offered both the Master of Science degree in biology that Snow needed and the chance to study avian life that he wanted.

While his current studies focus on quail, Snow is thinking ahead to possible future projects. His primary interest is in waterfowl which can pose a bit of a challenge in West Texas.

“I need to get somewhere with more water,” Snow joked. ■



Chris Snow

Photo by Danny Meyer



Meagan Saldia

Photo by Danny Meyer

Touching Tomorrow's Electronics



Future innovations in electronic communications, including your cell phone, might one day be traced back to research done in an ASU physics lab by recent graduate Meagan Saldia.

Saldia has been working with lasers and Indium Gallium Arsenide (InGaAs) quantum wells for her Carr Research Scholarship project aimed at improving the performance and energy efficiency of optoelectronic devices found in cell phones, computers and even satellites.

For Saldia's project, the quantum well is a thin layer of InGaAs sandwiched between two thick layers of Gallium Arsenide. The compound, called a heterostructure, is placed in a vacuum chamber and then shot with a laser, causing it to emit infrared light.

"The infrared wavelengths that are emitted are communication wavelengths," Saldia said. "They are used for fiber-optic electronics, detectors and any device that emits or detects light. The InGaAs is a semi-conductor that is very useful in industrial applications."

By repeating the process at gradually increasing temperatures and measuring the resulting light emissions, Saldia and her faculty adviser, Dr. Toni Sauncy, are hoping to formulate a new model that gauges the compound's temperature dependency.

An accurate model would be useful to engineers as they develop more efficient optoelectronics that, in turn, could lead to future technological breakthroughs.

"Hopefully the scientists working on new devices can start predicting how the material can be used in other types of applications," Saldia said. "It could possibly make current electronic devices more efficient as well as spawn new applications that are not possible yet. Existing models were developed by measuring the material in bulk, but I believe that as devices get smaller, understanding of quantum structures becomes increasingly important."

Faculty-mentored advanced research like Saldia's is a major reason Angelo State's Physics Department is regarded as one of the top undergraduate programs in the country. But, it was actually a bit of unscientific luck that got Saldia to ASU in the first place. An East Texas native, she had applied to three different colleges and was undecided until she attended Discover ASU.

"I didn't even have a major picked out then," Saldia said. "So, I was walking around looking at the departments, but the ones I wanted to talk to were already full of students. Then, I saw that no one was talking to the Math Department and I was really strong in math, so I thought I would visit with them. That is when I met Dr. Roger Zarnowski and Dr. Trey Smith and they sold me on coming to ASU. The Carr Scholarship helped my decision, too."

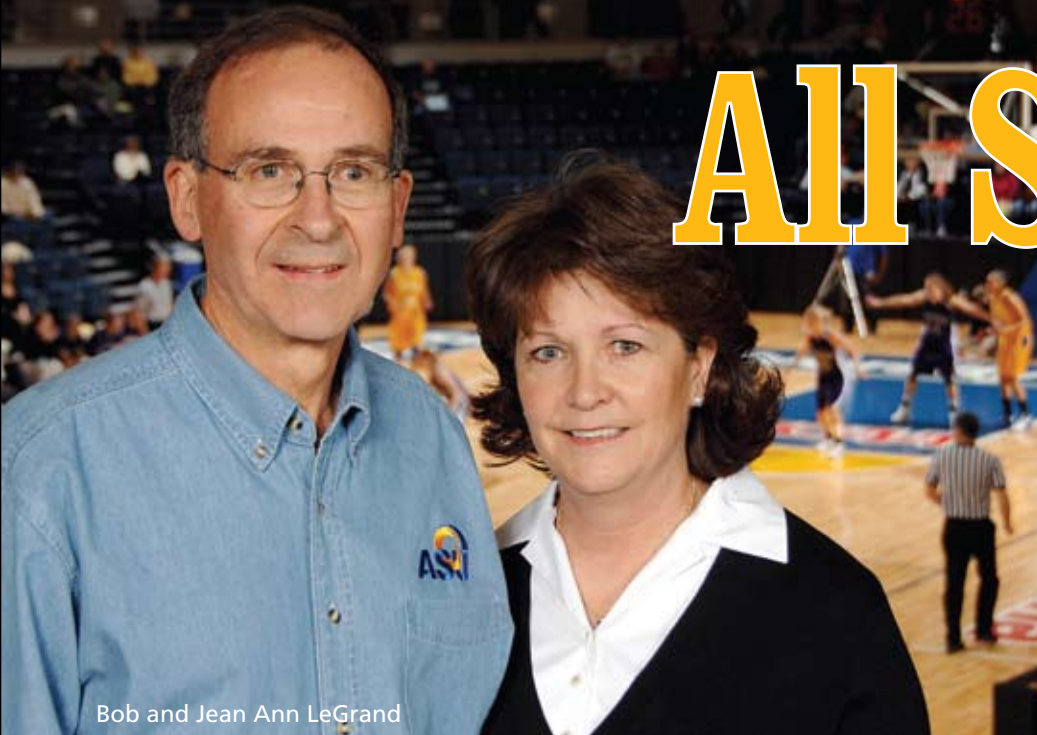
A double-major in math and applied physics, Saldia has been active in the ASU chapter of the Society of Physics Students (SPS), serving as president and a member of the Peer Pressure Team that conducts physics demonstrations for area elementary schools. She is a member of Alpha Chi and the Sigma Pi Sigma physics honor society and was named *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*.

Having picked up her ASU bachelor's degree this May, Saldia has decided to attend Texas A&M University on a graduate diversity scholarship.

