

# Angelo State University • Magazine

Fall 2009 • Volume 2 • Number 3

MEMBER, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



**'Best of'**  
**SHOWING**

**Mourning  
Newspaper**

**One Life to Live**





# Message

from the President

Dear Friends:

With the start of the fall semester, we are beginning to see some significant benefits from the integrated marketing and communication effort we began nearly two years ago. Our goal to increase enrollment to 10,000 students depends greatly on how we present Angelo State University to student and parent audiences across the region, the state and the nation. Our *Angelo State University Magazine* and a sophisticated interactive Web site are important aspects of crafting that message. So, too, is a marketing and branding budget which has grown from \$30,000 to nearly \$400,000 to refine our institutional message and create a family of publications with a consistent theme. Now these campus initiatives are paying off through three very important external recognitions for ASU.

First among these is our inclusion by *Princeton Review* in its listing of the “Best 371 Colleges” for 2010. The *Review* has a national audience and is viewed as one of the premier measures of institutional quality when high school students and their parents seek information about college. ASU’s first-ever inclusion in the *Review* occurred as the result of a competitive process of data collection that included completion of a 79-page questionnaire and an electronic survey of ASU students. This recognition and the *Princeton Review* logo will be included in our marketing materials for the next academic year, as well as in a special mailer this fall to high school guidance counselors throughout the state.

Our second recognition was inclusion in the *Chronicle of Higher Education’s* national list of “Great Colleges to Work For” in 2009. ASU was one of 150 higher education institutions to be selected by the *Chronicle* after surveying faculty and administrators on job satisfaction in 26 categories. As the major news source for college and university faculty and administrators, the *Chronicle* is seen by thousands of readers on a daily basis. Since all of our faculty and senior staff positions are advertised in the *Chronicle*, this recognition should ensure an even more diverse and quality applicant pool for our open positions.

Finally, we have been recognized by *G.I. Jobs* magazine as one of its “Military Friendly Schools” for 2010. The Holm Center for Officer Accessions and Citizen Development at Maxwell AFB, Ala., already lists Angelo State as No. 7 on its AFROTC “Enlisted Friendly” schools that work with ROTC students to complete their bachelor’s degrees. The new *G.I. Jobs* recognition will extend our reputation even farther among active military personnel and veterans. As colleges and universities brace for a campus influx of veterans who bring with them enhanced G.I. Bill benefits to pay for college expenses, these recognitions will position ASU well in that growing market segment.

While these tributes are important, the greatest measure of ASU’s success rests with the careers of its graduates. Thus, it is fitting that this issue also honors Mickey and Renee Long, both Class of ’76. They have been active members of their community and have supported ASU in so many ways, from athletics to academics. Mickey’s January appointment to the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents makes him the first ASU alum to serve on the board since Angelo State joined the system. Renee and Mickey are great ambassadors for ASU and the Texas Tech system. They and the other members of the ASU family who are profiled in this magazine for the recognition they will receive during Homecoming are testament to the vitality of this university.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and safe fall season.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Rallo, President



Joseph C. Rallo



## Angelo State University Magazine

Fall 2009

Vol. 2, No. 3

### Angelo State University

Member, Texas Tech University System

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#### Angelo State University Magazine

The Angelo State University Magazine  
is published three times a year by the ASU  
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**On the cover:** With landscaping completed for Centennial Village, the new residence hall is drawing attention on the west side of campus just as ASU is getting some national notice, thanks to recognition in three major publications this summer. (Photo by Danny Meyer)

**Back Cover:** Sophomore Aisha Adams earned national acclaim for Angelo State by claiming the NCAA Division II National Championship in the heptathlon and then appearing in *Sports Illustrated’s* “Faces in the Crowd” section this summer. (Photo by Danny Meyer)







Jason Penry

# Big Dreams for ASU

## Sold on the university's mission,

Dr. Jason C. Penry joined the administration in July as Angelo State University's new executive director of development. In the coming years as ASU's chief fundraising officer, Penry will be selling others on the university as well.

"I have a great appreciation for higher education and for the impact it has on lives," Penry said. "Higher education has greatly influenced my life and the lives of many of my family members. Higher education is something I truly believe in. Coming from a regional institution for my undergraduate degree, I see the value of a campus of this size and scope, and I believe in the mission so much more because it is student-focused, student-based."

In making the appointment, ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said Penry will oversee the university's advancement program, including the annual fund, donor cultivation, major gifts and foundation support. Penry

will also coordinate development activities in line with the broader fundraising goals of the Texas Tech University System, including a major capital campaign.

"Dr. Penry's solid fundraising experience plus his youth and enthusiasm will serve the university well," Rallo said.

Penry said, "I am excited about Dr. Rallo's and the Texas Tech University System's vision for Angelo State. Without a doubt, we are moving toward big goals and big dreams and it is something I want to be a part of."

On top of that, the appointment meant a return to Texas for him and his wife, Erin, who grew up in Monahans. He comes to ASU after two-plus years as executive director of the Oklahoma State University POSSE, the fundraising arm of athletics. In that capacity he managed an 11-member staff and a \$3.95 million budget. During his tenure, the organization raised \$26 million in annual fund revenues.

Prior to serving OSU, he worked three years with the 12<sup>th</sup> Man Foundation at Texas A&M University. Most of his time with the foundation was as development officer for major gifts. In that capacity he assisted in the successful completion of a \$50 million capital campaign for A&M athletics.

The Houston-area native holds his Ph.D. in higher education administration from Texas A&M. He earned a Master of Science in sport management from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Penry received his Bachelor of Arts in secondary education from LSU-Shreveport, where he was a member of the intercollegiate baseball team and student body president for the 2000-01 academic year. ■

# 'The Streak'

by Tom Nurre

## Secondary teacher certification

students in the ASU Mathematics Department are riding a 12-year winning streak.

Since 1998, 100 percent of the ASU students who have completed the program and taken the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) teacher certification test for secondary mathematics have passed on their first attempt. A passing grade on the TExES is required to teach in Texas public schools. Not only is the ASU pass rate much higher than the state average of about 65 percent, its average individual student test scores of 270 out of 300 are well above the state average of about 226.

"It is validation of what we know our program is doing," said Dr. Paul Swets, head of the Mathematics Department. "It is one thing to say we have a strong program, but it is another thing to have this kind of data that shows it is strong. It's not just my opinion, so that is really nice."

The foundation of the streak can be found in the capstone course MATH 4322 Survey of Mathematics that was formulated by then-department head Dr. Johnny Bailey and mathematics senior instructor Ellen Moreland in 1997 in response to ASU's 65 percent pass rate on the old Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas (ExCET). Students take the class during the fall semester that precedes their spring certification exam.

"It is basically a survey of everything they have ever learned in math," Moreland said. "It is putting it all together and making connections in places they didn't make connections before. You name it and it's in there. Everything they have learned is fair game."

The course covers everything from pre-calculus, trigonometry and geometry to

calculus, abstract algebra, number theory, statistics and probability. It also includes evening meetings and end-of-semester reviews with several mathematics faculty. Flexibility in the curriculum is also a key as the course must continually evolve to keep up with changes in the TExES format.

"The capstone course was extremely effective in preparing our class for the TExES exam," said Ashlee Noland, who passed the exam in January. "The course was somewhat labor intensive, but it was well worth it. It was very rewarding to go back to the basics of math and see how much we have developed during our time at ASU. Besides preparing us for the exam, the class also helped us get into the 'teacher' mindset and take a different approach to math."

In addition to the 12-year streak on the secondary certification test, the Mathematics Department also boasts a six-year 100 percent pass rate on the middle school exam. That streak is only six years old because the test has only been offered for six years.

"When the state announced that the middle school certification was going to be available, we used our secondary program as a model to help set up a middle school program," Swets said. "We have never had a student not pass the middle school exam."

The middle school certification capstone course is taught by mathematics senior instructor Cathy Talley. However, while the two capstone courses have played a major role in both streaks, they are not the only factors.

"We have a very strong curriculum for our students," Swets said. "They have to work really hard to earn a mathematics degree. We are constantly looking at where their weak points might be, on the TExES



Paul Swets

and in the classroom, and then fiddling with our curriculum. It is a group effort among all the faculty that teach those classes."

The streak has also spawned a couple of traditions. Swets gives the students a pep talk every spring right before they take the TExES and Moreland meets them right after the test for lunch.

"I tell them that we are 100 percent and not to be the ones that blow it," Swets joked. "It is all in good fun, but I know that nobody wants to be the one that breaks the streak."

"When they walk out of there," Moreland said, "I have never had one of them think that they did not pass. They know they did well." ■



# Dark Days, Memories

by Jayna Phinney

**Some memories may fade** over time, but for two Holocaust survivors, the horrors of what they lived through seven decades ago are still vivid enough to enthrall an Angelo State University audience with their recollections.

The Polish-born survivors, Walter Feiger and Wanda Wolosky, shared their personal experiences with a hushed crowd of more than 500 during Holocaust remembrance events on campus this spring.

"I've made it my responsibility to educate people about it," Feiger said. "History's very easily forgotten. Genocide is still going on. No country is immune to it."

Both speakers today reside in Tucson and traveled to San Angelo with Gail Wallen, Ph.D., director of Holocaust services for the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Southern Arizona. The Angelo State Multicultural Center helped sponsor the event.

Wolosky said requests to speak about her experiences usually come every March, April and May to mark the liberation of the

Jews at the end of World War II. She especially enjoys talking to children about her experiences because few know about the Holocaust. She finds that youngsters pay close attention to what she is saying because it is so far removed from their experiences.

Wolosky survived the Warsaw Ghetto, where Nazis crowded some 445,000 Jews into a 3-square-mile section of the Polish city in a virtual concentration camp. She risked execution to scavenge for food at night, just to survive.

"We had to bow our heads to Germans and give them the whole sidewalk," Wolosky said, adding that failure to do so could result in death.

She remembers at night in the Warsaw Ghetto that the sky was red because the ghetto was burning. The only people allowed out after the 7 p.m. curfew were those picking up the dead bodies.

Feiger spent three and a half years in the labor and concentration camps Gross-Rosen and Mauthausen. He was 15 when

he was sent to a labor camp and is the only survivor from his family. His older brother died of typhus just six weeks before liberation.

Having his brother with him gave Feiger strength to keep working. Feiger spoke German, which helped him obey German orders to avoid some of the abuses that others endured.

"They kept us busy, they kept us hungry and they beat us," Feiger said.

The starvation had a lasting effect on Feiger, who now volunteers at a food bank because he doesn't like the idea of anyone going hungry.

"No one should have to experience that," Feiger said. "I used to fantasize about having a loaf of bread to myself, and today I can have pie, so I'm doing really good."

Hunger drove prisoners to desperate acts. His barracks, despite the squalor, had no problems with cockroaches, he said, because the prisoners ate them when they found them.

It was easy to spot the people at the camps who had given up and were close to death because they were the ones who stopped washing up after working all day, Feiger said.

Wallen, who gave a Holocaust overview as part of the presentation, said the Nazis operated with the idea that if they could destroy people's spirit, they could destroy the body. As the victims of the Holocaust are dying off, Wallen said their stories should be shared so people of subsequent generations will not forget.

Both Wolosky and Feiger said their Holocaust memories never go away, but that they do not dwell on their recollections. Wolosky, who only began talking about her experiences four years ago, said you have to take those memories and "put them on a shelf" to be able to go on with your life.

"I'm alive," Feiger said. "I have a lot to be grateful for. I have a great appreciation for my freedom." ■



Wanda Wolosky and Walter Feiger

Photo by Danny Meyer



Christopher Dobson

## Unfolding Answers

by Tom Nurre

**Sometimes the lab** experiments that go awry lead to the biggest breakthroughs.

Such was the case for Dr. Christopher Dobson's research team at England's prestigious Cambridge University, where investigation into an unrelated disease spawned important discoveries about some of the world's most debilitating neurodegenerative ailments.

"It gradually led us to realize that a whole set of diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, the so-called Mad Cow disease and adult-onset diabetes, all arise from the same fundamental cause, which is that proteins mis-fold," Dobson said. "They don't reach their functional state and are not just non-functional, they actually become toxic."

As the John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Chemical and Structural Biology at Cambridge, Dobson leads a team exploring why the body's proteins mis-fold and seeking possible treatments for the resulting diseases. He detailed their findings this spring at the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual West Texas Medical Asso-

ciates (WTMA) Distinguished Lectureship in Science Honoring Dr. Roy E. Moon.

According to Dobson, about 100,000 different types of proteins make up the human body. Each is formed by stringing together amino acids in long, complex chains. To become functional, each protein string must fold itself in a particular way. When it fails, the mis-folding leads to several neurodegenerative diseases.

Dobson's team has also discovered a direct link between mis-folding and our longevity.

"I sometimes call them post-evolutionary diseases because they are associated with living longer than evolution expected us to," Dobson said. "Eating the types and quantities of food we do and not taking any exercise are also things that are not part of the normal biological process. I think we are seeing the effects with small changes in the balance of processes in the body, which ends up losing control of parts of our fundamental biology, which, in turn, gives rise to these diseases."

Finding ways to keep our bodily systems working properly as we age is now at the forefront of Dobson's research. As diseases like Alzheimers, Parkinson's and adult-onset diabetes become more common, they are also generating more interest from other scientists and drug manufacturers.

"There are now a lot of scientists actively involved in researching and investigating these diseases," Dobson said. "There are also pharmaceutical companies interested in generating potential therapies ... because there is now money to be made in this. People may very well have to take drugs for prolonged periods of time to combat these 'aging' diseases and that is a strong motivation for the drug companies."

"I think it is going to be a process of gradual improvement," he added. "But, from what I know of companies around the world, there are drugs going into clinical trials that, to me, look as if they are likely to be successful."

Dobson said he accepted the WTMA lectureship at ASU because it allowed him to impart his enthusiasm for science to the students on a personal level.

"If I can play a small part in getting students excited about science and maybe motivate them to think about it as a career, then I think that is a worthwhile activity," Dobson said. "It is fun to do science and it is a tremendous benefit to mankind, when you look at what science has done and still needs to do to solve the great problems of the world, like poverty, global warming and energy shortages. It is a great voyage of discovery." ■



## Major NSF Grant

Dr. Connie Russell of the biology faculty has received a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant of almost \$1 million to increase by 20 percent the number of ASU science, technology, engineering and mathematics majors and graduates, particularly in underrepresented populations.

Her project "Angelo Science Partnership for Undergraduate Recruitment, Retention and Success," or Angelo SPURRS, is being funded through the Texas Engineering Experiment Station. The first installment is a three-year award of \$581,474. Pending a successful third-year review, Russell will receive an additional \$417,820 for years four and five of the project, for a total award of \$999,294.

The ASU project was one of only 22 chosen from 186 applications to the NSF's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program.

Under Russell's guidance, the project director will be Dr. Kit Price Blount, a research scientist in ASU's College of Graduate Studies. An associate professor of biology, Russell is president of the Society for College Science Teachers.

