A woman with blonde hair, wearing a bright green cowboy hat and a matching green ruffled shirt, is smiling and painting a brick wall. She is holding several paintbrushes and a paint can. The background features various murals, including a man in a striped shirt, a small dog, and a person in a green shirt. The text 'Angelo State University' is in yellow, and 'Alumni Magazine' is in large blue letters.

Angelo State University

Alumni

Fall 2006 • Vol. 5 • No. 3

Magazine

**Painting
the Town**

**Association
Honorees**

**Breaking the
Color Barrier
*Again***



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ASU LeGrand Center

September 2
September 9
October 7 (Family Day)
October 21 (Homecoming)
October 28
November 11



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ASU Alumni Magazine

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

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Breaking the Color Barrier Again 18

As San Angelo College's first black athlete, Benjamin Kelly influenced a community and made integration easier for San Angelo.

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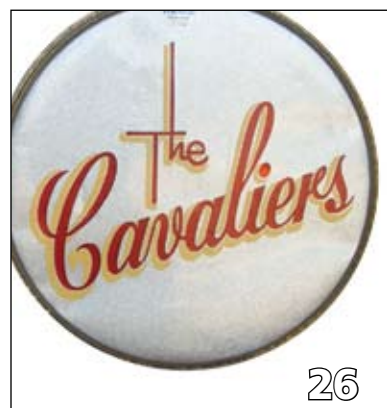
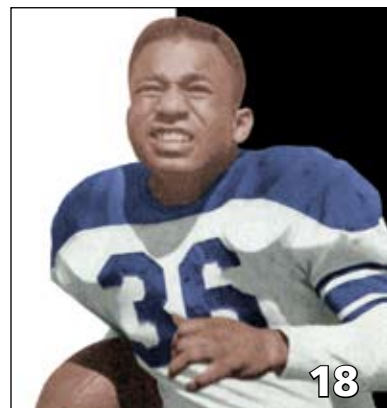
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On the cover: Julie Raymond, '90, is helping put art in unconventional places, such as this whimsical window in San Angelo's Paintbrush Alley. (Photo by Jim Bean)



letter

from the director



Lynsey Hargrave Flage

Dear Alumni,

Homecoming is always my favorite time of year. Some of my fondest memories associated with Angelo State are directly related to this week of fun and spirit. I remember staying up all night (or at least attempting to) for guard duty at the bonfire. One of the many times it was burned early was during my freshman year so we took our guarding duties very seriously. I also remember going down from the High Rises to the tennis courts for the student carnival. It was always sparse, but a lot of fun. Homecoming 1995 was probably my favorite. I had the great fortune of participating in activities as a member of the Homecoming court. I may not have won the crown, but I will never forget the bright lights of the stadium, the booming voice over the loud speaker and the nervous butterflies in my stomach. That was the year the first Homecoming King was named, and I thought it was so appropriate that Roscoe the Ram was the official winner.

As I participate in these same activities many years later as an adult, I cannot help but notice how many things have stayed the same. Angelo State has many traditions associated with Homecoming, and it is so nice to see current students involved in the same activities we ourselves were doing years before. ROTC cadets are still in charge of constructing the bonfire, and student organizations still spend hours and hours collecting and stacking wooden pallets in an effort to earn points for the coveted spirit stick. The homecoming parade is still an exercise in creativity, and the carnival still gets rained-out every other year or so. Students continue to exhaust themselves in the name of school spirit, but I must admit that they sure seem to have much more energy than I remember having during the hectic week.

Of course Homecoming means something different as an alumnus. It's still about school spirit and constant activity, but it's also so much more. It's about coming back to campus, revisiting memories that we thought were long forgotten, reconnecting with classmates and completely upstaging current students at the football game by showing that old-fashioned ASU Ram Pride!

I truly hope you make plans to attend this year's Homecoming. It is scheduled for the third week in October, and Angelo State University and the ASU Alumni Association have many activities planned for alumni. Take a look at the schedule inside this issue of the magazine and plan to attend the Wells Fargo Homecoming Dinner. This annual event, recognizing outstanding SAC and ASU alumni and faculty for their career and life achievements, is a truly inspiring evening. Then plan on enjoying our new fun event the next morning. It is the Bingo and Bellini Brunch, where bingo will be played for cash and prizes. There will be plenty of food, drink and fast-moving games to guarantee a good time.

We look forward to seeing you and your family for Homecoming on October 21, but don't forget to come early so you may once again enjoy all of what Homecoming has to offer. After all, this time you can enjoy the activities without worrying about getting caught skipping class.

Sharing your pride in Angelo State,

Lynsey Hargrave Flage ('97)

Angelo State University

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2006-07

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**If you are interested in
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in your area, please call
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(325) 942-2122 or e-mail
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more information.**



you. said...

Dear ASU Alumni Association:

I read with interest the article about Ben Kelly in your Alumni Magazine, which my husband brought home from the Black-shear School Reunion. When is the second part of the article coming out? I would like very much to receive your magazine so that we can finish reading about Benjamin Kelly and his time at San Angelo College.

My husband, as did a lot of people at the reunion, knew Ben, and I think that this was history in the making and am very proud to read about how gracious everyone was in allowing Ben to attend school without a lot of the problems that several other students throughout the south encountered while trying to pursue continuing education. Thank you.

Cleo Owens
Killeen

(Editor's Note: Please see Page 18 for more on Benjamin Kelly and his impact on the community.)

Ag Committee Letter to ASU

Dear Dr. Hindman:

Thank you for your generous hospitality for the Committee's hearing in San Angelo. The efforts of you and your staff helped make the hearing a great success.

I would also especially like to thank you for hosting the delegation for dinner. I appreciate the time you took to speak with us, and we enjoyed the evening. On behalf of all the Members, thank you again.

Sincerely,
Bob Goodlatte
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture
U.S. House of Representatives

(P.S.) Jim, you have a beautiful campus, great facility and wonderful people to work with. I hope I can visit you again sometime.

Write to us:

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AG HEARING – Angelo State University on May 9 hosted one of six hearings conducted nationally by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture for input on the 2007 Farm Bill. Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte of Virginia headed the committee delegation that included Texas Congressmen Mike Conaway of Odessa, Henry Cuellar of Laredo and Randy Neugebauer of Lubbock.



Chancellor Matthews Inspires May Grads

Charles Matthews, chancellor of The Texas State University System, addressed Angelo State's May graduates with a prescription for future success.

He encouraged students "to discover what it is that you enjoy doing and do it with all your heart" and to "trust that you will find the right place to invest yourself." He praised graduates for their widespread service during their college years and urged them to "continue your work in community and public service" upon graduation.

Matthews told them to "remember that change is inevitable and makes us stron-

ger" and to "understand that in our rapidly changing economic environment, learning will be for you, as it has been for me, a lifetime event."

Finally, he encouraged graduates to "remember the small things ... and to keep a balance in life" by not getting so focused on their careers that they forget family, friends and health.

"As you begin this new chapter in your life," Matthews concluded, "remember that you are a part of a proud heritage. You are not leaving us completely; Angelo State will always be a part of you and your life."

Presidential Search Committee Announced

Texas State University System Board Chairman Kent Adams has named 14 individuals and an alternate to serve on the Angelo State University Presidential Search Committee to recommend a successor to Dr. James Hindman.

Regent John E. Dudley of Comanche will serve as chair of the committee. Regents Dionicio "Don" Flores of El Paso and Pollyanna A. Stephens of San Angelo will join Dudley on the committee as representatives of the TSUS Board.

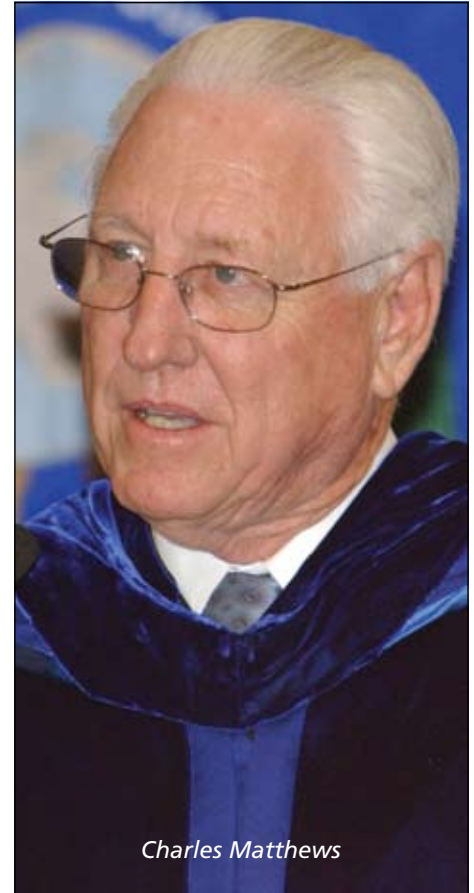
Campus representatives will be Dr. Nancy G. Allen, head, English Department; Dr. Mandy A. Carr, associate professor of animal science and research scientist; Dr. Maurice G. Fortin, director, Porter Henderson Library; Dr. S. Murat Kara, associate professor of economics; Flor L. Madero, coordinator, Educational Opportunity Services; Dr. John J. Miazga, dean, College of Education; and Alicia Henry, senior government major and former ASU student body president from San Angelo.

Alex Yarbrough, 2006-07 student body president and a junior government major from Amherst, will serve as alternate.

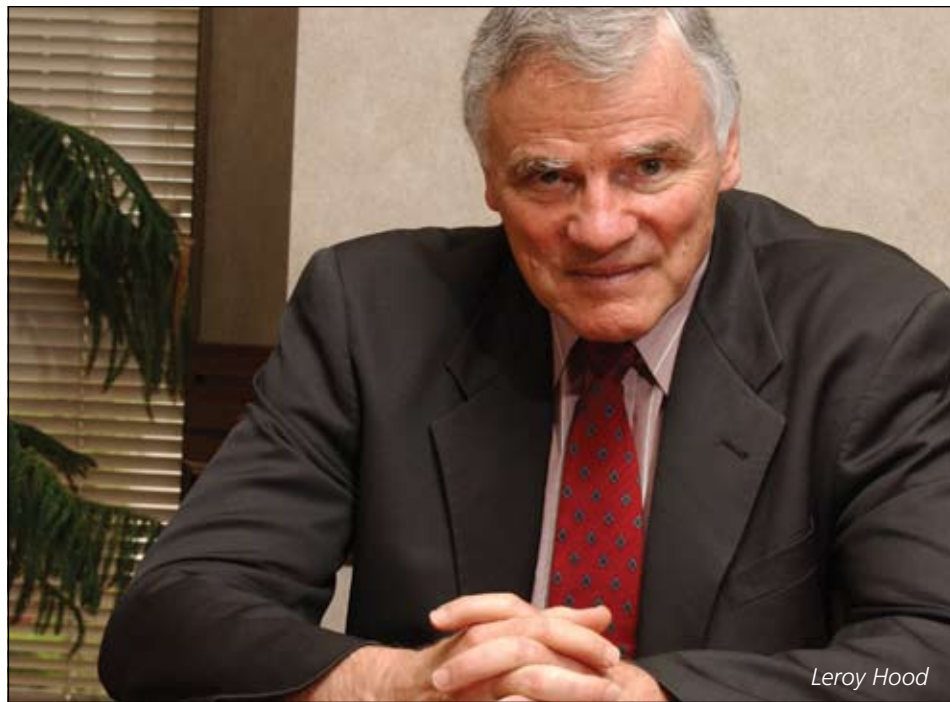
Community representatives will be Mario Castillo, Class of 1970, president, The Aegis Group, Washington, D.C.; Rev. Nathaniel "Hank" Hankins, associate pastor, First United Methodist Church, San Angelo; Sandra Hawkins Gray, Class of 1974, San Angelo businesswoman and board member, ASU Alumni Association; and Fred Hernandez, manager of customer affairs, American Electric Power Texas, San Angelo, and member, ASU Foundation Board.

The ASU Presidential Search Committee will draft the job description, advertise the position, review applications and interview applicants before making its recommendation to TSUS Chancellor Charles R. Matthews and the Board of Regents.