"I want to get my Ph.D. in biomedical engineering with a focus on optical imaging," she said. "Optical imaging is working on techniques for detecting cancer cells at an earlier stage. I'm hoping to eventually work for a cancer research center." ■

All Sports

All the Time



Bob and Jean Ann LeGrand

Photo by Danny Meyer

Ask Dr. Bob LeGrand to name his favorite sport and the native of North Carolina, where March madness is a year-round malady, will answer basketball.

His wife, Jean Ann, Class of '72, offers another perspective: "It depends on what he's in the stands watching at the time."

Either way, the LeGrands love sports, especially Ram and Rambelle athletics. For years they have backed ASU athletics from the stands. In January, they offered their support in another way by announcing a \$1 million gift to establish the Robert and Jean Ann LeGrand Endowment for ASU Athletics. Revenues from the endowment will support scholarships, equipment and other needs as determined by the athletic director.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said, "For years Bob and Jean Ann LeGrand have backed Angelo State not just with their contributions but also with their hearts. Their past generosity has supported academic scholarships and their latest gift will help our student athletes in perpetuity. Such broad support from Jean Ann, an alum, and Bob, a non-alum, is especially meaningful."

Mrs. LeGrand said, "This is not about us. It is about the university, the students, the athletes and the entire community of San Angelo."

In January when the LeGrands were recognized between Rambelle and Ram

basketball games, both were pleased that they were joined at mid court by ASU athletes and coaches. More than 200 athletes and coaches led the crowd in a standing ovation for the LeGrands.

Dr. LeGrand said, "We hope the gift will say thank you to the community in some purposeful way and will encourage growth at the university and generate additional support for ASU from throughout this area."

Rallo noted that private gifts are becoming increasingly important to the university. Since 2000 state support for ASU has dropped from 67.64 percent of the total budget to 52.67 percent last year.

As a board member for both the ASU Foundation and Angelo State Athletic Foundation and as past board member and current president emeritus of the ASU Alumni Association, Jean Ann understands that need.

"I have seen the university from three complimentary perspectives and realize the needs of the university in different areas," she said. "The unifying goal is the betterment and growth of the entire university."

Dr. LeGrand moved to San Angelo in 1976 as the city's first permanent neurosurgeon and since that time has treated more than 40,000 patients at all three San Angelo hospitals. Mrs. LeGrand, a San Angelo native and 1971 ASU homecoming queen, received her nursing degree from ASU.

The LeGrands attribute their generosity to both sets of parents, who were active in their respective communities, and to other San Angelo donors supporting the university.

"We have been inspired by and honor these people by following in their footsteps," Mrs. LeGrand said. "We hope not only to help ASU athletes but also to inspire others in the community to support Angelo State however they can."

"One of the greatest values of San Angelo is its community and family-valued atmosphere," she continued. "The loyalty of the community to its university family, I believe, is on the edge of a new era. With leadership, direction, and cooperation from the ASU Development Office, the Athletic Department and the Alumni Association, this community will play a vital role in the university achieving its goals for the coming years." ■



The LeGrands with grandchildren and ASU athletes.

Photo by Danny Meyer

Calfee Gains Northern Exposure

Fans of Angelo State baseball know first baseman Clay Calfee. After a summer in Alaska, major league scouts know him, too.

Calfee, along with Ram teammate Shan Sullivan, went to the “Last Frontier” to play for the Anchorage Bucs of the Alaska Baseball League, one of the most prestigious collegiate summer circuits in the United States. His performance garnered the attention of major league scouts and of *Baseball America* magazine, which named him one of the top 10 prospects in the league.

“The ABL is a wooden bat league,” Calfee said. “The bat is heavier and the ball doesn’t jump off as well as it does off an aluminum bat. It definitely helped me to see the tougher competition.”

His success in the league, finishing third on the Bucs with a .303 batting average and being named an ABL All-Star, also carried over into the 2008 season. *Baseball America* named him a preseason

All-American and the No. 1 prospect in NCAA Division II.

ASU head baseball coach Kevin Brooks said, “I have coached five players that have gone on to play in the majors. Clay has major league talent and scouts have told me he could be taken anywhere from the late first round to the third round in the June amateur draft.”

The Conroe junior was a key player in ASU’s charge to the 2007 College World Series, where he became only the second Division II player to ever hit an inside-the-park home run in the series. In addition to his athletic talent, he is a student of the game.

“I learned a lot up there in Alaska,” he said. “Seeing the tougher competition was very helpful. I didn’t see many people that I had already played against.”

If Calfee keeps progressing, many more people will be seeing *him* play. ■



Clay Calfee



Whitney Meeks

Prepared for the Real World

Whitney Meeks will likely be the only person in her master’s program this fall to have already completed a four-year, hands-on internship in human resource management.

The senior outfielder has grown from a quiet freshman to a vocal leader for the Rambelles softball team. She feels the experience of working and growing with a team is great preparation for her graduate school future.

“I really enjoy creating friendships and relationships with people,” Meeks said. “I figure dealing with people every day would be something different and not mundane.”

Upon graduation this May from ASU with her bachelor’s degree in international business with a minor in government, Meeks will begin work on her master’s degree in human resource management at the Mays Business School at Texas A&M this summer.

Four years with the Rambelles gave the Academic All-America candidate

enough leadership experience to impress the selection committee for the prestigious program.

“During my first two years at ASU, I was just trying to soak in as much as I could and looking to fit in,” Meeks said. “I had a great mentor.”

As a freshman, Meeks was taken under the wing of the Rambelles’ only Academic All-America in softball, Stephanie Fofi, who graduated ASU in 2004 and is currently enrolled in medical school. Meeks has learned and grown as a leader.