## English Language Institute

ASU's Center for International Studies opened a new English Language Learners Institute (ELLI) with classes this past summer to benefit international students and members of the public wanting to improve

their English language skills.

ELLI is a non-credit program to assist non-native English speakers who want to hone their command of English for academic and professional purposes. The majority of the classes are designed for those who have an interest in studying at U.S. colleges and universities. However, people who would like a short-term American study experience to improve their English are also encouraged to attend the institute.

The program coordinator is Carole Simpson, who came to ASU after 25 years of training teachers and designing English programs in a variety of countries, including United Arab Emirates, the former Yugoslavia, Brunei, China, Malaysia, Morocco and England.

## Nursing Grants

The Department of Nursing has received two federal grants to enhance nursing education opportunities.

A \$46,425 grant from the U.S. Department of Health – Health Resources and Services Administration will be used to continue the department's Nursing Faculty Loan Program, which awards low-interest loans to selected ASU graduate students to pay for tuition, fees, books and supplies as they work towards master's degrees in nursing with a nurse educator focus.

The ASU Nursing Department has been funded by the NFLP since 2003 and this year's grant total is the largest ever awarded to ASU. Since ASU's

nurse educator master's program is offered totally online, it also has statewide and national appeal since the NFLP will also pay out-of-state tuition.

A second grant of \$21,952 from the Health Resources and Services Administration will help fund the department's Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship program for the 2009-10 school year. This year's grant will be utilized to provide traineeships to graduate students enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing program with the options of medical/surgical clinical nurse specialist or nurse educator. The students can use the traineeships to help pay for tuition, books and other fees.

## Strand of Six Pearls

ASU's Pearl of the Concho Writing Project received a \$46,000 continuation grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the National Writing Project, aimed at providing continuing education and training for area teachers to improve the writing skills of the region's elementary and secondary school students.

Dr. Marilyn Eisenwine, associate professor of teacher education, received the grant which funded ASU's Summer Writing Institute for the sixth straight year.

The Pearl of the Concho Writing Project is a non-profit organization funded by the Department of Education through the ASU Department of Teacher Education and

is an authorized provider of professional development in accordance with the No Child Left Behind law.

## Fish Tale

ASU Bass Club members Austin Adcock of Leander and Josh Seale of Breckenridge landed five bass, totaling 15 lbs., 12 oz., to win the third place and a \$4,000 prize last May in the National Guard FLW College Fishing Texas Division Tournament on Lake Amistad near Del Rio.

Adcock and Seale placed fifth in an earlier National Guard-sponsored tournament to qualify for the Texas Regional Championship in November at the Grand Ecore Recreation Area in Natchitoches, La.

Full-time students enrolled in four-year colleges or universities are eligible to participate in the FLW College Fishing series, which is organized into five geographical divisions. Schools can send two-person teams to each of four qualifying events in their division.

## Test Tube Wonders

ASU's student affiliates chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) has received a "Commendable" designation from the national ACS for the third consecutive year.

The chapter was recognized for its participation in chemistry outreach activities, attendance at national meetings, and fundraising and social events. The ASU chapter boasts about 35 members and is advised by Kevin Boudreaux, senior chemistry instructor.

## Worldly Chapter

ASU has been approved to charter a new chapter of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars to recognize the scholarly achievement of international students and academics who have studied abroad and to broaden the appeal of international programming in general.

The new organization will be named the Eta Eta chapter of Phi Beta Delta and is slated to conduct its first induction ceremony this fall. The honor society is open to everyone on campus, not just students. Phi Beta Delta was founded in 1986 with 38 chartered chapters. It is the first honor society dedicated to recognizing scholarly achievement in international education and now has more than 170 chapters worldwide.

## On-Time Dividend

Beginning this fall, entering ASU freshmen who fulfill requirements for their bachelor's degrees and graduate in four years will stand to receive \$1,500 in cash as part of the university's new "Graduation Incentive Program."

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo announced the program in April. When combined with a similar \$1,000 incentive from the State of Texas, successful students could graduate with their diploma and \$2,500 cash.

"It's not like winning the lottery," said Rallo, "but for a new graduate the incentive monies can provide some financial comfort until they can



**Honorary Doctorates** – Jean Ann and Dr. Robert LeGrand acknowledge the crowd at May commencement after the San Angelo couple received Doctors of Humane Letters for their long-time philanthropic support of Angelo State University. Their contributions over the years have provided both academic and athletic scholarships as well as new and upgraded ASU facilities.

get settled in their careers or take the next step in higher education by pursuing a graduate degree. Additionally, graduating on time will allow parents or students to save a semester or more of tuition and fees."

Like the State of Texas, ASU has initiated the program to help improve retention rates and to encourage students to graduate in four years.

The Graduation Incentive Program is open to bona fide Texas residents. To be eligible, they must declare a major before registering, complete any required developmental courses mandated by their test scores or major and follow published catalog requirements for their major.

Additionally, they must meet each semester with their academic adviser and enroll in eight consecutive long semesters over a four-year period. Finally, they must maintain the grade point average for their major and file an application for graduation before the deadline.

Like the State of Texas, ASU has initiated the program to help improve retention rates and to encourage students to graduate in four years.

## Where's the Wool?

The Management, Instruction and Research (MIR) Center this summer conducted a Dorper Ram Performance Test, the first-ever U.S. test dedicated exclusively to the Dorper breed of sheep.

The test was conducted in conjunction with the annual ASU Meat Goat Performance Test and utilized the same principles to identify rams as potentially superior breeding sires.

Dorper sheep are more commonly known as "hair sheep" since they do not produce wool and are bred mainly for slaughter and consumption.

"We take them from their environment to a central location where we can remove feed differences, location and elevation differences based on where they were born, plus heat and environmental differences," said Dr. Mike Salisbury, associate professor of animal science and test director. "We put them all in the same health program and provide them nutrition where it meets all their body's needs for growth. That way, it allows us to remove all those environmental factors so that the true differences are genetic."

"Just like in goats or any other breed of sheep, the faster we can get them to grow, the more economical they are," Salisbury said. "But, we have to have a

way to try to measure that to see how fast we can get them there.”

In recent years, with both the availability of shearing crews and the price of wool in decline, some West Texas sheep ranchers are turning to the Dorper breed over the traditional Rambouillet, Suffolk and cross-breeds. ASU ag faculty have seen the potential for the Dorper breed and currently maintain a flock of about 30 at the MIR.

### Making Progress

The College of Education has met a pair of programmatic benchmarks in the process to receive accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the agency which provides national accreditation for teacher education.

ASU's Teacher Education Department's Early Childhood to Sixth Grade Certification Program has been awarded "nationally recognized" status by the Association for Childhood Education International. Also, ASU's Special Education Preparation Program attained "nationally recognized" status, with conditions, from the Council for Exceptional Children, which has asked the program to upgrade a handful of areas within 18 months.

The status reports are based on self-studies the ASU programs conduct to compare their standards against organizations' national standards. Upon reaching those standards, they receive the "nationally recognized" status.

Dr. John Miazga, dean of the College of Education, said the recognitions are preliminary steps in affirming accreditation from NCATE, which will send a visiting panel of volunteer peers to campus in April 2010 to evaluate those and other teacher preparation programs necessary to give ASU national accreditation.

Currently, ASU's education programs are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and by the State Board for Educator Certification/Texas Education Agency.

### Bio Wizards

Angelo State University's Epsilon Sigma chapter of the Beta Beta Beta (Tri-Beta) National Biology Honor Society was named the top chapter in the South Central Region/Texas District at the Tri-Beta Regional Convention in April.

More than 150 students and faculty from 13 Tri-Beta chapters in the region, including 26 representatives from ASU, attended the meeting that included contests for undergraduate research posters and oral presentations.

ASU's top winners were Jared Bird and Marie Tipps, who won first place in their research poster sessions, and Jason Strickland, who took first in his oral presentation competition. By winning first place in their respective sessions, Bird, Tipps and Strickland will receive expense-paid invitations to the 2010 Tri-Beta National Convention in Gunnison, Colo. ■

## angelostaters

### PEOPLE WHO MAKE ASU GREAT

#### Kyle Ratliff

Senior government major Kyle Ratliff, who aspires to attend law school after graduation, will have a nice addition to his résumé this fall after he completes a four-month internship at the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Seminole senior is becoming quite familiar with Washington, D.C., after spending the summer as an intern in the office of 23<sup>rd</sup> District Rep. Ciro Rodriguez of San Antonio.

The Supreme Court internship is much more exclusive than a Congressional appointment as generally no more than five interns are appointed for each internship session. As an intern, Ratliff will become familiar with the workings of the Supreme Court clerk's office and the Supreme Court Bar Association to which all attorneys who file cases before the high court must belong.

Ratliff will graduate in December after receiving credit for the internship and completing an independent research study course under Dr. Casey Jones of the Government Department. Ratliff ultimately hopes to practice international or corporate law.

#### Ellen Moreland, Arnoldo De León

Faculty members Ellen D. Moreland of mathematics and Dr. Arnoldo De León of history this past spring became the first ASU recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award and Distinguished Research Award, respectively, from the Texas Tech University System Chancellor's Council.

Moreland was recognized for her "demonstrably effective" classroom teaching in courses ranging from remedial mathematics up to the senior capstone course, which she designed for prospective high school math teachers. (See 'The Streak' on Page 5) Since she designed the capstone course more than a decade ago, 100 percent of the ASU students completing the high school mathematics certification program have passed the state certification exam on the first try. By contrast, the statewide average is approximately 65 percent.

De León, the C.J. "Red" Davidson Professor of History at ASU, was honored for his historical research, which has re-shaped contemporary understanding of Texas history, particularly as it relates to Mexican-Americans. He is the author of 15 critically acclaimed books and monographs as well as the editor of 11 more. His book *They Called Them Greasers: Anglo Attitudes toward Mexicans in Texas, 1821-1900* is a standard and considered by some scholars to be one of the top 10 books ever written on Texas history.

They, along with distinguished teaching award finalists Dr. Micheal W. Salisbury of the Agriculture Department and Dr. Russell Wilke of the Biology Department, were recognized during the spring general faculty meeting sponsored by the ASU Faculty Senate. All received plaques and monetary awards for their accomplishments.

#### Top Undergrads

Jason Layne Strickland received ASU's 2009 Presidential Award while five other undergraduates received Distinguished Student Awards from their respective colleges as the top graduates during May commencement.

The Distinguished Student Award recipients were: Scott Henrich of Mason, College of Business; Jessica Nichols of San Angelo, College of Education; Erin Marie Marks of Midland, College of Liberal and Fine Arts; Kali Gerber, a native of Hereford, College of Nursing and Allied Health; and Jennifer Kathleen Hendryx of Alpine, College of Sciences.

A biology major and chemistry minor, Strickland was nominated by the Department of Biology. During his undergraduate career, he received multiple scholarships and grants. His research efforts won first place for oral presentation at the 2009 Texas Academy of Science Conference.

#### Connie Russell

Dr. Connie Russell of the biology faculty, has assumed the role of president of the Society for College Science Teachers (SCST).

After serving the past two years as president-elect, Russell is now serving a two-year term as president. As the chief executive officer of the organization, she will preside over all meetings of the SCST and its Executive Board.

A 10-year member of the ASU biology faculty, Russell

has also been on the SCST Executive Board for a decade.

#### Top Grad Students

The College of Graduate Studies announced the top graduate students for 2009 during the college's annual awards banquet in April.

The honorees by major and college were: Gina Councilman of San Angelo, accounting, College of Business; Shannon L. Sturm of San Angelo, history, College of Liberal and Fine Arts; Audrey Brynn Rich of Colorado City, reading specialist, College of Education; Cynthia K. Voyce of San Angelo, nurse educator, College of Nursing and Allied Health; and Danyelle Nicole Lee of Houston, biology, College of Sciences.

#### Alexa Nichols, Jamie Mandujano

Two ASU Honors Students – Alexa Nichols of San Angelo and Jamie Mandujano of Coyanosa – served summer internships in Washington.

Nichols, a junior biology major, served a six-week internship in the office of U.S. Rep. Mike Conaway. Mandujano, a senior international business major, served a 10-week Washington Center internship with international trade consulting company Management Dynamics.

Expenses for both Nichols' and Mandujano's internships were offset by funding from the Alvin and Patricia New Honors Program Enhancement Fund, established last fall by former Town & Country Food Stores CEO Alvin New

and his wife Patricia, both ASU alumni.

#### Nancy Allen, Leslie Mayrand

Two ASU faculty members are among only 38 nationally selected to participate in the 2009 Air Force ROTC Distinguished Educators Tour. Dr. Nancy Allen, interim associate vice president for academic affairs, and Dr. Leslie Mayrand, dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health, joined other national recipients in June at Maxwell AFB, Ala., to observe and participate in a variety of Air Force activities.

The Distinguished Educators Tour shows educators viable Air Force career opportunities for their best students. Tour participants are selected for the all-expense paid trip from a nomination list compiled by the 24 Air Force recruiting squadrons located around the U.S. Emphasis is placed on finding educators with little or no military experience.

This is the third year since 2006 that at least one ASU faculty member has received the Air Force ROTC Distinguished Educator designation. Dr. Crosby Jones in 2006 and Dr. Andy Wallace in 2007 were previous honorees.

#### Janell Eyre

For the second straight year, ASU senior Janell Eyre has received a prestigious national Columbia Crew Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship from the Texas Space Grant Consortium (TSGC).

A math major from Kaufman, Eyre will receive \$1,000 from the consortium for the 2009-10 academic year. Only about 40 students nationwide receive the scholarships each year.

The scholarship program was established in memory of the seven Space Shuttle Columbia astronauts who were killed during shuttle re-entry in 2003. The scholarships aim to recognize high-quality undergraduate students and encourage them to go to graduate school in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, possibly leading to careers in space-related fields.

#### Logan Hancock, Kunal Bhatnagar

Two ASU physics students have received leadership awards and corresponding scholarships from the national office of the Society of Physics Students (SPS).

Logan Hancock, a senior from Brownfield, received a 2009 SPS Top Leadership Award, including a \$3,000 scholarship. Hancock is president of the Angelo State SPS chapter and is a member of the group's Peer Pressure Team that conducts annual spring road trips to give physics demonstrations at area public schools.

Kunal Bhatnagar, a junior from New Delhi, India, received a 2009 SPS Leadership Award, including a \$2,000 scholarship. He is active in the Angelo State SPS chapter and is a member of the Peer Pressure Team. ■



Angelo State University

# BEST of SHOWING



People across the nation are learning what those familiar with Angelo State University have long known – ASU is a great place to earn a degree and to work.

Over a seven-week period from early July to mid August, three national publications gave ASU high praise in their respective editions. *Princeton Review* included Angelo State in its “Best 371 Colleges” for 2010. The *Chronicle of Higher Education* awarded ASU high marks as one of its 2009 “Great Colleges to Work For” and *G.I. Jobs* magazine saluted ASU as a “Military Friendly” campus for 2010.

