Message from the President

Colleagues:

In my position as executive director of the Mohair Council of America before I returned to ASU to teach, I learned that advertising and marketing have their places, but nothing beats word of mouth. A testimonial of someone who is directly involved with the product or idea is the most powerful recruiting or sales tool you can use.

That’s why I want to invite each of you in the community to help us spread the word about Angelo State University, whether to the high school student who lives next door or your relatives who live out of town.

While our admissions team is implementing integrated strategies that will help us reach our enrollment goal of 10,000 by 2020, you can help us get there faster, whether you are an ASU employee or a resident of the Concho Valley. Instead of just five ASU recruiters, we can have 5,000 with greater support of the community.

Together, you can be our best recruiters because you know better than anyone the quality of life in San Angelo. Beyond that, Angelo State has a proud tradition of providing an excellent education with a large support system in student services and financial aid.

You, as a citizen of San Angelo and/or West Texas, have the power to influence college choices. When you attend family reunions, go to the rodeo and stock show, play in a golf tournament or worship at your church, please talk to your friends and relatives about Angelo State University as a college choice for their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. What better testimonial is there than from someone who lives in San Angelo or the surrounding communities?

With your help, we can continue to grow our undergraduate enrollment. We will continue to grow our graduate and transfer enrollment as well. A high enrollment will benefit both ASU and San Angelo – economically, intellectually and culturally. Most importantly, our new students will receive an excellent education at a regional institution with a national reputation.

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Features

Spider Mania ........................................20
Biologists call them arachnids, but the rest of us are more likely to scream at these creepy crawlers. Ever considered a black widow for a pet? One ASU student has!

Ranch Gone Wild ..................................22
Angelo State’s Management, Instruction and Research Center is home on the range to everything from white-tailed deer and bobcats to turkeys and javelinas, creating a perfect outdoor laboratory.

Livestock Lessons ...............................24
You can bank on it that livestock production is central to any agriculture degree you get at Angelo State, whether you plan to go into ranching or even banking.

H20ooooh! ...........................................26
Every drop of water pumped from the Ogallala Aquifer draws the High Plains closer to some tough decisions about the future of the region.

The Great Outdoors ...............................30

Sections

President’s Message ..................... Opposite
Along the Mall .................................4

Athletics ............................................36

Alumni Association ..........................44
Heart of a Champion . . . Having a Grand Time . . . Class Notes . . . Donors

On the Cover: To drama students, all the world may be a stage, but to their biology counterparts, the world is one vast laboratory, requiring a variety of specialized equipment. Check out Page 29 for an explanation of the tools of the trade for these ASU biologists. (Photo by Danny Meyer)

Back Cover: Taryn Smith, Megan Bailey and Donald McCarthy enjoy a conversation in the newly renovated Circle B Dining Hall.

Editors Note: This issue explores the Angelo State experience in the great outdoors, ranging from research to recreation to campus tours. After all, much goes on outside the classroom.

Brian J. May
President
Home Away from Home (SCHOOL)

Angelo State University is catching the eye of more home-schooled students, thanks both to recent Princeton Review rankings of ASU as having some of the nation’s most conservative students, and to longtime West Texas values, defined by integrity and a strong work ethic.

In the process, both ASU and the home-schooled students are benefiting. For its part, the university is adding top-notch students to the campus community.

“My data shows,” said Mike Loehring, executive director of enrollment management, “that home-schooled students who enroll at ASU have higher scores on their ACT/SAT exams when compared to other entering students.”

Further, home-schooled students, such as senior biology major Joshua Heimbecker, are making a mark at ASU. Heimbecker, for instance, has completed and published an undergraduate research project, traveled outside the country to attend an academic conference in his field and served as student body vice president during the 2012-13 academic year.

“I have found home-schooled students to be academically prepared and possess the critical thinking skills and discipline necessary for academic success,” said Dr. Javier Flores, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. “Getting involved and engaged in co-curricular activities is the key for overall success. Recognizing that, ASU provides programs that give individual attention to students, as well as support and guidance from their first year to graduation day.”

ASU also offers home-schooled students the opportunity for a college experience that is in tune with their core values. The Princeton Review, which for the last four years has named Angelo State to its annual list of best colleges nationally, has for the past two years included ASU on its list of universities with the most conservative students. ASU debuted on the 2012 list at No. 10 nationally and earned a No. 9 ranking for 2013.

“West Texans are fiscally conservative and so is ASU,” Flores said. “ASU students have a low debt upon graduating because of the great scholarships ASU offers, and a commitment to keeping costs low. Also, while ASU does not have a dress code, students are expected to attend class in modest and appropriate attire. Additionally, ASU has many religiously based student organizations, and several have centers and meeting places on or adjacent to the university campus.”

Another aspect of ASU many home-schooled students appreciate is the small class sizes, which allow professors and instructors to give all students the more personal type of attention home-schooled are used to receiving.

“I definitely took advantage of the small class sizes and the student-to-teacher ratio because, even my freshman year, I started developing more personal relationships with my professors,” Heimbecker said. “Luckily, I had a couple who really sat me down and told me, ‘This is what it’s going to be like. These are the requirements we are going to have for you. This is what it takes to be successful.’ I don’t think I would have received that attention at other universities.”

“The professors,” added junior chemistry major Sergio Peña, “seem to really take an interest in the students’ lives. I make it a point now to get to know my professors and, if I like them, to see what other courses they teach and then see if I would be interested in taking those as well.”

At the same time, ASU also gives home-schooled students the opportunities for new learning experiences and to begin to find themselves as adults.

“Coming to college, it was nice to actually have someone teach us,” said junior art major Kendra Guerrero. “When we were home-schooled, we had a schedule that was basically ‘get all of this done by the end of the year!’ But in college, you have week-to-week assignments, which was so nice to me. It made it a lot easier.”

Sophomore Arielle Reynolds said, “I actually enjoyed coming to college because it was so different from what I was used to. I had to get used to taking notes. I also missed the ‘one on one’ because I was used to it, and I feel that time with the teacher for them to explain everything is such a good benefit. But at the same time, I’m an adult and I know how to find my own answers now.”

Once they are comfortable in the classroom, home-schooled students often find it is then much easier to get to know their fellow students, experience the cultural diversity on campus and form new bonds.

“You all endure together, you all suffer together, you all celebrate together,” Heimbecker said. “Some people really do like to study by themselves – sometimes I prefer that – but there’s never been a class when I couldn’t text someone if I had a question about something, or I missed a day of class and needed to get the notes. You always have that available, just because you develop those interpersonal connections.”

Making those connections also helps open the door for home-schooled students to take part in ASU’s wide variety of extracurricular activities. Peña is active in the ASU chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS), and Guerrero has a part-time job as a photographer in the university’s Communications and Marketing Office.

Home School – continued on next page
Mr. Chairman

Angelo State University alumnus Mickey L. Long has been elected by his fellow regents as chairman of the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) Board of Regents after a two-year term as vice chairman.

Appointed a regent in 2009, Long became the first graduate of Angelo State to chair the TTUS Board since ASU joined the Texas Tech system in 2007.

“I am honored to have been elected to lead this group,” Long said. “The current momentum throughout the Texas Tech University System is exciting, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Board of Regents to help advance our institutions.”

Long, a 1976 ASU graduate and president of Westex Well Service LP in Midland, replaced Jerry Turner of Blanco as chairman at the board’s February meeting. Larry Anders, chairman and majority owner of Summit Alliance Cos. of Dallas, was elected board vice chairman at the same meeting.

Also installed at the February meeting were two new appointees and a returning appointee by Gov. Rick Perry. Tim Lan caster, president and CEO of Hendrick Health System in Abilene, and John Es parza, president and CEO of the Texas Motor Transportation Association in Austin, were appointed to replace for mer Regents Turner and John Field.

Those options include:
• An outright annual gift of $1,000
• A $1,000 pledge initiated with a bank draft of $83.34 per month
• A $1,000 pledge initiated with an automatic credit card withdrawal on a monthly or quarterly schedule
• An online gift through the “Online Giving” link at www.angelo.edu/giving
• A donation with a matching gift from your employer to qualify for the $1,000 total

“Ultimately,” said ASU President Brian J. May, “this is about West Texas and what we at Angelo State can do to improve the educational experience for our students and the economic results for our community. Becoming a President’s Circle member gives ASU maximum flexibility to allocate funds where they are needed most to advance the academic needs and opportunities of the institution.”

Akin said the President’s Circle offers a variety of giving options to make it easy on any budget.

Every budget needs discretionary money to take care of unplanned opportunities or challenges as they arise.

Addressing that need for Angelo State University is the goal of the President’s Circle, a 46-year-old charitable organization established the same year that Angelo State awarded its first bachelor’s degrees. Since 1967, the President’s Circle has been raising unrestricted funds for the university.

Jamie Akin, executive director of development and alumni relations, said, “With a majority of the gifts to the university being designated to a particular area or program of the donor’s choice, the President’s Circle gives us flexibility when opportunities arise for our students and faculty.”

Annual President’s Circle memberships begin at $1,000 with the funds going to a variety of needs identified by the ASU administration. President’s Circle funds have augmented such needs as:

• Equipment for nursing’s High Fidelity Simulation Lab, kinesiology’s Human Performance Lab and psychology’s Mobile Research Lab
• Program support for materials and educational opportunities through the Teacher Education Department’s early childhood education program
• Travel for physics students to take a field trip to Los Alamos National Laboratory
• Faculty retention initiatives through the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Research

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“One of my goals as president,” said May, “is to increase the discretionary funding available to ASU. Joining the President’s Circle is one of the major ways the university’s many friends can help ASU.”

“Everyone should remember,” he added, “that Angelo State University has a total economic impact of $78 million annually on the city of San Angelo and Tom Green County, and that we at ASU are all in when it comes to supporting the community and opening the doors of opportunity for everyone.”

Individuals interested in more information or in joining the President’s Circle should contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 325-942-2116.

news ALONG the MALL
Moving Business

Sometimes, location really is everything.

The Angelo State University Small Business Development Center (SBDC) in December moved from the ASU Rassman Building to its new off-campus location in the newly renovated Business Resource Center at 60 N. Chadbourne St. in downtown San Angelo. In the short time since, the SBDC has already seen an increase in clients.

"An on-campus location for a community service is kind of a challenge," said Dave Erickson, SBDC director. "This new location is more welcoming for our clients."

