Dear Friends:

The coming months will be pivotal ones for Angelo State University as our student enrollment figures this summer and fall plus those next spring will determine the amount of funding we receive from the state in the next biennial budget cycle. We continue to have a healthy growth with ASU’s highest spring enrollment ever as well as a record graduate enrollment for the second consecutive semester. But, we face an increasingly competitive recruiting environment for new students, even as the Texas Legislature is contemplating a 5 percent annual reduction in funding to higher education.

The key to enrollment success is to create and market the reasons why attending ASU is a great choice for a student. While our decision in our academic master plan to highlight three academic areas of distinction – teacher preparation, agriculture and nursing – will only enhance the aesthetic appeal for visitors, including students and parents searching for a university to call home.

First is the initiative to bring high school students to campus during the summer to take ASU classes. These students will earn college credit and will be counted by the state as part of our total enrollment for purposes of funding allocations. Ideally, many of these students will so enjoy their experience that they will enroll at ASU after high school. The first program scheduled for this summer is called “Summer Immersion Dual Enrollment in the Sciences (SIDES),” with an expected class size of more than 20 students.

Second is the creation of the Center for Security Studies under a major grant from the Department of Defense. ASU will create academic programs for Air Force personnel, as well as introduce a new major in “Cultural Competence” to recruit students to ASU. Courses will focus on the language and culture of critical world regions. The new major will enhance our academic offerings and create name recognition in areas where we seek to recruit new students. The annual grant of $3 million will make an immediate and long-term impact on our academic programs.

Third, in February the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents approved the next step in a mixed-use development on the eastern border of the campus. Midway Investments Inc. of Houston received approval to begin to design a project which will incorporate graduate and married housing with retail shops, restaurants and other possible private projects. This new complex will serve as a new gateway to the campus and also will provide a venue for students, especially those from larger population centers that have similar recreational spaces. It will also generate significant annual revenues, which will support the goals stated in our university strategic plan.

Finally, the rules of the Texas Tech University System allocate 1 percent of new construction funds and ½ percent of major renovation projects for public art for the campus. We have a beautiful campus, but the addition of future pieces of art will make an immediate and long-term impact on our academic programs.

In Memoriam …Donors

On the cover:

From Broadway to the ASU stage, 82-year-old Bill Reynolds is profiting ASU theatre students with his experience.

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Audrey Sato got a JAMP start at ASU on her dream to become a physician. Now she’s the first graduate of the statewide program to earn a medical residency.

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As executive director of one of the state’s most prestigious museums, 1968 ASU graduate Tim Gette is shaping the building blocks of Texas heritage.

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Corporate Elite … Home Again … Looking Ahead … Sign of the Times … Class Notes … In Memoriam … Donors

On the cover: With so much of the university’s present and future shaped by information technology, a computer hard drive is a fitting symbol for the campus of tomorrow. (Photo by Danny Meyer)

Back Cover: Under Rosael’s watchful eyes, graduate student Skylar Bird of San Angelo, freshman Gaurika Pfeckens of Allen and senior Ashlea Haney of San Angelo check out the touchscreen monitor in the University Center. (Photo by Kimberly Parker)
The universe is expanding for the ASU Planetarium as it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Since it opened in 1985, the Planetarium has used its original equipment to help educate astronomy students and host public star shows. This year, it is getting all new equipment, a new mission and a new name as it becomes an integral component of the university’s new Center for Security Studies (CSS).

“We will still have our astronomy teaching mission,” said Dr. Mark Sonntag, Planetarium director. “But we are moving toward an Earth sciences-based view of the cosmos and particularly looking back at Earth.”

To accomplish its new mission, the Planetarium is getting a complete makeover, including a new SciDome HD digital projection system powered by Starry Night software and a digital sound system with Dolby 5.1 surround sound. While the current system can only show the sky from a fixed point on the Earth’s surface, the flexible new system will provide enhanced capabilities for viewing the universe and the Earth from any vantage point. The new system also has fewer moving parts.

“It is a single system that will replace all the current projection devices we have in there,” Sonntag said. “We have a star projector, slide projectors, video projectors and special effects projectors, and that is how we do our multimedia programming. The new system is a single planetarium projector.”

“Not only will it take you beyond the surface of the Earth and look at the universe from distant galaxies,” he added, “it will replace all the projectors we have. It can do it all and provide a much more robust view out to the visible edge of the universe.”

The incentive for the new mission is funding provided as part of a record $2.4 million ASU grant from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). The ASU grant along with $1.66 million for a joint intelligence training facility at Goodfellow Air Force Base was part of the Fiscal Year 2009 Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations bill signed into law by then-President Bush in September of 2008.