Dr. Hindman has announced his retirement to return to teaching full-time in the fall of 2007.



Charles Matthews



Systems Check for Biology

For Angelo State students and faculty who listened to Leroy Hood speak on campus last spring, the experience could be compared to hearing a lecture by Darwin on natural selection or Mendel on genetics.

Dr. Hood, who helped initiate and shape the human genome project, spent two days on campus lecturing on the emerging field of systems biology, which marks a “paradigm shift” in the life sciences and, ultimately, in how we are treated for illness and disease.

Hood, who presented the 2006 West Texas Medical Associates Distinguished Lectureship in Science Honoring Dr. Roy Moon, said systems biology looks at organisms in their totality rather than just isolating certain components, such as cells or proteins. As an illustration, he said you cannot understand how a radio works just by looking at individual parts. Instead, you must look at the system in totality.

“If you had to fix a radio one part at a time,” said Hood, “you would never get it done. It’s the same way with disease.”

Tomorrow’s life scientists, he said, will need strong backgrounds in math and computers because “systems biology will be the direction of biology in the future.”

In essence, Hood said life science is now comparable to information science because “data” is stored in human genes and proteins. Advances in nanotechnology, medical instrumentation and com-

putational power mean that scientists will ultimately have the analytical capabilities to understand this hierarchal integration of information. Once this information is understood, science will be able to fully use blood analysis as “a window into health and disease.”

Hood, who is president of the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle, has helped make significant strides in analyzing that life data through development of DNA gene and protein sequencers and synthesizers.

The implications of systems biology are profound upon our individual health, Hood said. Ultimately, systems biology will be able to both identify disease in its earliest and most treatable stages and to predict the most effective drug or treatment regimens to address the problem.

As a result, medicine will become more “predictive, preventive, personalized and participatory,” Hood said. Treatment regimens will be determined by our individual “molecular fingerprints.”

Hood predicted the science for such miracles will be available within the next two decades. The question is not whether the science can achieve this success but rather if institutions such as the pharmaceutical industry, health care agencies, hospitals, government and medical schools will be able and willing to adjust to its implications for our health and for their bottom lines.

campus Newsbriefs

Where's the beef?

At ASU!

Angelo State's Agriculture Quiz Bowl team went head-to-head with some of the largest agriculture programs in the nation and came away with a national championship.

The team, coached by Dr. Mandy Carr of the ag faculty, earned the trophy in June at the Reciprocal Meats Conference at the University of Illinois. Heather Rogers of Grapevine, Matthew Menchaca of Helotes and Darci Owens of Big Lake won all of their matches to reach the final against Colorado State.

The win came in ASU's inaugural appearance in the contest and marked the first time in the event's five-year history that a school other than Texas A&M or Texas Tech had won.

"It's really important because there are undergraduate and graduate students there, and they see us as a strong program," Carr said. "It was good for our students to realize the education they're getting is as good or better than that offered at those other schools. We're competing with large, land-grant institutions with a lot of money and facilities, and we're just getting started."

The ASU squad won the event by answering ques-

tions covering all aspects of meat production. The trophy will be housed in the Department of Agriculture until next summer.

New Sciences Dean

Dr. Grady Price Blount has assumed responsibilities as dean of ASU's College of Sciences. He came to ASU from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where he was assistant vice president for research and associate graduate dean.

Blount has a varied background, including a decade in broadcast journalism with Texas radio and television stations. He began his full-time teaching career in 1988 with the University of North Dakota. Blount joined A&M-CC in 1993 and served 11 years as the chair of the Department of Physical and Life Sciences where he was a professor of environmental science and geology.

Trained as a planetary geologist, he is the author or co-author of more than 40 academic publications or presentations. Through his research, Blount has generated more than \$22 million in external funding.

"We're in the business of creating new knowledge," Blount said. "The most important thing we have to share with our students is a passion for learning."

Best of the Best

Dr. Terry C. Maxwell, an ASU biology professor for the past 30 years, earned the university's 2006 Teaching Excellence Award.

He and fellow award finalists Dr. John Wegner of English and Jana Barnard of mathematics were honored in the spring during the general faculty meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Maxwell was recognized for his "unique teaching style that mixes a relaxed lecture approach with rigorous expectations from his students" and for giving students "every opportunity to take the most possible from his courses."

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

Nurse in Land Down Under

The concept that nursing educators in the design of online courses should utilize the same caring philosophy that nurses use with their patients has earned an international award for Wrennah Gabbert, a professional specialist in the ASU Nursing Department since 1997.

During the June annual meeting of the International Association for Human Caring in Fremantle, Australia, Gabbert received the organization's 2006 Watson Scholar

Award for significant scholarly contributions to the field.

Top Grads

During May commencement Eddie Frank "Trey" Holik, III, and Holly Elsbeth Scott shared ASU's 2006 Presidential Award while four other ASU students received 2006 Distinguished Student Awards from their respective colleges.

Holik, a double major in applied physics and mathematics from Veribest, is entering Texas A&M's graduate program in physics. Scott, a biology major and chemistry minor from Ranger, will attend the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.

The Distinguished Student Award recipients, by college, were: David Allen Watson of San Angelo, Business; Sherry Gail Gardner of San Angelo, Education; Calinda C. Shely of San Angelo, Liberal and Fine Arts; and Lori Nicole Loomis of Eldorado, Sciences.

Distinguished Alumnus

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

Stories by Jason Hunter

From Barbecue to Agribusiness



Barry Cooper

Barry Cooper was an extension agent in 1988 in Coleman when he heard from a friend of a job opening with the agricultural corporation Cargill. Cooper applied, got the job and began a successful 18-year career with one of the world's largest food producers.

The job took him all over the country, from large cities such as Fort Worth and Minneapolis to small towns such as West Branch, Iowa. After a whirlwind career that allowed Cooper to climb the ladder to the position of district general manager in Cargill's Oklahoma City district office, Cooper is now pursuing other business ventures.

His accomplishments have earned him recognition as this year's Distinguished Alumnus.

Agricultural products – beef in particular – were familiar to Cooper, whose grandfather George Cooper and father, Tommy Cooper, opened the renowned Cooper's barbecue restaurants in Mason and Llano, respectively. Barry Cooper entered ASU after graduating from Llano High School in 1980 to major in animal science and agribusiness.

"Growing up in Llano, I never thought I would be in a corporate environment," Cooper said. "I thought, when I go work for Cargill, they'll teach me a bunch, they'll train me, and I'll learn a bunch. Then you start climbing that corporate ladder,

and you enjoy it, then you look up and realize you've been in nine positions in 18 years."

He financed his ASU education through scholarships and part-time jobs, earning the John C. Coleman Ag Scholarship three times and the Kate Adele Hill Scholarship twice.

Cooper's hard work helped him earn his degree, but he also contributed to campus social life. One of his most visible positions was as pledge trainer and later president of the Block and Bridle club, then the largest organization on campus. He also was a member of the livestock judging and wool judging teams.

After earning his bachelor's degree in 1984, Cooper started on his master's. He finished his coursework but in 1986 took the job as an extension agent in Coleman before completing his thesis.

After applying and interviewing for the Cargill post, Cooper got a job as a manager in the Dallas-Forth Worth market.

He quickly moved up the ladder, overseeing larger and larger operations. He kept busy outside the office, too, finishing his master's degree from ASU in 1992, judging livestock shows and serving as a superintendent at livestock shows in San Angelo and other cities. He also served a term on the West Branch, Iowa, City Council.

After almost 18 years with Cargill, Cooper left the company in late 2005, opting to spend time with his family. He, his wife, Karla (B.S. '83, M.A. '85), and his daughter, Kylie, had moved several times during his career, and with his daughter in high school, Cooper decided to remain in suburban Oklahoma City.

Though Cooper left the corporate world, he is still a businessman. His current venture is franchising the name of his family's business, Cooper's Old Time Pit Bar B Q.

Horses have also been a pastime of Cooper's. He spent two years hosting a horse-focused show on the specialty network RFD TV, and he managed the corporate relationship between Cargill and the National Quarter Horse Association and the National Reined Cow Horse Association.

Cooper is an owner of quarter horses that race in California and New Mexico. One of his horses, Teller Cartel, won the 2005 All-American Futurity at Ruidoso Downs. Cooper sits on the racing committee of the American Quarter Horse Association.

A point of pride for Cooper is having had the opportunity to hire numerous Angelo State graduates to work for Cargill.

Honorary Alumnus

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

Winning Smile, Winning Ways

When **Phil George** joined the San Angelo College coaching staff in 1949, the Board of Directors guaranteed him a job for only six months. He wound up staying his entire professional career with the institution.

Along the way, George tickled everyone with his self-deprecating sense of humor, won a basketball national championship in 1957, became Angelo State University's first full-time athletic director, hired a bevy of winning coaches and became the first inductee into the ASU Athletic Hall of Fame. Not bad for a temp.

George, whose first recognition came at 15 months of age when his perpetual smile earned him top prize in a baby picture contest, will add another honor to his list of accomplishments during Homecoming when the Alumni Association recognizes him as ASU's 2006 Honorary Alumnus.

Responding to the award in typical tongue-in-cheek fashion, George said, "It's unfortunate the Alumni Association has had to lower its standards." Such down-to-earth humor earned George the admiration not only of the university but also the San Angelo community.

"I enjoyed the players and the opportunity to work with them," George said. "I had a great relationship with fellow faculty members. It was just fun to get up every day and go to work."

An Austin native, he attended the University of Texas, helping the Longhorn basketball team to two Southwest Conference championships and a third-place finish in the 1947 NCAA basketball tournament. He served in the China-Burma-India Theater with the Army Air Corps in World War II and stayed in the U.S. Air Force Reserves until 1970, ultimately serving in Vietnam and retiring as a lieutenant colonel with more than 6,500 pilot hours to his credit.

He first came to SAC as head basketball coach and line coach for the football team. He would later coach track, baseball and golf. Over the years, he taught physical education to a generation of SAC and ASU students.

As a basketball coach between 1949 and 1978, George was at his best, compiling a cumulative 512-274 record and .651 winning percentage. As SAC coach he won eight Pioneer Conference Championships and shared two others. He claimed five regional titles as well as the 1957 National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Championship with a 31-2 record.

He was named NJCAA National Coach of the Year in 1957 and conference or regional coach of the year a dozen times. As athletic director, he helped SAC make the transition from a junior college to a four-year university, first in the NAIA and later

in NCAA Division II. After retirement he was named to the Lone Star Conference Hall of Honor and the NJCAA Hall of Fame.

His players in all sports thrived as well. Seven basketball players received All-American recognition under him. Seven linemen earned All-American honors under his tutelage. Another lineman, Grant Teaff, went on to become a legendary Southwest Conference coach at Baylor. One of his baseball players, Norm Cash, became the 1961 American League Batting Champion.

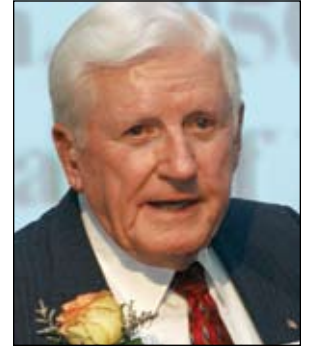
Though he had multiple opportunities over the course of his career to leave ASU, George always chose to stay.

"San Angelo was a great place to raise a family," George said. "And, I was flying airplanes out at Goodfellow and at Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring and I loved that. There was just something that was magnetic about staying here."

And in San Angelo, he and his wife, Toddy, raised their three children, Jennifer, Judy and Mike. Today the Georges have eight grandchildren and one great grandson.

When he retired in 1986, George indicated a desire to pursue some new life's adventures. Even so, he said, "I still have strong feelings and enthusiasm for athletics and its place in education."

His latest honor demonstrates that alumni and friends of ASU still have strong feelings for George and great enthusiasm for his place in ASU history.



Phil George

Distinguished ROTC Alumnus

An alumnus who attended ASU as part of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 847 and has made a significant impact in his/her career or lifework.



Bobby Vance

Flying High, Saving Lives

Lt. Col. Bobby Vance's leadership skills have allowed him to advance through the highest ranks of the Air Force, and likely helped save lives in Afghanistan during the summer of 2005.