“Now I’m one of eight seniors that are looked upon by the rest of the team,” she said. “We have experiences every day in practices or in games where I have had to step up and be vocal. I’m not really a loud person, but coach always tells me that when I talk in the dugout my teammates listen.

“Dealing with conflict and the different personalities from softball will definitely give me a leg up in graduate school,” Meeks concluded. ■

Hall of Honor

Adds Two Athletes, Coach

The induction of Jerry Austin, David Noble and Greg Stokes as the newest members of the Angelo State Athletics Hall of Honor came on a February night filled with both laughter and tears.

Austin, the top rusher in ASU history, played football from 1969-72 and today still ranks as the eighth leading ground gainer in Lone Star Conference play.

Noble spent over two decades as the men's track and field coach, 1972-82 and 1985-99, plus six seasons at the helm of the women's program, 1994-99.

Stokes, inducted posthumously, played football at ASU, 1992-95. The two-time Academic All-American today ranks second on ASU's all-time tackle list.

The three join Phil George, Pierce Holt, Kirby Jameson, Amy Bippert-Bohensky, Joshua K. Owusu and Clayton Weishuhn in the Hall of Honor.

Jerry Austin: Will to Win

In a Friday night team meeting in 1969, former Angelo State football coach Grant Teaff addressed his squad about what is important not only on the football field but also in life.

"I happened to look directly in the eyes of Jerry Austin during that speech," Teaff said, "and I saw steel, fire and determination that I knew would pay big dividends, not only the next day or the rest of that season, but for life."

The next day Teaff gave Austin the ball a school-record 44 times and got 269 yards from the freshman in a 46-14 win over Texas Lutheran. The Lubbock native's will to win became legend that Saturday in October.

Austin ended his playing career as the Rams' all-time leader in carries, yardage and touchdowns. Over his four years, the two-time All-American rushed for 3,743 yards and scored 45 touchdowns.

A humbled Austin was joined by more than 40 former ASU players and coaches as he was enshrined into the Hall of Honor by Teaff.

"I want to thank everyone for coming, especially my teammates that made the trip back to campus for me," Austin said. "God bless each and every one of you."

David Noble: Benchmark for Success

David Noble came to Angelo State in the spring of 1972 to coach football plus track and field, but that almost didn't happen.

Noble was supposed to join the Ram football coaching staff under Grant Teaff, but learned one Saturday morning that Teaff was leaving for Baylor for the upcoming season. Noble got on the telephone to find out if he still had a job waiting for him in San Angelo.

Fortunately, for him and for Angelo State, Noble had a job on James Cameron's staff as well as the track and field position he used to lead the Rams to eight Lone Star Conference championships and 17 top 10 national finishes in track and field. He took over the women's program in 1994 and guided the Rambelles to six straight top 20 national finishes before retiring after the 1999 season.

Over the 25 years that Noble guided the Rams and Rambelles, he mentored more than 150 All-Americans and six Academic All-Americans. He was an eight-time LSC Coach of the Year and the NCAA Division II National Coach of the Year in 1988.

"This means more to me than any award that I have ever received because it comes from people that I worked with," Noble said upon his induction into the Hall of Honor.

Greg Stokes: A Legacy Remembered

First came Clayton Weishuhn and Pierce Holt into the Hall of Honor and then came Greg Stokes. The first two went on to NFL playing careers and at least one trip to the Super Bowl after ASU. Stokes never received that chance.

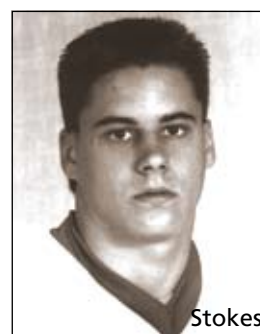
"It didn't take Greg long to create a legacy," said former Ram football coach Jerry



Austin



Noble



Stokes

Vandergriff in his induction remarks. "He was one of those guys who lined up in the middle, was steely-eyed and made the plays that made a difference in a ballgame."

Stokes' collegiate career was cut short after he was killed in a one-car accident on Nov. 5, 1995, the Sunday prior to the final contest of his senior season. At the conclusion of that season, the middle linebacker was named All-American by six different publications and was ASU's first-ever finalist for the Harlon Hill Trophy, NCAA Division II's equivalent to the Heisman Trophy.

"It's only fitting that Greg followed Clayton and Pierce into the ASU Athletics Hall of Honor," Vandergriff said. "He was built in the same mold and there is no doubt in my mind that he would have followed them into the NFL and to the Super Bowl."

An emotional Derek Stokes spoke on behalf of his twin brother as he accepted the honor for Greg's family.

"The day my brother stepped on to this university, he fell in love with it," Derek said. "He would have been honored to be here and share this award with all of you." ■

Waddington Digs Volleyball



Chuck Waddington

Before Chuck Waddington was hired as Angelo State's head volleyball coach, everyone was talking about his enthusiasm and passion for volleyball. Once he was hired as the fifth head coach in the program's 22-year history, they were talking about his dedication.

Most days Waddington is the first one to arrive at the athletics office and the last one to leave.

"Early on, I found out that coaching was a passion and I had it," Waddington said.

He comes to ASU after five seasons as the top assistant coach at Flori-

da Southern College. During his time at FSC, he not only earned a master's degree in education but also helped guide the Moccasins to a 136-44 overall record and five straight trips to the NCAA DII National Tournament, advancing as far as the DII South Regional Championship last fall.

Prior to his FSC tenure, he spent six years at Bishop Verot High School in Fort Meyers, Fla., producing 14 All-State players and being named district coach of the year all six seasons.