Previously, parking and meeting space were always issues for SBDC clients. SBDC staff often faced the challenge of finding empty classrooms to meet with clients because their offices were not big enough to accommodate more than two or three people, and training sessions were limited by university class schedules.

But, the new location does more than just improve the SBDC’s office space. The Business Resource Center creates a "one-stop shop" for people who want entrepreneurial or economic development assistance. In addition to the SBDC, other entities with permanent offices in the Business Resource Center are the City of San Angelo Development Corp., the Concho Valley Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Division; and Downtown San Angelo Inc. Howard College Workforce Training also plans to conduct training sessions at the facility.

"Now that we are in the same location as our partners," Erickson said, "we understand each other’s programs better and can walk clients over and introduce them to the other groups."

In addition to seeing more clients, the SBDC has also seen an increase in attendance at its business training sessions. The new facility has a large space with equipment specifically set up for business training.

Jessica Lambert, business development training coordinator, said she can more easily market for business training sessions because the new location is easier to find and the other partners at the Business Resource Center can also spread the word among their visitors.

"There’s a lot of synergy being in the same location," Lambert said. "We’re really starting to see it all come together. It’s very much a team effort."

The new Business Resource Center is already fulfilling its mission of helping area businesses prosper. One Business Factory client, BEPC Inc., not only enjoys the resources available at the new site, but also benefits from having so many business experts close by.

"The SBDC has helped us research new markets for expanding the business," said Pedro Ramirez, BEPC operations director. "They helped connect us with the resources to build that ourselves. A lot of other companies our size would have had to outsource something like that."

A former business advisor for the SBDC, Ramirez plans to grow BEPC, a consulting company for Fortune 500 companies, as much as possible. The Business Resource Center allows him to focus on that goal because the facility and operational costs are kept to a minimum.

"This whole facility and partnership has been extremely useful," Ramirez said. "We are so grateful to be able to take advantage of these resources. We’ve been able to grow our total employee head count from 40 people at the start of 2011 to close to 130 people by February of 2013. We would not have been able to grow at the rate that we have without them."
Labor of Love and War

For Harriet Lewis, “Beloved Companion” offered a way to bring the written words of her Civil War ancestors to life. Dr. Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, coordinator of Angelo State’s Civil War Lecture Series, saw the dramatic work as a way for students and the public to reflect on the conflict in the words of those who lived it.

For Bill Doll, director of University Theatre, the back story was as exciting as the chance to provide another opportunity for students to participate in a stage production. And, for Karina Maldonado, president of the University Center Program Council, “Beloved Companion” allowed the UCPC to fund an original stage production.

The pieces all came together in April when “Beloved Companion: The Civil War Letters of James and Frances Catherine Wood” was produced as a dramatic reading on the University Auditorium stage as the 14th program in the Civil War Lecture Series. The performance drew from some 80 letters between Lewis’ great-great grandparents during the last nine months of the war in Virginia. James Wood enlisted in the 199th Pennsylvania in the fall of 1864, leaving behind his wife, Fanny, and three daughters on their Pennsylvania farm.

Lewis, a member of the ASU physical therapy faculty, came into possession of the letters after the deaths of her parents. The letters were contained in a plastic bag labeled “New Jersey-American Water Company” and so innocuous that her husband, while helping her go through her parents’ effects, almost threw it away without looking inside.

“The near-mistake taught me the fragility of history and how easily it can be lost without us even realizing it,” Lewis said. “Though separated by war, my Wood grandparents were held together by their Christian faith, her worrying that he would be killed and him fretting that she had to chop her own firewood to stay warm that cold winter.”

“There is one letter where she had to wear his boots to get through the snow to the barn and she asked him, ‘Do you not think it a good woman that can step in her husband’s shoes?’” Lewis said.

After the History Department initiated the lecture series commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, Lewis and her husband, Preston, who is editor of ASU Magazine, approached Wongsrichanalai about staging a dramatic reading. While the Lewises at first thought about doing the reading themselves, their ages did not fit, and while Pennsylvania native Harriet could sound Yankee, her native West Texan husband could not.

They and Wongsrichanalai then approached Doll, who bought into the idea of directing a stage production, provided the Lewises could come up with a suitable script. After Preston transcribed the original letters, Harriet began to compile and edit them, but found it difficult to trim almost 100 pages down to 20 pages of script. She then turned the heavy editing over to her husband.

“I didn’t have the editorial pangs of conscience that Harriet did,” he said. “First of all, they weren’t my relatives. Second, they were Yankees.”

When the script was completed, Doll and Wongsrichanalai liked what they read. Only problem was, it would take money — about $3,500 to be exact — to produce the reading in a lecture series that had operated on a shoestring. When the interested parties approached Maldonado and the other members of the UCPC board, they found a receptive audience.

“UCPC was intrigued by the educational and historical aspect of the event,” Maldonado said. “When planning events, we try to include various factors into our programming. What drew us in was the cultural value of the program as it would give students the opportunity to see the cultural differences our country has had over time. To my knowledge, this was the first time UCPC had sponsored an original stage production.”

The UCPC put up the majority of the funding with additional support from the Office of the President. Once the funding was in place, ASU actors Adam Rich and Blair Hitch were chosen to portray the Civil War couple, and Allison Brackin was selected to record violin solos. Then the production became a reality.

“Too often,” said Wongsrichanalai, “history is taught from 35,000 feet above and you can’t even see the people. ‘Beloved Companion’ presented — in touching prose and deep emotional resonance for contemporary students — the fear, pain and love of a simple family as they lived through the most dramatic period in American history.”
Long before the fictional Ewing family wielded pixelated power on the 1980s CBS hit series “Dallas,” the Thomas Ewing family of Ohio exercised legitimate clout on a national scale in the mid-19th century, though its influence was largely forgotten until now.

With this year's publication of Civil War Dynasty: The Ewing Family of Ohio, ASU History Department Chair Dr. Kenneth J. Heineman has revived the memory of the clan described by one reviewer as “an American family story as big as ‘Bonanza’ and as tangled as ‘Dynasty.’”

As Heineman researched the Ewings, he came to view them as “the Forrest Gumps of the Civil War” because they seemed to be everywhere at the time.

Born in 1789 in Virginia and later moving to Ohio with his parents, family patriarch Thomas Ewing was a rags-to-riches success story, starting out as a “salt boiler,” who heated great pots of brine water to recover the salt. However, his inquisitive mind and his great intellect allowed him to learn Latin and French on his own, memorize Blackstone’s Commentaries on law, and be described by one reviewer as “an American family story as big as ‘Bonanza’ and as tangled as ‘Dynasty.’”

Elected a Whig senator from Ohio, Ewing served from 1831-37 as a party mediator between the irascible Henry Clay of Kentucky and the eloquent Daniel Webster of Massachusetts. Later, he was secretary of the treasury under William Henry Harrison and the nation’s first secretary of the interior under Zachary Taylor. Further, Ewing’s political influence helped secure Andrew Johnson become president of the United States.

“...Heineman wrote, “Thomas Ewing was destined for failure.”

In that failure, however, is a fascinating American story. Though Heineman’s biography of the family cannot place the Ewings out of its shadows.

ASU design students in April stepped back to the time of the Civil War to help Christoval celebrate the dedication of a monument at the city park that was first known as the Confederate Reunion Grounds.

As part of the celebration, the students from ASU’s Graphic Design Club created Civil War-themed posters, which debuted at Christoval’s Pioneer Museum the afternoon of the dedication.

“We designed an exhibit of Civil War Union and Confederate posters to be previewed in the Pioneer Museum in Christoval,” said Alex Bryant, president of the Graphic Design Club. “We did scenes based on Christoval and the Civil War using material from the ASU West Texas Collection.”

Since what they were illustrating was outside their actual experiences, the students watched documentaries, such as Ken Burns’ “The Civil War,” and viewed images from the 19th century to get a feel for the people and the era.

The task offered an extra challenge to Bryant and club advisor Edwin Cuenco, assistant professor of art, who are from England and the Philippines, respectively.

“My culture in the Philippines includes the Philippine-American War, which was over colonization by America, so the U.S. Civil War fascinates me,” Cuenco said.

Cuenco and his graphic design students worked with Revitalize! Christoval leaders Sylvia Pate and Kendall Green on the project, which provided an innovative exercise in community engagement. The Revitalize! Christoval tourism group planned to use the students’ work to promote events and to enhance the museum and its offerings. In return, ASU students picked up some valuable experience to enhance their résumés.
Government-run communist media should learn to hold the onions.

On Nov. 14, 2012, the satirical newspaper and website The Onion ran a story naming North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un as the “Sexiest Man Alive for 2012.” Despite The Onion’s well-known reputation for lampooning, the story was taken at face value and posted along with a 55-page photo tribute to Kim by the Korean website channel of China’s Communist Party newspaper People’s Daily. Before the snail was realized and the story and photos were pulled from all Chinese and North Korean media, it was gleefully reported on by worldwide media, including The Onion, Huffington Post, New York Daily News, The Guardian, USA Today, CNN, the BBC and many others.

Dr. Bruce E. Bechtol Jr., ASU associate professor of political science, has written several critically acclaimed books on the Korean governments and media, it was gleefully reported on by worldwide media, including The Onion, Huffington Post, New York Daily News, The Guardian, USA Today, CNN, the BBC and many others.

Dr. Bruce E. Bechtol Jr., ASU associate professor of political science, has written several critically acclaimed books on the North Korean government and military, and is regularly interviewed for his expertise by national and international media. He said that, at least in North Korea, those members of the media fooled by The Onion’s story may have paid the ultimate price.

“Someone was probably executed, and maybe several somebodies,” Bechtol said. “At the very least, someone was purged, sent off to a concentration camp, of which they have several. That would be my guess, although we haven’t seen any reaction yet. Usually that information seeps out a good while after.”

While that may sound more like something from a Sylvester Stallone movie or Cold War novel, it is apparently the way things are still run in North Korea.

“The easiest way to think of the media in North Korea is to think of how it was in the Soviet Union in the 1960s, and then put that on steroids,” Bechtol said. “It is just ridiculous, almost to the point of not being believable. We’re talking stuff like reporting that the first time he went golfing, he scored a hole-in-one on every hole. Because there is one-man autocratic rule, the media have gone even farther to the right than even the old Soviet media, or the Chinese media.”

With that mindset, it is no wonder the communist media fell for The Onion’s story, which read, “With his devastatingly hand-some, round face, his boyish charm, and his strong, sturdy frame, this Pyongyang-bred heartthrob is every woman’s dream come true. Blessed with an air of power that masks an unmistakable cute, cuddly side, Kim Jong-Un made this newspaper’s editorial board swoon with his impeccable fashion sense, chic short hairstyle, and, of course, that famous smile.”