Vance, working with the fledgling Afghan Air Corps in Operation Enduring Freedom, helped find a cache of prohibited weapons. Vance's quick thinking helped defuse the situation, allowing United Nations forces to peacefully seize the arms and prevent them from falling into the wrong hands.

Vance, Class of 1987, is this year's Distinguished ROTC Alumnus.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in computer science, Vance studied to become a navigator. He was assigned to the C-141B Starlifter, which is used mainly in equipment and airdrop operations.

One of his first missions was supporting the 1989 Operation Just Cause in Panama. He also participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990-91 in the Middle East and in Operation Restore Democracy in 1994 in Haiti.

Most recently, he went to Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. While there, he helped develop the air corps for the Afghan National Army and devised a plan for transporting Afghan president Hamid Karzai.

He currently is stationed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Vance is married to Deborah, ASU Class of 1986. They have five children, Allysen, Courtney, Megan, Jack and Erin.

Distinguished Carr Alumnus

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



Bryan Vincent

You Can Go Home Again

Bryan Vincent's career has taken him across the country since he graduated with a chemistry degree in 1994, but he has returned to San Angelo to launch his latest business venture.

Vincent co-founded AgiLight Inc. with Bill Ratcliffe in 2003. The company manufactures low-energy, low-cost lighting products such as LED lighting for signs and backlights for mobile phones.

Vincent is this year's Distinguished Carr Alumnus honoree.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from ASU and a doctorate from Texas A&M in 1998, Vincent went to work as a research chemist for Dow Chemical in Lake Jackson, Texas. He moved to Midland, Mich., in 2000 to work as a product development manager.

In 2003 Vincent and Ratcliffe became independent businessmen when they founded AgiLight. Since its inception almost three years ago, the company has expanded to include 20 employees.

AgiLight has 1,000 customers worldwide with distribution centers on three continents and manufacturing plants in Mexico, China and Taiwan.

While at ASU, Vincent was a Texaco Academic Scholar for all four years. He also received the first Carr Undergraduate Research Fellowship.

At Texas A&M, he received several awards for his research and academic achievements. He also received awards for his accomplishments and leadership while with Dow.

Vincent lives in San Angelo with his wife of 12 years, Brandi, and his three children, Paige, J. Bryan and Jenna. They are active members of Glen Meadows Baptist Church in San Angelo.

Golden Ex of the Year

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



Betty & Clovis Olsak

Blue and Gold Couple

As a San Angelo College student playing for the San Angelo Junior Shepherders baseball team, **Clovis Olsak** first met San Angelo High School senior **Bettie Morris** at a team party on Easter weekend of 1946.

The pair hit it off that evening, and the SAC alumni married in 1948, beginning a family tradition of supporting and attending what eventually became Angelo State University. Their devotion to ASU earned the Olsaks recognition as this year's Golden Exes.

Clovis was an accomplished athlete for the Rams, earning all-Pioneer Conference honors in football and the shot put. He also was the sports reporter for the *Ram Page*. Bettie accompanied Clovis to College Station, where he received a degree in animal husbandry from Texas A&M.

After Clovis earned his degree, the couple returned to the San Angelo area, where Clovis took up farming and ranching. Bettie worked at City Savings & Loan as vice president/marketing and later was a marketing officer for Tom Green National Bank.

They have been active in the San Angelo community. Bettie has been an Alumni Association director, member of the Santa Rita PTA, Girl Scout leader, and volunteer with the San Angelo Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Clovis has been president of the West Texas A&M Club, San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo, Tom Green County Farm Bureau and San Angelo College Ex-Students Association. He also was a director of Tom Green National Bank. The couple has served as a host family for ASU international students.

The Olsaks keep busy with a pecan orchard on their ranch in Schleicher County. Clovis still ranches, maintaining small herds of sheep, cattle and goats.

The lifelong San Angeloans sent their three daughters to ASU – Cindy Hanks, B.A., '71, M.A.T. '80; Stephanie Sayers, '70-'71; and Connie Langlais, B.A. '77.

Outstanding Retired Faculty

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



Betty Alldredge

Beneficial Change of Climate

Dr. Betty Alldredge had been teaching at the University of Pittsburgh for two years when a shining sun and blooming flowers welcomed her to campus for a job interview in the spring of 1978.

She found the ASU climate – both meteorologically and professionally – to be welcoming, and she took a position in the English Department.

Eighteen years later, Alldredge retired as a member of the ASU English faculty and this year was named the Alumni Association's Outstanding Retired Faculty member.

As a new ASU English professor, she brought expertise in 20th-Century American literature. Shortly after her arrival, she developed a course on women in literature, which she taught almost every year until she retired.

Since retiring a decade ago, Alldredge has stayed busy by volunteering with the ASU Alumni Association and at San Angelo Community Medical Center. She is an avid traveler, having visited Oceania, the Mediterranean and Japan, among other locales.

Alldredge holds a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University plus master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Oregon. She has a son, David, and two daughters, ASU graduate Dr. Karen Alldredge and Denise Williams.

Distinguished Faculty

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



Fender

Smith

Tarver

Moreland

Johnny Fender, Business

Johnny Fender has led Goodfellow Air Force Base as base commander and San Angelo as mayor. Now, he leads business courses as a business and computer information systems instructor in the Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance.

Fender is this year's Distinguished Faculty Achievement honoree from the College of Business.

Fender entered teaching in 1988 on the heels of a 30-year Air Force career that ended in 1986. Fender, a decorated Vietnam War combat veteran, held a variety of command and staff positions before coming to Goodfellow.

After his retirement as a colonel, Fender earned a master's of business administration in management from ASU and then became a business lecturer shortly thereafter.

Fender offers his students real-life experience from his 1997-2001 tenure as mayor and as president of Fender Consulting. His experience and his military background earned him an appointment by Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas Military Preparedness Commission.

In addition to his ASU degree, he holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in political science from Auburn University. He and his late wife had two daughters.

Dr. June Smith, Liberal and Fine Arts

Dr. June Smith came to Angelo State University as a freshman drama major in 1972 and has spent most of her life since on campus.

Today, she heads the Communication, Drama and Journalism Department and is this year's Distinguished Faculty Achievement recipient from the College of Liberal and Fine Arts.

Smith graduated from ASU in 1975 with a bachelor of arts in drama. She earned her doctorate from the University of Texas in 1980 and returned to ASU in 1991 to teach.

While a student, Smith spent more time on campus outside the classroom than in it. She was in numerous theater productions, was the fine arts editor for the *Ram Page*, and was active in United Campus Ministries.

During her ASU career, Smith has taught numerous courses in communication, including the practical, such as communication layout and design, and the theoretical, such as communication diffusion. She has led the CDJ Department since 2004.

Smith is married to ASU graduate and *San Angelo Standard-Times* columnist Rick Smith. They have two teenage daughters, Anne and Katherine.

Dr. David J. Tarver, Education

Dr. David J. Tarver has varied interests both inside and outside the classroom, and his students reap the benefits.

Tarver teaches undergraduate educational psychology and heads the school counseling master's degree program, but his commitment to students doesn't stop in San Angelo. He also spends four weeks every other summer in Lüneburg, Germany, leading ASU's study abroad program there.

His dedication has earned him the Distinguished Faculty Achievement award for the College of Education.

Under Tarver's guidance since 2000, ASU counseling graduates have continued to pass the state school counseling certification exam at a 100 percent rate, all on their first try. Though 30 years since Tarver started teaching, he is always finding a way to integrate new technology into the classroom.

Outside the classroom, he is an avid birdwatcher and an accomplished amateur photographer, with one of his works published in *Texas Monthly*.

Tarver, who grew up in Odessa, holds a doctorate in counseling from East Texas State (now Texas A&M-Commerce) and is a licensed professional counselor. He and his wife, Debbie live in San Angelo.

Ellen D. Moreland, Sciences

Angelo State University math instructor Ellen D. Moreland has a love for teaching, and her tireless efforts in the classroom are ensuring that the next generation of secondary math teachers will be well-prepared upon graduation.

On the ASU faculty since 1988, Moreland has made math accessible and interesting not only to prospective educators, but also to those intimidated by the subject.

For her impact on her students and on those who take math under them, Moreland earned the Distinguished Faculty Achievement award for the College of Sciences.

She regularly teaches courses for students whose standardized test scores indicate they need supplemental instruction prior to college-level math. She also directs a statistics course for students in majors such as nursing and psychology, plus the final course for senior math majors pursuing teacher certification.

Moreland holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Clarkson College of Technology in Potsdam, N.Y. Her previous experience has been in actuarial science, accounting and college-level instruction in Germany.

She is married to Patrick Moreland, and they have a daughter, Kimberly.



Painting the Town

A band of elementary school art teachers headed by Julie Raymond, '90, is helping turn alleys into art galleries and San Angelo into an art Mecca.

From Paintbrush Alley to a 1967 VW Bug tiled and grouted like the flat walls of your shower, the artists, most with ASU ties, are also turning heads on the streets of San Angelo with their art and their whimsy.

And, they are helping San Angelo gain statewide attention like a *Texas Monthly* spread in the April spring flowers issue that stated "San Angelo is fast gaining a reputation for having a vibrant arts scene."

Raymond's ASU cohorts in art are Sue Rainey, '89, Ellen Lassetter, '92, and Melodie McDonald, who earned her teacher certification from ASU in 1990. They along with Gwen Woodward, a Texas Tech graduate, make up the entire art faculty for the San Angelo Independent School District's 17 elementary schools.

Outside the elementary classroom, the five have banded together to form Art in Uncommon Places, a group committed to advancing the arts in San Angelo and beyond. And, they are succeeding.

In 2005 Downtown San Angelo, Inc., (DSAI) a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the heart of the city as a hub for business, residential and cultural activities, turned to Art in Uncommon Places. While most DSAI efforts focused on long-term projects, Joyce Wilde, a DSAI board member and owner of the eclectic Concho Avenue boutique J. Wilde's, insisted on something that would make an immediate splash, in this case a splash of paint.





Melodie McDonald

Sue Rainey

Ellen Lassetter

Wilde's idea was to turn an alley, typically a downtown detriment, into a drive-through art gallery. With DSAI support, she turned to Julie Raymond to pull together some 30 local artists to paint the 18 windows and numerous murals that line the alley behind the Texas Theater between Twohig and Concho Avenues.

"Julie contacted all of them," Wilde said. "Without her and her art connections, I don't know if it would have happened at all much less as quickly as it did."

Raymond said, "Joyce had a vision how the alley could be utilized and then Sue and I recruited the talent."

Gathering the artists was easy. "We have an incredible art community that was not being recognized," Raymond said. "Artists would rather spend time painting than completing forms, but they will volunteer if they have a space. So, we had lots of volunteers."

Wilde helped with the alley preparation, painting alley walls and allocating spaces to artists. Once that was done, the artists were instructed to illustrate street scenes from the middle years of the 20th century and turned loose to paint on plywood cutouts that would be installed in many alley windows and on the various walls along the alleyway.

Melodie McDonald went back to her family roots and San Angelo history for her window. "I wanted it to be of a historical landmark around San Angelo," she said. In the style of noted Americana artist Edward Hopper, she painted her grandmother, Lucille Camp, and her great aunt, Anna Laura Camp, as flappers having tea in the St. Angelus Hotel.

For McDonald, the project was especially personal as her mother and father had their first date in the Texas Theater, just down the alley from her window piece. Her father, Fred McDonald, graduated from San Angelo College before going to the University of Texas and Texas Tech to get his degree in architecture. In fact,

while he was a SAC student, he helped plant many of the trees that now shade the ASU campus from the West Texas heat.

In addition to the window in Paintbrush Alley, McDonald designed the mosaic Volkswagen Bug parked in front of a former filling station, now owned by the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, on Oakes Street just northeast of the museum proper.

"People kept telling us that you can't mosaic a car," McDonald said, "but we just answered yes you can." And, she did, though not before learning about tile, grout and the characteristics necessary for both to withstand the West Texas weather. Now McDonald is working on a '48 Ford pickup with a Texas wildflower mosaic designed by Central High art teacher Joe Morgan, a 1987 ASU grad.