Waddington fell in love with the game of volleyball when he started playing on a club team his senior year at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (N.Y.), where he earned his bachelor's degree in physics. The volleyball experience changed his interests from neutrons and protons to digs and kills.

"I wanted to be a coach," he said.

Waddington's wife, Mandi, his 9-year-old daughter, Bailey, and his 2-year-old son, Jaxsen, will join him in San Angelo at the end of the 2007-08 academic year.

"I went back recently for my son's second birthday," he said. "I talk to my wife and kids every night, but I miss having that safety net of them being here with me."

"However, with the amount of time I am putting in here at ASU, with recruiting and scheduling, it is not such a bad thing the family stayed in Lakeland." ■

Sports

H I G H L I G H T S

1978 Rams Reunion

Members of the 1978 NAIA National Championship Ram football team are invited to campus during Homecoming to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their gridiron accomplishment.

A variety of activities are scheduled Oct. 17-18 during Homecoming 2008 on the ASU campus.

As part of the celebration, team members will be honored with a reception and will be recognized throughout the Homecoming festivities.

Members of the 1978 squad should contact Coach Jerry Vandergriff at (325) 763-3885 or thevandergriffs@verizon.net to ensure that he has current contact information and to get information on discounted hotel rates for returning team members.

Making Friends and the Tourney

At a post-game press conference at the NCAA Regional Tournament in Canyon, Angelo State women's basketball coach Sally Walling Brooks glowed as she spoke about senior Kandra Lakey and freshman Camille Perkins, who joined her at the head table.

"One of my favorite things to see is when players develop lifelong friendships," Brooks said. "I think these two have become best friends during this season and will always be best friends. You've got to love that about sports."

The moment was not just about friendship, but also about a passing of the torch from senior forward Lakey to fresh-

man guard Perkins in the aftermath of the 69-44 'Belles loss to eventual regional champion Washburn University in the first round of the NCAA Division II National Tournament.

Perkins earned first team all-conference honors and was named Lone Star Conference South Division Freshman of the Year after averaging nearly 16 points per game. She set the ASU freshman scoring record with 503 points in her debut campaign.

A second-team All-LSC South pick for the third straight season, Lakey averaged 11.9 points and a team-leading 6.3 rebounds per game. She ended her career as just the sixth player in program history to score 1,000 points and collect 500 rebounds. Lakey finished her playing days ranked seventh on both all-time lists.

The 'Belles ended the season with a 23-9 record and placed third in the LSC South Division. For the seventh consecutive season, Brooks' squad advanced to the NCAA DII postseason.

"I hate the way the season ended," Brooks said, "but I'm really proud of our team making it back to the national tournament. This is one of the seasons that I'm most proud of, actually, going through it with just two seniors and fighting through injuries all year long."

Rams Rebound

Entering the season aiming to make the Lone Star Conference tournament for the first time in six years, ASU's bas-

ketball Rams accomplished that goal the hard way, upsetting No. 16-ranked Tarleton State on the final night of the regular season to earn their tourney spot.

Even though the Rams lost in the first round of the LSC tournament to eventual champion Central Oklahoma, the team was highly competitive in Coach Fred Rike's second year at the helm. ASU finished the season with a 17-11 mark overall.

"We are steadily headed in the right direction," Rike said. "We beat Tarleton State and made the conference tournament for the first time in six years. This season will go a long way in putting ASU back on the basketball map."

In LSC South Division play, the Rams finished 6-6 and tied for third place. Along the way, the Rams had several key wins but none was bigger than at Texas A&M-Kingsville. Fighting for a tourney spot with two games left, ASU rallied for a 56-54 win that put the Rams in control of their postseason destiny.

The Rams eight-game turnaround from last year earned postseason honors for three Rams. Senior Marcus Hubbard was named to the All-LSC South Division first team for the second year in a row. Junior Denell Stephens was selected to the second team and senior Jerrod Haynes, who led the league in assists, received honorable mention recognition.

Rams Make Additions

With the loss of only five seniors, Angelo State football coach Dale Carr focused on quality, not quantity, in his new recruiting class.

"The last two seasons we recruited heavily on both the offensive and defensive lines," Carr said. "Those are two positions where depth is the most critical. This spring, we were able to focus on skill positions and I feel that the players that we have added definitely fit our needs."

Carr signed seven high school players during the national signing period and announced four transfers that will join his program for the 2008 season. Highlighting the new

class were three wide receivers and three linebackers.

In addition, Carr added a junior college running back Dwight Pete from Scottsdale (Ariz.) Community College to complement all-conference tailback Daniel Thomas as he enters his senior season.

New Football Coaches

ASU head football coach Dale Carr has announced the addition of Matt Fryar and Brandon Lacy to his coaching staff.

Fryar, a 2000 ASU graduate, will serve as the Rams' defensive coordinator and secondary coach after holding a similar position at high school powerhouse Odessa Permian. Lacy will mentor the ASU defensive line following two seasons on the coaching staff at Rice University.

"Matt and Brandon have done a great job getting to know the players this spring and making sure the players understand the expectations that the coaches have for them," Carr said. "In addition, they have been studying game tape to familiarize themselves with our opponents."

A two-sport standout in football and track for ASU from 1996-2000 and football team captain in 2000, Fryar helped ASU claim a share of the Lone Star Conference South Division title in each of his final two seasons.

Fryar's coaching experience includes two years at Abilene Christian, a year at Temple High School, a year at Dallas Highland Park and the last three seasons at Permian where his stingy 2007 defense helped lead Permian to its first outright district title since 1994.

Lacy was a two-year starter at defensive end at the University of Tennessee at Martin before transferring to Kansas University where he became a two-year letterman.