The CSS will provide an administrative umbrella for a variety of programs, which will augment educational needs at Goodfellow for security and intelligence training, research and policy analysis. The new center will integrate expertise at ASU and the Texas Tech University System with programs at Goodfellow, focusing on areas of concern to the U.S. Air Force.

The Planetarium’s role in the CSS will be that of a high-tech classroom as it is transformed into the ASU Digital Display Center.

“The idea is, once we know what the content is that they want to present, this full-dome projection system is capable of doing it,” Sonntag said. “It could be an image of Afghanistan or some other strategic area, or to show oil reserves in the Middle East. Any of those sorts of things could be projected in the Planetarium as some part of a class they are teaching.”

Digital programming capabilities will further expand the Planetarium’s possibilities for security-themed classes and instruction. The software could also aid Goodfellow personnel in their study of seismic activity, orbital mechanics and celestial navigation.

Additionally, new ASU degree plans in cultural fluency, criminal justice/border security and geographic information science, all utilizing Planetarium programming, will enhance future student recruiting and retention efforts.

Visitors to the Vincent Nursing-Physical Science Building will also see new additions in the lobby area that fronts the Planetarium entrance. These will include Omnisphere HD projection displays with touch screen controls and Google Earth displays on flat-screen TVs.

Even as the Planetarium assumes its new role in the CSS, it will continue to entertain the public as it has for the past 25 years. It remains one of the largest planetariums on a university campus in the U.S. and annually hosts about 40 public astronomy shows on a variety of subjects from planets and black holes to cowboy astronomy and the different cultural and religious rituals of the winter solstice holiday period. To date, more than 30,000 visitors have enjoyed the public shows, many of which coincide with the actual celestial events they portray.

“I often try to tag along with something that people may be seeing in the sky and wondering about, and I try to have a program about that topic,” Sonntag said.

The new projection and sound systems will also allow the Planetarium to begin offering the newer, higher quality shows incompatible with the current equipment. Five new shows are slated for purchase through the DOD grant funding, and the clarity and resolution of the new projection system could negate the need for re-painting the full-dome screen, which would save the university over $33,000.

Current ASU students will also benefit from the renovations as they continue to meet in the Planetarium for astronomy classes.

With its new capabilities, the Planetarium will also become an even more popular destination for class trips from surrounding school districts, having already welcomed more than 100,000 West Texas K-12 students through its doors. It will also remain a major feature in ASU recruiting programs, including Discover ASU, Science Days and campus tours by the Office of Admissions, as its continues its role as one of the largest community outreach programs on campus.

“Outreach is a function of university life that most of our departments embrace,” Sonntag said. “The Planetarium is a really good way for the Physics Department to do that, and it has always been a part of our mission.”
Giving Them the Business

Grace Felder moved to San Angelo in 2006 with the dream of starting her own business.

Luckily for her, she had contacts here who knew just what she needed to get going. Within a week of her arrival from California, a relative sent Felder to the ASU Small Business Development Center (SBDC), where she met with counselor Paul Howard and got “bitten by the bug.”

“I didn’t have a business plan, a schedule or a support group,” Felder said. “They made themselves available and it was free. It’s still hard for me, coming from California where you pay for everything, to see that it’s free.”

Utilizing the resources available through the SBDC, Felder planned her Internet-based business, Hands of Grace, which came online in January of 2009. She now sells high-end leather items, including ottomans, pillows, throw art and other home décor, through her Web site, www.handsofgracecollection.com. She also expanded her presence out into the Concho Valley.

Wildly successful, Felder noted the SBDC is not what provides her with the highest satisfaction in her venture.

“A lot of people measure success by money or influence,” Felder said, “but the growth and the knowledge that the SBDC has imparted to me has been phenomenal. I have grown and I have learned so much.”

Fueled by success stories like Felder’s, the SBDC in January celebrated its 20th year of being an integral part of the Concho Valley business community. During fiscal year 2009 alone, the SBDC assisted 489 businesses with more than 2,000 hours of counseling and conducted 76 seminars and workshops on topics pertinent to small businesses.

“We are here to provide technical business assistance for those wanting to start a business or those existing businesses that want to expand, improve their operations or survive,” said David Erickson, SBDC director. “We are also here to help the economic development climate of the cities we serve in our 10-county service area.”

About 400 universities had Small Business Institutes, and one year we had the best case in the national competition.”

So, Bruha contacted the Small Business Administration and the SBDC regional office in San Antonio about starting a center at ASU. They were agreeable, so he took his proposal to then ASU President Lloyd Vincent, who approved the venture, but only with the caveat that Bruha be the director.

“I didn’t really want to be the director because I really enjoyed teaching too much,” Bruha recalled. “He said I could be half-time SBDC director and a half-time faculty member. So, I taught two classes a semester instead of four, and ran the center. But, running the center was a full-time job, so I taught two classes a semester instead of four, and ran the center.