“These types of recognition are important,” said ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, “because they provide external validation of our university by an impartial publication. This recognition comes not from buying ads, but rather by providing detailed information on the university so that these publications can judge for themselves.

“Their selection of ASU for recognition provides legitimacy to the messages we are conveying to prospective students,” Rallo said. “In the case of the *Chronicle*, the designation of ASU as a great employer will help us with our national faculty recruiting efforts. In the coming months these designations will be featured prominently on our major publications and our Web site.”

Chancellor Kent Hance of the Texas Tech University System, ASU’s governing body, said “We have always known what a great university Angelo State is and this makes us proud that we are now being recognized on a national basis.”

When Rallo became ASU president in June of 2007, one of his first instructions to the Office of Communications and Marketing (C&M) was to identify some “distinctives” that could be used to promote Angelo State. That charge, along with the strategic decision in the summer of 2008 on how the university would handle the dozens of surveys it receives each year from various publications, culminated this past summer with the multiple recognitions.

Until the fall of 2008, all external surveys were handled by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (IRE). While some data requests were mandatory from accrediting, federal and state offices such as the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, other surveys came from a variety of publications, which used the information in various rankings and college guides, the most widely recognized being the annual college guide from *U.S. News and World Report*. IRE responded to those on a time-permitting basis.

As the newly named vice president for strategy, planning and policy in the summer of 2008, Dr. James M. Limbaugh approached Preston Lewis, ASU’s director of communications and marketing, about the C&M office splitting up the reporting duties with institutional research. Although IRE would still provide the base data for all reports, C&M would become the contact and responding office for those originating with various publications or with marketing potential for the university. Meanwhile, IRE would continue to provide requested data for state, federal and accrediting agencies.

“Our goal was to better evaluate and capitalize upon the marketing opportunities that these surveys offered Angelo State,” said Limbaugh. “The results have certainly justified our joint decision.”

After the new responsibilities were defined, C&M staff began to contact various publications, gathering information on differing criteria they used to rate universities, and to determine possible “distinctives” or designations ASU might be able to secure. The possibilities were limitless, ranging from a “Tree Campus USA” recognition for colleges that excel in planting and caring for trees to various “green” designations for campuses with strong conservation/environmental programs to – don’t laugh – universities with the best bathrooms.

No kidding, the higher education marketing firm TargetX earlier this year started its TargetXBowl to identify classy college water closets. At first flush, it might sound silly, but TargetX officials make the point that a great impression made in the admissions office can be quickly undermined by a lavatory that is outdated or poorly maintained.

After reviewing more upstanding possibilities for recognition from various publications, including *U.S. News*, *Peterson’s Guide* and *The College Guide*, among others, C&M focused on *Princeton Review* with an emphasis on securing a “Best Regional University” designation in its 2010 edition. In addition to completing the *Princeton Review’s* annual survey questionnaire, which printed out at 79 pages, the office reallocated \$4,500 in branding and marketing monies for an enhanced university profile on both the *Princeton Review* Web site and in its annual publication. The office then completed a separate best regional university questionnaire and agreed to allow *Princeton Review* to survey undergraduate students. Student comments are a major component in the *Princeton Review* selection process, another reason C&M focused on this guide.

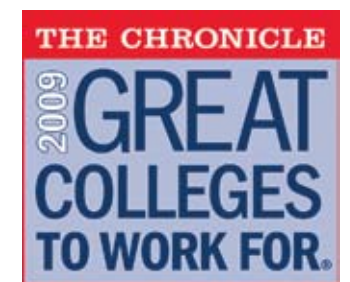
To encourage undergraduates to participate in the survey, then Student Government Association President Seth Chomout promised to “paper” Dr. Rallo’s home if 75 percent of the students responded. As *Princeton Review* does not release the number of responses, Chomout was off the hook for ful-

filling his promise, which nonetheless helped provide adequate returns for consideration.

“We brought a different eye to this process,” C&M director Lewis said. “Instead of just seeing the surveys as another set of questionnaires to be filled, we looked for ways we could market the university with those answers. One of the reasons that we focused on *Princeton Review* is that they are amenable to explanations as opposed to merely accepting numbers.”

For instance, Lewis pointed to student retention as a perfect example. While the university is working to improve its retention rate of 56 percent, a mitigating factor is the high percentage of first generation students who enroll at ASU. In recent years, more than half of each entering fall class has been made up of first generation students who begin higher education without the college support system of other students whose parents have gone to college. Many college surveys do not account for such mitigating circumstances.

“Something that should be stressed,” Lewis said, “is that while communications and marketing may have made certain *Princeton Review* received the complete story, this recognition would not have been possible without the hard work of students, alumni, faculty and staff, who have shaped





ASU's reputation for excellence over the years. All of them share in this honor."

Angelo State joined a prestigious list of Texas universities to make the list. Other honorees were Baylor, Rice, SMU, Southwestern University, Texas A&M, TCU, Trinity University, University of Dallas and University of Texas at Austin.

In addition to the more than two dozen surveys handled by C&M during the 2008-09 academic year, the Office of Human Resources responded to a questionnaire by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and coordinated that publication's request for a survey of faculty and staff. The July 10 issue of the *Chronicle* recognized ASU as one of the year's best college employers.

President Rallo said, "Angelo State has long been recognized locally as a fine employer, winning the *San Angelo Standard-Times* Readers' Choice Award for best place to work for the last three years. It is gratifying to know that our work environment is now receiving national recognition, which is a testament to the many dedicated ASU faculty and staff who have made a career commitment to our students and their success."

TTUS Chancellor Hance said, "This is a well deserved honor for the university and we are proud of them. It shows that Angelo State is not only a great place to go to college, it's also a great place to go to work."

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* is the primary national source for job listings in higher education, and each issue is read by up to a half-million people in the profession. Jesse Gomez, ASU's director of human resources, said the *Chronicle* exposure comes at a critical time as the university looks to fill two vice presidential vacancies and to increase overall campus diversity.

"I believe one of our weaknesses in employee recruitment," Gomez said, "is simply that ASU is not well known. It's hard to get attention when no one is looking. With the 'great college to work for' designation, I think this will draw attention to ASU as well as pique the interests of prospective applicants as to what makes us great."

ASU was one of 150 institutions of higher education so recognized nationally by the *Chronicle*, which surveyed faculty and administrators on job satisfaction in 26 cat-

# Mission Specific

The eight-month process that ended in April with a new mission statement for Angelo State University produced a critical document for a changing environment in how higher education is evaluated and how universities are accredited.

"Our mission statement," said Dr. James M. Limbaugh, "is a fundamental statement about why we exist and what we do."

Limbaugh, ASU's vice president for strategy, planning and policy, led the campus-wide effort, involving faculty, staff, students and alumni, to produce a 53-word mission statement concise enough to fit on the back of new ASU business cards. Its cumbersome 675-word ASU predecessor would barely fit on a standard piece of stationery.

The new mission statement received approval from the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents on March 6 and from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board on April 30. With its formal adoption, the mission statement becomes a critical element in the university's accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or SACS.

"SACS wants to make sure everything we do supports our mission," Limbaugh said. "Now everything is predicated on our mission and what we do to support our students and their needs."

In essence, SACS has elevated outcomes over the processes that previously validated accreditation.

This is the direction of higher education as greater transparency and ac-

countability are being demanded by various constituencies nationwide and by the federal government, Limbaugh said.

The mission statement is one third of the strategic triad all universities are now establishing. The second component is a statement of values while the third element is a vision statement.

"A statement of values represents the principles that guide us," Limbaugh said. "These are the principles that we hold inviolate as educators."

ASU developed its value statements as it wrote its mission.

"The vision statement represents our aspirations and where we see ourselves going as an institution," Limbaugh said. "Our vision articulates both what we hope to do and to be in the future."

As the vision for ASU must be interwoven with the university's academic master plan, its development was delayed, pending the completion of the document this year. Limbaugh will be in a critical position

to oversee completion of the academic master plan after he accepted an interim, one-year appointment as provost and vice president for academic and student affairs following the decision by previous provost Don Coers to return to teaching at the conclusion of the spring semester.

The academic master plan will help chart the university's future as it identifies programs and opportunities that ASU can develop and enhance both to distinguish the university from its competitors and to develop areas of recognized expertise in the state and in the nation. The results will help shape how ASU grows academically and utilizes its resources to address priorities in the future.

"These are exciting times for Angelo State as we look to the future and embrace the change that will allow us to grow in enrollment and in reputation," Limbaugh said. ■

## ASU Mission Statement

Angelo State University, a member of the Texas Tech University System, delivers undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional disciplines. In a learning-centered environment distinguished by its integration of teaching, research, creative endeavor, service, and co-curricular experiences, ASU prepares students to be responsible citizens and to have productive careers.

## ASU Value Statements

### Learning: Our Focus

ASU holds student learning as the center of everything that we do.

### Excellence: Our Standard

ASU embraces excellence in teaching, scholarly activity, creative endeavor, and service.

### Transformation: Change for the Better

ASU prepares its students for a life of contribution and accomplishment by instilling a respect for learning and intellectual inquiry.

### Integrity: Social and Ethical Responsibility

ASU expects a high standard of social and ethical responsibility from all members of the campus community.

### Engagement: Participation and Community Service

ASU encourages participation and community service both on and off campus by faculty, staff, and students.

### Innovation: Teaching, Service, and Scholarship

ASU promotes innovation in teaching, scholarship, technology, collaborative partnerships, support services, and co-curricular activities.

### Diversity: Cultures, People and Ideas

ASU believes that everyone should experience a diversity of cultures, people and ideas in order to better appreciate the world around them.

### Collegiality: Getting Along

ASU fosters – among students, faculty, and staff, and across disciplines – a culture of shared governance, open communication, transparent operations, and mutual respect.



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# Mourning Newspaper

by Roy Ivey

While today's *Standard-Times* may still carry San Angelo as its first name, the newspaper's battle to remain a viable hometown publication means its stories are sent to Corpus Christi for final editing and page production and then relayed to Abilene for printing.

The same electronic communication which makes possible that 828-mile production triangle to deliver hometown papers to the front yards of San Angelo residents contributed to its necessity. Over the last decade, the 24/7 electronic world of the Internet, in concert with the more recent recessionary economy, has cut into the paper's circulation and print advertising as well as changed the reading habits and expectations of a new generation of Americans, whose hands are more accustomed to holding an iPod or a Blackberry than a daily newspaper.

Challenges faced by the *Standard-Times* mirror issues being addressed by newspapers nationally. What makes the *Standard-*

*Times* situation special is that no newspaper and possibly no organization or company has had so close a relationship with Angelo State over the course of the university's 81-year history. The *Standard-Times* backed efforts to start a local college in San Angelo after the city's unsuccessful effort to secure Texas Technological College. The newspaper supported the expansion to a four-year college 40 years later and then the transition to a university. When some alumni and local residents initiated a move for ASU to become part of the Texas Tech University System in 2007, the *Standard-Times* endorsed the idea early on. ASU's Houston Harte University Center is even named for the late publisher of the paper.

"I know that Houston Harte had a huge impact on the university," said *Standard-Times* Publisher/President Becky Brackin, Class of '85, "and obviously there is a university center named after him. That speaks to a longstanding and pretty close relationship."

Countless SAC and ASU journalism and communication students have interned or worked after graduation at the *Standard-Times*. Even today, the *Standard-Times* prints the *Ram Page* for the university, even though the weekly paper is now trucked from Abilene rather than from its downtown San Angelo offices. Beyond that, the *Standard-Times* has been the window through which many people, both regionally and beyond, have viewed the university, either in news accounts of Angelo State events or through sports stories tracking the Rams and Rambelles.

What remains as the great irony in the dilemma of the *Standard-Times* is that the World Wide Web, which makes it simple to read up on San Angelo and ASU from nearly any place on the globe, is the very instrument that is challenging the newspaper industry.

"Journalism as we know it is changing," said Dr. Cathy Johnson, *Ram Page* adviser and associate professor of journalism at ASU. "It has changed more in the past year than perhaps at any other time in history. I hope we don't evolve into a Twitter society where that is the only level of information we crave. Historically, younger people didn't read the newspaper until they were more established in their careers. Now, I wonder if in-depth information even matters to young people."

That shift in where and how more people are getting information – especially when combined with a weak economy, stiff competition from other advertising sources and the rise of free Internet content purveyors, who many times purloin their reports from, you guessed it, online newspaper sources – presents practical problems for Brackin and Editor Tim Archuleta.

"Many companies are responding with drastic cuts," Brackin said. "One of the quickest ways to see expense cuts is on the personnel side because, obviously, that's where a lot of your expense is. Unfortunately, cutting expenses is one of the first places we've had to look."

From the time Archuleta became editor in 2003 until the present, he has watched the paper's newsroom staff shrink from more than 40 full-time positions to just 20, a decrease of seven coming just in the past year. Today's newspaper staff totals the equivalent of 87 full-time employees, compared to 140 a year ago. Most of the drop has come from attrition – not replacing people as they

leave – and through consolidation of operations with other newspapers. While the paper also uses many part-timers, Brackin said their numbers fluctuate.

To adapt to changing tastes and times, the *Standard-Times* has also reduced a circulation area that once was the size of Ohio and encompassed 53 counties extending south to Laredo, north to Lamesa, east to Lampasas and just short of El Paso on the west. Today, *Standard-Times* circulation extends to 18 counties, an area smaller than West Virginia. The news hole and even the size of the paper has shrunk. Some services were outsourced.

On Jan. 5, the *Standard-Times* ran its press for the final time, then transferred the printing operation to its sister paper, the *Abilene Reporter-News*. The news production desk, which provided copy editing and layout, moved soon afterward to a consolidated operation in Corpus Christi, which now provides those services for the Abilene and San Angelo papers as well as for the *Wichita Falls Record-News* and the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, all owned by the E.W. Scripps Co. of Cincinnati. Each move further reduced the *Standard-Times* payroll.

Despite their declining numbers, the *Standard-Times* management is committed to keeping the local news local with reports



Editor Tim Archuleta

Photo by Danny Meyer

from its own reporters and with contributions from citizen journalists. The tradition of local news remains deeply entrenched at the *Standard-Times*, going back to Houston Harte, who felt so strongly about his newspaper focusing on local news that in 1922 he coined the term "Afghanistanism," which alludes to filling the news hole with foreign stories. Harte believed that *Standard-Times* readers wanted to see stories about themselves and their neighbors rather than accounts of occurrences half a world away.



Publisher Becky Brackin

Photo by Danny Meyer



The *Standard-Times* never gave up completely on foreign and national news, which does appear daily in abbreviated form and touches major news events, including the wars in Iraq and, yes, even Afghanistan.

But local news is job No. 1 at the *Standard-Times*, Archuleta said.