Another contributing factor could be how the Chinese and particularly the North Korean governments restrict their citizens’ access to the Internet.

“What many people don’t know is that in North Korea, there is no public access to the Internet,” Bechtol said. “Even computer science students at Kim Il-Sung University in Pyongyang only have access to an intranet; they cannot get on the Internet. There are probably less than 5,000 people in the whole country who can get on the Internet.”

“Up until December of 2011, to get on the Internet you had to have special permission signed by Kim Jong-II,” he continued. “Now it is probably permission signed by Kim Jong-Us, obviously. Only the elite of the elite are allowed on the Internet.”

Since Kim Jong-Un was educated in Switzerland, some leaders around the world hoped that he might be more culturally sophisticated than his father or grandfather, but so far, little evidence has emerged to support that theory.

“The question is, Does he understand things like the Western media, Western govern-ment or Western diplomacy?” Bechtol said. “But, the jury is still out on that. He hasn’t been any better at understanding any of that stuff than his father was. It is something to be worried about because even most of the elite people don’t even understand the difference between The Onion and the Wall Street Journal.”

Another more recent example of that is how the North Korean media triumphantly reported on the March visit of ex-NBA star and multi-pierced, multi-tattooed spotlight-seeker Dennis Rodman, who tagged along with a Harlem Globetrotters humanitarian mission to basically party with Kim Jong-Un. While Rodman dominated North Korean news coverage by declaring Kim a “friend for life” and passing on Kim’s message that he just wanted U.S. President Barack Obama to call him and talk basketball, the U.S. media did little but mock Rodman for fostering propaganda at a time of particularly strained relations between the U.S. and North Korea.

“Kim Jong-Un is a huge NBA fan,” Bechtol said. “He went to a private school outside of Berne, Switzerland. He was a Chicago Bulls fan, and in his room when he was growing up he had pictures of Michael Jordan. So you can bet that Dennis Rodman got a lot of money to go to North Korea and hang out with him.”

Despite these and other periodic foibles by state-run communist media, Bechtol predicts that the North Korean government’s desperate attempts at information control must continue if its members and their elite friends are going to maintain their way of life. According to Bechtol, Kim Jong-Un owns more than 100 mansions, and the North Korean government is annually the world’s single largest customer for Chivas Regal whiskey – and those are just two of the many perks they are desperate to hold on to.

“Information is something that the North Korean government takes really, really seriously,” Bechtol said, “more so than any other autocratic dictatorship on earth. The reason why is because right next door is one of the most transparent democracies on earth, and its people are Koreans, too. Right now, South Korea has the East Asian equivalent of Bollywood going on and ‘Gangnam Style’ and all that. That is right on North Korea’s border, and the leaders are scared to death of something like that affecting their society.”

“As, also in four North Koreans is related to a South Korean,” he added. “The government doesn’t want them to find out their South Korean cousins are driving Kias and Hyundai, watching cable TV and doing ‘Gangnam Style’ while they are eating tree bark. So, information control is a serious business because once the North Korean people figure out what is going on in the rest of the world, the government is finished.”
Arnoldo De León

Dr. Arnoldo De León has been awarded the Premio Estrella de Aztlán Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest honor and recognition bestowed by the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCSS). De León, the C.J. "Red" Davidson Professor of History, especially the history of Hispanics in Texas and beyond.

De León has been the most important, influential and recognized leader of Chicana and Chicano Studies in the country, especially the history of Hispanics in Texas and beyond.

His nomination letter called De León "a true pioneer in the field of Mexican-American history, especially the history of Texas Mexicans."

An ASU alumnus and faculty member since 1973, De León is the author or editor of 20 major books and numerous articles on Mexican-American and Texas history.

Michael Martin

Michael Martin, director of graphics in the Office of Communications and Marketing, has been named the third recipient of the Chancellor's Col. Rowan Award for Excellence in Execution.

In his role as the university's graphics director, Martin has been the most important, influential and recognized leader of Chicana and Chicano Studies in the country, especially the history of Hispanics in Texas and beyond.

In 2012, only 54 scholarships were awarded to winners spread throughout the U.S. and American Samoa. Texas had two winners last year, both students at Rice University.

In 2012, only 54 scholarships were awarded to winners spread throughout the U.S. and American Samoa. Texas had two winners last year, both students at Rice University.

Taylor will conduct research for his upcoming book, Ev’ry Citizen A Soldier: The U.S. Army’s Campaign for Universal Military Training Following World War II, which will be published by Texas A&M University Press upon completion. Taylor is analyzing the President’s Advisory Commission on Universal Training established by Truman’s Executive Order 9881 after World War II.

Taylor previously received a 2012 George C. Marshall/Banuch Fellowship to conduct research at the Marshall Research Library in Lexington, Va., on George C. Marshall’s role in the U.S. Army’s campaign for Universal Military Training following World War II.

Students of Russian

Bela Maria Reyes Godoy and Marcus Nellums, students in ASU’s Russian language program, have received scholarships to attend the Congress for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies to continue their studies in Moscow this summer.

Godoy, a senior political science major, was awarded her scholarship by the Moscow–Texas Connections program to study at the prestigious Higher School of Economics in Moscow from June 10-Aug. 16. Nellums is a senior ROTC student, having won top prizes for their research presentations at the annual meeting of the Texas Society of Mammalogists in February at the Texas Tech University.

Senior Malori Hughes won the Vernon Bailey Award and a $400 honorarium for best poster presentation in mammalian morphology at the annual meeting of the Texas Society of Mammalogists.

The awards were announced at the CASE District IV annual meeting in March. District IV includes universities in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.
TeExS Perfection
For the 16th straight year, ASU students have maintained a 100 percent passing rate on the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TeExS) teacher certification test for secondary mathematics.

Eight ASU students took the TeExS in January, and their average score of 279 out of 300 is the highest average ever posted by an ASU class. It is also well above last year’s state average score of 227. The perfect passing rate streak began in 1998 and since then, all 158 of the ASU students who have taken the exam after completing the mathematics program have passed.

Katy Williams, senior mathematics instructor and teacher of the capstone course that the students must complete as a final preparation for the TeExS, said, “The fact that all of our students continue to pass the Mathematics TeExS with scores that are so much higher than the state average shows that the ASU mathematics program is an excellent program that gives our students the background they need to be successful in their future careers.”

ASU students who took the latest test were Eloy Acevedo, Laura Aguilar, Emily Booth, Lauren Couch, Debra OHW, Lacy Osborne, Aaron Perkins and Katy Williams.

Handball Title
The Handball Club won its second consecutive overall Division 2 national championship at the 61st U.S. Handball Association National Collegiate Championship Tournament in February at Arizona State University.

ASU’s men totaled 1,078 points and the women scored 264 for a team total of 1,342 to win the combined title ahead of second-place finisher University of West Florida with 604 points. The ASU women won the Women’s Division 2 team championship while the ASU men finished third in the Men’s Division 2 competition.

Individual national champions for ASU were Dreu Biggs of Men’s Division 2, Class C, and Anthony Brouxon in Men’s Division 3, Class B. Also for ASU, James Daughtery and Dustin Osvalt both reached the individual semifinals in the Men’s Division 2, Class B, and Wes Bond reached the individual quarterfinals in the Men’s Division 2, Intermediate Class. Other ASU team members competing at the tournament were Josh DeWaters, Ryan Henry, Joby Winfrey, John Zafereo and Elizabeth Casarez.

The Handball Club is coached by Dr. Warren Simpson, professor of kinesiology, and supported through the ASU Center for Student Involvement.

Judging Teams
The Agriculture Department’s Meat Judging Team finished 2012 ranked in the top five nationally following a fifth-place finish at the International Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in November at Tyson Foods Inc. in Nebraska.

The high score of seniors finished culminated a year that saw the ASU team finish in the top 10 at all seven of the contests it entered, including five top-five finishes and a first-place victory at last year’s Southern Intercollegiate Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest, all against teams from Division I universities.

Members of ASU’s 2012 Meat Judging Team were Kameron Haecker of New Braunfels, William Meyer of Clabado, Darren Seidel of Sanderson, Caitlyn Van Stammbrock of Selma and Kylee Verland of Columbus. They were coached by Dr. Kirk Braden, associate professor of animal science, and animal science graduate student Michael Boening.

In other competitions, ASU’s Wool Judging Teams placed first and third at the 2013 San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Collegiate Wool Contest in February against teams from Texas Tech, Texas A&M, New Mexico State and Kansas State.

ASU’s Livestock Judging Team took second place overall at the annual Arizona National Livestock Judging Contest last December in Phoenix against seven teams from Division I universities. The ASU team finished second overall to the University of Arkansas and took second in sheep judging and third in the beef judging, swine judging and reasons categories.

Nursing Ranks
The nursing program has been ranked in the top 100 national- ly for its online graduate degree offerings by U.S. News and World Report for its 2013 edition of Best Online Programs. Ranked No. 64 overall, ASU was one of eight Texas institutions to make the top 100 list. The rankings were compiled from the 471 colleges and universities that U.S. News and World Report identified as offering master’s degree nursing programs.

Dr. Susan Wilkinson, chair of ASU’s Department of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences, said, “ASU has offered the Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) program online for approximately eight years, and this is nice recognition from independent evaluators that we offer a quality program that meets the needs of the online student.”

In other competitions, ASU’s Wood Judging Teams placed first and third at the 2013 San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Collegiate Wool Contest in February against teams from Texas Tech, Texas A&M, New Mexico State and Kansas State.

ASU’s livestock judging team took second place overall at the annual Arizona National Livestock Judging Contest last December in Phoenix against seven teams from Division I universities. The ASU team finished second overall to the University of Arkansas and took second in sheep judging and third in the beef judging, swine judging and reasons categories.

Physics Engagement
The Society of Physics Students (SPS) has been honored with a 2012-13 Future Faces of Physics Project Award and corresponding grant by the SPS National Office.

The ASU group earned the award for its project titled “AL-PHKS: Alta Loma Peers Helping the Advancement of Science.” The award also includes a $300 grant that was used to help implement the program this past semester at San Angelo’s Alta Loma Elementary School.

The program seeks to create and maintain a partnership between the Angelo State SPS and Alta Loma students for the purpose of advancing science education in grades 3-5.