During his tenure as director, Bruha also oversaw the opening of the SBDC’s International Trade Office and played a pivotal role in the formation of the West Texas Training Center (WTTC). The idea for the WTTC came from then-State Rep. Rob Junell, a staunch supporter of the SBDC.

“The clients we see are all great people and we get to help them fulfill their hopes and dreams. We also get to help them pretty much for free, and that is a great feeling. We provide a great benefit and people really appreciate it.”

Bruha said, “We were able to add two more counselors and a training director, and we also expanded our services out into the Concho Valley.”

Since then, the center has grown even more to its current staff of seven full-time employees and three student workers led by Erickson, who was hired by Bruha as a counselor in 1999. They provide counseling and advice to all types of current and prospective businesses, with a recent client list that includes restaurants, a health-care provider, a fabric shop, a Tejano dance club and a secondhand clothing store.

“We have a great staff of dedicated, self-directed professionals,” Erickson said. “That is why we get up in the morning. To show that they have some level of business knowledge,” Erickson said. Follow-up services are also an important component of the center. After assisting Jo-Anna Alexander in getting her marketing/PR business, Alexander Resources Group, up and running, SBDC staffers also helped her gain Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) certification for state contract solicitation purposes.

“They not only helped me to design my business and grow my business, they also helped me create credibility for my business,” Alexander said. “That, to me, was the icing on the cake. So, I can’t say enough good things about them.”

Providing such comprehensive services to entrepreneurs in San Angelo and 10 Concho Valley counties means the SBDC staff often work long and irregular hours. However, stories like Felder’s and Alexander’s make it all worthwhile.

“Successful SBDC entrepreneur Grace Felder”

As an added service, the SBDC recently introduced the Small Business Management Certificate Program. For a $20 fee, participants can register to attend eight required seminars, complete two online seminars and get counseling from one of the SBDC advisers. If they complete the requirements within a year, they get to “graduate.”

“We hand out graduation certificates that they can take to the bank or other lenders to show that they have some level of business knowledge,” Erickson said.

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“Successful SBDC entrepreneur Grace Felder”
news the MALL

Out of Darkness

Best-selling author Mary Karr credits religion and therapy with pulling her from a haze of drugs and alcohol as well as from decades of depression sparked by a traumatic childhood.

While the keynote speaker at the 14th Annual ASU Writers Conference in Honor of Elmer Kelton could have succumbed to the dark forces that have claimed many talented artists, she battled through them to become an acclaimed writer.

Karr produced a New York Times best-selling book about her life, "The Liars' Club," along with two sequels, "Cherry" and "Lit." Besides the prose, Karr also has written a raft of poetry books, including "Sinners Welcome, Viper Rum," the "Devil's Tour" and "The Liars' Club," among others.

The native Texan now lives in New York and teaches English in the fall at Syracuse University.

"My first memoir, "The Liars' Club," was about my turbulent childhood, and "Cherry" was about my drug-addled adolescence," Karr said in her keynote address. "Lit is about my trying to make peace with all of it."

"I think writing any book is cathartic," she added, "but a lot of the catharsis has to take place before you write the book."

Karr was raped twice when she was young, first by a neighbor boy and later by a babysitter. She also had to deal with her parents' alcoholism, her mother's mercurial nature and her own alcoholism as an adult.

"It really didn't take that long to get over the rapes," she said, "but getting over mother trying to stab me with a butcher knife, that was hard. I wanted to shake my mother until her teeth rattled, and then I just felt really sorry for her. It's the way we get over everything. We just outlive it. By the time I was 32, I was really at peace with it. Mother was the way she was."

Her father, an oil refinery employee, was also the way he was, but she got along with him, despite his alcoholism. In fact, the title of "The Liars' Club" was inspired by her father and his friends drinking beer and telling stories.

"By the time the book came out," she said, "the publishers offered me just under seven figures and I turned it down because I thought I was supposed to be writing poems. Even now, if they didn't pay me to write these books, I wouldn't do it. Prose is just too hard."}

Enrollment Records

The spring semester was a great one for enrollment as ASU recorded its highest spring enrollment ever and reported a record graduate enrollment for the second consecutive semester.

ASU's spring enrollment of 5,895 was up 21 students from the previous record of 5,874 set in the spring of 1989. The 2010 spring total was up 416 students, a 7.59 percent increase over the spring 2009 total of 5,479.

Graduate enrollment for the spring was 535, breaking the previous record of 528 set just last September for the College of Graduate Studies. The fall 2009 figure of 528 marked the first time in ASU history that graduate enrollment surpassed 500 students.

"They were trying to get jobs for working-class people," Karr said. "They were trying to find housing for people."