Lacy spent the past two seasons coaching defensive linemen at Rice University. In his first year with the Owls, he helped guide the squad to the 2006 New Orleans Bowl, Rice's first post-season appearance in 45 years. His other coaching experience came at Ferrum College, Tennessee-Martin and at Appalachian State University. ■

Football Signees

HIGH SCHOOL

Name	Pos.	Hometown (High School)
Trey Anderson	TE/QB	San Antonio (Marshall HS)
DeWayne Autrey	CB	South Houston (South Houston HS)
Austin Benson	LB	Del Rio (Del Rio HS)
Shiloh Hickman	LB	Houston (Westfield HS)
Andrew Krutsinger	OL	Alief (Taylor HS)
Grant Milton	WR	Hurst (L.D. Bell HS)
Steven Williams	WR	Waller (Waller HS)

JUNIOR COLLEGE

Name	Pos.	Hometown (High School)/Previous School
Robert Boone	WR	Allen (Allen HS)/Trinity Valley CC
Sir Ron Dewitt	LB	San Angelo (Central HS)/Cisco JC
Calvin Fance	DE	Houston (Jersey Village HS)/Cisco JC
Dwight Pete	RB	Phoenix, Ariz. (Tempe HS)/Scottsdale CC

2008 Football Schedule

Aug. 30	at Texas State	TBA
Sept. 6	at Texas A&M-Commerce	7 PM
Sept. 13	at Southwestern OK	6 PM
Sept. 20	East Central (Family Day)	6 PM
Sept. 27	at Midwestern State	7 PM
Oct. 4	Eastern New Mexico	6 PM
Oct. 11	at Abilene Christian	TBA
Oct. 18	Southeastern OK (Homecoming)	6 PM
Oct. 25	West Texas A&M	6 PM
Nov. 1	at Tarleton State	7 PM
Nov. 8	Texas A&M-Kingsville	6 PM

Money man



Roger Ochs

From humble beginnings in the retail stores, oil fields and ranchland of West Texas, ASU alumnus Roger Ochs has gone on to become one of the most respected members of the U.S. financial community.

A 1983 Angelo State graduate, Ochs is now president of H.D. Vest Financial Services in Irving. The company provides services and support nationally for 5,200 independent H.D. Vest advisers, whose primary goal is to provide investment and financial services to families and small businesses. Ochs' affinity for small businesses goes all the way back to his days in a marketing capstone course at ASU.

"It required a detailed review and analysis of a local small business," Ochs said. "I had the privilege to work with the owners of a small oil-field service business where I also worked part-time. The owners were generous with their time and took my recommendations seriously. The project had a profound impact on me because it taught me how to evaluate small businesses and then develop action plans to keep them on track."

"Small business owners are the ones who risk it all and are willing, for better or worse, to live with their decisions," he added. "This interaction gave me a great appreciation for the small business owners who are this country's backbone."

H.D. Vest advisers currently manage more than \$30 billion in assets for 1.8 million individuals, families and small businesses in all 50 states.

Ochs first entered the world of money management as a financial planner for Prudential-Bache Securities in 1984. He then moved on to H.D. Vest in 1987 and worked his way up through several management positions to become president in 1999.

In 2001 he was named one of the "Top 10 People to Know" in financial planning by

"Accounting Today" magazine and he made the publication's list of the "Top 100 Most Influential People" in accounting in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006 and 2007. He is currently vice-chair of the Independent Firms Committee for the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA).

Not bad for a guy who worked his way through college at the local Kmart, in the oilfield and on a sheep and goat ranch.

"I'm not sure that my college roommates really ever appreciated the smell that I would bring home from a long day of grimy oil-field work or a hard day of goat ranching," Ochs said. "But, as a student who needed the money, I learned to enjoy that smell."

A San Antonio transplant, Ochs also learned to enjoy the friendly atmosphere of the ASU campus.

"Moving from a large city, the small town friendliness in an outstanding academic environment was refreshing," Ochs said. "I will always remember walking across campus and being greeted with a hearty West Texas 'hello' and a warm smile from anyone I would run across. Those warm greetings always made the trek across campus a pleasant experience."

Ochs now enjoys treks of a different sort. An avid runner, he has competed in the Boston Marathon for the past six years. In his spare time he also does fundraising for the Barbara Gordon Montessori School in Colleyville, where he is president of the board and chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

After earning his bachelor's of business administration degree at ASU, Ochs obtained his M.B.A. from Trinity University in 1984 and his doctor of jurisprudence degree from Southern Methodist University in 1993. He is married to Amy Ochs and they have two children, Lyle and Lars. ■



On Top of the World

Lt. Kimberly Robinson performs.

Photo by Danny Meyer

In less than two years, Lt. Kimberly Robinson went from being one of the top ROTC students at ASU to becoming one of the top musical performers in the entire U.S. Air Force.

A 2005 ASU graduate, Robinson was selected from an international pool of Air Force applicants to be a vocalist for the service's Tops in Blue traveling performance group. Her quick jump into the spotlight started in 2006 with an audition videotape that earned her a trip to the Air Force Worldwide Talent Competition in San Antonio. Further auditions and interviews landed her a spot with the world-renowned entertainers.

"Our tour began Jan. 15, 2007, with a very intense staging and rehearsal process," Robinson said. "For about three months we learned our show and got ourselves physically conditioned to handle the fast-paced, high-energy performing we'd be doing almost every-other night or sometimes several days in a row. We officially hit the road that May with our first show at Holloman AFB, N.M., and we've been all over the world since then."