Dr. Hardin Durham, ASU assistant professor of physics and SPS faculty advisor, said the goal of the Future Faces of Physics Awards is to support projects designed to promote physics across cultures. The ASU chapter was one of only six nationally to win an award for 2012-13.

Up and Down
ASU’s spring enrollment figures mirrored the fall with another record graduate enrollment and a drop in undergraduate numbers, bringing the overall spring totals to 6,149 after a record 2012 spring enrollment of 6,379 students.

Graduate enrollment reached 898, marking the seventh con-secutive long semester in which the College of Graduate Studies has recorded an enrollment high. By comparison, 841 grad-uate students were enrolled last spring.

As was expected after a drop in fall undergraduate enrollment, the spring totals were down as well with 5,251 undergraduates taking classes, compared to 5,538 a year ago. The 2013 overall spring head-count was down 3.6 percent or 230 students, reflecting the increase of 57 in graduate stu-dents and the drop of 287 in undergraduates.

The spring totals counted enrollments of the students as of the 20th class day (Feb. 11), the date used for official enrollment by institutions in the Texas Tech University System.

Comparisons by classification of the spring 2013 and 2012 enrollments with the percentage change were: freshmen, 1,074, 1,245, -11.6 percent; sophomore, 1,203, 1,391, -13.5 percent; junior, 1,246, 1,250, -0.03 percent; senior, 1,598, 1,547, 3.2 percent; unclassified, 130, 135, -0.3 percent; graduate, 898, 841, 6.7 percent; and total, 6,149, 6,379, -3.6 percent.

Total graduate and under-graduate semester credit hours for this spring were 75,463, compared to last spring’s 77,746, a 2.9 percent decline.

Check out what ASU’s distinguished speakers had to say this spring on campus by visiting “Mathematics Monkey Business,” “Advancing Africa” and “Inspiring Writers” at www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine.

For students interested in creepy crawlies and things that sting in the night, the ASU Biology Department offers the course of their dreams.

Each June, Dr. Ned Strenth teaches the three-week course “Biology of the Arachnids” at the Texas Tech University campus in Junction, along with Lynn McCutchen, an ASU graduate and biology instructor at Kilgore College. It is open to both undergraduate and graduate students at ASU and other institutions, and they receive Special Topics course credit upon completion.

Arachnids include spiders, scorpions, ticks, mites and similar organisms, and Texas is the Mecca for scientists and students wanting to study them.

“You can draw a 250-300-mile circle around Junction, and we have all nine major groups of arachnids in it,” Strenth said. “Texas is unique in that way, and it makes Junction a great place to teach this course.”

“Most of the courses you find for arachnology are either spider courses, scorpion courses or both,” he added. “We cover those and everything else. It’s a real bloodbath of our activity.”

The three-week course includes lab work and field trips. The students do a lot of specimen collecting.

“arachnids it the new world of spiders, scorpions, ticks, mites and similar organisms, and Texas is the Mecca for scientists and students wanting to study them.”

You get to go to some really astounding places,” Maddox said. “One of our trips was to Seminole Canyon, and we got to go to Eagle Nest Canyon, which is really a beautiful place, and Big Bend National Park as well. They are some of the best places to collect specimens. You get some really nice diversity, and the scenery is wonderful. We had a good time out there.”

“We have field trips to southern Val Verde County,” Strenth added, “and we go out to Brewster County. Dr. Robert and Jean Ann LeGrand give us access to their Big Oak River Ranch near the headwaters of the Devil’s River. We’ve found several groups of arachnids there that we just haven’t found anywhere else. It’s a real bloodbath of our activity.”

The home bases for those field trips include the Llano River Field Station, Seminole Canyon Park, Black Gap Wildlife Management Area and the guesthouse owned by Jack Skiles at Eagle Nest Canyon. From there, the students fan out to collect specimens and to win the special baseball caps that are awarded for specific rare finds.

“The home bases for those field trips include the Llano River Field Station, Seminole Canyon Park, Black Gap Wildlife Management Area and the guesthouse owned by Jack Skiles at Eagle Nest Canyon. From there, the students fan out to collect specimens and to win the special baseball caps that are awarded for specific rare finds.”

“If you black light for scorpions,” he continued, “it looks like an eerie landscape out of a Spielberg movie, like a cemetery at midnight or ‘Night of the Living Dead.’ I didn’t need to see that in my hotel room.”

The course hit its biggest snag when it almost lost funding due to state budget cuts after only one year in Junction. Coming to the rescue was ASU President Brian J. May, who at that time was interim provost and vice president for academic affairs.

“Dr. May found out about it and said he would support the course,” Strenth said. “I have very good support now from my department chair and from Dr. May. He is our greatest supporter.”

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Outside the fenced areas of Angelo State’s Management, Instruction and Research (MIR) Center lies several thousand acres of rangeland teeming with West Texas wildlife. For as much time spent by ASU Agriculture Department faculty and students maintaining the MIR Center’s livestock operation, an equal amount is spent managing the untamed habitat that is home to white tail deer, quail, turkeys, songbirds, skunks, raccoons, possums, foxes, bobcats, javelinas and many other smaller mammals. The range and wildlife management efforts are overseen by ag professor and research scientist Dr. Cody Scott.

“As far as animals go, you name it and we’ve got it,” Scott said. “A lot of our efforts are on total habitat management. If we manage for a diversity of plants, then we should also have a diversity of animals, and so on. It’s not atypical of what a lot of ranchers do.”

“Typically,” he added, “we think of wildlife management as focusing on mammals and birds, but it basically comes down to balancing the habitat needs of all wildlife species, providing sufficient food, water and cover. To do that, we do a lot of habitat management and habitat improvement.”

On the plant side of the operation, things get a little more complicated as faculty and students must balance the needs of game animals such as deer, quail and turkeys with the needs of non-game animals and even predators.

“With deer, we keep the numbers in check so that we have a healthy, productive and stable population,” Scott said, “and we primarily use hunting to do that. Our hunters pay us a trespass fee to come on the ranch and hunt, but they really provide us a service as well. We focus on removing animals that are mature and have reached their prime in terms of production. We’re not interested in shooting Bambi.”

“Most other wildlife species tend to cycle and regulate themselves,” he added. “Because of our interest in wildlife and livestock, we also monitor predator numbers closely. We do annual predator surveys, and if we see a situation where bobcat, fox or even coyote numbers are increasing, then we’ll take appropriate actions to reduce those, primarily through trapping.”

Annual public deer hunts generate much of the funding used for the various range and wildlife management activities at the MIR Center, more commonly called the ASU Ranch. To prepare for the hunts, faculty and students conduct both spotlight and aerial surveys.

“We have a predetermined route that we drive every year for three consecutive nights,” Scott said. “We use the spotlight and count deer by looking at eye shine, and that gives us a good estimate of deer numbers. We also do a helicopter survey that gives us a good estimate of herd health, the number of bucks and does, and the fawn crop.”

“After we do our surveys and decide how many deer we need to harvest, we do a public draw for hunters,” he continued. “The first two hunts are trophy buck hunts, but they can also shoot doe if they want to. We have eight hunters one weekend, then skip a weekend, then have eight more, and all those hunts are guided by either a full-time employee or a graduate or undergraduate student.”

Senior animal science major Ryan Haas has participated in just about every facet of the range and wildlife management program, including spotlight deer counts, prescribed burnings and spraying for invasive plant control. But, his favorite part has been guiding the public deer hunts, which are true free-range hunts, meaning there are no fences to contain the deer. A lot of them also go into other areas of agriculture.

“Our graduates have taken jobs with the General Land Office,” Scott said. “The biggest employer that we’ve had recently is the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. We have graduates working in land reclamation for oil companies and as ‘land men’ helping write lease agreements with landowners. A lot of them also go into other areas of agriculture.”

“We bring in money from the deer hunts,” he added, “and that goes to support graduate student and other research, which is an awesome deal in itself. But, we can also use the data we collect from our deer herd to show how our efforts and our management are paying off. It’s really cool to see how everything comes together at the end.”

The various wildlife and range management activities also give students hands-on experience that will help them prepare for careers after graduation.

“Our graduates have taken jobs with Texas Parks and Wildlife, University Lands, which is the largest landowner in Texas, and the General Land Office,” Scott said. “The biggest employer that we’ve had recently is the USGS.”

Senior animal science major Ryan Haas adjusts a deer feeder at the Management, Instruction and Research Center.

Animal science senior Ryan Haas adjusts a deer feeder at the Management, Instruction and Research Center.

Animals science senior Ryan Haas adjusts a deer feeder at the Management, Instruction and Research Center.
Students planning to join the Angelo State Agriculture Department should know going in that they are most likely going to get a bit dirty.

Regardless of what area of the agriculture industry they are interested in, ASU ag students all get up close and personal with the sheep, goats and cattle kept at the Management, Instruction and Research (MIR) Center, more commonly called the ASU Ranch.

“Our philosophy is that any degree you get from the Agriculture Department, you’re going to have an understanding of livestock production,” said Dr. Micheal Salisbury, department chair. “Maybe you want to be a banker. Well, to be an efficient banker working with the ag industry, you’ve got to have an understanding of livestock production, breeding and genetics, range management and nutrition. All our degree plans get the students out to the ranch to learn general livestock production.”

“Ag production today is not what it was even 10 years ago,” he added. “It’s not all cows and plows anymore. It’s becoming more and more about science and technology.”

Undergraduate students are introduced early to some of that technology during the lab portions of their classes at the ranch.

“We use portable ultrasound equipment to determine pregnancy in our cattle, as well as in our sheep and goats,” Salisbury said.

“Students also learn how to measure muscle mass for use as a selection tool in picking the best males for breeding. They also learn general animal husbandry and care practices, and work on the management side when the crews come in to shear our sheep. They learn to sort and separate wool and mohair to get the greatest value for it.”

New graduate student Lindsay Waddell went through all that while earning her ASU bachelor’s degree in agribusiness.

“We had one class all about animal behavior,” she said. “We had to learn how to work with the livestock without spooking them or getting them too excited. Other times, we did sonograms on ewes, and for Dr. Salisbury’s reproduction class, we palpated cows. That is where you have to reach right in and feel around to determine how pregnant the cows are. I also observed a class that was doing artificial insemination with sheep, and that was really interesting.”

Growing up in Buda, just south of Austin, Waddell did not get much of an agriculture background. Initially a pre-veterinary medicine major as an undergraduate, she changed her major to agribusiness with an eye toward working in feed and/or drug sales. As she pursues her graduate studies, she acknowledges the value of learning about livestock from nose to tail.