While religion has brought spiritual comfort and prose has brought financial comfort, she is most comfortable writing poetry.

"I had no intention of becoming a Catholic," she said, "but I couldn't stop drinking. I could always stop before. Someone suggested I try, but I thought religion was like the Easter bunny."

"It's not like it was a big family secret," she added, "the publishers offered me just under seven figures and I turned it down because I thought I was supposed to be writing poems. Even now, if they didn't pay me to write these books, I wouldn't do it. Prose is just too hard."
System Board of Regents, Midway would then develop the site and lease out the facilities. The agreement would pay the university a monthly fee for the use of the property.

"This approach," Rollo said, "will allow Angelo State to receive revenue for currently vacant land at no cost to the university. Additionally, development of the property would not only benefit the university, but also the community with a new commercial development."
Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges, the accrediting agency for universities in 11 states, including Texas.

As a trustee, Rallo will be one of 77 board members elected to represent the 800 institutions that are members of the accrediting organization’s Commission on Colleges. Angelo State is accredited by SACS.

Duties of trustees include setting commission policies, reviewing and determining the accreditation of institutions of higher education throughout the south, determining institutional dues and proposing changes of accreditation standards for a vote of the member institutions. Rallo’s term on the board will expire at the end of 2012.

AFROTC Cadets
Four cadets in Air Force ROTC Det. 847 have been awarded scholarships through the U.S. Air Force ROTC In-College Scholarship Program (ICSP) and the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Cadets.

Sophomore Philip J. Poundstone of Abilene and freshmen Emily E. Chase of Houston and Emily Griffin, Janet Heismann, Darcie Helms, Derek Holbrook, Paden Johnson, Kristen Kidwell, Brence Minor, Leah Newman, Austin Osomanski, Nick Stamert and Racheal Ward. All presenters were from Dr. Lana Marlow’s “Principles of Persuasion” class.

Eight more communication students gave papers in March at the 26th Annual All-University Conference on the Advancement of Women in Higher Education at Texas Tech University.

All ASU presenters at the conference titled “Regarding Nature: Gender, Identity, and Ecologies of Change” were Anthony Bryson, Kassie Darby, Sadie Edwards, Jasmin Hernandez, Derek Holbrook, Natalie Martinez, Laura Riggs and Aaron Thomas.

Erin Whitford
First-year graduate student and English Department graduate assistant Erin Whitford gave a paper on “An Addition to the Legacy: Joyce Carol Oates as the Successor to Carson McCullers and Flannery O’Connor’s Feminine Grotesque” at the Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association’s Southern Literature and Popular Culture Conference in April in St. Louis.

Her departmental adviser is Dr. John Wegner, associate professor of English.

Physics Students
Senior physics major Kunal Bhatnagar and senior applied physics major Steven Jackson won awards at the 2010 National Winter Meeting of the American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers in Washington, D.C.

Bhatnagar won a Society of Physics Students (SPS) Student Presentation Award for his research on “Growth and Characterization of Multilayer Structures.” Jackson won an Undergraduate Research Oral Presentation Award for his research on “Spectroscopic Ellipsometry of Multilayered and Porous Materials.”

Additionally, senior physics major Logan Hancock was elected the sole student representative on the national SPS Executive Committee. Hancock is president of ASU’s chapter of SPS. Dr. Toni Saunyc is faculty adviser of ASU’s SPS chapter.

Spring Volunteers
ASU’s Center for Student Involvement (CSI) sent six students to New Orleans over spring break as part of HandsOn New Orleans to help rebuild still-devastated areas of the city ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Student participants were Kaci Childers, Claudia Garcia, Desiree Garcia, Raoul Kabona, Chijioke Onyekwelu and Roger Quintana.

The students, selected through an application process by the CSI, worked on projects in New Orleans as part of the CSI’s Project Spring Break program.

The trip was funded by the CSI and the Office of Student Life. Project Spring Break offers ASU students a service opportunity as a substitute to conventional spring break activities. Jennifer Johnson, ASU Greek life and community services coordinator, and Heather Valle, coordinator for student organizations, accompanied the ASU students.

Brad Roehrig
At a special ASU ceremony at the end of the fall semester, Capt. Brad Roehrig, assistant professor of aerospace studies, was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service during his recent tour in Iraq. A 15-year officer in the U.S. Air Force, Roehrig completed his second tour in Iraq at Joint Base Balad in October. He distinguished himself by displaying initiative and service by providing critical communications support for three Special Operations Task Forces, eight Advanced Operating Bases and 46 Operational Detachments Alpha deployed across the Iraq Theater of Operations.

Roehrig is one year into his three-year stint as a member of the Angelo State ROTC and aerospace studies faculty. He is currently working on his Ph.D. in computer information systems/security through North Central College in Arizona.