“We are focused on producing content,” he said. “With the production staff in Corpus Christi, we can concentrate more resources on reporting and less on mundane tasks.”

Archuleta said he considers the production employees in the Corpus Christi office as part of the *Standard-Times* staff, as they produce the pages for the newspaper’s readers.

“It makes economic sense for one operation to produce all the comics and other such pages for all four newspapers,” he said.

Some newspapers are outsourcing production and even some reporting to foreign countries. The *Orange County* (Calif.) *Register*, for example, announced in July 2008 that it was sending stories to India for editing. Just over 30 miles to the north, the *Pasadena Now* Web site has contracted with a company in India to cover Pasadena City Council meetings via the streaming Web.

While most American newspapers have avoided that extreme, they have cut back on coverage. The *Standard-Times* Sports Department no longer sends reporters to routine away games for many of its teams but trades coverage with the *Reporter-News* and other newspapers looking to whittle down their own expenses.

Even such once-bitter rivals as the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and the *Dallas Morning News* are now pooling resources and splitting coverage of many events, such as professional sports, that are of mutual interest to their readers.

Cost-saving reductions are vividly illustrated in areas of the *Standard-Times* building. Some desks sit empty. The press is quiet and could be sold to another newspaper or as scrap metal. Even renting some of the vacated space remains an option. The news hole – the total number of column inches available for news – has gradually decreased over the last decade. Besides that, the size of the newspaper has withered over the same period. On the first day of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the *Standard-Times* was 13½ inches wide and 22¾ inches deep. By May 12 of this year when the paper

underwent a redesign and its second size reduction in nine years, pages had shrunk to a width of 11½ inches and a depth of 22 inches. Many newspapers nationally had undergone the same reduction as cost savings.

Despite these size reductions, Brackin said *Standard-Times*’ retail and classified advertising, both critical to the newspaper’s long-term viability, remains strong, especially on the weekends. That fact reflects the newspaper’s value not just as a news medium but also as an advertising medium for the community.

The Audit Bureau of Circulations, a nonprofit association of advertisers, ad agencies and publishers, which provides media performance numbers, reported that as of March 31, the *Standard-Times* circulation stood at 26,856 on Sundays and at 23,533 on Mondays through Saturdays. Those totals approximated about half of the paper’s peak circulation during the 1960s and 1970s, when it covered almost a third of Texas and printed both morning and evening editions.

Brackin said the *Standard-Times*’ latest circulation figures still reflect a 60 percent penetration rate in San Angelo, defined as the percentage of homes receiving a newspaper, for the Sunday edition.

“That is a penetration rate most newspapers would die for,” she said, “and espe-

cially if you multiply that by the pass-along readership. Right now, the multiplier is about 2.1.”

That translates into more than 56,000 sets of eyes on the newspaper. Although the Internet has been a nemesis of newspapers across the country, the *Standard-Times* has been utilizing the competing medium as an ally to expand readership online. The *Standard-Times*’ Web site, *gosanangelo.com*, recorded 1,825,882 page views and 182,029 unique visitors in April.

The Audit Bureau of Circulations reported in April that paid weekday circulation over the past year among 530 surveyed newspapers had dropped from 42.6 million to 41.1 million, a 3.6 percent decrease. By contrast, an analysis released in April by the Nielsen polling company for the Newspaper Association of America showed that 73 million unique visitors logged on to newspaper Web sites, a 10 percent increase from the previous year.

“My gut tells me that our market is particularly attached to the print product and, in my opinion,” Brackin said, “the arrangement of the print edition is something people enjoy. Now they can see it online as well. I think the print edition will be around for a long time and the ‘e-dition’ may be the next best thing to that.”



Reporter Jennifer Rios

Photo by Danny Meyer

Even with all the challenges and staff reductions, the *Standard-Times* over the past 18 months has navigated the winds of change well enough to be named the 2009 “Newspaper of the Year” in its circulation category by the Associated Press in April.

Despite the online trend and the emergence of social-networking vehicles like Twitter, Johnson and Brackin both agree on the ongoing need for trained journalists in a democratic society. Brackin also said she believes journalism-based content delivery will remain a vibrant part of the news business, no matter how information reaches the consumer in the future.

Students who hope to have a career in the news business and their professors, including Johnson, are closely watching the ongoing metamorphosis and, in some cases, actually benefitting from it. In a way, the current situation has made it easier for them to get a foot in the door and actually write for the paper.

“The *Standard-Times* is more interested than ever in having part-timers and freelancers write stories,” she said. “Now the hardest thing for us is to keep them working on the *Ram Page* while they are here instead of going to work there.”

Johnson encourages her students to get as much experience as they can before they enter the job market.

“They can work on the *Ram Page* and then at the *Standard-Times* before trying to go to a bigger newspaper, for an additional internship,” she said. “They can’t graduate and expect only good grades to help them get a job. Those who get internships at the *Standard-Times* will get more clips working there than they would get perhaps anywhere else.”

*Standard-Times* Editor Archuleta said one or two students hone their writing skills at the newspaper each summer, thanks to the Scripps scholarships.

“They can work during their final two years of college and many of the interns take their first jobs at the *Standard-Times*,” he said. “Those students have a built-in advantage when they move to their next job.”

Johnson said, “The Scripps internship program is a big one for us. It is open to other schools, but it has been especially helpful in placing our students in internships.”

Jennifer Rios, a fall 2008 ASU graduate, took a reporting job at the *Standard-Times* after adding the Scripps Howard News Ser-

vice Semester in Washington internship to her résumé in the spring of 2008.

“They brought in five or six interns and let us write whatever we wanted,” Rios said. “I liked the cultural experience, working at the hub of government so close to the White House and Congress.”

Rios and other journalists her age are setting out on an uncharted course to the future with many possible career pitfalls and rewards often complicated by the pace of change in communications.

“We are in a very fluid time now,” Rios said. “Our ASU intern now at the *Standard-Times*, Lara Johnson, is having a different experience than even I had two years ago. We are shooting video and working on the Web and it’s instantaneous.”

In the past, newspapers fought a losing battle with television and radio over breaking news. The electronic media could immediately report on events while newspapers were delayed for hours by the production and delivery process.

A positive development in the complex relationship between newspapers and the Internet means “print” reporters can put a “flash” story on the newspaper’s Web site immediately and add details as they become available.

“As a breaking news reporter,” Rios said, “I love how I can build on my stories. I get the information, call it in and it progresses throughout the day. I can end up with a 15-20 inch story, but I have to be more careful about errors with everything happening so fast.”

Archuleta said that universities must keep up with the quickly evolving news business model to properly equip their students for careers in journalism.

“Universities, by nature, are creative and can adapt quickly, and journalism is still journalism,” he said. “Universities will still have to teach core elements of American journalism, such as fairness and libel laws. They will have to teach students to ask those in powerful positions the tough questions and to verify facts in stories.”

Archuleta said the newspaper business likely will still be operating at a reduced level in five years, but retooled and aimed at meeting readers’ needs. As for news delivery, he said it will be consumer-driven, just as the contraction of the newspaper industry has been.



Arnold Garcia Jr.

Photo courtesy of the Austin American-Statesman

“We will deliver information in whatever way the consumers want – print, online or through mobile devices,” Archuleta said. “And, we’ll produce niche products for whatever the market is passionate about.”

*Austin American-Statesman* Editorial Page Editor Arnold Garcia Jr. hopes regional newspapers like the *Standard-Times* and his own newspaper find ways to effectively continue delivering the news in the new environment.

“Particularly in an area like West Texas,” Garcia said, “the newspaper’s role in imparting information that people need, whether it’s the time of a funeral in an obituary or what’s going on at city hall, is important.”

Garcia, an ASU Alumni Association board member, was a government and history student at Angelo State when he took his first newspaper job at the *Standard-Times*.

“Through the years,” Garcia said, “whether it was (an ASU) journalism professor like Wayland Yates working slot on the weekends or students doing internships, the connection between ASU and the *Standard-Times* was always strong.”

“ASU and the *Standard-Times* still need one another,” he added, “not just as a source of talent for the *Standard-Times* but to keep people informed about what ASU is doing and to reinforce the importance of ASU to the region. It’s probably still true to this day that young people who don’t have financial alternatives wouldn’t get an education if it

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# one Life to Live

by Tom Nurre

On an unforgettable August day in 2004, Pam Darby's personal life collided with her professional life as an Angelo State University nursing educator.

Each day since, the line between Pam's personal and professional lives has blurred as she has devoted herself to caring for her husband, Dr. John Preston "Pres" Darby, who was diagnosed that fateful August with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a terminal ailment commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The loving wife assumed the role for which she was professionally prepared as the faithful caregiver. In the process, she vowed to set an example for other families with terminally ill members.

"My whole day is geared around Pres," Pam said.

"To be perfectly honest," responded Pres, "I would not be alive right now if it weren't for Pam, not only as a wife but as my nurse as well."

Living day-to-day contrasts sharply with how the couple had lived life to the fullest before the ALS diagnosis. There had been mission trips to Honduras and Guyana, scuba diving, rapelling, boating, working outdoors, jogging, flying and hiking. They had raised three children. Pam was teaching full-time at ASU and spearheading the annual ASU Nursing Symposium. Pres was a busy physician, former Air Force flight surgeon, runner and weightlifter. He had even spent several months in Afghanistan treating rebel mujahedeen fighters injured by Russian troops in 1985, then writing about the experience upon his return in a book titled *Tears for the Oppressed*.



Pres and Pam Darby

Those adventures, however, came before ALS.

"After the diagnosis, I thought that I would probably be dead in two or three years," Pres said. "As a physician, I knew that there was no treatment and it was just a matter of accepting the fact that, to me, life was pretty well over."

ALS is a degenerative disease that reduces a person's ability to control voluntary muscle movement, affecting all or parts of the body. The average survival time after diagnosis is only two to five years and only about 20 percent of patients live more than five years. Pres' condition has gradually deteriorated to the point that he is confined to a wheelchair and requires a feeding tube and breathing machine.

Faced with Pres' diagnosis, it would have been easy for Pam to throw in the towel on life. Instead, she has embraced her new role as caregiver and is even more energetic than before, albeit with very different activities that begin about 7 a.m. every day.

"I have to shave him, brush his teeth and give him his pills and daily tube feedings," Pam said. "I'm also constantly tweaking things to make sure he doesn't have any problems. An aide and my son assist with the heavier tasks and sit with him so I can run errands."

But, she cannot stray far or stay gone long, as she is the only person Pres will let

handle some of the more personal aspects of his care.

"Then, it takes me about a half hour to get him ready for bed," Pam said. "He has peripheral vascular disease, cannot move his legs and even if just a sheet touches his toes, they become painful. So, I have to get him situated just so."

Her other duties include cleaning the various breathing and feeding machines, transporting him with a Hoyer lift to the shower or bathroom, keeping in touch with his doctors and generally just making him as comfortable as possible. To Pam's credit, since he was diagnosed, Pres has never had any major complications of the disease.

"She has brought all of her nursing skills to taking care of me and I have lasted a whole lot longer than I ever expected," Pres said.

"But, there are down times," he added. "It gets to me sometimes, usually when I'm alone, the frustration of not being able to do anything. I was always such an independent cuss, sometimes to my detriment. Having to depend on someone to feed you, take you to the bathroom and everything else is degrading, but I have become accustomed to it much better than I would've thought."

Numerous movies have been made about what people do when faced with a terminal illness. But for Pres, there was no "bucket list."

"It sounds boastful, but there wasn't anything left that I really wanted to do," he said. "I had satisfied all my dreams."

Most of their activities immediately following the diagnosis were family-oriented, including getting their estates and wills in order and having a family portrait made. However, in spite of his rapidly progressing disease, Pres did make a farewell trip to Afghanistan in 2005.

"He was in bad shape," Pam said. "He had to take his breathing machine. He could barely carry his suitcases and walking was a problem. Afghanistan was still dangerous, but Pres wanted to see some old friends there one more time."

"It was an uplifting experience," Pres said. "Before, I was just one of the Afghans, but this time, I was treated like a king. In fact, I met the king, had a state dinner held for me by the vice president and talked with many Afghan intellectuals and businessmen. I also visited my old friend (mujahedeen leader) Ahmad Shah Massoud's shrine as well as clinics, hospitals and orphanages I helped establish."

As his condition continued to deteriorate after his return from Afghanistan, many trips followed to consult his doctor in San Antonio. There Pam learned that of the roughly 30,000 cases of ALS in the U.S., about 10 were in the Concho Valley, earning it the dubious "black hole" nickname given to areas with unusually large numbers of cases. Sensing the need for a local support group, Pam vowed to get one started.

"I was just so upset whenever I left San Antonio," Pam said. "I thought that if people feel the way I do, I just wanted to reach out to others in this community because I felt so alone and isolated. I also thought I could help other people with my nursing abilities because I feel like I have done a real good job with my husband and I wanted to pass on what I know and just be there for others."

But, she wasn't satisfied with just starting a group. As always, if she was in for a penny, she was in for a pound.

"Two years ago, my daughter, Sarah, went to an ALS organization meeting in Dallas and then wanted to participate in its activities," Pam said. "We wrote numerous

letters and raised \$8,000 for the Dallas ALS Walk, so it was really Sarah who inspired me. After that, I told the local ALS support group that I wanted to have a walk here."

She organized the first local ALS Walk in October 2008. It attracted more than 300 walkers and raised \$25,000 that went to the ALS Association Southwest Chapter. There will be another walk this October and Pam is trying to determine an option to keep the money in San Angelo.

Through her experiences with the support group and at home with Pres, Pam has dealt with everyone from physicians and patients to caregivers and patients' families. She has developed an idea of the best therapy for ALS sufferers, a theory that is shared by her husband.

"Visit them and give them hope," she said. "Bring a meal or a DVD. Share a book or a new joke. Show them you care and give hugs and love."

"Many ALS patients just give up," added Pres. "I know how they feel. It's a devastating, debilitating and depressing disease, seeming to seek out those who are healthy and fit. There are many times when I thought it was just not worth struggling. But I changed my mind due to the tender mercies of family and friends. They are my medicines."

With his daily activities limited to reading, listening to music and watching TV, Pres is fortunate that his family is never far away. Besides Pam's constant presence, their son, Hayne, is available to help with Pres' care. Their daughters, Mary, a pharmacy school student in Abilene, and Sarah, an animation programmer in Dallas, are regular visitors, as are Pres' older children, John and Cathy. Their house in southwest San Angelo also enjoys a constant stream of friends, well-wishers and even musicians who have come to perform.

Though caring for Pres, meeting with the support groups and her duties on the ASU nursing faculty already fill her schedule, Pam still finds a way to teach online ASU nursing classes fulltime from her home.

"I love interacting with the students and I miss seeing them face-to-face," Pam said. "But, now I connect with them on the computer."

She has also started her own business, organizing and conducting nursing symposia.

"I believe in continuing education and I have a real passion for this," Pam said. "I think nurses should attend these events regularly to keep current on medications and diseases."