“You learn to take the business of raising animals more seriously,” Waddell said. “Also, the people who live their lives farming and ranching don’t want someone who has never worked with livestock to try to sell them feed for their animals. I don’t want to go out and try to tell those people what to do if I haven’t experienced it myself, and I’d rather learn it firsthand than just have someone tell me about it in a classroom.”

“Honestly, I even enjoyed the palpating,” she added. “That cow is looking at you like, ‘What the heck is going on?’ but you are discovering.”

Waddell is also one of many undergraduate and graduate students who are taking what they learn in classes and labs and applying it toward outside research projects looking at ways to improve livestock nutrition, production and breeding.

“The biggest negative economic impact any livestock industry can suffer is the loss of reproductive efficiency,” Salisbury said.

“Whether it’s cows that should be pregnant but aren’t, or sheep losing fetuses for some reason, things like that. If we can identify a problem and a management technique to alleviate it, then we can take that information and help with their production efforts.”

Any new research data can also be applied at the ASU Ranch as it must annually sell bulls, rams and billies to raise money to sustain its various operations.

“We have to continually improve our breeding males to make them better than those of the average producer,” Salisbury said. “That way, the producers will want to buy ours to improve their own stock. With the students, we pick out the superior males and we do our own data collection. We monitor growth and weight gain, and use that data to choose which males to breed to our females. We also utilize artificial insemination on our cows to improve their offspring. We might have our cows bred to 15 different bulls.”

In addition to preparing students for future careers and helping supplement the ranch’s income, the results of student and faculty research are disseminated as widely as possible to benefit the entire agriculture industry.
Dr. R. Gary Pumphrey, a geographer on ASU’s history faculty, is trying to help people understand something they cannot even see.

The breadbasket of America, which is irrigated not only by the sweat of farm families but also by the invisible Ogallala Aquifer in eight Great Plains states, is running out of time – and water.

Governmental policy and energy production are making the situation worse. Ultimately, decisions must be made to ensure water for the cities and communities that overlie the aquifer in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wyoming and Texas.

Therein resides the paradox. To thrive, agriculture requires the same water that those communities need to survive. Reducing water to agriculture could wind up hurting those same communities economically.
Too often,” Pumphrey said, “groundwater is viewed as a commodity rather than the resource it is.”

While residents of the Great Plains understand the implications of drought because they see them daily, the decline of the Ogallala is less tangible. Consequently, it is harder to achieve political consensus on what can and should be done, even though agriculture accounts for 95 percent of all the Ogallala groundwater used and is in direct competition with municipalities for the quantity and quality of the water.

To better understand public perceptions of the water issue, Pumphrey conducted a survey of nearly 3,000 people in 29 Ogallala communities in six of the eight Ogallala states as part of a prestigious three-year, $727,528 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, which was an extension of his doctoral dissertation that examined opinions in six Texas counties. The NSF project was conducted in conjunction with researchers at North Carolina A&T State University and Texas Tech University.

While the project, titled “Changing Social Attitudes on Towards Water Scarcity: Ethanol Production and Increasing Groundwater Depletion of the Ogallala Aquifer,” examined the impact of the biofuel industry on public perceptions, the results would be applicable to other industrial groundwater uses, such as the induced hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, now being used by the oil industry to squeeze more petroleum out of the ground.

The study specifically looked at the implications of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, subsequently amended by the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act, mandating a Renewable Fuels Standard and estimating an increase in the annual amount of ethanol to be mixed with gasoline sold in the U.S.

These acts created an increased market for field corn, the favored feedstock for ethanol, because the federal law sought to encourage conservation, but to do that we must develop approaches that are both efficient and effective, as well as politically feasible,” he continued. “Our research sought to identify the best strategies to preserve the aquifer and avoid potential conflicts between water users.”

The latest problem brought on by the federal mandates is simply that corn is the most water-intensive crop grown in the region. Corn production can take almost twice as much water to grow as cotton, wheat or sorghum, the other major crops in the region. In the Kansas/Nebraska region, it takes 2,130 gallons of water to produce a bushel of corn, in addition to natural rainfall, and an additional 750 gallons of water to produce a gallon of ethanol.

“There’s a lot of corn being grown and there’s a lot of ethanol being produced from the corn,” Pumphrey said, “but you still have 2.3 million people in the region who depend on the aquifer.”

The Ogallala is the largest underground water-bearing formation in the U.S. and the principal source for the region’s municipal, agricultural and industrial needs. In fact, almost 30 percent of all the groundwater that is used for irrigation in the U.S. comes from the Ogallala.

Because of the rate of removal, the aquifer is, in effect, being mined. Estimated annual recharge to the Ogallala ranges from 0.02 inches per year in Texas and New Mexico to 6 inches per year in the northeasternmost section of the aquifer. The saturated thickness or depth of the water-bearing formation from before it was first tapped for large-scale irrigation in the 1950s until the present has declined in most places 100 or more feet, including a 234-foot drop in portions of Texas.

“Increased ethanol production has significant implications not only for the region’s agriculture, but also for its industries and municipalities,” Pumphrey said. “These added withdrawals on top of existing groundwater extractions over many years create a direct path to disaster in the very near future.”

“To address this issue, we need to encourage conservation, but to do that we must develop approaches that are both efficient and effective, as well as politically feasible,” he continued. “Our research sought to identify the best strategies to preserve the aquifer and avoid potential conflicts between water users.”

In conducting the survey, Pumphrey measured attitudes toward both free-market and regulatory approaches to allocating water as the aquifer diminishes both in quantity and quality at the same time that the price goes up.

“As the saturated thickness shrinks, you have more dissolved solids in the remaining water,” Pumphrey said. “With a higher concentration of dissolved solids, the quality of the water starts to go down. On top of that, as your water table drops, it is farther from the surface, requiring deeper wells, longer casing and more energy to pump the water to the surface. So, your expense goes up as the water quality goes down.”

On the positive side, Pumphrey said, residents of the region generally are aware of the inevitability of the aquifer’s demise at current use rates and do recognize that conservation is necessary, whether during droughts or permanently. While the public resists the vague notion of increasing water prices for conservation, the survey found that most residents would be willing to accept modest price increases for the purposes of conservation, paying a small price today in order to forestall significant expenses in the future.

While residents clearly acknowledge the importance of the agricultural and ethanol industries in their region, Pumphrey said his research team found applicable to other industrial groundwater uses, such as limiting lawn watering or car washing and fining for waste or excessive use, “their fair share” for the water they use. That is a fine concept, but not always workable when water rights may belong to individuals or companies, rather than be consolidated under the control of a single entity.

“The in the very near future,” Pumphrey said. “It is a complicated problem,” he said, “and it may require some sort of a brotherhood or family attitude for people to conserve that resource for the common good. We’re getting to the point where we will have to face up to it for our own good as a region and as a nation.”

When it comes to exploring the Great Outdoors, not all biology researchers are treated equal because they must carry different equipment for their varied quarry. These biology students display some of the tools of the trade: front row (L to R), Lauren Langley, Bryce Hubbell, Austin Osamnski, Larry Gilbert and Thomas Horsley; and back row, Clint Morgan, Krysta Demere, Katie Jones and Ramey Wauer. Langley, an insect researcher, uses a net, forces, backpack and plastic bags, while Hubble, who studies reptiles and amphibians, uses a hook, and Osamnski, a snake enthusiast, employs snake tongs and shin guards. Gilbert is appropriately outfitted with a net and rubber boots as a fish parasitologist, while Horsley, who studies bats, uses harp traps and gloves to snare his subjects.

On the back row, Morgan uses radio telemetry equipment and live animal traps for his work on various mammals, and Demere uses an Anabat to study bat echolocation frequencies. Jones employs binoculars as an assistant on multiple research projects, and Wauer uses a spade and plant press for collecting and preserving West Texas flora.
Get them interested and give them something to talk about on the ride home. That is the goal of the ASU Admissions Office when conducting campus tours for prospective students and their parents. The admissions staff accomplishes that by having trained student tour guides, known as RAMbassadors, share stories about their own campus experiences. Tara Hart, associate director of admissions, said those personal stories go a long way in the recruiting process.

“Prospective students want to know what is exciting about living in a residence hall,” Hart said. “They want to know what you do for fun at night or on the weekends. They also want to know about the community of San Angelo. They want to find out about the social opportunities and what it’s like to be in class and how much books really cost. They definitely relate to someone like to be in class and how much books re...
Through the Outdoor Adventures program administered by ASU University Recreation (UREC), students have the opportunity to get out of the classroom and off campus to experience the great outdoors.

Established in 2010, the Outdoor Adventures program sponsors student outdoor activities trips, oversees the ASU Lake House facilities and offers skills clinics and other special events. Student participation has more than doubled from 2,700 in the program’s first year to 6,333 in 2012.

For pure numbers, the 40-foot indoor rock climbing gym in the ASU Center for Human Performance is the most popular activity, but participation in the outdoor activities trips is also growing. Recent excursions included a weeklong ski trip to New Mexico and mountain biking at Middle Concho Park. Affordably priced (only $65 for three days of mountain biking, $900 for the ski trip), the trips are open to all students.

“The trips program is an educational opportunity,” said Ian Brown, assistant director of Outdoor Adventures. “We take the classroom and move it to a higher perceived risk setting, whether that is rappelling off a 40-foot cliff, rock climbing up one, backpacking in Big Bend or kayaking on the Rio Grande River.”

Sarah Riejas, sophomore biology major from Buda, found such activities to her liking while looking for an on-campus job. She has become fully engaged in the Outdoor Adventures program, including a sunrise yoga trip to Enchanted Rock near Fredericksburg last fall and the ski trip to New Mexico.

“That trip to Enchanted Rock completely blew my mind,” Riejas said. “It was so beautiful and peaceful, and a great experience that I believe everyone should have. I also participated in the ski/snowboarding trip last year at Ruidoso, N.M. That trip was the most fun I’ve had in all my life. I’ve always wanted to go snowboarding, so I took my chance, and it was a blast.”

Students interested in joining one of the trips, but who are not as confident in their outdoor skills, can participate in UREC clinics that include Introduction to Climbing Movement, Top Rope Belay, Backpacking, Kayaking, Camp Cooking and Mountain Biking.

“In addition to just enjoying the various outdoor activities, students can get involved in planning and even leading a trip, which gives them valuable experience to put on their résumés, regardless of their future career plans,” Brown said. “Students can propose their own trip ideas as long as they have logistical plans in place, do the necessary paperwork and have the skills for the trip.”