For her window in Paintbrush Alley, Sue Rainey looked for inspiration from American artist Norman Rockwell, whose popular paintings of Americana graced more than 300 covers of *The Saturday Evening Post*. Her window features a boy and his beagle looking down over the alley from his second-floor post.

Besides the window, Rainey helped with several of the murals during mornings of the summer of 2005. While the plywood cutouts for the windows could be done at home or in the studio, the murals had to be painted on-site and early in the morning. "It takes a lot more effort than people realize," Rainey said, "because in the heat



San Angelo flappers by Melodie McDonald



Boy with beagle by Sue Rainey

paint sticks before it gets where it needs to be. We spent all our summer mornings down there on scaffolding and ladders.”

In addition to the artists, Rainey said a unit of Marines from Goodfellow helped with some of the painting and much of the cleanup. “They were great and we couldn’t have done it without them.”

For Rainey a light moment came when an employee of one of the stores backing up onto the alley stepped outside to see the progress, then jumped and screamed at the sight of a painted rat one of the artists had just completed.

Ellen Lassetter is now working on a piece for a new alley project, based on the theme “Art Opens Doors.” For this project, doors are being painted with scenes for mounting on the side of a building on the corner of Concho and Irving. Previously, Lassetter and her fellow elementary art teachers did the mural for the City Parks Department’s Kids’ Kingdom in the 300 block of West River Drive, across the Concho River from the San Angelo Visitors Center.

“I think the five of us are real close,” Lassetter said of her Art in Uncommon Places colleagues. “We enjoy bouncing ideas off one another and feeling a sense of accomplishment when we struggle through a project before we succeed. Besides that, the art is a way for us to give

something back to the community.”

Lassetter said the various art projects demonstrate to their elementary students that the arts have benefits far beyond the classroom. Thus, Lassetter and her fellow SAISD elementary art teachers three years ago started a sidewalk art festival in March, inviting local artists to draw chalk artworks on downtown sidewalks.

“These types of activities are important,” Lassetter said, “to show the value of art. Whenever there’s a budget crisis in any level of government, the arts always take a blow so the more visible art is, the better the chance for its continued support.”

As for the visibility of art in Paintbrush Alley, ringleader Julie Raymond’s works are the most numerous.

According to Rainey, the reason is simple: “Julie is fast and very prolific.”

While her colleagues have looked to other artists for inspiration, Raymond is more apt to use historic photos from the 1930s and 1940s for hers. Visitors turning into the alley from Irving Street are most likely to first see a painting of Alfred Eisenstaedt’s *LIFE* photograph of a sailor kissing a nurse in Times Square on Aug. 14, 1945, the day World War II ended. This is Raymond’s.



Paintbrush Alley quintet overlooks San Angelo's arts scene.

She completed it and her other Paintbrush Alley pieces with the assistance of her daughter, Amanda, an elementary art teacher in Dallas. They did the work in the dining room at home.

Once visitors enter the alley from Irving, they will see over their right shoulder another of Raymond’s artworks. This is her interpretation of an image captured by an unknown photographer of steelworkers sitting on a girder high above New York City for lunch during the 1930s. Raymond’s workers are perched upon a rusty steel beam of their own, overlooking San Angelo.

“There’s a story behind each painting in the alley,” Raymond said. “The steelworkers, for instance, represent five leaders in town who are very powerful in the arts. It is appropriate that they look out over the town and see what needs to be done for San Angelo.”

– continued on
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Julie Raymond shares her artistic talents with the community.

BREAKING Barrier



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

the Color again

Nobody ever played a more important game for San Angelo College than did Benjamin Kelly when in the fall of 1953 he likely became the first African American to enter a football game for a previously segregated team in Texas.

The 26-0 victory over an out-of-state Phoenix College cracked the color barrier in Texas collegiate football and started Kelly's two-year SAC gridiron career that had implications far beyond the bounds of Bobcat Stadium where the historic contest occurred.

In spite of the persistent insults and epithets, regardless of the hard hits he took during play and the sucker punches he endured after the whistle had blown, Kelly maintained a standard of conduct both on and off the field that eased the way for desegregation in San Angelo and the Concho Valley.

"My guess would be," said Paul K. "Buddy" Horne, who played in the same SAC backfield as Kelly, "that he probably had more of an impact on this community and the surrounding area than any other guy that you would ever think about in integrating a community. I would think no other person has done for the community what he did for San Angelo at that point in time."

By the social standards of today, 1953 stands as an innocent, almost quaint period in American history when prosperity abounded, optimism seemed limitless and opportunities were infinite – unless you were black.

For African Americans the end of Reconstruction in 1877 had short-circuited their American dreams as a variety of legal barriers evolved to limit black access and opportunities. Called "Jim Crow laws," the sobriquet supposedly coming from the name of a 19th century minstrel character, the rules tended to isolate blacks from mainstream society, especially in the South.

The 1896 Supreme Court decision in *Plessy vs. Ferguson* institutionalized a Jim Crow mentality by allowing "separate but equal" accommodations and treatment of blacks. Thus, African Americans were relegated to the back of the bus, both figuratively and literally. In the South, they were forced to attend separate schools, to drink out of "colored" water fountains, to avoid whites-only restaurants and hotels, and to live in segregated neighborhoods, often without full city services.

Though sunrises of change had appeared on the horizon by 1953, *Plessy* remained the law of the land when Kelly suited out for SAC that fall. As it turned out, the law in many cases would be easier to change than the racist attitudes it had engendered.

Those beliefs spilled out onto the field and targeted No. 36 in the Ram uniform with both verbal and physical assaults.

Former Angelo State Athletic Director Phil George, who was the Rams' line coach during the Kelly years, remembered opposing players and fans calling him the worst names imaginable.

Yet, Kelly never responded. He played as if he were immune or oblivious to the catcalls, the taunts, the slurs.

"Maybe he had some issues down inside him," said Jimmy Gafford, who was a freshman tackle in 1953, "but we never saw them."

While any emotional scars may have been invisible, the physical toll was apparent to the eye.

"He was, early on," said Horne, "so bruised and battered after each game that it was kind of hard to believe, but he never reacted to anything....His face after games would just be bruised all over, and it wasn't because he had gotten tackled, it was because he was being hit after he got tackled."

John A. Blocker, who shared fullback duties with Kelly, said opposing players would "bite him and kick him and scratch him."

Recalling that Kelly received multiple broken noses, gashes and contusions, George said, "In those days we didn't have face masks and we had Bakelite cleats which screw on to metal posts, very hard."

Gafford said he never played a San Angelo College "game that wasn't rough."

"Some people thought of junior college as junior high," Gafford said, "but you'd get a lot of fabulous athletes that had dropped out of four-year schools or been in the military and were older. It was tough on us, but tougher on Ben."

George said opposing players would "step on his hands or pile on. They'd do little things after the play had stopped and in pileups. Ben never showed any emotion to this. I tell you, this guy was tough. He suffered verbal abuse and ... a lot of derogatory names. He had the maturity and character never to show any reaction to it. That was tough, too."

In a story published in the *San Angelo Standard-Times* 30 years after Kelly's inaugural season, Max Bumgardner, head coach of the Rams in 1953, reflected on his black fullback's accomplishments. "I couldn't have done it," Bumgardner said. "He was a better



Paul Horne recalls playing with Ben Kelly.

man than I was. I would have been fighting all the time for what he went through."

The 1953 season began with the home victory against Phoenix College, a school from a state without a Confederate past. The second game, again a home contest, came against Wharton Junior College. Though racial emotions ran higher on the field than in the first game, the 20-18 Ram victory played out before a relatively friendly home crowd.

The third game of the season, however, was SAC's first road trip, a Thursday night contest at Victoria Junior College. Kelly's presence on the Ram team offended Victoria.

"When we hit town," Bumgardner said in the 1983 newspaper interview, "they had signs strung up across the road, calling us every name in the book. They had cancelled our meals, cancelled our motel rooms. The abuse to me and my boys was horrible."

Blocker remembered the night as so foggy players could barely see each other. Gafford recalled a night filled with flies as thick as the humidity. Horne recollected a difficult game. All remembered the insults and dirty play the Victoria squad heaped upon Kelly, who competed virtually the entire game, either as running back or a defensive end. Kelly finished the game, but sustained ankle and hand injuries.

Bumgardner, who later admitted that Victoria probably had the better team, told of Kelly sacking the quarterback and then the referee looking away as the quarterback punched him in the face. SAC triumphed, 20-13, against the Victoria players "primarily," Bumgardner said, "because they

were after Ben Kelly."

Vindictive as the game had been, an amazing gesture occurred afterwards when the captain of the Victoria team asked if he could address the SAC players. "He came in," George said, "and openly apologized to Ben and our team for the behavior of himself and some of his teammates....I thought that took a very brave action to do that, but above all, it shows how quickly a guy like Ben was earning respect."

The next week, the Rams hosted Ranger Junior College, taking a 20-0 victory. At that point SAC was 4-0 going into what proved to be the pivotal game of the season against Compton College, a junior college powerhouse from California. Compton was a big team, the Tartars averaging 202 pounds per lineman in an era where any player over 200 was huge. The SAC line, by contrast, tipped the scales at 182 per man.

Compton's traveling squad, which included six blacks, arrived by train at the Santa Fe Station the morning before the game and stayed overnight in sleeper cars. Tickets for the intersectional rivalry went for \$1.50 apiece and were available not only in the SAC business office but also at Golightly-Pratt Man's Shop, Angelo Sporting Goods and Cactus Service Station.

An overflow West Texas crowd of 6,500 came out to see the game, hoping for a SAC win after three previous losses to the West Coast juggernaut. It was the first game in which Kelly would play against other African Americans. Lineman Gafford remembered Kelly seeing one of the

Compton blacks warming up. “Let’s get him,” Kelly called out, breaking up his teammates with his sense of humor, especially after what he had been through.

That, though, would be the last laugh of the night for the Rams. “They beat our butts,” Horne recalled a half century later. While the eight-point deficit was respectable in the 22-14 defeat, the 28-member team sustained more than a dozen injuries.

The Rams lost the next four games before tiptoeing to a 21-20 victory over Paris Junior College in the final game and salvaging a 5-5 season. Even if the Rams had only broken even on the year, their season was about more than just wins and losses. They had broken the color barrier and taken a small step toward righting years of wrongs.

“I don’t ever remember Ben being negative about anything...,” Gafford said. “I think he knew he had to be positive. He knew he couldn’t be offended easily. He knew that, but his personality made it a lot easier for him to be that way. And then, when he got into that football uniform and he started down the field, it didn’t matter if you were white, black, pink or yellow. He was going to knock you to the ground if he could.”

Kelly’s talent and demeanor, both on the field and off, earned him the respect that his mere skin color had initially denied him. Even teams that treated him so maliciously on the field recognized his accomplishments after the season and chose him first-team All-Pioneer Conference. On the campus, his easy going manner and quick smile got him elected freshman class favorite.

At season’s end Darnell Peacock, a sports columnist for the *San Angelo Standard-Times*, praised Kelly for “the best sportsmanship of any player on the field.”

Wrote Peacock, “He set an example that would be difficult for anyone to follow, carrying the sportsmanship beyond the call of duty. There have been several times when he was deliberately kicked, kneed, or slugged in the face. He surely must have objected, but you could never tell it from the stands. He somehow managed a smile in return, and kept playing his jarring, clean brand of football.”