Additionally, her goals for the immediate future include organizing international missions for ASU nursing students and honoring her husband with a John Preston Darby Symposium for physicians.

With only so many hours in a day, though, sometimes even Pam gets worn down. But, she stays upbeat.

"If I get enough rest, I'm okay because I stay pretty happy all the time," she said.

When times get rough, she draws strength from family, friends and her favorite quotation by ALS patient Kenneth Lillback, who said, "To maintain your quality of life, don't dwell on what is gone, but enjoy what you can still contribute today."

"I could take the easy way out and put Pres in a nursing home," Pam said, "but I'm proud of the way I take care of him and I think he looks damn good."

Faced with the inevitable outcome of Pres' illness, though, Pam admits to planning her own future when that day does come, while also hoping that it does not come any time soon."

"I am going to continue on with all the things Pres and I planned to do together," Pam said. "I want to work in clinics in Africa, Tibet, Honduras and, of course, in Pres' beloved Afghanistan."

"His thirst for adventure inspired me to do all this," she added. "This is his legacy to me." ■





# Homecoming Dinner

The ASU Alumni Association's Wells Fargo Homecoming Dinner, honoring 13 members of the extended ASU family, is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 9, during Homecoming festivities on campus.

Association honorees for 2009 are Mickey and Renee Long and Clayton Weishuhn as distinguished alumni; Dale Chase as honorary alumnus; Jeff Sefcik as Carr alumnus; Sarah Garcia as ROTC alumnus; Alan Bloebaum as outstanding retired faculty; LeRoy Olsak as golden ex; and Bonnie Amos, Harriet Lewis, Ed Olson, Kathleen Price and Norman Sunderman as distinguished faculty.

The dinner will begin at 6 p.m. in the C. J. Davidson Conference Center in the Houston Harte University Center. Tickets are available for \$30 per person. Table sponsorships for eight may be purchased for \$300. Patron sponsorships, including a reserved table with preferential seating for eight, are available for \$800.

Valet Parking will be provided by ASU Block and Bridle. Special dinner music will be offered by the ASU Jazz Band. Cash bar service will be available.

Information on tickets or reservations is available by calling the ASU Alumni Association at (325) 942-2122 or by visiting the association online at [asuexes.com](http://asuexes.com).

## Alumni Award Criteria

### Distinguished Alumnus

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

### Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumnus

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

### Distinguished ROTC Alumnus

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

### 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.

### Golden Ex of the Year

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

### Outstanding Retired Faculty

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

### Distinguished Faculty Achievement

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

## Distinguished Alumni A Love of Family

For **Mickey Long**, it was love at first sight.

Shortly after enrolling at Angelo State University, Mickey knew it was his college home. He loved the campus, the people and soon recognized the great opportunities within his reach. Shortly after classes began, he met and fell in love with a San Angelo native, **Renee Heckaman**.

"It was definitely love at first sight," Long said, "or at least it was for me."

If Renee had any reservations, she quickly lost them. For the last 33 years they have been partners in life and have created a strong family that they are very proud of today. Together they have become true philanthropists and support many causes close to their hearts, including Angelo State University.

Mickey was appointed to the Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System on Feb. 6. He is currently a member of the Audit Committee and serves as vice chair of the Board of Trustees of the Carr Scholarship Foundation.

"I love Texas Tech University and Angelo State University," he said. "Together

these two institutions are truly making a difference in the great State of Texas."

For their steadfast support of the ASU, Mickey and Renee Long, both Class of '76, have been named 2009 Distinguished Alumni by the Angelo State University Alumni Association.

Mickey is president of Westex/WLP Well Service, L.P., in Midland. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from ASU. He is a member of the Association of Energy Service Companies and the Texas Tech University Hall of Legacy. Before being named a member of the TTUS Board of Regents, Mickey was an active member of the Texas Tech University Foundation, Angelo State University Alumni Foundation and the Red Raider Club National Board of Directors.

Renee was born and raised in San Angelo. She received a Bachelor of Elementary Education from Angelo State and spent over 28 years in the classroom as an elementary educator. Renee, who is always planning a trip, is passionate about



Mickey and Renee Long

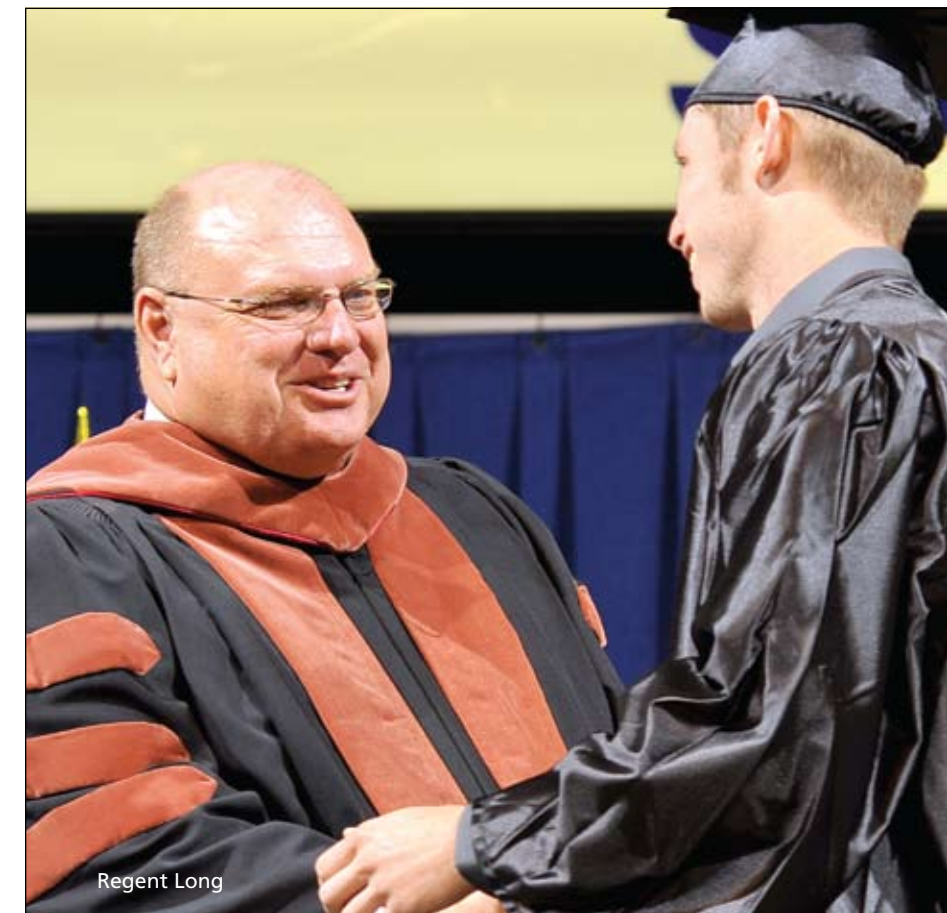
traveling, reading and bicycling. While she still enjoys teaching her children and granddaughter, Renee now spends her time with her friends and family.

Throughout the year Mickey and Renee enjoy many sporting and cultural events around the country. In addition, they are devoted members of Grace Lutheran Church of Midland.

They were married in 1976 and soon began their family. They have two wonderful daughters, Amy and Andrea. Both Amy and Andrea reside in Lubbock with their husbands, Brad King and Christopher Tirey. Mickey and Renee have one granddaughter, Katherine King.

Mickey and Renee enjoy each and every day and have taught their family to do the same. Whether it be at the beach, in the mountains or in West Texas, they always take time each day to be thankful for the many blessings that have been bestowed on them.

"Our main objective," said Mickey, "is to help the students. We understand the financial struggles and scholarship needs students face today. We want to help the university in any possible way so these young adults can get the same opportunities we received from an ASU education. We are truly honored to serve Angelo State University." ■



Regent Long



## Distinguished Alumnus **Homegrown Hero**



Clayton Weishuhn

**Clayton Weishuhn** graduated from Wall High School in 1978 with a lot of Division I football scholarship offers, but he stayed close to home with ASU.

"I made up my mind that this was where I wanted to go," Weishuhn said. "I enjoyed farming and ranching and my wife, Diane, who was my high school sweetheart, played a big part in my decision."

Diane was a student at ASU. His family's farm was nearby. And, Weishuhn knew the Rams had a good football program, so the choice was easy for him.

"I played for a great coaching staff in college with Jim Hess, Jerry Vandergriff and Mike Martin," he said. "It was just a blast."

ASU's football opponents found the much-honored linebacker's 1978-81 college career less enjoyable. Weishuhn played during a golden era for the Rams, who racked up a 39-8-1 record, including a perfect 14-0 season and a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national championship his freshman year. The Rams followed that with three-straight postseason appearances.

Weishuhn finished his playing career at ASU in 1981 as the Rams' all-time tackling leader with 523, a record which still stands today, and includes a single-season record of 173 tackles in 1981.

His on-field accomplishments and continuing support of ASU's athletic programs, including his current membership on the ASU Athletic Association Board of Directors, as well as his successful farming career earned him the 2009 Distinguished Alumnus award from the ASU Alumni Association.

Numerous postseason honors marked Weishuhn's days as a Ram, including consensus first team All-American his senior year, second team All-American his junior year and first team All-Lone Star Conference each of his final three years. In addition, he earned two J.V. Sikes Awards for outstanding lineman in the LSC.

Weishuhn's college play drew the attention of National Football League scouts and the New England Patriots made him the second pick in the third round of the 1982 draft. He played five seasons for the Patriots and one for the Green Bay Packers before knee injuries and the desire to return to farming convinced him to hang up his cleats.

"I was healthy my last year at Green Bay," he said, "but I decided it was time to head back to the farm. I am my own boss and get to be outside watching crops grow. I compare it to winning the national championship. You start with nothing and when you get a big crop, you get a big reward."

Weishuhn remains an avid fan of ASU and Wall High School athletics. He played his last game 22 years ago but still follows the Rams and Hawks as much as his farming chores will allow. He has carved out extra time the past four years to watch his daughter, Lauren, play basketball for the Rambelles. Clayton and Diane also have two other adult children, Brandi and Shannon.

Besides Clayton and Lauren, five other members of the Weishuhn family have played sports at ASU. Clayton's brothers, Darryl and Doyle, played football and Lauren's cousins, Chase and Paige, currently play basketball at ASU. Chase's and Paige's brother, Trey, played quarterback for the Rams through the 2006 season. For their contributions to ASU sports, the Weishuhn clan was honored as the ASU Athletic Family of the Year in 2006. ■

## Honorary Alumnus **No Place Like Home**

A career in the petroleum industry took **Dale Chase** all over the world, but he never forgot his hometown of San Angelo.

While he worked in such exotic locales as Alaska, Indonesia, Libya, India and Australia, Chase remained a true West Texan and, along with his late wife, Joy, continued to champion ASU, as he does today. For his wide and varied support of the university, Chase has been named the 2009 Honorary Alumnus by the ASU Alumni Association.

His many contributions include creation of the Dale and Joy Chase Scholarship, support of the Athletic Department and donations for the Dale and Joy Chase Courtyard at ASU's LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center.

"We thought the promotion of ASU would be something beneficial to the community," Chase said. "We both had a great interest in ASU and hoped the promotion would benefit everyone. I think it has turned

out that way to a great degree. We had a fun time with it."

Another thing the Chases always had fun with was art. They amassed a considerable collection of western art, much of it housed in the Museum of Western Art in Kerrville.

"We got real involved in art, mostly western art, as sort of a hobby," Chase said. "Through the museum in Kerrville, we got to know most of the real good artists. Pretty soon we had a herd of money in that stuff."

ASU's West Texas Collection boasts several pieces donated from the Chase's collection and the LeGrand Center is decorated with seven donated paintings and sculptures.

Chase served in the U.S. Navy Air Corps during WWII, then got his degree from the University of Texas. He now lives in San Antonio and also owns a ranch in Sterling County. His son, Chip, is an investment broker in Kerrville. ■



Dale Chase

## Carr Scholar Alumnus **Behind the Scenes**

While **Jeff Sefcik** has worked in relative anonymity for more than two decades, his continuing impact on the ASU campus touches every student, faculty and staff member.

A 25-year member of the Information Technology staff, Sefcik is director of process integration and senior technical architect. He oversees all the administrative computer systems, including the student system, finance, human resources and financial aid. Under his watchful eye, the campus community constantly utilizes those systems that many just take for granted. But, Sefcik doesn't mind.

"There are a lot of good people who work here," Sefcik said. "It's easy to come to work because you are going to end up laughing with somebody and really enjoying the people you work with. So, it's not hard to roll out of bed and come to work in the mornings."

A 1984 ASU graduate, Sefcik was one of the first Carr Scholarship recipients in 1981. Sefcik also received his M.B.A. from ASU

in 1992. For his many years of stellar performance, he has been named the 2009 Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumnus.

Additionally, Sefcik was co-leader of the three-year Portico project that transformed and updated all of ASU's administrative computer systems. At the end of that project, he received a 2006 Staff Excellence Award.

Sefcik served as president of the ASU Alumni Association from 1997-99. During his tenure, the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center project evolved.

His wife, Sherry, is an ASU alumna. They have three children, Jordan, Kristen and Joshua.

"ASU has defined me and I think I would bleed blue and gold if somebody cut me," Sefcik said. "It has been a big part of my life and I've got two kids coming here now. I feel very strongly about the school having attended as a student and working here as long as I have." ■



Jeff Sefcik



## Distinguished ROTC Alumnus **Leading to Success**



Sarah Garcia

**Col. Sarah L. Garcia** is drawn to leadership roles because they allow her to have a positive impact on people's lives and careers.

In her 25 years with the Air Force, Garcia has risen through the ranks and is now commander of the 6<sup>th</sup> Field Investigations Region at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. In recognition of her Air Force service and her many achievements, Garcia is the 2009 ASU Distinguished ROTC Alumnus.

Upon graduation from ASU in 1984, Garcia started as a second lieutenant in the Air Force. She said her ROTC experience at ASU helped her build character, hone her interpersonal skills and make her aware of humanitarian efforts.

"My senior year was the best because I was senior ranking and could help mold the younger cadets," Garcia said. "I've essentially done that my whole career, as others have helped me."

Garcia's military experience includes being a deployed commander in Southwest Asia for one year.

"Being a commander in the war zone area was very challenging, probably the most difficult yet most rewarding," Garcia said.

She also made an impact when she was put in charge of starting up a new international office at Headquarters NATO. She and another Air Force member were able to affect policy and the advancement of women in the NATO armed forces in several countries. That office is still operating in Brussels, Belgium.

Now, as a commander, one of Garcia's favorite things to do is visit airmen and talk to them. Having motivated and dedicated people is essential to being an effective leader, she said. In ROTC, she learned about the importance of teamwork and that is something she still stresses.