Communication Students
Fifteen undergraduate communication students presented papers in February at the “New Voices, New Perspectives Student Research Conference” at the University of North Texas.

The ASU entries made up almost half of the accepted papers submitted by college students from across the nation. Papers were presented by Destiny Byrd, Anne Rose Cendak, Sadie Ann Edwards, Marissa Gabaldon, Emily Griffin, Janet Heismann, Darcie Helms, Derek Holbrook, Paden Johnson, Kristen Kidwell, Brence Minor, Leah Newman, Austin Osomanski, Nick Stamert and Racheal Ward. All presenters were from Dr. Lana Marlow’s “Principles of Persuasion” class.

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“Vision 2020 is the result of over 12 months of dialogue about the fundamental direction of the university for the 21st century,” said Dr. James M. Limbaugh, ASU’s vice president for strategy, planning and policy (VPSPP) and the architect of the process that led to the plan. Since academic programs are the principal products of the university, the academic component of the document identifies ASU’s “programs of distinction” as agriculture, educator preparation and nursing, then outlines steps or criteria that other programs must take or meet to be designated as distinctive.

“Agriculture, educator preparation and nursing were chosen for their programmatic success and growth potential, based on needs in the marketplace,” Limbaugh said. “Since enrollment growth is our major priority as assigned by the Texas Tech University System, we must focus first on those areas that have established programs and show potential for growth. Our three initial choices meet those criteria. As interim provost and vice president for academic and student affairs as well as VPSPP over the past year, Limbaugh directed the planning process from the vantage point of both ASU’s chief academic officer and the university’s chief planning officer. “The Vision 2020 Plan for Academic Programs and Initiatives has five goals (see Table 1) that illustrate how ASU ‘operation- alizes’ our mission statement,” Limbaugh said. “In other words, by working continuously toward these goals, we not only achieve our missions but also demonstrate how we did it.”

“Our academic plan,” said ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, “must be fully integrated with our strategic planning process to achieve our primary goals of enrollment growth with academic quality and rigor.” Consequently, the academic plan falls under the larger strategic plan (see Table 2) that offers seven “statements of excellence” that will define ASU in the future.

According to Limbaugh, “The seven statements tell the general public that achieving these goals support our academic program and establish the university as an institution of higher education that fully understands its responsibility to its students and to the larger community.”

Limbaugh’s job now will be as a “traffic cop” to coordinate supporting plans, such as the facilities master plan and the enrollment management plan, to make certain all are moving in the same direction, rather than bottlenecking where the various plans intersect. As a result, Limbaugh’s next task is to fully integrate all institutional planning efforts with Texas Tech University System mandates, State of Texas directives and ASU’s budget review and allocation process. This coordination will ensure that ASU’s actions and initiatives are clearly connected and understood by the campus community.

“Managing growth is a priority for ASU through the life of the Vision 2020 strategic plan,” Limbaugh said. “Until we have sustained enrollment growth, we will keep re-allocating or re-prioritizing our budget. Growth resolves many of our fiscal needs because the Legislature rewards growth in its appropriations.”

While ASU reported its largest spring enrollment, largest graduate enrollment and the second-largest fall enrollment during the 2009-10 academic year, the university must maintain those growth trends over the long term. A promising start has been made by offering education, nursing and communication programs in Boerne this past spring while expanding offerings in Marble Falls and Fredericksburg as part of the Texas Tech University System’s Hill Country Initiative.

Additionally, Angelo State is broadening its menu of degrees with new programs and offerings in line with the academic master plan.

For instance, in February the Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System approved four new master’s degrees and three new bachelor’s degrees, all in the distinctive departments. Three are Master of Education degrees, one with a major in special education, another with a major in coaching, sport, recreation and fitness administration and a third with a major in professional education. In nursing, approval was granted for a Master of Science in Nursing leading to certification as a family nurse practitioner as well as a generic baccalaureate degree in nursing, which is a traditional four-year program with two years of academics and two years of nursing courses.

Agriculture earned authorization for Bachelor of Science degrees, one with a major in agricultural education and leadership and a second with a major in food animal science and marketing. Once approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the new majors will be offered in the fall.

“Ag education is a perfect example of where we can excel and fill a need,” said Dr. Gil Engdahl, head of ASU’s Agriculture Department. “There’s just a huge number of ag teacher jobs that are open. The sad thing is that a lot of school districts are filling them with those who just don’t have the background. They get temporary teaching certificates, but don’t have the needed background in ag mechanics, like welding, wood work and other skills you need in production agriculture, where our ag program has made its name.”