Between the 1953 and 1954 football seasons, the Supreme Court changed how the nation would deal with racial issues. On May 17, 1954, the Court in *Brown vs. Board of Education* overturned the 58-year-old

1953 SAC Football Roster

Bill Banta	C	59	San Angelo
Jube Belcher	E	83	Dallas
Bill Belcher	G	60	Biloxi, Miss.
John Blocker	FB	48	Lubbock
George Bookout	E	82	Wichita Falls
Ralph Brooks	QB	35	Midland
Jeff Buis	T	76	Sinton
Dick Burnett	T	78	Iraan
Dalton Byerly	T	75	Midland
Clyde Clemmer	T	77	Taylor
Jimmy Gafford	T	74	Lubbock
Gene Henderson	QB	14	Sonora
Jerry Hopkins	RH	45	San Saba
Buddy Horne	LH	33	Lohn
Loman Jones	E	80	Brownfield
Benjamin Kelly	FB	36	San Angelo
Charlie Lewis	G	72	San Saba
Jack Lucas	C	58	Brownfield
Bill Madden	G	68	Iraan
Sherwood McNeeley	RH	38	Melvin
Lynwood Pitts	FB	56	Highland Park
Jerry Sessoms	QB	11	Brady
Leon Simmons	G	67	Wichita Falls
Shannon Suarez	LH	35	Biloxi, Miss.
A.C. Talley	G	65	Taylor
Bobby Tobin	RH	46	Austin
Buck Turk	E	87	Carrizo Springs
Wade Turner	LH	44	Brady
Arlie Wolfenbarger	E	85	San Angelo

(Sources: *San Angelo Standard-Times*
and the 1954 *Rambouillet*)

“separate but equal” precedent from *Plessy vs. Ferguson*. That decision sent reverberations throughout the South and gave momentum to the burgeoning civil rights movement of the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Though mandated by law to admit blacks and to allow them to play on athletic teams, universities throughout the South and Southwest moved slowly to respond. Only two years after the Supreme Court decision did University of Oklahoma coach Bud Wilkinson sign halfback Prentice Gautt as the first African-American player for a four-year university in the region.

It took the Southwest Conference a decade after *Brown* before Southern Methodist University signed a black football player, speedy receiver Jerry LeVias. Baylor University’s John Hill Westbrook became the first African American to actually play in a varsity game for a SWC school when on Sept. 10, 1966, he became a fourth-quarter substitution in the Bears’ 35-12 victory over nationally ranked Syracuse.

As late as 1969 in a game that became known as “the Great Shootout,” neither undefeated Texas nor Arkansas played an African American in UT’s 15-14 win, though Texas did have a black on its freshman team that year. The 1969 Texas team would become the last all-white squad to win a national championship in football.

While society was slowly changing, Ben Kelly remained the same: friendly, optimistic and athletically talented. His outlook helped him endure trips where he was not allowed to stay in the hotel with the team. On at least one occasion, Gafford remembers coach Bumgardner giving him \$10 to find lodging for the night.

On many occasions restaurants refused to serve Kelly. In most cases his team members then declined to dine in those establishments, but in some cases they had no choice if they wanted a meal. In those instances, Kelly was forced to eat in the kitchen, out of sight from the public.

Ram halfback Horne learned that eating in the kitchen had its perks because most of the cooks were black. “Maybe we’d have chicken-fried steak and Ben would be having steak. They’d cook him one...I volunteered every time I could to be with Ben.”

The 1954 season was an up-and-down campaign of solid wins, close losses and a rare 0-0 tie against Tarleton. The team finished with a 5-3-1 record, including a 26-7 homecoming win over Schreiner Institute on Nov. 13, 1954, in Kelly’s last SAC game. After the season he received the Nathan’s Jeweler Ram football award and again earned first-team All-Pioneer Conference accolades at fullback.

The following spring, Kelly received a letter from the San Francisco 49ers, inviting him to try out. He left San Angelo for the National Football League on July 9, 1955, just three days after the San Angelo School Board unanimously voted to end segregation in San Angelo schools.

Some residents said then and many believe today that Kelly’s successful SAC career not only hastened the fall of segregation in San Angelo but also eased the transition to integration.

Speaking before the school that July, Larkin A. Raibon, African-American proprietor of the Modernistic Barber Shop and a representative of the local NAACP, said

"At the time of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling (on *Brown vs. Board of Education*), I thought the school board liberal enough to work the problem out and I still do."

Raibon based his opinion upon the successful integration at San Angelo College where, as the *Standard-Times* phrased it, "Negroes have been admitted."

By the standards of the day, the San Angelo school board was indeed liberal, becoming only the third school district in the state to de-segregate. Just the Panhandle community of Friona and the far West Texas city of El Paso ended school segregation sooner.

By his talent and sportsmanship on the field and by his demeanor and understanding off, Benjamin Kelly helped change the attitudes of a community.

"I think no one else did as much to ease that integration as he did," observed teammate Horne.

Fellow fullback Blocker agreed. "You couldn't have picked a better person to integrate with. And, he set a standard that probably couldn't be matched today because not only was he not a hot dog, he was an excellent human being. His work ethics were wonderful, and, you know, I think everybody on the team considered him to be their friend."

Blocker, who went on to coach at several Texas high schools, including some in East Texas, said, "It was probably the easiest transition for integration that I've ever been around. I've been in several (other) schools that have integrated while I was there and none of them was easy."

Lineman Gafford added, "Ben was a neat guy. He always had a smile on his face, good attitude, just one of the guys. That's all I can say. He wasn't any more or any less than any of the rest of us. He just fit in."

Perhaps Phil George, who was there that summer day in 1953 when Benjamin Kelly walked into the athletic offices and first asked for a chance to play football at San Angelo College, stated it best.

"He's special in my life, and I think he's special to all of us who got to walk those few small steps with him that turned out to be giant steps," George said. "I think what I love about the facts of the story so much is that it was not something that was orchestrated. It was living a real person's real life and getting to share part of it. You just think now how far he took us, which is unlimited." ■

The 'Reluctant Champion'

Benjamin Kelly never intended to be a pioneer.

All he wanted to do was play football at San Angelo College, but in the process he became a racial pioneer as likely the first African American to start a collegiate football game for a previously segregated Texas institution of higher learning.

After his two seasons at SAC, he was signed by the San Francisco 49ers and tried out on the West Coast before moving to New York for a short stay with the Giants under an assistant coach named Vince Lombardi and a player-coach named Tom Landry.

When his brief National Football League career ended, he returned to San Angelo and ultimately began working for the local Boys and Girls Club. After 29 years with the organization, he retired as its executive director in 1996.

Just as he had influenced the attitudes of his SAC teammates and his community in 1953 and 1954, he helped shape the lives of hundreds of San Angelo youth through the Boys and Girls Club. His contributions to so many San Angelo kids were recognized in 1993 with the naming of a new \$500,000 gymnasium in his honor at the Boys and Girls Club in north San Angelo.

Over the years his many honors have included the Bronze Keystone Award from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Liberty Bell Award from the Tom Green County Bar Association and the Outstanding Achievement Award from the San Angelo Chapter of the NAACP.

Joe Muñoz, who served for many years on the board of directors for the San Angelo Boys and Girls Club, calls Kelly the "Reluctant Champion" because of his humility and his genuine compassion for others. Muñoz, Class of '78 and current assistant to the president at ASU, said Kelly was a rare athlete but an even rarer human being.

Today Kelly still lives in San Angelo with his wife of 52 years, the former Alvetta Spurlock, like her husband a graduate of San Angelo's segregated Blackshear High School. They are parents of daughters Sharon Rivers of Houston and Patricia Thompson of San Angelo and son Michael Kelly, also of San Angelo.

Though slowed by diabetes and glaucoma, he maintains an inspiring and optimistic demeanor, frequently punctuated by a booming laugh. While ever friendly and helpful, he downplays his role in SAC or Texas sports history.

"That was 50 years ago," he said, "and it's time to move on."

His life's regret is that his mother died before he could fully repay her for the values she instilled in him about life and about discrimination. She taught him compassion for others, humility for himself and understanding of everyone. If people hate you, she told him, that's their problem, not yours.

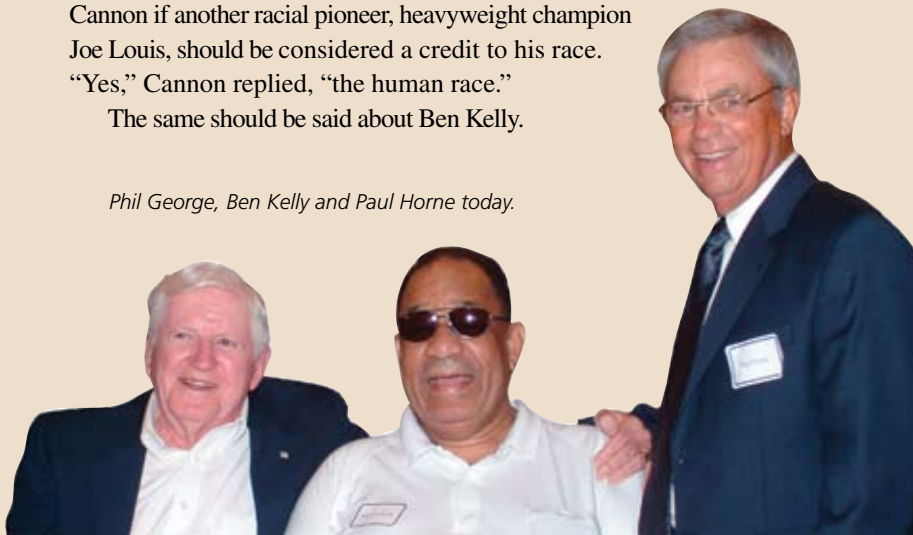
"We didn't have racial problems," Kelly said of his two years at San Angelo College. "Any problems we had were just people problems."

A skeptic once asked New York sportswriter Jimmy Cannon if another racial pioneer, heavyweight champion Joe Louis, should be considered a credit to his race.

"Yes," Cannon replied, "the human race."

The same should be said about Ben Kelly.

Phil George, Ben Kelly and Paul Horne today.



Rams Ready to Do It Again



Trey Weishuhn

By Dave Wester

Last fall the Angelo State football team took the Lone Star Conference and the country by surprise with a 9-3 record, but this season second-year head coach Dale Carr and his Rams won't be sneaking up on anyone.

"Last year our opponents probably did not know what to expect from us and may have underestimated our team," Carr said. "I doubt anyone will take us lightly, and they are certainly more familiar with our offense and defense."

The 2006 Ram squad is younger but just may be more athletic than the team that made its first NCAA Division II play-off appearance in eight years last season.

Success in 2006 will depend on the Rams getting a balanced offensive attack and replacing key losses on the defensive side of the ball.

"Offensively, our core up the middle is solid with quarterback, offensive line and running backs," Carr said, "but we'll have to be able to throw and catch the ball better. We'll be looking for our receivers to step up and make us a more well-rounded offense."

Carr will look to returning quarterback Trey Weishuhn to be a leader this fall. The senior from Wall threw for a school-record 2,615 yards in 2005 while tossing 17 touchdowns and completing 52.6 percent of his passes. He enters his final season ranked sixth on the program's all-time passing list with 4,373 yards and should finish his career second only to the great Ned Cox (7,833 yards, 1983-86).

"Trey gained a lot of confidence last season and was a major reason for our success late in the game," Carr said. "We're going to look to him to take over more of a leadership role this season."

Weishuhn will have the luxury of returning three starting offensive linemen, including senior Chris Hoppe. A second-team All-Lone Star Conference South Division pick as a junior, Hoppe will move from guard to tackle this fall and will be called upon to be a leader up front.

"Our strength this season will be our offensive line," Carr said. "We will bring back three solid starters from last year and will add a pair of key newcomers up front to solidify the line. Much of our success last year came from being able to move the pocket, allowing Trey time to pass."

Defensively, the Rams return just five starters from last year's squad and will need to reload in the middle.

"We lost both our defensive tackles, our middle linebacker and both of our safeties," said Carr. "We are definitely going to be young up front."

Returning defensive starters are linebackers Tyrell McCrea and Daniel Smith, defensive ends Kelsey Hite and Kyle Green and cornerback Kevin Lenford.

"If we can get out of the blocks the first two or three games and hold our own, I think we've got a chance to have a pretty good season," Carr said. "We have a better schedule this year with six home games. That sets up better for our younger team. We had a very good spring and our players' confidence is higher than it was at this time last year."

New Look Volleyball

This year's Rambelle volleyball team will have a host of new faces as head coach Ruth Lawanson settles into her second year at the helm.

With a talented class of seven freshmen added to a core group of five returning players, the Belles are shooting to make the LSC Tournament.

"The freshmen and the transfers are competing for playing time," Lawanson said. "The returners will have the edge, because they know the system. Once the freshmen learn the system, it's going to be a lot of fun. My motto is, the best six get to play – I don't care who you are."