Garcia's parents and her extended family still live in San Angelo. ■

## Outstanding Retired Faculty **A Lasting Legacy**

For almost 40 years, **Dr. Alan Bloebaum** dedicated his professional life to helping ASU students achieve their dreams of going to medical school and now, even in retirement, he continues to support the university.

After spending time as a pre-dental student and two years in medical school, Bloebaum turned to teaching as a career and found an ASU opening that fitted his unique combination of talent and experience.

"They needed a jack of all trades, master of none kind of person," Bloebaum said. "Someone to come in and teach a lot of things, teach my specialty of parasitology, fill in for microbiology, medical-type courses and physiology, and develop some courses. So, they handed me the job."

A member of the biology faculty from 1971-2007, Bloebaum shaped ASU's pre-health program that consistently maintained one of the highest medical school acceptance rates in the state, a legacy that continues today using his blueprint for success. He was so popular with students that they talked him out of retirement

to teach one more class in the spring of 2008. He is also an active member of the ASU Alumni Association.

For his many years of past and present service, Bloebaum has been named the Alumni Association's 2009 Distinguished Retired Faculty.

"It is one thing to get up there and read notes to students, which I didn't do," Bloebaum said. "But, it's another thing to wander around the room, look them in the eyes, and see that they understand and join in the learning. I'll miss that interaction and I'll miss advising the health professions students because I was good at it. We had a lot of success and it really helped the students."

Also the recipient of the Alumni Association's first-ever Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award, Bloebaum holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas and his Ph.D. from New Mexico State University.

Bloebaum and his wife, Laura, have two daughters, Gretchen and Heidi, who are both ASU graduates. ■



Alan Bloebaum

## Golden Ex of the Year **Long History with ASU**



LeRoy Olsak

Angelo State University and San Angelo College have played a big part in **LeRoy Olsak's** life as he and many family members have roots here.

Olsak, the ASU Alumni Association's 2009 Golden Ex, attended San Angelo College in 1940-41 and his late wife, Sally, graduated from SAC in 1944.

"A lot of my family and friends have gone here and to Texas Tech," Olsak said, "so we have a lot of connections to those schools."

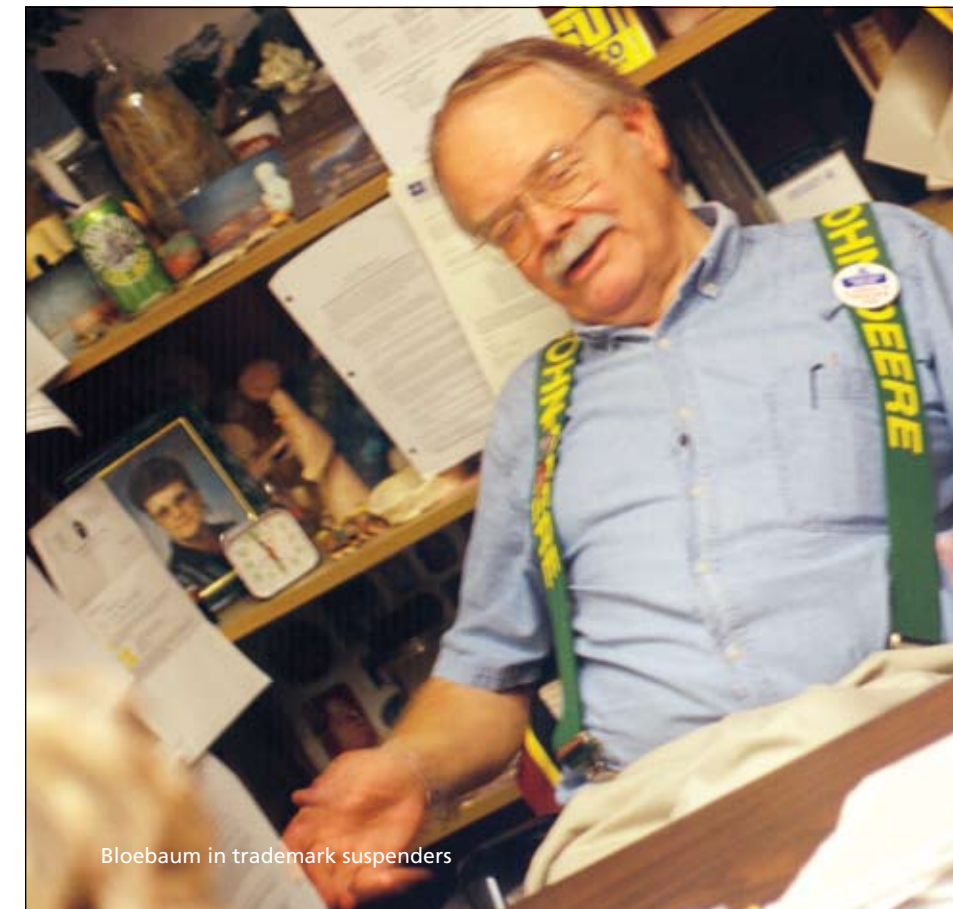
"SAC was a small enough community college where you knew everybody," Olsak said. "It was highly respected with a good administration and classes that were thorough."

Olsak transferred to Texas Tech in 1941 but had to put his education on hold to join the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. As a bomber pilot, he flew 20 missions in the Pacific Theater with, coincidentally, the Red Raider Bomb Group.

After the war, Olsak completed his education at Texas Tech, earning a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering. He worked for Texas Electric Service Co. for 38 years in the Big Spring/Lamesa district as customer representative, district commercial manager and local manager.

Olsak said he was proud to be an ASU alumnus and was thrilled when ASU joined the Texas Tech University System in 2007. The timing was ideal to present the newly published history of the Red Raider Bomb Group, *The Revenge of the Red Raiders*, to ASU's West Texas Collection and TTU's Southwest Collection in memory of his classmates who died in World War II.

Olsak and Sally, who passed away in 2005, moved back to San Angelo in 1985 to care for their pecan orchard near Eldorado where they won many awards for their pecans. Earlier this year, he completed a 10-year term as a director of the Texas Pecan Board. ■



Bloebaum in trademark suspenders



# Distinguished Faculty Achievement



Bonnie Amos



Harriet Lewis



Ed Olson



Kathleen Price



Norm Sunderman

## For the Love of Nature

Winning awards is becoming a habit for biology professor Dr. Bonnie Amos.

Already the recipient of the 2008 ASU Teaching Excellence Award, Amos was named a Piper Distinguished Professor this spring by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the teaching profession. In addition to being one of the top statewide honors for professors in higher education, the Piper designation carries with it a \$5,000 honorarium.

Now, she can add the ASU Alumni Association's 2009 Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award for the College of Sciences to her list of honors.

A member of the ASU Biology Department since 1987, Amos spent 13 years as department head before stepping down to concentrate on teaching and research. She is also curator of the Angelo State Natural History Collections' Herbarium, which contains more than 60,000 plant specimens from Texas, the U.S. and around the world.

"It's amazing to be able to study a plant that lived a hundred years ago or grew in a habitat that no longer exists," Amos said. "I would want to work there even if it wasn't part of my responsibilities."

While she credits an ASU taxonomy class for piquing her interest in botany, Amos' love of nature goes back to her early childhood.

"My grandmother would walk me around their property and show me the

wildflowers while telling me their names and interesting things about them," Amos said. "My parents both loved the outdoors and my dad was an avid hunter and fisherman, so I was often outside with him. I think that early introduction to nature made a big difference in my interest in nature and appreciation of plants and animals."

Amos holds her bachelor's and master's degrees from ASU and her Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. She shares her Dove Creek home with four rescued dogs, Dottie, Lucy, Rosie and Sugar.

## Classroom and Clinic

Harriet Lewis has spent the last decade making sure ASU physical therapy students get the clinical training they need to succeed.

The State College, Pa., native joined the ASU faculty in 1999 after 27 years in clinical practice. As the PT Department's academic coordinator of clinical education, Lewis finds facilities where students get their clinical training. She prepares both students and the clinical therapists for the experience. Lewis also teaches classes in documentation, clinical practice and practical skills.

"I enjoy interacting with the students and finding ways to engage them in different topics," Lewis said. "I also enjoy watching them when they discover things, when they really 'get it.' Sometimes you can almost see the light bulbs coming on."

That dedication has garnered Lewis the ASU Alumni Association's 2009 Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award for the College of Nursing and Allied Health.

"There are people who have been on campus a lot longer who might be more deserving," Lewis said. "So, I was completely blown away by being selected and I am just thrilled to be the first one from this college."

Her impact on PT education also extends beyond ASU. In March, Lewis was appointed to the American Physical Therapy Association's Clinical Instruction Education Board, which oversees the Clinical Instructor Education and Credentialing Program (CIECP). She is the only instructor in Texas and one of only 49 in the U.S. qualified to teach the advanced CIECP program.

Lewis earned her B.S. from Baylor, her PT certificate from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and her M.S. from Texas Tech. She and her husband, Preston, have two children. Their son Scott, daughter-in-law Celeste and granddaughter Hannah live in Anchorage. Their daughter Melissa Kemp, son-in-law John and granddaughter Cora reside in Round Rock.

## Finding a Home

Dr. Ed Olson came to Angelo State 30 years ago to spend two years getting some teaching experience before moving on to a bigger university.

Instead, what he found encouraged him to stay three decades in the ASU Department of Government.

"When I first came, I had never heard of San Angelo," Olson said. "I debated coming here, but I liked the people, the teaching orientation of the school and the camaraderie within the department. My colleagues became my friends."

The veteran professor has made a lasting impact on his department and is cited by former students like Kelby Hagar, president and chief executive officer of Digital Witness, LLC, and a Harvard Law School graduate, for his guidance.

"I took a lot of classes from Dr. Olson," Hagar said. "He was always helpful and a good adviser."

For his efforts supporting students, Olson was named the 2009 Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award recipient from the College of Liberal and Fine Arts.

Despite recent challenges to higher education, Olson said he has had a satisfying career and plans to continue molding young minds.

Besides leading the Government Department, Olson also helped develop the ASU Honors Program. From 1993 through 2008, he directed, or co-directed with Dr. Sharynn Tomlin, 13 study-abroad programs in Europe with an average of 23 students per year.

Before coming to ASU, Olson was a lecturer and teaching assistant at the University of California-Davis, where he received his doctorate in 1978. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

## Learning to Adapt

Dr. Kathleen Price never planned to teach adaptive physical education even though she knew about it through friends in the profession and because her grandfather needed it.

The Wisconsin native got up to speed quickly, however, when she learned she would be teaching that area of kinesiology at ASU.

Price said, "I was familiar with it because when I was seven years old my

grandfather had his leg amputated due to circulatory problems. I learned at an early age that life goes on and that a disability wasn't something that had to stop you from living."

That positive outlook and can-do attitude helped Price earn the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award from the College of Education.

"It's been neat for me," Price said, "because I have been able to look at the exercise physiology and biomechanics side of why a person with cerebral palsy walks that way or look at muscular dystrophy or mental retardation characteristics and what implications they have in terms of exercise or mechanics of walking."

Price also focuses on physical education for elementary school where she teaches kinesiology students to look at age, developmentally appropriate activities and classroom management techniques.

"We look at what you do to get kids broken out into teams," she said. "We also teach classroom teachers to use tasks that give kids a chance to get up, wiggle and move a little bit."

Price received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Baylor University and then taught and coached at several public schools before coming to ASU in 1991. She received her Ph.D. with an emphasis in exercise physiology and biomechanics in 1992 from Texas Woman's University.

## By the Numbers

The awards just keep rolling in for accounting professor Dr. Norm Sunderman.

For the third time in 18 months, Sunderman is receiving accolades for his teaching ability, having been named recipient of the ASU Alumni Association's 2009 Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award for the College of Business.

The latest award completes a trifecta of honors for Sunderman, who also won a 2007-08 "Rammy" Award for Teacher of the Year in the College of Business and the 2008 Outstanding Accounting Educator Award for small colleges and universities from the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (CPAs).

"It has certainly been quite a year," Sunderman said.

A 22-year veteran of the Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance, Sunderman actually started his career as a band and music instructor, teaching in Ohio public schools, at Nebraska Wesleyan University and at Texas A&M-Kingsville. But, after 16-years as a music teacher, he got his M.B.A. and M.P.A. and began chapter two of his teaching career – in accounting.

"There were more opportunities in accounting than there were in teaching clarinet," Sunderman said. "Plus, I've always been a numbers person, even way back a long time ago when I was a music major."

However, music has remained a big part of Sunderman's life. After playing for the Lincoln (Nebraska) and Corpus Christi Symphonies, he has spent the last 22 years as a member of the San Angelo Symphony. His wife of 45-years, Carolyn, is a retired music teacher.

Sunderman holds a bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University, master's and doctoral degrees in music from the University of Michigan, and his M.B.A. and M.P.A. from Texas A&M-Kingsville. He and Carolyn have a son, Kurt, who is an investment banker in Chicago. ■





Adree Lakey

Photo by Danny Meyer

# Photo Finish

by Dave Wester

**A mere three points** were all that separated the Angelo State women's track and field team from the national title at the 2009 NCAA Division II National Championships before a friendly home crowd at the LeGrand Sports Complex in May.

Even so, the Rambelle's scored a school record 82 points and came within 1.52 seconds of winning their first championship in the final event of one of the most exciting D-II finishes in years.

Going into the last race of the competition, the Rambelles trailed perennial powerhouse Lincoln University by just one point as both teams lined up for the 4x400-meter relay. Even though ASU's All-America foursome of junior Daunya Harris, junior Celethia Byrd, sophomore Aisha Adams and junior Andria Nussey ran a school-record 3:41.38 in the event, they finished 1.53 seconds behind Lincoln's time of 3:39.45. The Rambelles

ended up in second place, the highest finish in school history. With 85 points, Lincoln collected its sixth title in seven years.

"We wanted to be No. 1," said ASU head coach James Reid, "but we don't want it to take away from an extremely successful meet. It was a little disappointing knowing that we were so close to a national title, but we had a lot of school records that went down this season. When we look back, there's nothing to feel badly about."

Adams, who was named the NCAA D-II National Female Field Athlete of the Year on the eve of the national meet and who four weeks later was featured in *Sports Illustrated's* "Faces in the Crowd" section, was called upon to run the final race after competing in six events earlier in the weekend. She ran the third leg of the 4x400 relay even though it was an event that she had seldom run during the season and one she was not

scheduled to run at the national meet due to her already full slate that included a second-place finish in the 400-meter hurdles earlier that afternoon.

A day earlier, Adams had claimed a national championship in the heptathlon and had added another second-place finish in the long jump two days earlier. She had also competed in the triple jump, high jump and 100-meter hurdles during the three-day meet.

"Whatever role I needed to play in the final race, I was willing to do," Adams said. "If I wasn't running, I would have been in the stands cheering my lungs out."

Adams' already impressive sophomore season was extended into the summer months as she qualified in the heptathlon for the U.S. Outdoor National Championships, June 25-28, in Eugene, Ore. There she scored a personal-best 5,636 points at

the nationally televised competition, placing eighth, and qualified for the U.S. Team for the Thorpe Cup, held in August in Frankfurt, Germany.