When Engdahl began teaching at Angelo State in 1976, about 85 percent of ag majors came to campus with practical skills learned while growing up on farms or ranches. Today, about the same percentage comes to campus without rural backgrounds. Thus, ASU’s 6,000-acre ranch and Management, Instruction and Research (MIR) Center provide a valuable laboratory for students who are considering a career in the field right now to be in a position to really grow and it’s due to our history and track record of graduating students who are extremely well prepared in production agriculture.

Likewise, the new degree programs approved for the College of Education are targeted at specific educational needs statewide.

The combination animal science and marketing degree is another educational option that will offer new employment possibilities for ASU graduates. This new program builds upon the successful animal business degree, which has seen enrollment more than double over the last two years. “This new combination degree will open a lot of doors for job opportunities for our graduates as well,” Engdahl said. “We seem right now to be in a position to really grow and it’s due to our history and track record of graduating students who are extremely well prepared in production agriculture. Likewise, the new degree programs approved for the College of Education are targeted at specific educational needs statewide.

www.angelo.edu/services/strategy/vision2020.html

Ag graduate students Kellen Cave, Kayla Brooks
The three new master’s degrees will allow graduates of any accredited college anywhere to complete teacher certification requirements while pursuing a graduate degree.

“These three degrees,” said ASU Education Dean Dr. John Miazga, “focus on teacher shortage areas in Texas by enabling anyone with a degree to pursue a teaching certificate. This serves a need that must be met if the state of Texas is to meet its long-range educational goals.”

Additionally, the colleges’ recent online programs for principals and educators who want to be principals are helping address the shortage of school principals in Texas.

“We are known for the quality of our teacher preparation and the quality of our school counselor program,” Miazga said. “These new master’s programs and opportunities we are providing for principals will enhance our reputation.”

The three new master’s degrees will allow our graduates to pursue a teaching certificate. This serves a need that must be met if the state of Texas is to meet its long-range educational goals.”

Just as the College of Education is addressing a shortage of teachers, the Nursing Department is tackling the dearth of nurses statewide and beyond through a series of educational programs that can provide up-front mobility through the nursing ranks.

Over the last decade, ASU’s nursing program has developed a reputation for innovation in nursing education, a proactive approach to program development and a demonstrated commitment to step-by-step mobility that allows nurses at virtually any level — or location — of their career to advance another step.

As an educator preparation program that is proudest of the teamwork on campus that makes such recognition possible. “The quality and cooperation of the faculty and staff, both in the College of Education and across other disciplines on campus, are exceptional,” Miazga said. “The designation of our teacher preparation as a program of distinction is a tribute to those combined efforts.”

The reputation of ASU’s Nursing Department has developed a reputation for innovation in nursing education, a proactive approach to program development and a demonstrated commitment to step-by-step mobility that allows nurses at virtually any level — or location — of their career to advance another step. Nursing Department Head Susan Wilkinson said, “We offer programs that allow students to achieve their educational goals of becoming registered nurses (RNs). With the addition of the new generic B.S.N. program, we have four different programs that prepare students for the RN licensure exam.”

On top of that, nursing students do not need to come to ASU to take their classes as many programs can be handled entirely online, except for clinical requirements. This flexibility is particularly important in rural areas where nurses are in short supply already and have difficulty leaving their jobs to pursue their education.

“Our RN-to-B.S.N. completion program,” said Dr. Wilkinson, “was the first fully integrated online program for RNs in Texas and now allows busy nurses to complete their upper-level core nursing courses in 12 months. Our M.S.N. program offers three different online track options. All of the nursing course instruction is provided via the Internet for the adult learner with course materials, syllabi, assignments, discussion groups, e-mail and exams online.

“Online class participation is asynchronous for the students’ convenience,” Wilkinson continued. “Faculty members work closely with students to identify preceptors and clinical agencies within the students’ home communities, eliminating a lot of travel.”

The reputation of ASU’s Nursing Department was enhanced in 2008 when the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board awarded ASU a $1.27 million, three-year grant to develop a program to reduce the costs and time commitments for licensed vocational nurses (LVNs) to transition to RNs.

“That grant,” said Wilkinson, “helped us revolutionize the thinking and approach to LVN to registered nurse education.”

So, the bottom line for ASU’s initial programs of distinction is simply addressing a need by bringing new thinking to the problem.

The door is open for other programs to join that list, said Vice President Limbaugh. “Higher education is extremely competitive,” he said. “As a result, the most successful institutions are those that recognize that specific combinations of faculty talent, facilities, location and student success create programs that can attract the best students interested in those fields. Attracting students to enroll in ASU’s programs of distinction — educator preparation, agricultural and nursing — will increase enrollment in other programs as well. Growing these programs of distinction as well as naming others in the future will contribute to institutional growth and continued viability.”