Her tour with Tops in Blue included memorable stops in Honduras, Japan, Alaska and San Angelo. Another show that par-

ticularly stands out for Robinson was staged in Germany.

"Our performance at Garmisch was held in this open air amphitheater filled with Germans that had no idea what we were saying or singing," she said. "But, they all seemed to love the show. I guess that's why they say music transcends even the toughest barriers."

But, singing was only part of Robinson's duties on tour.

"I was primarily responsible for a flight of six airmen and sergeants that handled issues such as finance, safety, communication, packing and luggage, mail distribution and administration," she said. "I was also the officer on scene for each setup and teardown, ensuring everything was done as efficiently and expediently as possible."

After more than 160 shows and over a year away from her official duty station at RAF Lakenheath in England, Robinson's Tops in Blue tour ended March 1 with a show in San Antonio. Following some time off to visit family, she returned to her duties as a personnel officer with the 48th Equipment Maintenance Squadron at Lakenheath while awaiting a new assignment in July.

"I just absolutely fell in love with the people, the weather and my cute little Eng-

lish row house in my quaint neighborhood," Robinson said. "It's going to be very hard to say goodbye, but I'm looking forward to getting back to the states."

Robinson, who attended ASU on Carr Academic and ROTC scholarships, served as both vice and wing commander of ROTC Detachment 847 her senior year. She was also a member of the Sigma Phi Alpha (government) and Omicron Delta Kappa (leadership) Honor Societies and was the student hall director of Concho and Texan Halls.

Ironically, she was forced to give up performing with the ASU Concert Chorale after her freshman year due to her heavy course load and ROTC activities. But, that actually worked out for the best.

"I would certainly have to credit the leadership opportunities I received in ROTC for fostering my communication skills and developing my ability to work well with others in a team," Robinson said.

"Though nothing can prepare you completely for an experience like Tops in Blue, being positive and understanding what it means to work hard, pull your weight and push through difficult times are qualities that I can attribute to many experiences I had during my time at ASU." ■



Jeffery "Tex" Reeves

Photo Courtesy of Jeffery Reeves

Dreams OF THE 'Hood'

by Tom Nurre

While many kids grow up with the dream of speeding around a NASCAR track behind the wheel of a race car, ASU alumnus Jeffery "Tex" Reeves always wanted to get under the hood.

After graduating from ASU in December 1997 with a bachelor's degree in business, Reeves put his diploma in a drawer and raced to the heart of NASCAR country to realize that dream.

"I just packed all my stuff up and moved to Charlotte, N.C., and worked different odd jobs to pay the rent," Reeves said. "I started knocking on shop doors until I got my first job as a mechanic in June of 1998."

Melling Racing took a chance on the young Plainview native who, after several other stops, has worked his way on to one of the top NASCAR teams and today tinkers on the cars of some of the best-known drivers in the sport.

Currently, Reeves works as a mechanic on the set-up plates for the JR Motorsports

No. 5 car driven on the NASCAR Nationwide Series by Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson, Mark Martin, Ron Fellows and rookie Landon Cassill. He also works on JR's No. 88 car driven by Brad Keselowski.

"Once the cars are put together, I get them ready to go to the race track," Reeves said. "All the work I do is chassis work, setting the alignment on the cars and the weights. In Daytona, Dale Earnhardt Jr. will be driving the No. 5 car. Then, we'll go to California and we'll have a different driver there. Almost every weekend we'll have a different driver."

What makes Reeves' rise to the top of the NASCAR world even more amazing is that he went looking for a mechanic's job armed with a dream, but little automotive experience.

"I learned how to work on race cars at Melling Racing, my first job," Reeves said. "I learned everything I know on the job."

At Melling Racing, Reeves was also, almost inevitably, saddled with the nickname that has stuck with him to this day.

"The name 'Tex' is what the guys at the first race team I worked for called me," Reeves said. "Obviously, it's because I was from Texas."

From those humble beginnings, Reeves gradually worked his way through just about every NASCAR circuit to get to where he is today. From 1998-2001, he stayed at Melling Racing, where he worked on the No. 9 cars driven by Lake Speed, Jerry Nadeau and Stacy Compton. From there he went to A.J. Foyt Racing from 2001-02 and was part of the Busch Series crew for Larry Foyt, grandson of the legendary A.J.

His next move turned out to be of championship caliber as Reeves joined Express Motorsports (EM) on NASCAR's Craftsman Truck Series. His mechanical expertise helped Mike Bliss (2002) and Travis Kvapil (2003) drive EM's No. 16 truck to back-to-back series titles. Kvapil's run to the championship remains the highlight of Reeves' career to this point.

"The year was just phenomenal," he said. "We finished all but one lap the entire year and we never had a part failure or a crash to take us out of a race. We didn't dominate in wins, but we were very consistent. To go a whole year and never have a part failure or anything go wrong with the truck, that speaks a lot about the crew."

That title also came in true nail-biting fashion as Kvapil and his crew didn't clinch the prize until the final race of the season. That triumph was followed by one more year with EM and three-time series-winning driver Jack Sprague before Reeves decided it was time to move on.

Next, Reeves did a three-year stint with Hendrick Motorsports, probably the best-known racing team in NASCAR nation. From 2004-07, Reeves worked on cars driven by marquis names like Jeff Gordon, Kyle Busch and Casey Mears, as well as Earnhardt Jr., Johnson and Martin.

With Hendrick in 2006 at Bristol Motor Speedway, Reeves experienced what he calls the most exciting single race of his career with Kyle Busch at the wheel.

"We actually had a mini-blizzard come through and there was a white-out at the racetrack that delayed the race," Reeves

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CLASSnotes

1960

Dr. Don Herring is married to Beth Herring and is a retired professor from the University of Arkansas. Don and Beth live in Lowell, Ark.