The Rambelles found themselves in position to contend for the national title in the final race, thanks to a pair of senior throwers. Adree Lakey earned All-America honors in all four throwing disciplines, including a national championship in the shot put with a school-record throw of 52'10", while Culley Jo Dawson was a three-time All-American at the meet. Lakey became just the second female in NCAA D-II history to collect career national titles in three different throwing events, including the hammer throw as a sophomore and the discus throw last year. She was named a finalist for the NCAA D-II Female Athlete of the Year after the national meet.

Lakey ended the meet as the top individual scorer, picking up 29 points on her own, while Adams was second with 26 points, giving the Rambelles one of the best combinations in meet history. Dawson ended the meet with 10 points.

In all, nine Rambelles collected All-America honors. Byrd earned recognition in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes, placing eighth in both events. Nussey added a fifth-place finish in the long jump. Junior Chrystal Ruiz earned All-America recognition in the 400 hurdles with a seventh-place finish but placed just out of the points in the heptathlon. Junior Kris Crockett and sophomore Sara Hooker each picked up honors after running in the prelims of the 4x400 relay.

Prior to the national meet, the Rambelles earned their third Lone Star Conference title in school history, tallying a meet-record 331 points and outdistancing rival Abilene Christian by 156 points, the largest margin of victory in the 27 years of the event. ASU had the top seven point scorers in the meet and had 17 individuals earn all-conference honors. The Rambelles brought home 10 individual conference titles, including four by Adams, and one relay crown.

Reid, who was named the LSC Women's Coach of the Year for the sixth time in his career, was honored as the NCAA D-II National Women's Track and Field Coach of the Year. Assistant coach Tom Dibbern was named National Assistant Coach of the Year. ■

## Eighth is Enough

**For the 25th time** in university history, the Angelo State men's track and field team recorded a top 10 finish in the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field National Championships.

This year they did it before a home crowd, finishing eighth at the LeGrand Sports Complex as Angelo State hosted the national meet for the fifth time. ASU was well represented at the championships, sending 13 Ram athletes, the third-most by any school this season. Seven Rams earned All-America honors as the team collected 27 points and recorded ASU's highest finish since placing sixth in 2002, the last time the university hosted the event.

"We are extremely excited of how our men finished," said head coach James Reid. "It was only the fifth time in school history that both the men and women finished in the top 10. Our goal every year is to get into the top 10, so we are very pleased."

Senior Ryan McWilliams, who missed the 2008 season due to injury, shone for the Rams, earning All-America honors in three events – the decathlon, 110-meter hurdles and 4x400-meter relay. In the decathlon he became ASU's third-ever three-time All-American with a runner-up finish, just 377 points shy of becoming ASU's third athlete to claim a national title in the event. Fellow senior Chase Moore added a sixth-place finish in the decathlon, giving ASU two All-Americans in the event for the third time in school history.

McWilliams also finished seventh in the 110-meter hurdles while senior Jeremy Jones placed fourth in the 400-meter hurdles and junior James Howell became just the third-ever All-American for the Rams in the 400-meter dash, placing seventh. Sophomore Tyler Orlando gave the Rams their first All-American in the javelin throw in more than 10 years with a seventh-place finish. By placing fourth in the 4x400-meter relay, McWilliams, Jones, Howell, sophomore Brian Holik and freshman Terence Holland, who ran in the prelims, all garnered All-America honors as well. ■



Ryan McWilliams

Photo by Danny Meyer



# Forever Young by Ronn Rowland

The call came in the wee hours of an October morning 30 years ago, but it still rings in the memory of Kathleen Brasfield for it was the phone call that no head coach – or parent – ever wants to receive.

Two members of her second Angelo State volleyball squad gone. Forever.

Beverly Borron, a sophomore from Imperial, and Jennifer Cooke, a junior from Odessa, had perished in an airplane crash in Sonora.

“One of the girl’s sisters called me around 3 a.m. to let me know,” recalled Brasfield, then a second-year ASU volleyball coach and today the university’s director of athletics. “I knew I needed to start calling the team immediately. I did not want them to first hear about it on the news.”

Nor did Brasfield want Borron’s and Cooke’s memory forgotten. The next season Angelo State permanently retired their jersey numbers, Borron’s No. 16 and Cooke’s No. 24. Their framed jerseys along with plaques in their honor today hang outside

the Rambelles’ volleyball locker room in the Junell Center/Stephens Arena.

“We always wanted to do some kind of tribute to them but the Center for Human Performance building did not have a suitable space,” Brasfield said. “One of the first things we did when we moved into the Junell Center in 2002 was honor Beverly and Jennifer.”

Learning of the darkest day in ASU volleyball history, current head coach Chuck Waddington, who begins his second season at the ASU helm this fall, decided to honor their memory in a more public way. As part of this year’s homecoming activities, the volleyball team will hold a remembrance ceremony in the VIP Room of the Junell Center Saturday, Oct. 10, after the match against Texas Woman’s.

“We are inviting all former Rambelles back to San Angelo to participate in an open gym before the match,” Waddington said. “After the match there will be a reception and special ceremony. We are trying

to get family members and teammates here for the ceremony.”

Borron and Cooke, along with Todd Carlisle of San Angelo and Michael Stucky of Peabody, Kan., had flown to Sonora for dinner. They were on their way back to San Angelo when the Cessna 182 plane, believed to have been piloted by Carlisle, crashed shortly after takeoff from Sonora Regional Airport at 9:30 p.m. that Oct. 23. Borron, Cooke and Stucky were pronounced dead at the scene while Carlisle died a week later.

Jodi Grant Gibson, who had played on the 1978 team with Borron and Cooke before graduating from ASU, was beginning volleyball practice at John Glenn Middle School in San Angelo when she heard the news.

“It was horrendous for the team, the school and the families,” Gibson said. “They were both full of life and funny. Now that I am an air traffic controller, it makes it more tragic because of my knowledge of the air traffic system.”

The team missed its scheduled appear-

ance at the Texas Wesleyan tournament to attend the funerals. While the Rambelles were victorious over Lubbock Christian in their next two matches, Brasfield noticed the desire was gone.

“Getting back on the court was hard for everyone, including myself,” she said. “While we had some players step up and take a leadership role, the accident still took the wind out of their sails. The spirit was not there when we came back.”

Brasfield not only understood but also shared their feelings. After all, Borron had arrived at ASU the same year as Brasfield, who knew both very well, having coached against them in high school.

“Something like that makes you rethink what is really important,” Brasfield said. “Before the accident, I mentioned to a friend that God was testing me. Coaches are not supposed to bury their players just like parents are not supposed to bury their children. After the accident, I found out what a real test was.” ■

## in their Memory

After their tragic deaths, an endowment was established at Angelo State University in the memory of Beverly Borron and Jennifer Cooke.

Each year, monies from the Jennifer Cooke – Beverly Borron Memorial Scholarship endowment assist a current or incoming volleyball player with her educational needs.

Individuals wishing to make a donation to the endowment in memory of Borron and Cooke should contact the ASU Office of Development by phone at (325) 942-2116 or by e-mail at [development@angelo.edu](mailto:development@angelo.edu).

## 2009 preview

**COACH:** Chuck Waddington (2<sup>nd</sup> year, 20-14 overall and at ASU)

**LAST YEAR:** 20-14 (8-5, t-5<sup>th</sup> in LSC)

**OUTLOOK:** Angelo State gained valuable experience last season under first-year head coach Chuck Waddington. Off of their first Lone Star Conference Tournament appearance in four years, the ’Belles look to build upon the successes of 2008 and reach the next level.

**TOP RETURNEES:** Five starters from last season’s squad will return. Seniors Kimber Duncan and Alaina Sivells, both second team All-LSC selections, will lead the way while senior Adrienne Taylor and sophomore Kayla Smith will provide the leadership that Coach Waddington seeks.

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Of the 11 new faces donning ASU uniforms, three could make an immediate impact. Alex Allard, a junior transfer from Laredo Community College, inherits the setter position after redshirting in 2008. Freshman outside hitter Claire Chomout arrived at ASU in the spring, having graduated from Dripping Springs High School in December, and worked with the team during spring workouts. Freshman middle blocker/outside hitter Kaitlyn Standard will not have far to travel to play collegiately, having lettered four years at San Angelo’s Central High School.





# Sports recap

## Rambelles Unleashed



Macy Baker



Laura Lopez

The 2009 Angelo State softball team used 91 home runs to collect a third 50-win season and make a third trip to the NCAA Division II National Championship, where they finished third in the country.

The Rambelles' school and conference record homer tally was the third-most in D-II history and lifted ASU to a second straight Lone Star Conference title, its fourth in seven years, and the third NCAA D-II South Central Region title in the program's eight-year history.

"What a special season this was for our student-athletes," head coach Travis Scott said. "Our team chemistry and competitive nature created some memorable experiences that these athletes will hold onto forever. I am very proud of the manner in which these young ladies represented Angelo State University."

Five players hit 10 or more home runs this season, but first baseman Sandy James, the LSC South Division's Freshman of the Year, captured most of the attention, even appearing in the May edition of *NCAA On Campus*, which aired on ESPN Classic. The second team All-American belted 25 home runs, the third-highest total ever in NCAA D-II and the most-ever by a freshman at any level. James added 21 doubles this season, breaking that ASU record as well.

Senior shortstop Macy Baker and senior catcher Laura Lopez hit the long ball as well. Lopez slugged 18 home runs, including a school- and LSC-record three in a single game. Baker ended her final season with second team All-America honors and 17 homers, finishing her career with 39 home runs and 220 runs batted in, plus 265 hits, the most-ever by a Rambelle.

"We will truly miss our two seniors," Scott said, "but we have high expectations for another great season of ASU softball in 2010."

As a team, ASU found itself in the record book as well, blasting an NCAA D-II record nine home runs in a 19-9 win over West Texas A&M on March 22.

James and Baker were joined by sophomore second baseman Alix Dean as first team all-conference picks while Lopez, along with junior pitcher Chelsea Nelson and junior Megan Pumphrey, earned second-team honors. Dean, who picked up third team All-America honors, was also recognized for her efforts in the classroom as she was named the LSC South's Academic Player of the Year.

The Rambelles, ranked No. 1 for five straight weeks during the season, ended the year with a 50-10 record after advancing to the national semifinals. ■

## Rams Return

The 2009 Rams baseball team posted ASU's second-best season in wins and made the university's fourth straight trip to the postseason.

The Rams finished the 2009 campaign with a 45-20 record and second-place finishes in both the Lone Star Conference regular season and in the LSC Championship Tournament. The Rams were rewarded with the school's second-ever berth in the NCAA South Central Regional Tournament, advancing to the semifinals.

"It was a very good year. We fought and competed all year long and won some big games along the way," head coach Kevin Brooks said. "We lost one of our top pitchers and top hitters midway through the season, but we battled through it. We continuously showed resiliency and our seniors displayed tremendous leadership."

Junior designated hitter Keith Towne and junior utility player Chris Adamson both picked up second team All-America honors while senior pitcher Kenny Elkind received an honorable mention nod. Towne, the South Central Region Player of the Year, hit 26 home runs to set a new school and conference record while Adamson led the Rams with a .409 average and a school record 26-game hitting streak. Elkind led the ASU pitching staff with 10 wins, six complete games and 88 strikeouts.

Five other Rams were honored with LSC postseason recognition. Senior catcher Trey Carter was named to the first team while senior pitcher Joe Key, junior outfielder Isaac Garcia, infielder Austin Lasprilla and freshman pitcher Craig Blair were tabbed as second team selections. Blair was also named the league's Freshman of the Year. ■



Keith Towne

## Golf Awakens

When the Angelo State women's golf team began practice last fall, co-head coaches Jason Hase and Jimmy Tidwell knew the team was going to be competitive and would open a few eyes. They were right.

After the spring season was done, the Rambelles had garnered top-five finishes in eight of the nine tournaments, including two team titles. Junior Raelyn Smith represented ASU in the NCAA D-II West Regional Tournament in the individual competition, earning a third-place finish and a trip to the national championships. Battling the elements, she plodded her way to a tie for ninth in the individual standings and earned All-America honors. Smith also received league recognition as an All-LSC first team selection.

"For a first-year program," said Tidwell, "we have a lot to be proud of. Two team wins and an individual making it to the national championship says it all. Returning all players with an additional three will only make us stronger next year."

The Rambelles began the season with a fourth-place finish in their first two events, followed that up with back-to-back team titles at the Schreiner Classic in Kerrville and at the Cactus Thaw in Silver City, N.M., and ended the regular season with a fifth-place finish at the LSC Championships. Individually, two golfers earned medalist honors in tournaments. Smith took the top spot in five events while freshman Megan Cisneroz tied Smith in the medalist standings at the Cactus Thaw. ■



Raelyn Smith



# Back in the Huddle Again

by Dave Wester



Josh Neiswander

Photo by Danny Meyer

**In an instant,** Josh Neiswander's coming out party was over.

The Texas State University crowd of nearly 14,000 fell silent in the waning moments of the 2008 season opener in San Marcos when the Angelo State junior quarterback went down as he tried to lead his team to one of the biggest upsets in recent history. He failed to get up from a hard tackle and had to be carted off the field.

"I first thought I had a concussion as I hit my head so hard on the turf," Neiswander said. "A couple seconds later my leg started hurting and I could tell it was snapped. I knew right then that I was done."

Until that painful realization, Neiswander stood within an arm's throw of the Rams' first win over an NCAA Division I opponent since 1997, a 24-17 victory at Sam Houston State. After all, Neiswander had already tossed two touchdown passes to overcome an early seven-point deficit and take a 14-7 advantage midway through the third quarter. The Bobcats, however, had answered with a pair of fourth-quarter scores, and ASU trailed 21-14 when Neiswander's went back to pass.

The Winnsboro native rolled to his right to hit wide out Sam Tindol for 14 yards before being tackled from behind by Bobcat defensive lineman Wellington Deshield and breaking his left leg. The Rams' 21-14 deficit would stand, even if Neiswander could not.

That night in his hospital room he received several encouraging text messages from teammates. At that moment he decided that he was not going to be defined by his injury. He would prove that he was more than a "one-trick pony." He still had his faith guiding him, and he was, after all, a student first.

Neiswander focused on the classroom and was rewarded in May with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He's now working toward his M.B.A., which he will complete in December 2010.

"I was already on track to graduate, but I wasn't going to let this injury slow me down," Neiswander said. "The first few weeks were rough because of the crutches and the pain meds, but it got easier."

But what didn't get easier was watching his teammates play the remainder of

the season without him. A devoted team member, Neiswander made every road trip with the squad, spending time both on the sideline and in the coaching booth, serving as a mentor for the two freshmen who were called upon to take his place.