The criteria for additional programs of distinction are outlined in the new strategic plan and encompass eight considerations. Those touch points of distinction include the program’s structural excellence, faculty, distinctiveness, delivery method, student learning achievements, support for students, student/external opinions/satisfaction and economic viability.

“For higher education institutions to survive in the 21st century,” said Limbaugh, “they need an aggressive and comprehensive planning process, one that is woven into the fabric of the institution. This plan starts that process. With the criteria for our programs of distinction, we are opening doors for all academic departments to grow and develop academic reputations that will elevate them, the university and society in the future.”

Table 1: Academic Goals

| One: | The university provides exemplary undergraduate and graduate curricula to meet market and economic demands and to continue the growth of the institution. |
| Two: | The university engages with the community to complement students’ academic experiences. |
| Three: | The university provides a comprehensive program to support and advance transition into college life, undergraduate student learning and individual academic success. |
| Four: | Members of the faculty conduct research and coordinate a wide variety of sponsored projects. |
| Five: | The university regularly evaluates all academic programs to assure continuous improvement. |

Table 2: Strategic Master Goals

| One: | The university recruits, retains and recognizes diverse, high-quality faculty and staff. |
| Two: | The university provides and maintains facilities appropriate for the university’s academic and co-curricular programs. |
| Three: | The university recruits, retains and graduates, in numbers consistent with increased goals for enrollment and retention, an academically qualified student body reflecting the diversity of the region, the state and the nation. |
| Four: | The university develops and expands both undergraduate and graduate curricula and co-curricula to support students’ intellectual and personal growth, to address issues relevant to society and to meet the demands of State of Texas initiatives and the marketplace. |
| Five: | The university maintains a supportive, helpful environment for students, faculty, staff, community and alumni. |
| Six: | The university develops and enhances external partnerships, collaborations and funding opportunities. |
| Seven: | The university regularly assesses and evaluates all institutional functions and programs to assure continuous improvement and to maximize efficiencies. |
A perfect example of Angelo State University’s commitment to growth in both quality programs and student enrollment can be found in the Computer Science (CS) Department.

Over the past four years, freshman enrollment in the department has more than doubled, from 120 in 2005-06 to 243 for the 2009-10 academic year. A significant portion of that growth is being attributed to the department’s computer game development program, which officially began in the spring of 2008 and in March was named one of 2010’s “Top 50 Undergraduate Game Design Programs” in North America by the Princeton Review.

“Our game development courses are some of the most popular courses we have,” said Dr. Tim Roden, Computer Science Department head. “Correspondence I get from prospective students indicates many are considering attending ASU to get into our program. The increased enthusiasm from students, faculty and the university administration is driving us forward to do even more.”

The next step toward continued growth will be the addition of a new course next spring in handheld game development, which will target the emerging game software market for iPhones and other mobile devices. “Smart phones, such as the iPhone, are increasingly becoming an important platform for gaming,” Roden said. “We want ASU to be a leader in educating CS students in this important technology.”

Gaming has developed into more than just fun and games, becoming a $75 billion industry worldwide, according to 2009 figures. Preparing students to enter the computer gaming industry is particularly important in Texas, which has the nation’s third-highest number of game development companies behind only California and Washington. In the coming years, ASU will be graduating students in high demand for jobs with starting salaries of about $60,000 a year. On top of that, the jobs will be in Texas. “A lot of kids don’t want to move too far from home for their first job,” Roden said. “So, having plenty of opportunities in Texas is a definite plus.”

It is also a big plus that ASU’s computer game development program made the Princeton Review’s Top 50 list. That, coupled with the number of available computer gaming jobs in Texas, could start bringing even more students to ASU from throughout the region and the country. “The Princeton Review listing will give ASU the national recognition it needs to enhance our recruitment,” Roden said. “ASU is one of only three Texas public universities that made the list, and we think ASU is positioned to become a leader in educating the next generation of computer game developers.”

Another recruiting tool at Roden’s disposal is the Entertainment Computing Laboratory (ECL), which is outfitted with high-speed Dell computers and the latest in game development software. Roden had the lab outfitted in 2007 in preparation for introducing the new gaming program. “It is really the focal point of a lot of our efforts in our curriculum,” he said. “Without the lab, I don’t think we would have had this dramatic increase in enrollment, and it would be hard to teach the classes without it. There is no lab like it on campus.”

Under Roden’s guiding hand, the CS Department identified a growing trend, figured out how to take advantage of it and started a new program to educate students who want to join it. That is how growth happens. “My number one priority is to grow our Computer Science Department,” Roden said. “That is what I was hired for. Our game development program is our most effective tool for doing that.”

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Who ever would have thought upon entering the 2000s that Angelo State would switch systems by the end of the decade? For that matter, who ever would have thought entering 2007 that ASU would divorce the Texas State University System for a long-term relationship with the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) by the end of that summer?