“Trips could range from kayaking on the Concho River to a trail run at San Angelo State Park. It depends on the skill set a program’s first year to 6,333 in 2012.

“Once we have that core group of students who have gone through the program,” Brown said, “they will be more adept at facilitating team-building experiences.”

For students wanting to stay closer to campus, the Lake House facilities on Lake Nasworthy offer everything from a quiet place to relax by the water to more vigorous activities, like kayaking, mountain biking, volleyball and basketball. Of course, right on campus, there is the rock climbing gym.

“We average 46 participants for the outdoor trips,” Brown said, “but it’s hard to measure their experience against the 3,000 or so who now go to the climbing gym. With the climbing gym, you come in for an hour or two and you get this great, short burst of experience, whether you come in one day or a few days, as compared to an outdoor trip where you are backpacking for four or five days straight.”

Climbers can also test their skills against their fellow students in Outdoor Adventures’ annual Angelo Rock Climbing Competition. Each spring semester, the indoor rock climbing gym is stripped of routes, washed and set with completely fresh routes for the contest that is open to all students, regardless of skill level.

Whatever type of activities they prefer, ASU students can get involved in the Outdoor Adventures program from the first day they arrive on campus. Its First-Year Quest component debuted in 2011 and is now offered during the annual Rambunctious Weekend that marks the beginning of each ASU fall semester. The 90-minute program currently involves several on-campus team-building exercises with plans to add more in the future, possibly including rock climbing, kayaking and backpacking.

“We would provide experiences in the back country that students can also apply to campus life, such as planning meals and working as a team to cook those meals,” Brown said. “After that trip, they will already know people on campus they can smile at and nod to and give a high-five. In the future, if all goes as planned, the young students will have these older student mentors they can go to if they need to reach out to somebody.”

An indication that the ASU program is on the right track came in January when ASU was picked to host the 2013 Texas Outdoor Leadership Conference (TOLC) that included a variety of meetings and activities attended by 117 students and professionals from more than 37 Texas universities. “Hosting the TOLC was not only a major milestone for Outdoor Adventures,” Brown said, “but it also brought a lot of notice to ASU. It brought in prospective students for our graduate programs, and helped our current students who are potentially seeking graduate programs at other schools to network with them.”

Already enjoying a promising beginning and projecting grand plans for the future, the Outdoor Adventures program has added yet another component to Angelo State that helps foster the camaraderie of its residential campus and ensure its students can have a fulfilling and complete college experience.
Horsing Around

It is safe to assume that few, if any, Angelo State nursing students thought they would be taking a nursing clinical course in a corral.

For the fourth straight year, though, nursing students in Stephen Hammer’s pediatrics clinical rotation are doing just that. For a couple of days each spring and fall semester, Hammer, an assistant clinical professor of nursing, volunteers his students to help with day-long sessions of the Sonrisas Therapeutic Riding Program in an outdoor corral at the San Angelo Fairgrounds.

Created by the Junior League in 1989, Sonrisas offers therapeutic horseback riding to children with physical, mental and emotional challenges. Helping our gives the nursing students valuable training in dealing with young special-needs patients.

“Takes four people to walk a child on a horse,” Hammer said. “You have two people as side walkers on either side of the horse to stabilize the child. You have to have a leader, and then you have to have a director to stabilize the child. You have to have a nurse or working in a hospital pediatric unit.”

Getting the students out of the classroom and into the community is also an important aspect of their education.

“We really try to stress the community aspect of pediatric nursing,” Hammer said, “whether it is conducting health fairs, going to schools or promoting health in general at that early age that goes from newborn all the way to 18 years old. At Sonrisas, students get the opportunity to see how things go on in the real world, and we always try to marry their classroom experience with the real world.”

On top of all that, Sonrisas provides a really positive personal experience for both the riders and the students.

“It’s an opportunity,” Hammer said, “for these children who have developmental issues to be outside, to be on horseback and, in some cases, to be verbal when they aren’t verbal under any other circumstances. It’s a chance for them to feel their bodies in a different way because they actually sit on the horse and ride. The motion of the horse is very similar to what you and I would do walking, so they become a unit and that feeling of movement is transferred to the children.”

“Helping Sonrisas has really had a big impact on many of our students,” he added. “We have them turn in what we call a ‘reflective paper’ afterwards, and many students have had very meaningful experiences as a result of those efforts.”

Star Gazing

Even as he thrills audiences with state of the art astral programs in Angelo State’s Global Immersion Center (GIC), Dr. Mark Sonntag remains an old school astronomer.

In his view, nothing beats looking at the night sky with a telescope, which was the high tech instrument of early astronomers like Galileo.

Galileo and his contemporaries could never have imagined the equipment now available in the GIC. Formerly called the ASU Planetarium, the GIC in 2010 installed a new SciDome HD digital projection system powered by Starry Night software and a digital sound system with Dolby 5.1 surround sound. They allow Sonntag to present cutting edge public astronomy programs that accurately simulate stars, planets and even “trips” throughout the solar system. After each program, though, he still tries to get the attendees outside to actually look at the night sky.

“We’ve got a great program on Saturn,” Sonntag said, “but when you can have people look at Saturn through a telescope and see the rings, it is a whole different experience for them. Looking at the real universe is as big a thrill as anything you can do in a planetarium.”

The regularly scheduled viewings are not anything elaborate, just whatever is visible at the time,” he added. “We get a lot of positive feedback, but in my experience, at least as important is to go outside with a telescope and actually see the real thing.”

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It is Sonntag’s modern way of getting people to go old school.

In the movies now with computer graphics, it is some times hard to tell if something is real or computer generated,” he said. “So in this day and age, it is really important to ground people in the real thing, not a simulation. Often they think it is an image or picture in the telescope, and I think they are surprised and thrilled that it is the real thing.”

In the Planetarium, we show multi media programs, he continued. “We get a lot of positive feedback, but in my experience, at least as important is to go outside with a telescope and actually see the real thing.”
Promising to bring passion and enthusiasm along with a vision of winning championships, graduating players and being an active part of the community, new Rams coach Chris Beard is aiming to turn around ASU’s men’s basketball program.

“Our teams will always start with the character of our players,” Beard said. “We want to recruit true student-athletes who are serious about getting a degree and being the best basketball player that they can become. Our teams always start with defense and rebounding. Each game we play, we want to defend the best we can, and on offense we want to be an unselfish team that shares the ball.”

“We are going to win here and we are going to do it the right way,” he added. “We are going to follow the rules, and that will bring even more satisfaction when we are cutting down the nets one day, knowing that we did it the right way.”

Armed with 18 years of successful coaching experience at the NCAA Division I and Division II, junior college and professional levels, Beard in March joined the Rams after one season at McMurry University in Abilene, where he led the War Hawks to a 19-10 record and a trip to the National Christian College Athletic Association national tournament.

Prior to McMurry, Beard coached the South Carolina Warriors of the American Basketball Association to a 31-2 record, a Mid-Atlantic Division Championship and an appearance in the ABA Finals.

However, Beard is probably best known in West Texas for spending 2001-11 as an assistant under Hall of Fame coach Bob Knight and then his son, Pat Knight, at Texas Tech. During Beard’s tenure, the Red Raiders won 188 games and advanced to the postseason six times, including four trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Beard holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He and his wife, Leslie, have three daughters, Avery, Ella and Margo.
Cayla Petree

The ASU Rambelles basketball team has long prided itself on strong academics and community involvement, and new head coach Cayla Petree plans to build on that tradition while guiding the team back to the top of the Lone Star Conference.

“Coaching to me is all about relationships,” Petree said. “That is my approach to recruiting, coaching and dealing with the community. I saw firsthand how Coach (Marsha) Sharp built Texas Tech one relationship at a time. I know she built that by getting out in the community. I’m willing to do that. I’m super excited to get out in the community and get the girls out in the community.

This is a great place to do something, she added. “I can’t wait to get to work and build something great.

Already with NCAA Division I and junior college coaching experience under her belt, Petree in March took over the reins of the Rambelles program after spending the previous season as an assistant coach at the University of North Texas. While at UNT, she helped coach the Sun Belt Conference Freshman of the Year and signed an ESPN Top 100 recruit.

Prior to UNT, Petree spent 2007-12 rebuilding Cisco College into a perennial play off contender. Taking over a team that went 0-60 the three previous seasons, she led the Lady Wranglers to three straight 20-win campaigns and Region V Tournament appearances from 2010-12. Her overall record at Cisco was 96-64, including a 66-28 mark in her final three seasons.

As a player, Petree was a two-time all conference selection for Cisco and was named conference Freshman of the Year in 2006-07. She transferred to Texas Tech in 2008 and was a member of the 2009 Elite Eight team under Sharp.

Petree holds a bachelor’s degree in exercise science and sport science communication and an master’s degree in sports management, both from Texas Tech. 

“Heel to toe … heel to toe” are the only words Leah LeMaire could think about during rehab after a horrific car wreck.

LeMaire’s promising career for the Rambelles basketball team, which included being named the 2009-10 Lone Star Conference South Division Freshman of the Year, was in jeopardy after the wreck in September of 2010. She suffered a lacerated spleen and diaphragm, punctured left lung, broken left pelvis, fractured left elbow, dislocated right elbow, three torn ligaments in her right knee, three fractured ribs and a mild concussion.

After about six weeks in the hospital, LeMaire was sent home to start the long, slow rehab process.

“Honestly, I forgot how to run,” LeMaire said. “I remember crying every day. My mom would tell me everything is going to be OK, and I would tell her people don’t come back the same.

The Corpus Christi native spent the fall of 2010 going to four hours of rehab a day. She stayed in contact with the ‘Belles basketball team by watching practices and games. “It really wasn’t easy,” LeMaire said. “I would watch the team on Skype and try to watch practice, and it was just too hard for me because my sister was there. It was really difficult and it definitely took time, and I wasn’t going to let myself settle for less.”

She rejoined the team in 2011 and started 28 games, averaging 7.1 points per game. The junior had doubts throughout the season as she continued to rehab and work on her strength.

“Strength and keeping my legs strong have been the hardest,” LeMaire said. “Sometimes it is difficult getting up and down the court because I ruptured my diaphragm and lung.”

This past season, LeMaire took on a more prominent role, averaging 10.6 points and 4.8 rebounds per game. She recorded her second career double-double against Texas Woman’s University, her first since her freshman season.