"I love football and it is part of who I am," Neiswander said. "I prayed a lot and embraced my new role. It's definitely easier to play than to coach someone else, especially when you wish you could be on the field. I earned a lot of respect for the coaching staff during the season."

Neiswander returned to the field in the spring. Able to start running in December, he was at full strength when spring drills came around in April. He didn't miss a beat during the off-season workouts and made everyone forget about his injury during the team's annual spring game.

"I was ready to get back to work," Neiswander said. "We had a great spring as a team and that was more important than me having a good month. I really started to get my confidence back when everything was clicking around me. It felt good."

As a sophomore in 2008, Neiswander started all 10 games for the Rams after making five back up appearances as a freshman. He averaged more than 190 passing yards per game with seven touchdowns as a sophomore. Before suffering injury against Texas State, he had tossed for 213 yards and two touchdowns. Now at 22 years of age and thanks to a medical hardship granted to him by the NCAA, Neiswander is poised to take the reins of the Rams in his second "junior" season. He'll wrap up his playing career in 2010, just in time to put his M.B.A. to work, unless he gets the opportunity to play football professionally.

"The way I look at it, I have an extra year to get more physical," Neiswander said. "I would love to get paid to play football. That is my ultimate dream. It's like graduating high school and instead of being done, you get to go back and play an extra year. But when my football career is over I know I've got a great education and I'll be ready to take on any other challenges that may be in my way." ■

## Football preview

**COACH:** Dale Carr  
(5<sup>th</sup> year, 17-26 overall and at ASU)

**LAST YEAR:** 3-8  
(3-6, 9<sup>th</sup> in LSC; 1-5, 6<sup>th</sup> in LSC South)

**OUTLOOK:** With his largest group of upper classmen since his arrival, head coach Dale Carr is excited about the upcoming season and looks to break a string of three straight losing campaigns. Eleven seniors and 26 juniors will bring maturity to a program that looks to get back atop the Lone Star Conference.

**TOP RETURNERS:** The return of junior quarterback Josh Neiswander and sophomore running back Michael Simpers is much anticipated. After being injured in the season opener last fall, Neiswander is set to take back the role of starting signal caller. Also sidelined with injury last fall, Simpers is now ready to take over where all-conference tailback Daniel Thomas left off. Defensively, the Rams return four of their top seven tacklers, including senior linebackers Ian Ritchey and Edward Cantrell. Ritchey led the Rams with 71 stops, including 10 for losses, while Cantrell added 56 tack-

les with a team-best six quarterback hurries. Junior Cody Smith returns to anchor the defensive line after leading the Rams in sacks.

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Junior wide out V'Keon Lacey and junior fullback Johnathan Norcott will be the top offensive newcomers Lacey spent last season as a starter at Cisco Junior College while Norcott comes to ASU after two years at Dean College (Mass.). On the defense, junior transfers Cornelius Rosenbaum and Devin McDonald will bolster a solid returning defensive line while red-shirt freshmen Austin Benson from Del Rio and Shiloh Hickman from Houston (Westfield) will add speed and size to the linebacking corps. Redshirt freshman Alvin Johnson will provide more stability in the Ram defensive backfield.

**NEW FACE:** Russell Gaskamp was hired in the offseason to take on the role of offensive line coach. Gaskamp comes to ASU after spending the past three seasons as the offensive coordinator at Southwestern Oklahoma. In his playing days at the University of Texas, he was an All-Big 12 selection, blocking for Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams as a senior.

### 2009 SCHEDULE

<b>August 29</b>	<b>Texas A&amp;M-Commerce</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
September 5	at Texas State	6 p.m.
<b>September 12</b>	<b>Southwestern Oklahoma</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
September 19	at East Central	6 p.m.
<b>September 26</b>	<b>Midwestern State (Family Day)</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
October 3	at Eastern New Mexico	3 p.m.
<b>October 10</b>	<b>Abilene Christian (Homecoming)</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
October 17	at Southeastern Oklahoma	2 p.m.
October 24	at West Texas A&M	6 p.m.
<b>October 31</b>	<b>Tarleton State (Military Appreciation Day)</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
November 7	at Texas A&M-Kingsville	7 p.m.



# Making Connections



Travis McCorkle at family soccer clinic.

Photo by Tim Lester

When Travis McCorkle became head coach of the Angelo State soccer team in the spring of 2008, he realized something was missing from the winning women's program.

Despite inheriting a program that was a perennial Lone Star Conference contender, McCorkle discovered the links between the current players and both ASU soccer alumni and the San Angelo community were lacking. He set out to make connections.

Under McCorkle's leadership, the Rambelles held their first-ever Alumni Game in March, hosting nearly 20 former players on campus. He also initiated two community projects that helped polish the program's image.

First, the team conducted a free family soccer clinic that drew more than 70 spring participants and allowed parents to join their children on the field in drills to sharpen soccer technique and skill. The Rambelles then held their first-ever Easter Egg Hunt in April, inviting children from around the area to the soccer field for the free event.

"I felt we needed to change the culture of the program," McCorkle said. "First of all, I wanted players to enjoy their time at ASU and feel like they would be welcomed back when they were alumni. I think we've made some great strides in reaching out to groups that may not have been reached before."

McCorkle's commitment to the local area has carried over to recruiting. During his signing period this spring, he added five high school players from West Texas, including three from San Angelo. Eleven of his 12 newcomers this fall call Texas home. ■

## Soccer Preview

**COACH:** Travis McCorkle  
(2<sup>nd</sup> year, 10-7-3 overall and at ASU)

**LAST YEAR:** 10-7-3  
(4-4-2, 1-7<sup>th</sup> in LSC)

**OUTLOOK:** After missing the Lone Star Conference Tournament for the first time in six seasons, Angelo State will look to return to the postseason with a mix of seasoned veterans and highly-touted newcomers.

**TOP RETURNEES:** Midfielder Christian Willman and forward Jennifer Bukowski, both seniors, will lead the front line for a squad that finished fifth in the league in points and goals per game. Senior defender Lucy Thompson and junior goalkeeper Melanie Peterson will anchor a defense that finished second in the LSC with nine shutouts.

**TOP NEWCOMERS:** Twelve new faces will dot the Rambelles' roster with three ready to make an immediate impact. Ashley Brown, a transfer from Iowa Western Community College, was one of the top point collectors in the junior college ranks. Freshman midfielder Lauren Carnes is a two-time all-district selection from Amarillo High School. Freshman defender Lauren Sanders, an all-district honorable mention from Plano's John Paul II High School, will look to fill the void left by the departure of four-year starters Amber Korb and Marianne Glutz.



## Briefly

### LSC Hall of Honor

Joshua K. Owusu, who ran track for the Rams from 1971-74 and became ASU's first track and field Olympian, has been named a 2009 inductee into the Lone Star Conference Hall of Honor.

By the time Owusu graduated from ASU, he had become a nine-time All-American and holder of the top six all-time ASU performances in the long jump and triple jump. During his collegiate career, Owusu collected three national titles in each event while ASU was a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). To this day Owusu holds the ASU records for the triple jump (54'1.75") and the long jump (26'10.75").

Owusu will be recognized for his selection into the LSC Hall of Honor during halftime of ASU's Sept. 26 Family Day game against Midwestern State. Previously, he was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1990 and the ASU Athletics Hall of Honor in 2006.

A native of Ghana, Owusu represented his home country in the 1972 Munich games, finishing fourth in the long jump. Four years later, he was among the favorites in the long jump at the Montreal games but did not compete due to a last-minute boycott by the African nations.

Owusu becomes the eighth ASU inductee into the LSC Hall of Honor. He joins Kyle Freeman (football/track, 2003); Phil George (coach, 1996); Pierce Holt (football, 2000); Ed Messbarger (coach, 2006); Shirley Morton (administrator, 1997); David Noble (coach, 2004); and Lloyd Vincent (administrator, 1999).

### Council of Presidents

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo has begun a one-year term as president of the Council of Presidents for the Lone Star Conference.

The LSC Council of Presidents, which meets twice annually, serves as the governing board of the athletic conference and has final decision-making authority regarding any legislation, policy or activity pertaining to the conference and its member institutions.

Previously, Rallo served the council as second vice president for 2007-08 and first vice president for 2008-09. His term as president will run through June of 2010. ■



# Let Tradition Ring



From sounding the arrivals and departures of Santa Fe Railroad steam engines to helping celebrate ASU Rams touchdowns, the Spirit Bell has been a West Texas tradition for more than 60 years.

With ASU now part of the Texas Tech University System, it is also fitting that the original idea of obtaining the bell and using it to spur school spirit came from a Texas Tech transfer student and was modeled after a Red Raider tradition.

“During a Sig Ep (Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity) pledge retreat, we came up with the idea of doing that for the active brothers,” said Randal Bird, the transfer student who spearheaded the project. “So, very quietly in the spring of 1978, we went around town and got the bell, then went to Hirschfeld Steel and a whole list of other people who gave us things for the project. We presented it in May of that semester.”

That sounds easy, but getting their hands on a suitable bell was actually a formidable task. The Santa Fe Railroad had stopped using them on their engines.

“They had searched all the way through the national office in Chicago and they couldn’t find one,” Bird said. “But, they did know of one and told us it had been given to the Willeke family and it was in a chapel out on their land off the Mertzon Highway. They said ‘if you go out and talk to her (June Willeke Hudson), she might give it to you because the chapel has not been used in a long time.’”

“We went out and presented her the plans on what we wanted to do with it, and she gave it to us,” he added. “So, we all went out to the chapel and took it down.”

Hudson donated the bell in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Doc Willeke, long-time San Angelo ranchers. Bird’s Theta pledge class used the blueprints from the Texas Tech bell to construct the trailer that still carries the Spirit Bell, with materials donated by local

businesses. Since 1978, the bell has been a fixture at Rams football games, Homecoming parades and other university and fraternity functions.

“It got to be where, if the town saw that bell, they knew it had be something to do with ASU,” Bird said

Through all that exposure, though, the bell has seen its share of wear and tear. In 1980, the cast iron yoke had to be repaired after the trailer flipped over on its way to the Homecoming Bonfire, landing the bell in a vacant lot off Jackson Street. A later Sig Ep pledge class donated a custom vinyl cover that has since deteriorated, and further repairs to the yoke and paint were undertaken in 2000.

Upkeep and repairs to the bell had been a Sig Ep responsibility since 1978, but when the fraternity’s ASU chapter disbanded a couple years ago, it loaned the bell to the Block and Bridle Club.

“We asked for them to continue on with the tradition,” Bird said. “This fall will be 31 years. People will call every once in awhile and ask how they are treating it, and they are doing fine.”

Block and Bridle (B&B) now handles two of ASU’s longest-running football sideline traditions – the Spirit Bell and Dominic the mascot.

“Block and Bridle and the Sig Eps always had a really good relationship, with many students being members of both,” said Dr. Mike Salisbury, B&B faculty adviser. “During games and pregame events, the bell, like Dominic, becomes a focal point. Being responsible for both is a big honor.”

Now under the auspices of the Block and Bridle Club, though still owned by the Sig Eps, the ASU Spirit Bell continues to celebrate every Rams touchdown and be a symbol of ASU school spirit and pride.

“It has been 31 years out there and it continues to go on,” Bird said. “It is a real tradition, our legacy, I guess.” ■

## CLASSnotes

Each issue of the *Angelo State University Magazine* will highlight selected alumni and then invite readers to visit the Angelo State University Alumni Association Web site for the latest on your former classmates. To learn more about Angelo State alumni, visit [asuexes.com](http://asuexes.com). Better yet, see what your friends are up to and then update the site with news about you, your family and your accomplishments.

### 1977

With his nomination by the President of the United States and his confirmation by the U.S. Senate, Ronnie D. Hawkins Jr. becomes the first graduate of ASU’s AFROTC Detachment 847 to achieve the rank of major general in the U.S. Air Force.

At the time of his appointment, Hawkins was director of infrastructure delivery, Office of Warfighting Integration, and chief information officer, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, at the Pentagon. He was promoted to brigadier general in 2005.

Hawkins, a distinguished graduate of ASU’s AFROTC program, earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the university. His Air Force career has taken him to bases throughout the United States and to recent tours in Saudi Arabia and Iraq.





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**Best of** – continued from page 14

egories. Institutions were divided into three groups based upon the number of employees. ASU, which was classified as a medium-sized institution with 500-2,499 employees, was one of only four Texas institutions of its size to be recognized in the survey.

The survey polled almost 41,000 faculty, staff and administrators nationally for the 2009 recognition. Angelo State was one of 10 Texas colleges or universities recognized in any of the 26 categories.

As of this past summer, Angelo State had 757 employees. Of those, 323 were faculty and the remaining 434 were staff.

“ASU Employees are willing to get involved in their jobs and in extracurricular activities around campus,” Gomez said. “I have found that despite the ups and downs of our daily work lives, employees love to work at ASU. In our recent staff attitude survey, many employees stated that working with and among students is an enjoyable aspect of their jobs.”

Just as timely as the *Chronicle* honor was the “Military Friendly Schools” designation from *G.I. Jobs* magazine. With the adoption of the new G.I. Bill, campuses across the country are expecting an influx of veterans from the Mideast conflicts as well as their family members on campus. Additionally, ASU is work-

**Mourning Newspaper** – continued from page 19

weren’t for Angelo State. It’s hard to imagine one without the other.”

He said the *Standard-Times* also provides a forum to help promote the vitality of the university.

“There needs to be an outlet to let the people know what ASU is trying to do and the broadening of its mission in the public eye, including in Austin where they do the funding,” Garcia said. “That’s where the newspaper comes in. You’re not going to get that anywhere else. Legislators still read those newspaper clips.”

ing to increase its ties with Goodfellow AFB and to provide more educational opportunities attuned to the needs of the service men and women stationed there. The university is also establishing a new Center for Security Studies to address a growing necessity in what at times seems to be a more insecure world.

“No group makes greater sacrifices for our country than the men and women of our armed services,” said Rallo, himself a retired Air Force colonel. “We are pleased that this honor tells all who have served that ASU will treat them with the respect and gratitude they deserve as they continue their education, whether as a service man or woman or as a veteran.”

In assessing the honors from the *Princeton Review*, the *Chronicle* and *G.I. Jobs* magazine, Rallo said they reflect what he soon realized after he applied for ASU’s presidency.

“Angelo State is a great university,” he said. “Certainly, we have issues and we are addressing them, but the bottom line is that we have a solid university supported by a dedicated faculty and staff as well as by devoted alumni and friends. These recognitions help others, who are less familiar with ASU, see what we see. That will help us prosper in the short term and meet our strategic objectives over the long haul.” ■

In the final analysis, the *Standard-Times* management team has responded to change as well if not better than most newspapers of similar size. Certainly, the public still craves news, but how that information that once was the domain of newspapers is delivered and who provides it in the future remains unsettled.

For Angelo State University, the resolution of those issues is significant because the *Standard-Times* remains a window through which many people locally and nationally still see the university. ■



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