Several top performers from last season will take the court, including right-side hitter and lone senior Amber Smith, junior middle hitter Mallory Honeycutt and junior libero Natalie Crow.

The season will see the Belles open at the Florida Southern tournament where they will play Grand Valley State, the defending NCAA Division II national champions. The Belles open at home Aug. 31 then host the ASU tournament Sept. 1.

Soccer Ready to Kick Grass

The Belle soccer team will shoot for a first-ever Lone Star Conference title this season, and a nucleus of eight returning starters might have what it takes to hit that goal.

After two 10-win seasons, the Belles' fortunes fell last season with a disappointing 7-12-2 overall record and a 4-5-0 conference mark. But this year's team has a stable of talent with potential to be a winner.

"I am very excited about this season," said Belles head coach Tom Brown. "Last year was rough, but those players who returned are determined to make this one memorable."

Two forwards – Casey Halamicek and Brittany Tollison – will pace the scoring.

"One of the biggest problems we had last season was scoring goals," Brown said. "I think between our recruiting class and the hard work our returning players put in during the spring, we should improve our goals scored this season."

The Rambelles open on the road at the UT-Permian Basin. Their home opener is Aug. 27 against College of the Southwest.

Vandergriff Retires

Jerry Vandergriff, who has worn a variety of head gear for Ram athletics over the last 40 years, hung up his hat for good May 31 when he retired from Angelo State.

"I'm not sure anyone ever hired me," Vandergriff said, "I just kept staying because I really wanted to be here. It has been a great place to be."

Vandergriff came to campus in 1960 to wear a helmet for San Angelo College. He quarterbacked the Rams to a 7-3 record and a Hospitality Bowl bid that year, the last season before the college dropped football for a while. That season he also lost a close game to New Mexico Military Institute and a then unknown quarterback named Roger Staubach, who would go on to win the Heisman Trophy at the Naval Academy and some Super Bowls for the Dallas Cowboys.

Vandergriff returned to San Angelo in 1971 wearing the cap of an assistant coach under Grant Teaff. He was offensive coordinator under Jim Hess when the Rams won the 1978 NAIA National Champion-

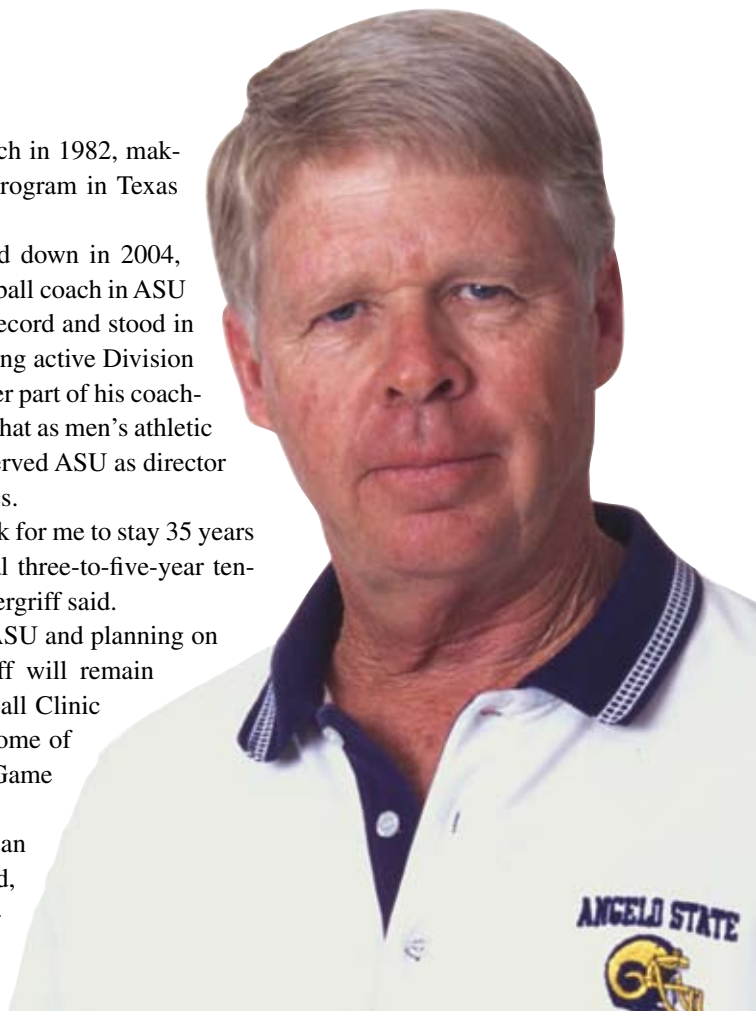
ship and became head coach in 1982, making ASU the winningest program in Texas for the decade.

By the time he stepped down in 2004, he was the winningest football coach in ASU history with a 143-101-2 record and stood in the top 10 in victories among active Division II coaches. During the latter part of his coaching career he also wore the hat as men's athletic director. Since 2004, he served ASU as director of development for athletics.

"It's just been storybook for me to stay 35 years here rather than the typical three-to-five-year tenure among coaches," Vandergriff said.

Though retiring from ASU and planning on traveling more, Vandergriff will remain active in the Angelo Football Clinic and in the Cactus Bowl, home of the Division II All-Star Game each year in Kingsville.

And, he will stay in San Angelo. "Nobody," he said, "thinks more of this university and this community than I do."



The 9th Annual West Central Wireless Golf Tournament

was held June 23, 2006 and was a great success.

Eighty-one golfers helped raise more than \$14,500 for the ASU Alumni Association.

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Rams Take Honors, Miss NCAA Tourney

The division champion Angelo State Rams placed 11 players on the All-Lone Star Conference South Division baseball team but fell short of the NCAA National Tournament in spite of finishing the regular season No. 3 in the South Central Regional Rankings.

Ranked No. 13 nationally going into the postseason, the Rams placed seven players on the LSC South Division first team. Honorees were senior pitchers J. W. Nastoupil and Chace Vacek, junior catcher Bucky Strickland, junior first baseman Nate Hemm, senior second baseman John Beal, senior shortstop Derek Bockhorn and senior outfielder Ronnie Gaines, who also was named a third-team Division II All-American by the American Baseball Coaches Association.

The second team included junior pitchers Elliott Love and Tommy Rafferty, senior outfielder Brad Hough and designated hitter Clay Calfee, a redshirt freshman.

Nastoupil was named Co-Pitcher of the Year after a stellar season with a 9-1 record and 81 strikeouts. Calfee was selected as Freshman of the Year after hitting .392 with six home runs and 38 RBI.

In spite of their 41-16 season record, the Rams were snubbed for the post-season NCAA tournament after being eliminated in their third game of the LSC Tournament. ASU had the best record of any team nationally not to make the 48-squad NCAA playoffs. The Rams' .719 winning percentage bettered that of five of the six teams that qualified in ASU's region as well as that of 28 teams that did make the national tournament.

Sports

H I G H L I G H T S

All-American Gaines, a Temple native, led the Lone Star Conference in runs with a school-record 66 and hit .417 on the season. He ended his senior campaign with nine home runs and 59 runs batted in, both school records.

Both Gaines and Vacek signed professional contracts after the season, Gaines with the New York Mets and Vacek with the Kansas City Royals. Both were assigned to minor league squads for the summer.

Belles Ring Up Honors

Eight Rambelle softball players received All-Lone Star Conference South Division honors at the end of a 31-26 season that took the squad to the Lone Star Conference Tournament for the fourth straight time.

Junior centerfielder Kandace Kubat earned first-team recognition and was tabbed the division's Newcomer of the Year as well as a second-team All-American by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. She finished the season with a .405 batting average and led the conference in stolen bases with 54 and in runs scored with 59.

Senior catcher Jessica Stroud, freshman shortstop Macy Baker, sophomore first baseman Brittney Cargill and sophomore third baseman Brittany Welch took second-team honors. Baker was also named Co-Freshman of the Year in the South Division.

Junior second baseman Dionne Lopez, sophomore leftfielder Whitney Meeks and freshman pitcher Rachel Walck were named to the league's honorable mention squad.

LSC Track & Field Honors

Ram junior Spencer Tyler won the Oscar Strahan Award as the outstanding male field athlete of the year and Rambelle freshman Adree Lakey took honors as co-winner of the David Noble Award as outstanding female field athlete after the Lone Star Conference Track and Field Championships in April.

Tyler and Lakey were among six men and three women to garner All-Lone Star Conference honors at the championships that saw both the men's and women's team finish second.

Tyler won the discus throw, placed second in the shot put and finished sixth in the hammer throw. Lakey triumphed in both the shot put and javelin throw, finished third in the hammer throw and took fourth in the discus toss.

Other men's championships went to senior Dustin Hafernick (steeplechase), sophomore Ryan McWilliams (decathlon) and sophomore Justin Boyd (400-meter hurdles). Seniors Andrew Roemisch and Jason Simmons also garnered all-conference honors.

On the women's squad junior Kandra Lakey won the discus title, finished second in the javelin and took third in the shot put. Sophomore Melina Garcia rounded out the Rambelles' all-conference selections with second-place finishes in both the 5,000- and 10,000-meter runs.

All-Americans in Track & Field

Eight ASU athletes returned from the NCAA Division II

Track and Field Championships in Emporia, Kan., as All-Americans, including two who finished national runners-up.

Justin Boyd closed out a stellar sophomore season as national runner-up in the 400-meter hurdles. On the women's side, Culley Jo Dawson placed second nationally in the discus throw.

Anthony Boyd, Richard Covington and Josh Davis joined Boyd for All-American honors after a fifth-place finish in the 4x400 relay. Jason Simmons and Ryan McWilliams placed seventh and eighth, respectively, in the decathlon and also brought home All-America certificates.

Freshman Adree Lakey earned All-American honors with a sixth-place throw in the discus.

In the team competition the Rams placed 18th and the Rambelles finished 21st nationally.

Academic Laurels

Senior Trent Joseph, one of 10 ASU spring athletes to earn All-Academic honors at the end of the school year, was named Men's Track and Field Academic Athlete of the Year by the Lone Star Conference.

Senior Andrew Roemisch, senior Marcus Dunn, sophomore Steven Barraza and sophomore Chad Schaertl joined Joseph on the All-Academic squad. Women's team honorees were senior Rachel Williams, junior Daniela Swearingen and sophomore Trista McIntyre.

Senior outfielder Brad Hough of the baseball team and sophomore outfielder Whitney Meeks of the softball squad also were named to the All-Academic squads in their sports.

Campus Traditions

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

Where There's Smoke, There's Fire

Research by the Staff
of the West Texas Collection
and Alumni Association

Some campus traditions last forever while others just go up in smoke.

Welcome to the tradition of the homecoming bonfire. Few rituals at Angelo State University or on any campus require as much work or result in more mischief than the homecoming bonfire.

Traditionally, homecoming and bonfires go together like Moses and the burning bush, campfires and marshmallows, arson and the fire marshal.

While bonfires have been a staple of homecoming celebrations as early as the late 1800s at some American universities, 1941 appears to be the first year one blazed on the campus of San Angelo College, ASU's predecessor. However, the ritual was short-lived as Pearl Harbor plunged

the U.S. into World War II a few months later. The drain on male enrollment and the need to conserve all resources, including wood, made a bonfire impractical in the ensuing years.

The bonfire appeared to return to campus by 1949 and has been both a regular homecoming fixture and an ongoing target for pranksters ever since. And in each of those years, the wood pile has gone up in smoke, most times as scheduled but often prematurely, wounding campus pride and creating a run on wooden pallets locally for a Phoenix-like rebirth.

In 1958 pranksters managed to burn down a third of the wood stack. A year later fireflies struck again. Once the flames were doused more than 40 college boys de-

cided to guard the 50-foot-high tinder box through the night, likely giving rise to the guarding tradition.

Guards or no guards, though, the timber tower burned the Tuesday before homecoming in 1964. A decade later, the stack of studs succumbed to spontaneous combustion, causing the *Ram Page* editor to speculate that it was an inside job because the "sabotage was simply too fast and well done to be performed by some rank amateur from Texas A&I," ASU's opponent in the homecoming game.