Also, the confidence and smile that LeMaire had throughout her freshman season started to return at the Texas Woman’s tournament in November.

“We had a few scrimmages before, and the way I played defense, I could keep up with the other players,” LeMaire said. “I could totally feel a difference in each game, and it just keeps getting better and better, and my confidence just built up more and more. I’d probably say I am 90 percent back to where I was.”

Despite LeMaire not being fully recovered, former ‘Belles head coach Sally Brooks thinks she has turned into a better player.

“She is not as quick or explosive as she used to be,” Brooks said. “I think defense and rebounding is not as natural to her as it was before the accident. But, she has become a smarter player because she is unable to rely totally on her athleticism.”

Brooks also raved about the progress LeMaire has made personally.

“There is no doubt in my mind that the accident forced Leah to mature quicker than she would have otherwise,” Brooks said. “It couldn’t be more proud of Leah, and she will always be very special to me and this program.”

Now more focused on basketball than rehab, LeMaire is embracing the opportunity she thought was lost.

“Anything is possible with whatever you put your mind to,” she said. “I figured after my wreck I could just be on the sidelines supporting, but I really didn’t want that. I knew I had to work hard to be back where I left off, and that was being a scorer on this team. I feel I am back to where I left off.”
Overall, the Rambelles were the top Lone Star Conference team in the women’s standings, finishing two places above second-place Abilene Christian. Their eighth-place finish also marked the best showing by ASU at a national meet since the Rambelles won the 2010 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championship.

End of an Era
Qualifying for the 2013 Lone Star Conference Tournament became a bittersweet memory for the ASU Rambelles basketball team as it turned out to be the final tournament appearance under head coach Sally Walling Brooks.

In a season that included a six-game winning streak, their longest since 2004-05, the ‘Belles lost to West Texas A&M in the first round of the LSC Tournament to finish 14-13 overall. After the season, Brooks re-signed as head coach. During her 13 seasons at ASU, Brooks’ teams went 251-258 and won four LSC South Division titles and three LSC Tournament titles. She was twice named LSC South Division Coach of the Year and won her 200th career game during the 2012-13 season. Her 22-year career record now stands at 406-234.

Lauren Holt led this year’s ‘Belles with an average of 12.6 points and 8.4 rebounds per game and earned All-LSC second team honors. Leah LeMaire and Haylee Oliver were both named honorable mention All-LSC, and Karli Kellermeyer was selected to the Academic All-LSC Team for the first time.

Rough Season
The Angelo State men’s basketball team struggled to a 7-9 overall record and failed to qualify for the Lone Star Conference Tournament for the third straight season in head coach Fred Rike’s final campaign.

There were some bright spots, however, as the Rams won six home games and finished second winning two of their final three games. Those included a victory that snapped a 20-year losing streak at Midwestern State, and a season-ending 88-75 win over Incarnate Word. But, they were not enough to overcome a 4-4 record in LSC games, so there was once again no postseason play for ASU.

Several Rams enjoyed impressive individual seasons. Freshman Jovan Austin was named the LSC Co-Freshman of the Year after averaging 12.3 points per game and posting 91 assists and 43 steals. Sophomore Justin Walling led the LSC in three-point shooting percentage at 51 percent. The team’s lone senior, Antonio Dye, averaged 10.8 points per game and sank 44 three-pointers to tie junior Drew lampit for the team lead.

Junior guard Bryan Hammood was named the conference’s Offensive Player of the Week on Jan. 21, and junior forward Ryan Marsh was tabbed the LSC Defensive Player of the Week on Nov. 13. In Rike’s seven seasons at ASU, the Rams posted a 92-99 overall record. His best season was 2008-09 when the Rams went 20-9, qualified for the NCAA Division II South Central Regional Tournament and achieved their highest NCAA D-II national ranking in school history at No. 23.

Chad Herring’s goal for ASU’s student-athletes is to maximize their potential and eliminate regrets.

As a strength and conditioning coach, Herring makes it his priority to motivate each student-athlete and provide the resources necessary for them to succeed in competition.

“If I can motivate someone to push themselves to get better, then I’m doing my job.”

A former football player at Ithaca College in New York, Herring came to ASU two years ago as a graduate assistant while earning his master’s degree in coaching, sport, recreation and fitness administration. Since being hired full-time in September, he is known for arriving at 6 a.m. daily at his office in the Jannel Center weight room. From there, he develops workout plans to address the needs of each individual athlete and sport.

“You have to know the personality of each athlete that comes in here,” Herring said. “Individuals and teams are different, and you have to be able to adjust to their personalities to help them along the way. Motivation is a really important aspect here, and you can’t treat everyone the same. There are some athletes who are motivated by yelling while some will shut down with that. You have to know who you are dealing with.”

With his football background, Herring was an easy fit with the Rams football team. Head coach Will Wagner said he is encouraged by the way the Rams have taken to Her- ring’s program, and that the trust developed between them gives the rest of the coaches the opportunity to focus on other areas. However, on any given day, Herring faces the daunting challenge of also working with basketball, soccer, track and field, baseball, softball and volleyball players. It is his job to understand what exercises will most benefit the athletes, and what each coach would like to get from their athletes’ time in the weight room.

“One of the things I like most about Chad is that he wants to be as sport-specific in his training as possible,” said Chuck Wadington, head volleyball coach. “He doesn’t train our volleyball players like football players. He also communicates with them in a way that they appreciate.”

Herring is also willing to keep learning. Last summer, he interned in New York with the Tri-City ValleyCats, a minor league affiliate of the Houston Astros, and uses what he learned to help the ASU baseball and softball teams.

“Chad is doing a great job working with the team,” said Katie Naumoff, assistant softball coach. “The team feeds off of his positive and energetic demeanor. He has a lot of experience with baseball and softball, and designs sport-specific workouts to strengthen the throwing shoulder and rotational hip movement used daily in softball.”

Despite his football days as an Academic All-American safety, Herring’s main concern is not having athletes set new records in the weight room. He prefers to emphasize improving their overall athleticism.

“I like non-traditional exercises that put the athletes on their feet and moving like they do in games,” Herring said. “If we can work balance, flexibility and strength at the same time, then we are helping them more than just isolating one part of conditioning. I want quality in everything they do.”

Overall, the Rambelles were the top Lone Star Conference team in the women’s standings, finishing two places above second-place Abilene Christian. Their eighth-place finish also marked the best showing by ASU at a national meet since the Rambelles won the 2010 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championship.
LegendaryFeat

Winning a national championship is quite an accomplishment, but winning two in the same week is the stuff of IM Legends.

An ASU co-recreational (co-ed) flag football team, IM Legends brought home two national championship trophies from Florida in January after winning the American Collegiate Intramural Sports (ACIS) tournament in Pensacola and the National Collegiate Competition Series (NCCS) tournament in Orlando.

“It’s kind of cool,” said Scott Fankhauser, a nursing major and IM Legends All-American. “Everybody knows Angelo State since we’ve been successful the past few years. It’s kind of weird to think that you know Nebraska, Central Florida and these other big schools, and they look at Angelo State and all know who we are.”

IM Legends defeated a University of Central Florida team, 20-10, in the ACIS championship, having also won in 2011.

“When they do the bracket draws,” Jackson said, “you hear people talking and saying, ‘We don’t want to go on Angelo State’s side of the bracket,’ so they always pick the other side so they don’t have to play us until the championship, if we make it that far. It’s pretty cool being the top dog, and it boosts our confidence that people are scared to play us.”

“I can’t explain the excitement for us this year,” she added, “especially after regional when we won the men’s division, the women’s and the co-ed. Getting to the championship bracket in all three divisions in both national tournaments was incredible.”

Wolfpac reached the semi-finals of the ACIS tournament and was the NCCS national runner-up. Vixen was national runner-up at both tournaments.

ASU intramural program is a component of University Recreation (UREC). Jeremy Whitaker, assistant UREC director, considers competing in regional and national tournaments as the students’ reward for their practice time and the team commitment. That sentiment is appreciated by senior communication major Brianne Wilburn, another IM Legends defensive player.

Without intramurals and IM Legends, she said, “I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to travel like I have. We got to go to Nebraska, New Orleans, Pensacola and Orlando. It was so much fun to travel and see things you don’t normally get to see. That was the best thing, the whole new experiences.”

Plus, ASU teams winning championships can only enhance the intramural program back home.

“It will create a more competitive environment on campus,” Whitaker said, “because the other students will want to knock off the national champions.”

Despite being based in an area of West Texas plagued by low lake levels and a decreasing fish population, Angelo State’s Bass Anglers club has made ASU synonymous with great bass fishing.

Often competing against as many as 50 other teams, most from much larger universities, members of the ASU Bass Anglers regularly place in the top five at tournaments on the premier FLW College Fishing circuit. Led by Josh Seale, a graduate student from Breckenridge, the ASU club has won nearly $40,000 in prize money over the last five years.

“The thing I like best about tournaments is the competition,” Seale said. “I love to fish, but I’m kind of a competitive junkie, too.”

Last October, Seale and his partner, junior Ethan George of San Angelo, took third place at the FLW College Fishing Southern Conference Championship, winning $3,000 for the club and qualifying for the FLW National Championship in April. They also made it onto national television as the conference tournament was broadcast in December on the NBC Sports Network.

More recently, George teamed with club president Ryan Easterly to take fourth place at the FLW Southern Conference qualifying tournament in January at Lake Amistad near Del Rio. That earned the club $500 and the ASU duo a spot in the FLW Southern Conference Invitational in Beaumont in October.

“We are the only ASU club that wins money,” Easterly said. “Everyone else just wins trophies and prizes.”

Half of the money won by the Bass Anglers goes into ASU’s General Scholarship Fund while the other half helps fund the club’s travel expenses to tournaments that are often many hours of drive time away in Texas and other states. Winning prize money takes a lot of work and dedication from the student anglers.

“Sometimes, we’ll go all the way to Louisiana to pre-fish a lake,” said club member Austin Osmanski. “We’ve also talked on the Internet about who is using what lures and who is teaming with whom. We talk about our game plan and circle spots on the map where we want to fish. Then we get out there and don’t have time to eat because the more casts you get, the higher the chance you have of catching fish.”

Tournament expenses are also partially subsidized by ASU’s Center for Student Involvement (CSI). Now about 20 strong, Bass Anglers members have more than repaid the faith shown in them when they were approved to join the CSI Club Sports lineup.