1971

Thomas Aishman, married to Judy Melton Aishman, is a volumetric analyst with Chevron-Texaco and lives in Houston.

Max Patton is married to Ersilia Patton and is a sales representative with Toolpusher Supply Co. Max and Ersilia live in Houston.

1972

Richard Alexander III, married to Jennifer Alexander, is a special staff member with Evanston Township High School in Evanston, Ill., where they live.

1973

Robert Aguero is the vice chancellor of the Dallas County Community College District.

1974

Jerry Austin is married to Shelley and the owner of Four Austin's Inc. in Lubbock.

Gary Terrell is married to **Empress McFarland Terrell**, '70, and is an attorney for Key & Terrell LLP. Gary and Empress live in Lubbock.

1975

Robert Boothe is married to **Jane Matthiesen Boothe**, '84, and is the president of R.Q. Boothe & Associates Inc. in San Angelo.

1979

Lynn Butler, married to Mark Butler, and is an elementary librarian in the San Angelo ISD.

John Fant, husband of **Terri Stone Fant**, '79, and is an attorney in Fort Worth.

1980

Debrah Stewart Powell, married to Patrick Powell, is an accountant with Hirschfeld Steel Co. in San Angelo.

Cathy Hughes is married to Dr. Don Hughes, an orthopedic surgeon in San Angelo.

1981

Lisa Eady is a certified financial planner with Cecil and Eady Investments and lives with her husband, Monti Eady, in San Angelo.

John Kinyon, a Wal-Mart pharmacist, lives in San Angelo with his wife, **Tamara Kinyon**, '81, self-employed.

Brian Watson is married to **Doxie Dutton Watson**, '81, and is the President of T-Rey Properties Inc. in Midland.

1982

The Honorable Judge Judy Parker is married to Scott Parker and is an associate judge for family court in Lubbock County.

1985

Shelby Brake is a special ed counselor in the Lubbock ISD and is married to **Holly Brake**, '85, a trust officer with American State Bank in Lubbock.

David Ramirez is married to Janice Ramirez and is the deputy public information director with the City of Phoenix. David and Janice live in Laveen, Ariz.

1986

Lanny Brown and wife, Donna Brown, live in League City. Lanny is a field director with Bay Area Council Boy Scouts of America.

Steve Simmons, married to Linda Simmons, is the vice president for southwest sales with Medical Protective in Bedford.

1990

Kyra Blankenship is an attorney with Kyra K. Blankenship PC in Lubbock.

1994

Shelley Boykin is director of expense planning with Zales Corp. and lives in Plano.

Joe Davis III lives with his wife, Melanie Davis, in Kerrville, and is a sale representative with Texas Multi-Chem.

Dr. Tracy Henson-McBee and her husband, James, live outside of Meadow. Tracy has had her own dental practice in Lubbock for 9-1/2 years. They have two sons: Riley Henson McBee (8) and Tate Colter McBee (3 1/2). James is a self-employed cowboy.

1997

Dr. Whitney Whitworth is an assistant professor of animal science with the University of Arkansas-Monticello.

1998

Jay Leeper, married to Kristina Leeper, is an assistant principal in the San Angelo ISD.

Christina Stevens, married to Jarett Stevens, is a stay-at-home-mom in Grapevine.

2001

Chad Ellis is married to Tessie Yarbrough Ellis and is state rangeland management specialist with USDA. Chad and Tessie reside in Lake Butler, Fla.

2003

Christy Kasper is married to Kevin and is the manager of Starbucks Coffee Co. in San Angelo.

2004

Carleigh Melius Ennis is married to Jeffrey Ennis and is a staff accountant with Joe Kelly CPA in Monahans.

2005

Lydia Martinez is an ASU graduate student in the Communication Systems Management Program. Lydia is a member of the ASU Alumni Association staff, overseeing event and student programs.

2007

Jayme Hejl is a teacher at the Sylvan Learning Center in San Angelo.

Tim Hubbartt of San Angelo is self-employed in computer repairs.

In Memoriam

Marco A. Flores, 20, a sophomore management and marketing major, died in a car accident March 1 in San Angelo. He was a graduate of Central High School.

Dreams of the Hood

— continued from page 36

said. “We actually won that race, so that’s my best race win.”

At each of the stops during his NASCAR career, Reeves has traveled with the race teams and been a member of the pit crews on race days, mainly as a tire carrier. So, NASCAR fans have probably seen him on TV during race broadcasts. Recently, however, he has traded in the glamour of being on the frontlines for what he sees as a more worthwhile pursuit.

“My wife and I just recently had our first baby,” Reeves said. “So, my job title and duties changed so that I could stay in the shop. I no longer travel.”

But, don’t expect fatherhood to end Reeves’ NASCAR dream altogether. He plans to keep on doing chassis work at JR Motorsports for the foreseeable future, then maybe put his ASU business degree to good use and start his own company.

“I still really enjoy what I’m doing now,” Reeves said. “As far as long-term goes, I’d like to eventually get into my own business. But, that is still a little ways down the road. I’ve got several ideas, but nothing to really speak of right now.”

While his business degree may still sit idle, Reeves places a lot of stock in his Angelo State education and his time on campus as a “Sig Ep.” He says he wouldn’t be where he is today without his ASU experience.

“I had a great time at ASU,” Reeves said. “In fact, I think my experience going to school and the time I spent there helped me more than anything. This job takes being able to communicate with people and I think that is one of the biggest things I learned in school. You can teach anybody to do this, but you really have to have the right frame of mind and attitude to do it well. My interactions at ASU really taught me a lot.”