In 1975 the wooden stack had to be rebuilt the day of the pep rally because of another successful attack. Though ASU's Air Force ROTC detachment took over sponsorship of the bonfire in 1975, the military presence failed to save it from another guerrilla raid in 1976. The ROTC cadets made amends in 1977, building a 65-foot-tall tower, likely the tallest in ASU history, and taking over full control of bonfire management and security.

The bonfire appears to have made it unscathed through the 1980s, but not so in the 1990s. The annual torch parade was born in 1991 to spark the bonfire after the homecoming pep rally, but the torch parade was too late to start the 1993 bonfire, thanks to arsonists.

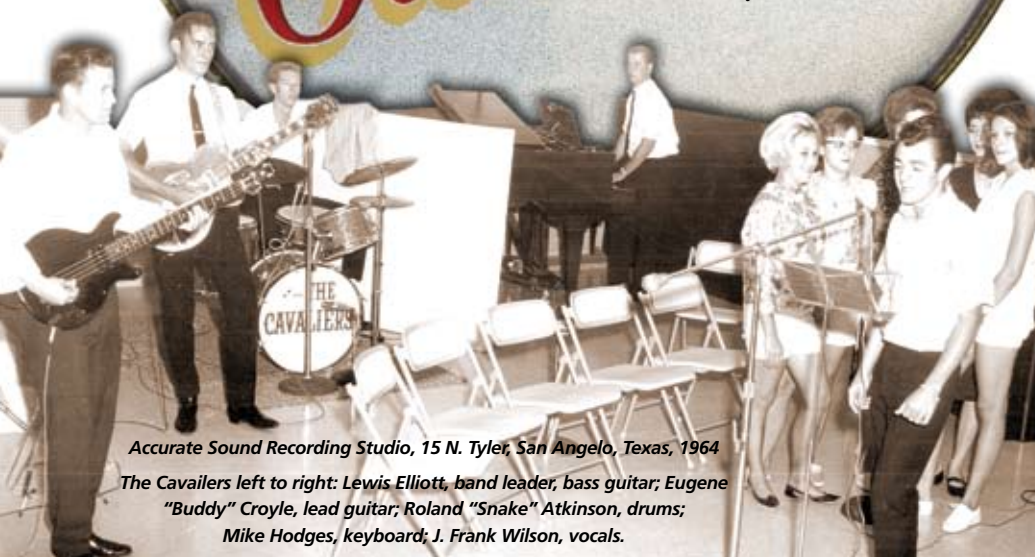
The next year, two pickup loads of Tarleton State students were arrested at 4:30 in the morning with what campus police and the fire marshal described as "Molotov cocktails," saving the 1994 pyre.

Barely had the university made it into the new century and millennia than the 2000 bonfire pile was burned. A Herculean effort by ROTC cadets, other students and local business, however, rebuilt the stack in time for the homecoming celebration.

Over the years, ASU's homecoming bonfire has undoubtedly left a lot of memories for those who built it, guarded it and saw it burst into flames, either as planned or serendipitously. Even so, the homecoming bonfire is one campus tradition more often remembered for its failures than its successes. ■

Last Call for The Cavaliers

Stories by Preston Lewis



Accurate Sound Recording Studio, 15 N. Tyler, San Angelo, Texas, 1964

The Cavaliers left to right: Lewis Elliott, band leader, bass guitar; Eugene "Buddy" Croyle, lead guitar; Roland "Snake" Atkinson, drums; Mike Hodges, keyboard; J. Frank Wilson, vocals.

1964 Band photo courtesy of Lewis Elliott and American Classifieds. 2006 photos by Jim Bean.

Formed in the mid-1950s and named for a cigarette brand, the San Angelo musical group The Cavaliers hit the charts big-time in 1964 with the tragic teenage lament "Last Kiss."

But unlike a lot of one-hit wonders that earn a Gold Record and then disappear forever, The Cavaliers rolled on for almost 40 years, adding new members as earlier musicians moved on and continuing to play music in West Texas well into the new millennium.

During that time The Cavaliers always seemed to have an Angelo State University connection. Former ASU students who played in the band over the years included Lewis Elliott, James Thomas, Ronny Harrison, James Patterson, W. Mike Jones and Janice Burke.

Lewis Elliott stands at the top of former ASU students and The Cavaliers as he was the leader of the group when "Last Kiss" was recorded and became a hit. He played bass guitar on the teenage classic, which was recorded in San Angelo at Accurate Sound then located in a building that today serves as the offices for American Classifieds at 15 N. Tyler.

With the band between 1962 and 1966, Elliott cut "Last Kiss" with Buddy Croyle, Roland "Snake" Atkinson, vocalist J. Frank Wilson and a studio musician. After the song became a hit, Elliott toured the country with the Dick Clark's Caravan of Stars, sharing the bus with such musicians as future Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame Members Eric Burdon and The Animals, who

had the hit "House of the Rising Sun" in the summer of 1964.

He also shared the stage with acts such as the girl group The Royalettes and Brian Highland, vocalist for the 1960 hit novelty tune "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" and the 1962 Gold Record "Sealed With A Kiss."

"It was a magical time for us," Elliott said.

The magic, however, failed to last. Just prior to leaving for his second tour, the group's manager died in a car accident, ironically, and band members drifted apart before Elliott re-formed The Cavaliers in San Angelo in 1966.

After that their venues included everything from high school dances to "beer joints with chicken wire" to protect the band from thrown objects.

After leaving the band, Elliott worked for five years with Goodyear, then went into real estate. Today, he is the owner of Elliott Realty.

Though he joined the band two years after "Last Kiss" peaked on the national Billboard Top 40 charts at No. 2, nobody locally has been more closely linked to The Cavaliers than James Thomas, Class of '68, who kept the group together for almost 40 years.

And while "Last Kiss" is the lasting contribution of The Cavaliers to popular culture, Thomas thinks the band's most important legacy, at least during his tenure, was the number of band members it helped attend Angelo State over the years.

"I don't know how many graduates we put through, but it's been a bunch," Thomas said. "We encouraged them to get their degree and help themselves out."

The band's philosophy of playing a variety of musical styles made The Cavaliers the most popular group in the area, performing during its heyday at everything from school dances to ranch socials in the 1960s and 1970s. The band's repertoire ranged from rock 'n' roll to country and western to crossover. Their most successful song after "Last Kiss" became "You Just Need to Love Somebody," which became a Cash Box pick-hit of the week in 1976.

After graduation from ASU Thomas worked 23 years for San Angelo National Bank and during that time remembers play-



James Thomas

ing the Christmas parties for banking competitors. “I’d sit on the steps and eavesdrop during our break to hear their propaganda.”

“We played for the people, a big variety of music, and we had fun,” Thomas said.

And, they made money. Some months, performing a couple nights a week, he made more money singing than he did at his \$475 a month job with the bank. “It was a pretty lucrative little hobby. I actually made money at a hobby rather than going out and losing golf balls at a dollar apiece.”

Because of his longevity with the band, many came to assume he was the original vocalist on “Last Kiss.” During performances, fans would bring their out-

of-town guests up to meet Thomas and introduce him as the vocalist on “Last Kiss.” Thomas said, “I wouldn’t correct them or say anything because it would’ve belittled them in front of their friends. Some of that got started that way, but certainly not intentionally.”

The band continued to perform under Thomas’s direction until three years ago when his motivations changed.

“When I was young, I would have played for free,” Thomas said, “but now I’d rather be home on a Friday and sitting in an easy chair than playing music.”

In his spare time, he still writes music, including a final verse to “Last Kiss.” When he is not sitting in his easy chair or composing songs, Thomas operates San Angelo Real Estate with his wife, Janie.

Ronny Harrison, Class of ’71, joined the Cavaliers in 1965 and stayed with the band for 24 years. He started out as drummer and later switched to keyboard. He also handled backup on vocals.

“We had a lot of good times,” Harrison said. His favorite memories are of performing at Rowena where the band was a regular at the local ODHS hall on family night and of backing up or opening for a variety of country-and-western stars, including Hank

Williams Jr., Mel Tillis, Ray Price and Johnny Bush, among others. “That’s kind of neat for a band of local guys.”

During his tenure, the band had a TV show on the local CBS affiliate. Harrison also acknowledged that The Cavaliers played for the first ASU frat party ever raided by the police. The Cavaliers were performing for Kappa Xi, which he and Thomas helped found and which eventually evolved into Lambda Chi, when they got a little too loud and rambunctious. The police persuaded them to turn the volume down.

In Harrison’s mind the raid was not nearly as embarrassing as being commissioned by a Fort Worth producer to record a song about the U.S. Space Program. Released at the time of the first manned mission to orbit the moon, the song was titled “A Mighty Big Moon Mouse!” about a rodent that ate a quarter of the moon.

“No more need be said about this song!” Harrison noted.

If “A Mighty Big Moon Mouse” was the low point of his Cavaliers career, “the best thing for me being involved in music and The Cavaliers was meeting my wife, Carol,” Harrison said.

Today he is the partner and president of Harrison Roofing in San Angelo.

James Patterson played with the band between 1967 and 1973. During that time, he earned his bachelor’s degree in 1971 and master’s degree from ASU. In fact, in 1972 he became the first person to receive an ASU master’s degree.

Patterson played bass and performed some lead vocals. “James Thomas had the pretty voice and handled most of the ballads and smoother songs,” Patterson said, “and I took the edgy songs, like Rod Stewart’s ‘Maggie Mae.’” During his tenure, the post-“Last Kiss” Cavaliers also recorded “It’s Up to You Girl,” “A Little Bit of Soap,” “Turntable,” “Wine, Wine, Wine” and “Somebody Help Me.”

He recalled the monthly dances at Rowena as being especially fun because of the family atmosphere. “It was a big community center with people from all of the small towns,” Patterson said. “Four generations might be out there, everyone from old grandma to grandbaby. It was just a nice wholesome family get together and that place would really get packed.”



Ronny Harrison

Photo courtesy of James Patterson.



James Patterson

During his tenure the band bought matching custom equipment including amplifiers and speakers with rolled-and-pleated upholstery highlights in cascade, a blue-green color. "We were quite a sight up there, looked like a '57 Chevy," he said.

Patterson remembered sharing a gig with The Cowsills, a 1960s group that had such hits as "Hair," "The Rain, The Park and Other Things," "Indian Park," and "We Can Fly."

"They were the more popular act at the time," Patterson said, "but they played first and we came on second, still living on a little reflected glory from 'Last Kiss.'"

After graduating from ASU, he left The Cavaliers and traveled with another band out of Abilene for a few months before starting his own group, Supreme Court Decision, which spent six years on the road and still plays several gigs per month in the Houston area.

He followed The Cavaliers' musical format by incorporating a variety of styles in his band's repertoire, ranging from country to baby boomer rock to big band swing to Latin. Summing up his years with the Cavaliers, he said, "Oh, I had a ball."

Patterson later earned his doctorate in history from the University of Houston and today serves as a history professor at Houston Community College and an adjunct

faculty member at both the University of Houston and Houston Baptist University. He is also active musically with the Cross-Tronic Christian Techno Project, in which he combines electronic music with Christian evangelistic themes. The first album was "Put on the Armor of God" followed by a second, "Eternity." Information on the albums is available at his website, <http://cdbaby.com/cd/crosstronic2>.

W. Mike Jones, Class of '71, might be considered one of the original multi-taskers. He played lead guitar and did vocals

with the band from 1969-71 while taking a minimum of 15 hours a semester at ASU and working at Landers Automotive for \$1.15 an hour.

"My time was so crazy with working, night classes and playing," Jones said. "I'd say it was lots of fun and lots of long drives. For two years we played once a month in Del Rio."

He played "Last Kiss" enough to grow sick of it. "Yes, yes! Same old four chords over and over again."

The group performed at a lot of parties, school functions and fraternity socials, including the one that drew the police raid. "It was a wild fraternity party, but nothing serious," he recalled. "Back then about the worst thing anyone did was drink."

The band also played some seamier venues as well. "I got so burnt out on bars and beer joints, I haven't been in one since," Jones said.