“When we first started, bass fishing was just taking off nationally,” said Paul Osman, assistant clinical professor of nursing. “They asked me if I would be the ASU club’s faculty advisor, and I said sure. We started off with a bunch of really involved students, and the club started growing.”

“And other clubs, too,” Easterly added. “Some of these guys fish three or four times a week,” Austin Osmanski said. “That’s why Josh Seale is so good, because he is putting in the time. A lot of people attribute catching fish to luck, but if you go fishing that often, you are going to know how to catch fish.”

Knowing how to fish is certainly paying off for the Bass Anglers as its members contribute money toward ASU scholarships, make national TV appearances and make Angelo State a name to be reckoned with in the competitive world of tournament bass fishing.
Heart of a Champion

Someday soon, James Howell wants to have his own Coca-Cola commercial. A five-time All-American track star at Angelo State from 2009-10, Howell graduated with his business management degree and then joined the professional track and field circuit. In 2011, he finished third at the U.S. Indoor Championships in the 400-meters running for Next Level Athletix, and was ranked 2nd in the world in that event. After moving to California in 2012, he was an extra in a Coca-Cola 2012 Olympic Games TV commercial featuring David Oliver, the U.S. record holder in the 110-meter hurdles.

“Someday soon, from 2009-10, Howell graduated with his business management degree and then joined the pro.

Despite winning four LSC champion medals and five All-America certificates, and setting a school record that still stands in the 400-meter dash, he just never could quite bump the women’s team off the front pages. “But I was never bitter,” Howell said. “I embraced it. It really inspired me to place even higher at the national meet. I knew the Rambelles had a great team and were the faces of the 2010 track and field season for ASU, so I had to find even more to break the school record and place higher in the 400-meters than anyone at ASU ever had before at the national meet. When I saw them doing so well, it made me want to do the same thing.”

“One of the things that made James so good,” said James Reid, ASU head track and field coach, “was that he was a student of the sport. He always wanted to analyze his race with me so that he understood completely what the strategy was for each race.

Standing just 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighing only 130 pounds, Howell’s specialties are the 400-meters and the 400-meter hurdles. In the 2012 Olympics, the average height and weight of the top eight finishers in the 400-meters were 5 feet 11 inches and 157 pounds. For the top eight finishers in the 400-meter hurdles, they were 6 feet 1 inch and 175 pounds. Howell’s training partner, 2012 400-meter hurdles gold medalist Felix Sanchez, was the smallest man in the final, but he is 6 feet 1 inch tall and weighs about 20 pounds heavier than Howell.

“Having that ‘short man’s syndrome’ has always made me want to work 10 times harder,” Howell said. “Now after I work out with my coach, I take maybe a two-or-three-hour break and then do extra work. I study the track and field greats because in order to be great, you have to study the history of the greats. That is what gives me the fuel to show other people of my stature that it doesn’t matter what you look like on the outside because you can’t measure heart. If you’ve got heart, you can accomplish whatever you want to do in life.”

“I thought it was always near,” Reid said, “when we would show up at a meet and people would look at his height and say, ‘There’s no way this guy can be that fast!’ Then the race would start and they would find out how great a competitor he is and just exactly how fast he is!”

After moving to California, Howell endured a tough season that included some relocation and training issues and a minor hamstring injury. But now fully acclimated and healthy, Howell has set some serious goals for the 2013 season, the biggest of which are qualifying for the U.S. Outdoor Championships in June and the World Championships to be held in Moscow in August. Those are not such far-fetched notions when you consider that his personal best in the 400-meters would have been less than 1 second away from qualifying him for the 2012 Olympics final in that event.

“My confidence is also back,” Howell said. “In 2012, I lost a bit of my confidence, but I was also able to reflect on my life and put things back in order. When things are out of balance, you can’t perform the way you want to, but now I’m more at peace. I train every day with a gold medalist, so I always have to show up for practice physically fit, mentally sharp and ready to go.”

“I’m now focusing more in mechanics,” he added. “We are taking the long approach, running longer distances so I’m better able to finish my races. I’ve always had the foot speed, and now I’m better able to finish races the way I want to, so I’m excited about actually being able to accomplish the goals I’ve set out for myself this year.”

However, like all professional U.S. track and field athletes, Howell relies on private donors to help fund his full-time training and travel expenses. His 2013 schedule includes about 17 competitions during the indoor and outdoor seasons. Several are fairly close to his training base at the University of California-Los Angeles, but a few are much farther away, including the International Track Games in Toronto, Canada, and the World Championships in Moscow. That translates to almost $16,000 in expenses.

“I already have some sponsors, but I still need a few to really put me over the top,” Howell said. “Mainly it would be for things like hotels. Even for meets in California, we want to maintain a professional approach. If you stay at home until time for a meet, you tend to get a bit lackadaisical. But, separating yourself from your ‘home world’ allows you to stay focused on the task ahead of you.”

“That is something I learned in 2012 and have brought to 2013,” he continued. “You have to maintain that professional approach to your craft at all times.”

When he is not on the track, Howell stays busy with his fitness consulting business, CF Fitness, and has been big on performing community service wherever he lives. While at ASU, he lived at Angelo Place Apartments and participated in several activities sponsored by the complex, including Halloween trick-or-treating events for area children. He was also heavily involved with the San Angelo YMCA and youth football. His California activities have included feeding holiday meals to the homeless with the Brighter Days nonprofit group at Thanksgiving in Long Beach and at the Los Angeles Mission at Christmas.

Now, Howell is hoping to receive some of that same kind of help he has been freely giving for much of his adult life. Anyone interested in assisting with his training and travel can check out his website at www.jameshowellusa.com. Imagine the pride of both Howell and his sponsors when they get to see his Coca-Cola commercial.

“That’s why 2013 is a huge year for me,” Howell said, “and I’ve hit the ground running.”

by Tom Nurre
Despite being long retired from his post as ASU theatre director, Dr. Raymond Carver still has a passion for the stage. That enthusiasm for the dramatic was on full display in December and January when Carver performed his one-man show, “We Had a Grand Time, Didn’t We, Kids?” at the Silver Spur Theatre in Salado, near Killeen, and at the Salvage Vanguard Theatre in Austin.

“My wife, Barbara, and I relocated to Austin to be nearer my daughter, Libba, and her family,” Carver said. “I had performed ‘Grand Time’ in Austin to be nearer my daughter, Libba, and at the Salvage Vanguard Theatre in Salado, near Killeen, and at the Salvage Vanguard Theatre in Austin.

“During his distinguished career, Carver produced plays in New York’s Samuel Beckett Theatre off-Broadway and Charlie Chaplains CAST Theatre in West Hollywood. In 1977, he took “Sideshow,” a musical comedy written by future San Angelo Standard-Times columnist Rich Smith, to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Carver and his actors received American College Theatre Festival Medalions, and Smith won the National Student Playwriting Award.

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Each issue of the Angelo State University Magazine highlights selected alumni and invites you to visit the Angelo State University Alumni Association website for the latest on your former classmates. To learn more about Angelo State alumni, visit www.angelostatealumni.com. Better yet, see what your friends are up to and then update the site with news about you, your family and your accomplishments.

### 1975

**Hector Mendez**, who holds an ASU elementary education degree and has been superintendent of the Ector County Independent School District since 2008, has received the Heritage of Odessa’s 2013 Community Statesman Award for education. Mendez has been with the Ector County ISD since 1980. Previously in Odessa, he taught at Sam Houston Elementary, served three years as executive director of elementary education and then worked as assistant superintendent with responsibilities for elementary education, curriculum, enrollment, desegregation and magnet programs.

### 1979

**Dr. Neil Dugger** has been named the new dean of the College of Education at Dallas Baptist University. He assumed his new duties in addition to his responsibilities as director of the university’s Ed.D. program in educational leadership K-12, a position he has held since 2011. Dugger previously worked for the Irving ISD, including as principal of Lamar Middle School, which was recognized as a U.S. Blue Ribbon School for the 1999-2000 school year under his leadership.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in elementary education from ASU and its ROTC program in 1985, has retired from the Air Force. He earned both his navigator wings and pilot wings and achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel before retiring in December with a ceremony at Sheppard AFB. Since retiring from the Air Force, he has joined United Airlines as a pilot.

### 1984

**Tony Truelove**, principal of Bangs Middle School in the Bangs Independent School District, has been named the Region 15 Middle School Principal of the Year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

Truelove has served as Bangs Middle School principal for the past four years. Prior to that, he coached and taught for 25 years and served as an athletic director for a decade. He earned his B.S. from ASU and his M.Ed. from Lubbock Christian University.

### 1990

**Dr. Genese Bell**, superintendent for Splendora ISD, has received the 2013 Dr. Nolan Estes Leadership Ascension Award from the University of Texas at Austin for excellence in educational leadership. The award is presented by UT as part of the Cooperative Superintendent Program administered through the university’s Department of Educational Administration.

Bell received both her B.S. and M.Ed. from ASU and has taught at both the Grape Creek and San Angelo ISDs. She earned her doctorate in education at UT in 2008.

### 1995

**Jerry Bruce Dobbins**, who received his commission upon graduating from ASU and its ROTC program in 1985, has retired from the Air Force. He earned both his navigator wings and pilot wings and achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel before retiring in December with a ceremony at Sheppard AFB. Since retiring from the Air Force, he has joined United Airlines as a pilot.

### 1997

**Stephen Foote** has been promoted to systems integration director for the Huntington Hotel Group at the company’s Las Colinas offices. Foote joined Huntington in 2005 as staff accountant after working as an accountant for other companies in hospitality and financial services. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from ASU.

### 2000

**Crystal Topper Parker**, a partner with the legal firm of Jackson Walker LLP in Houston, has been named to the “Super Lawyers – Rising Stars” list published in the April 2013 issue of Texas Monthly. Each year, no more than 2.5 percent of the state’s lawyers are selected to the list after a multiphase selection process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, an independent research evaluation of candidates and peer reviews by practice area.

Parker earned her B.A. in English from ASU before earning her law degree through the Houston Law Center.

### 2012

The City of Belton’s Parks and Recreation Department has named **Matthew Bates** as recreation coordinator to expand the city’s recreational opportunities. Originally from Newcastle, England, Bates graduated from ASU with a degree in sports fitness and leisure.

Consuro, a Texas-based business with offices in Fort Worth, Dallas, San Antonio, Houston and San Angelo, received the award during an Austin gala hosted by Best Companies Group, Texas State Council of the Society for Human Resource Management, Texas Association of Business and Texas Monthly, which listed the award results in its May issue.

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