Reeves, his wife, Jessica, and their son, Austin, reside in Concord, N.C., close to JR Motorsports and where Reeves continues to live out his dream under the hood of some of the top NASCAR race cars in the sport. ■



Official ASU Class Ring

Nothing shows pride in your alma mater more than an official Angelo State University Class Ring.

The official class ring was unveiled in December 2003 after the Alumni Association invited students, faculty, staff and alumni to collaborate on a design that would symbolize ASU and academic achievement. Collectively, they created a design replete with ASU symbolism and selected Balfour as the exclusive vendor.

Since its unveiling, the ring tradition has grown and includes the association-sponsored Ring Ceremony before each fall and spring commencement where the president presents the ring to students. Dominic attends each ceremony so that proud ring recipients may rub their rings in his wool and on his horns for good luck.

More ASU rings were sold during the spring ring sales promotion than in any previous spring.

Curt Langford, Balfour’s director of official ring programs, said “It’s all about the tradition!”

Robert Baker, Balfour college regional manager, said “Your Ram mascot is going to get a lot of rubbing!”

Only the Balfour ring design is licensed by Angelo State University. It is available only to ASU students and alumni who have earned 75 hours or more while enrolled in the university.

Other than campus sales in the spring and fall, ASU students and alumni can purchase rings online by visiting asuring.com or by calling toll free at 1-866-BALFOUR (866-225-3687). ■

Upcoming Association Events

11th Annual West Central Wireless Golf Tournament* • San Angelo

Friday, Aug. 22, Registration at Noon, Shotgun Start at 1 p.m.

Bentwood Country Club

Post-tournament dinner and awards ceremony with entertainment at the LeGrand Center for all players and a guest. Sponsorships and player spots now available.

For more information, visit angelostatealumni.com or call (325) 942-2122.

Ram Jam* • San Angelo

Football Saturdays

LeGrand Center

Pre-game football tailgate party. Giveaways, food, drinks, and live entertainment.

Sept. 20, 3-6 p.m., ASU vs. East Central (Family Day)

Oct. 4, 3-6 p.m., ASU vs. Eastern New Mexico

Oct. 18, 3-6 p.m., ASU vs. Southeastern Oklahoma (Homecoming)

Oct. 25, 3-6 p.m., ASU vs. West Texas A&M

Nov. 8, 3-6 p.m., ASU vs. Texas A&M-Kingsville (Military Appreciation)

*For sponsor information, call (325) 942-2122 or e-mail lmartinez@angelo.edu

Wells Fargo Homecoming Dinner • San Angelo

Friday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m.

C.J. Davidson Conference Center, Houston Harte University Center

For more information, visit angelostatealumni.com or call (325) 942-2122

DIAMOND

Randy and Debbie Dews, Dallas
Oscar C. and Corina E. Gomez, Southlake
Mark Low, Dallas
J. Milton and Terri Swift, Montgomery
Jay and Michelle Young, Dallas

PLATINUM

Jeffrey and Debbie Brennan,
Mill Creek, Wash.
Larry Clark, Richmond
Kent and Nevie Lacy, San Angelo
Jim Ratcliff, Georgetown
Randy Russell, Frisco
Joel and Suzanne Sugg, San Angelo

GOLDEN

Marsha and Steve Arvedson, Houston
Eddie Bates, Beaumont
Scott and Shelly Bratcher, Lubbock
Dale and Joy Chase, San Antonio
Robert and Jenny Eubank, San Angelo
John and Terri Fant, Fort Worth
Brig. Gen. Ronnie D. Hawkins,
Alexandria, Va.
Buddy Johnson, Houston
Jim Kramer, San Antonio
Dr. Robert and Jean Ann LeGrand,
San Angelo
Darcy Maloney and Dale Werner,
San Angelo
John Norman, Houston
Lloyd and Sheri Norris, San Angelo
Frank and Brenda Sturzl, Austin
Phillip and Sharon Templeton,
San Angelo
Mrs. Lloyd D. Vincent, San Angelo
Mike and Ruth Wheeler, San Angelo

SILVER

Dr. Ross Alexander, San Angelo
Maurice and Barbara Archer, Lamesa
Craig and Kim Bagley, Weatherford
Bob O. Ballentine, San Angelo
Col. Stephen L. Barrett, Alexandria, Va.
Jim and Tina Bennett,
Newbury Park, Calif.
Betty Serface Blakely, Georgetown
Nathaniel Booker, Austin
Lane Bowen, San Antonio
Kyle and Pam Box, San Angelo
Dean Buchanan, Cedar Park
Jerry and Nidia Casillas, Katy
Guy and Eva Choate, San Angelo
Lana Choate-Pierce, Englewood, Colo.
Bill Coggins, Jr., Minneapolis, Minn.
Randy Coleman, San Angelo
Dr. R. Danny Daniel, Carrollton
Alex and Kay Decuir, San Angelo
Troy and Lisa Deubler, Irving
Clifton F. Dews, San Angelo
Norman and Linda Dierschke,
San Angelo
Dale Dodson, Plano
Dr. Joel Dunnington, Missouri City
Van and Angela Echols, Lubbock
David and Delta Emerson, Dallas
Gary and Stacy Erwin, San Angelo
Robbie Faught, San Angelo
Becky Fitch, Flower Mound
Brad and Mercyla Fly, San Angelo
Skip Foote, Chantilly, Va.
Wayne T. Franke, Austin
Arnold Garcia, Austin
Jim and Dana Glossbrenner,
San Angelo
Laren Green, San Angelo
Ronny L. and Carol Harrison,
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