"It was fun at the time," Jones said. "It always starts out fun and then it turns into a job. What started out as a hobby, as fun, became a hard-core job."

After leaving the band with his general business degree and a psychology minor from ASU, Jones went into real estate briefly before getting into electrical contracting. Today he owns Bullock & Taylor Electric Co.

Except for a three-year break between 1975 and 1978, Janice Burke played drums for The Cavaliers from 1974 to 1999. Like several other band members, some of her



W. Mike Jones

fondest memories with The Cavaliers are of playing at Rowena.

"It was so laid back, family-oriented," she said. "Everybody could bring their family with babies over in the corner on little pallets, just real casual. It wasn't the bar scene and having to contend with that."

Even when they did play the bars, Burke remembered "the guys were real protective of me."

Burke, who earned her associate degree in nursing in 1972 and her bachelor of science in nursing in 1983, both from ASU, remembers playing a lot of hospital functions.

She recalls her first hospital performance when Dr. Ralph Chase and Dr. Sterling Gillis couldn't believe "their baby nurse was up there beating on the drums."

Highlights of her musical career included playing both at her sister's wedding and at the 40th anniversary performance at Rowena. Her last performance with The Cavaliers, appropriately enough, was at the wedding of the son of a friend in medical records where she worked. Today Burke is a neonatal nurse with San Angelo Community Hospital, her employer for 34 years.

"I wouldn't take for all the years I played with The Cavaliers," Burke said. "It was a good stress reliever. It was a lot of good memories and a lot of fun playing with a lot of good musicians." ■



Janice Burke

Last Kiss answered

Anyone who ever hears the opening of "Last Kiss" is bound to remember it.

*Oh, where oh where can my baby be,
The Lord took her away from me
She's gone to heaven so I got to be good
So I can see my baby when I leave this ol' world.*

From there the song details the tragic tale in the era before mandatory seat belts of a teen driver who crashes into a stalled car, then watches helplessly as his date dies in his arms.

Recorded by The Cavaliers in San Angelo in 1964, "Last Kiss" rose higher on the charts than all but a handful of songs that year and the tunes that topped it were by such recognizable names as The Beach Boys, The Beatles, The Supremes, Bobby Vinton and Dean Martin.

The song was sung by J. Frank Wilson, a Lufkin native who joined The Cavaliers while stationed at Goodfellow Air Force Base. Other performers on the recording were Cavaliers leader Lewis Elliott on bass guitar, Roland "Snake" Atkinson on drums, Buddy Croyle on lead guitar and a studio musician.

Written in 1962 by Georgia rhythm and blues singer Wayne Cochran and based on an actual car-tractor trailer accident near his home, "Last Kiss" was the last of a string of teen tragedies that captured the public's imagination in the early 1960s.

The tune was popular enough in 1964 to draw the attention of *New York Times* columnist Russell Baker, who wrote that it and another accident tune "are basically hillbilly ballads done in the slick and commercial rock 'n' roll style with the monotonous cacophony the children love."

Baker pontificated that unrequited love had long been the staple of song and literature but lamented that "the instrument of romantic tragedy is not battle or wasting malady but a miserable automobile."

The song was introduced to a new generation in 1999 when Pearl Jam re-released it and the tune climbed to the top of the charts three decades after its original release.

James Thomas, who assumed duties as lead vocalist for The Cavaliers two years after the release of "Last Kiss," has sung the song hundreds of times since he joined the band. A few years ago, Thomas decided to add a final stanza to the sad song.

He included "Last Kiss Answered" on one of the promotional CDs he recorded with The Cavaliers for his realty company. After the original lyrics, a female vocalist responds with these words:

*Well, hello darling, I can see you from here
Don't you worry, don't shed a tear
The Lord knows I miss you, He can see
My love will last forever for all eternity*



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1947

J. Hudson Russell, married to Elosie, is a retired realtor in San Angelo. They are having the time of their lives at Rio Concho West.

1952

Dr. W. Bonham Magness, married to Marcille, has received the prestigious Dale B. Wade Award of Excellence from the American Association of Orthodontics. The award honors an exemplary senior clinician who demonstrates exceptional dedication to orthodontics through clinical excellence and/or devoted teaching. Dr. Magness is a 1960 graduate of the Orthodontic Department of the University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston. He has taught in the department for 46 years and maintains a private practice with his son, Marc, in Houston.

1953

Wayne "Tinker" Clift, married to Janie, is a retired teacher from Texas State Technical College-Waco and currently resides in San Angelo.

1969

Michael K. Barron, married to **Kay Arledge Barron** (nd), is an assistant provost for enrollment services

and director of admissions at the University of Iowa in Iowa City.

Mike E. Newlin, married to **Sandra** ('74), is a realtor at ERA Newlin and Vincent Realty in San Angelo.

1971

Gary Bowen, married to **Leslee Waterhouse Bowen** ('99), is chief operating officer at Shannon Clinic in San Angelo.

1972

Richard Daniel, married to Sandy, is a pharmacist at Trinity Pharmacy in Carrollton.

1973

Sande V. Harrison, married to George, is the director of marketing for Shannon Health Systems in San Angelo.

1974

Philip Neighbors, married to **Susan** (nd), is the president of the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce in San Marcos.

Hubert Phillips, married to **Lola Canterbury Phillips** ('77), is an author in Warner Robins, Ga. Hubert recently published his first novel *The Saga of Black Jim MacCrimmons*.

1976

William Gray, married to Wendy, is the defense contractor for Science Applications International Corp. in Manassas, Virginia.

Steve Litton, married to **Corinne** ('76), is employed as an apparel manufacturer at D'Clase Apparel in Weston, Fla.

Jose P. Sosa, married to **Delia Gutierrez Sosa** ('76), is a colonel in the U.S. Air Force in College Station.

1977

Gene "Eddie" Bates is president of G&I Oil Co., Inc., in Beaumont.

Joni Dusek Stewart, married to John, is the senior program manager for AT&T in Dallas.

1981

John Casimir, married to Sandra, is a geologist for Quality Logging in Midland.

Rev. Frank J. Coniglio, married to Jeannette, is a clergy at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Bayard, Neb.

1982

Molly Williams Criner, married to **Terry** ('82), is a teacher in Mertzon.

1984

Alfonzo Celaya, married to Patsy, served 21 years and 7 months in the U. S. Air Force as the director of the Office for Civil Rights and is now retired and enjoying life in San Angelo. His son Al Celaya Jr. was a member of the 1978 National Championship Ram Football Team.

Fernando T. Martinez, married to Lupe, is a retired Texas Works Advisor from

Health and Human Services Commission in San Angelo.

Bill Nikolauk, married to Debbie, is the president of 1st Community Federal Credit Union in San Angelo and a new member on the ASU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

1986

Jim D. Jones, married to Kim, is the vice president at AAA Company in San Angelo.

1987

Jeffrey Butcher, married to Wendy, is the vice-president of Kaiser, Inc. in Artesia, N.M.

1988

Dr. Scott Blanton, married to **Shelley Bitner Blanton** ('88), is a veterinarian at Green Meadow Veterinary Hospital in San Angelo.

Joe Payne, married to Tracey, is the senior vice president and trust manager at Texas State Bank in San Angelo.

1990

Jerrie Corases Smithwick, married to Joe, is CCO at Triumph Hospital in San Angelo.

1995

Benge Bushong, married to Christina, is a registered professional land surveyor for Bushong Land Surveying in Ingram. They have two sons, Bridger and Carson.

Regina Gies is a teacher at Spring I.S.D. in Pinehurst. Regina has a wonderful six-year-old son named Austin.

1996

Angela Norris is a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines in Fort Myers, Fla.

CLASS notes

C O N T I N U E D

James Waterbury, married to Kadee, is the management intern for Army Material Command in Bel Air, Md.

1999

David Erickson, married to **Linda Castaneda Erickson** (nd), is the director of the Small Business Development Center and management lecturer at Angelo State University. Linda is employed as the office manager for Agilight, Inc., in San Angelo.

Brandon McElhinny, married to Ana, is an operations

research analyst at the Department of Defense in El Paso.

2000

Dana Magill Cooper, married to Noel, is a doctoral student at Texas Christian University. They live in Grand Prairie.

2003

Robert Alexander is a teacher and coach at Grape Creek I.S.D. in San Angelo.

2004

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

Jean Ann Schofield Yarbrough, married to Earl, is an administrative assistant and trustee at Shannon Health System in San Angelo.

Cydnie J. Worley is a kindergarten teacher at Ozona I.S.D. in Ozona.

2005

Codi Graves is a graduate student working on her master's in counseling psychology; her fiancé graduated from ASU and is now working on his law degree at Texas Tech.

2006

Amy Bishop is an education assistant with the City of Corpus Christi-Museum in Corpus Christi.

Tara Fuller Wiley, married to Shawn, is a nurse at Outreach Health Service in San Angelo. Tara and Shawn have a daughter name Breanna.

Attended ASU

Nancy Hemphill, married to John, is a teacher for San Angelo I.S.D. John is a self-employed attorney in San Angelo.

Mark Aylor, who played club rugby at ASU from 1999-2002, has made the USA Rugby national team as a forward. Mark was part of the ASU club team that earned third place in the Western Territorial Championships in 2002. He played for the Austin Blacks club for two years before joining the national squad.

In Memoriam

Dr. Terry G. Lehmann, ASU history professor since 1977, San Angelo, May 5, 2006. A scholarship fund in his memory has been established by the ASU History Department.

Dr. James R. Ward, ASU history professor since 1970, San Angelo, July 4, 2006.

Mary Ann Bain Belcheff, '80, San Angelo, July 16, 2006.

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

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Flying Flag



ASU alums **Capt. Monyca Byrne**, '98, and **Capt. Aaron C. Milner**, '00, show their school pride aboard an Air Force C-17 before it flew from Kuwait to Iraq to Qatar earlier this year.

Painting the Town

— continued from page 17

Then, there's her whimsical second-floor WWII window scene (*see cover*) of a boy dangling his legs over the window ledge while a kitten hangs precariously from his right pajama's leg. Behind the boy hangs a blue-star banner, letting the world know that three of the boys' brothers are in service to their country.

It is appropriate that Raymond is an elementary school art teacher because her love for art was first nurtured by her own fourth-grade art teacher, who took her class to the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts on a school field trip. Young Julie was so enthralled by a Vincent van Gogh on display at the museum, that she walked up and touched the canvas.

"I was led out by an armed guard," she said. "I was so appalled, as was my teacher. Today when I go to a museum, I put my hands in my pocket."

The art, though, in Paintbrush Alley is very touchable, if you can reach it, and that's the way Julie and her artist friends want it.

"Our kids ask us every day if there are real artists out there and we can show them that there are," Raymond said. "So, we wanted the alley visual so they could see for themselves."

Raymond summarized her love for art simply: "Art opens doors. Art connects." Not coincidentally, those two ideas will be the themes for the next two alleys that the elementary school teachers are helping transform into public art galleries.

"Art speaks to me and everything in my soul," Raymond said, "and it's meant to be shared, like Paintbrush Alley."

Within months of its debut, Paintbrush Alley earned Downtown San Angelo, Inc., a 2005-06 Keep Texas Beautiful Award for civic organization leadership.

Pamela Miller, vice president for the San Angelo Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the beautification project has had an impact far beyond the city limits of San Angelo.

"Paintbrush Alley," said Miller, "has really opened up people's eyes to San Angelo and made them start thinking of us as an 'arts community.'"

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Proud parents **Raelye Taylor** ('05) and **Joe Self** ('02) welcomed their baby girl Taelye Joe Self, 7 lbs., 2.5 oz., on March 24, 2006.

David Andrew, born on April 19, 2006, was welcomed by his older sister, Michaela Elayne, and his parents **Korina and Andy Baker** ('93).

Hope Papay Veiga ('97) celebrated the birth of her son Joshua on April 30, 2006.

Erika Guzman ('01) and **Rudy Munoz** ('06) welcomed Ryan Anthony on May 27, 2006.

Lt. Col. Robert ('87) and **Deborah** (nd) **Vance** are the proud parents of Erin Michelle, born on June 6, 2006, at 7 lbs., 13 oz.

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