Well, some local residents, influential alumni and key legislators did. And, they pulled it off in whirlwind fashion. Legislation that was introduced as the first-ever bill by freshman State Rep. Drew Darby of San Angelo in March was approved by the Texas House, 137-4, on April 25, okayed unanimously by the Texas Senate on May 15 under the tutelage of State Sen. Robert Duncan of Lubbock, signed by Gov. Rick Perry on May 23 and went into effect Sept. 1 of 2007. Whew!

The voters of Texas even had a say that November when they approved by an overwhelming two-to-one majority an amendment that resolved any possible language conflicts in the state constitution because of the change in systems and ensured state funding for ASU as part of the Tech System. Since then, the merger has lived up to whatever history comes to call the 10 years past, the decade for Angelo State was one that ranged between heaven and hell.

So, as ASU enters the first year of a new decade, it offers the perfect opportunity to reflect on the past 10 years and identify the top 10 events of the decade with no easy name. Selected events are ranked in order of significance or just plain fun. After all, what is the value of a university if everyone can’t have a little fun? So, here goes.

Between 1965 when the college became a state-supported institution and June of 2007, Angelo State had seen only three presidents. Going back to the institution’s founding in 1928 as a community college, only eight men had served in that capacity.

So, a change in president was rare, occurring, on average, just once a decade since 1928 or once every 14 years as a four-year institution. When Dr. E. James Hindman announced his retirement effective in the summer of 2007, the university began a nationwide search.

Dr. Joseph C. Rallo came to the presidency in a manner unprecedented in Texas higher education history. Appointed president in March by the Texas State University System, he started in his ASU position on June 1, eight days after Gov. Perry signed legislation transferring ASU to the Texas Tech University System. As it turned out, he had 92 days tenure under the system that he had 92 days tenure under the system that accounted for the technological needs and living conditions.

In the national championship game, ASU topped Florida Southern, 7-3, for the D-II crown. In his first season at Angelo State, Scott had earned ASU’s first national title from the NCAA. Since 2004, his teams have averaged 46 wins a season and made two more trips to the NCAA D-II national championships. They have won LSC Intercollegiate Athletics title?

As a first-year Angelo State coach, Travis Scott guided the Rambelles to Lone Star Conference, South Central Regional and NCAA D-II championships while finishing the season with a 47-11 record.

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Former students, some from as recently as the mid-1990s, are usually amazed when they return to campus, particularly after a long absence from San Angelo, at how much ASU has changed. With $88 million in construction expenditures, the 2000s mark the biggest construction period since the late ’60s and early ’70s after Angelo State became a state-supported institution.

The most important buildings from a public standpoint were the renovated Houston Harte University Center, the Junell Center/ Stephens Arena and the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center, each of which hosts university as well as public and community functions.

Texas Hall and Centennial Village became the first two residence halls built on campus since the Massie Halls in the early 1980s. Though they were largely replacement facilities for obsolete residence halls, they did provide 1,034 beds in facilities designed for the technological needs and living preferences of the millennial generation.

Academic expansion during the decade included Science III, the third-floor addition to the Porter Henderson Library, the expansion of the Carr Education-Fine Arts Building and the addition of the Food Safety and Product Development Lab to the Management, Instruction and Research Center. The Center for Human Performance also underwent renovation during the decade.

Tying all the construction together was the signage project that clearly delineated campus boundaries, identified all buildings and provided directional signs for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.
Angelo State University Magazine

SUMMER 2010

High Marks

Not since the 1991 College Guide: America’s Best Colleges published by U.S. News & World Report had Angelo State gained as much national recognition as the university did in the final half of 2009. At the start of the ’90s, U.S. News had identified Angelo State as one of the top 10 up-and-coming regional universities nationally and one of the top three in all the western United States. In 2009 The Princeton Review included ASU one of “The Best 371 Colleges” nationally in its annual guide to universities. Unlike most rating services, The Princeton Review factors student opinion into its selections by surveying some 122,000 students nationally. Inclusion in the 2010 guide broadened the exposure of ASU to a national audience of prospective students. Though 10 institutions in Texas were named to the list, Angelo State joined the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M University as the only state-supported colleges on the Princeton Review roster.

Additionally, Angelo State was identified by G.I. Jobs magazine as one of the nation’s “2010 Military Friendly Schools” and by The Chronicle of Higher Education as one of the “Great Colleges to Work For” in 2009. The decade ended with Ellen Moreland of the mathematics faculty being named the “Texas Professor of the Year” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Earlier in the decade, Physics Today had named ASU’s Physics Department as one of the top 21 undergraduate physics programs in the nation, and InformationWeek had lauded the collaboration between ASU’s Information Technology Office and the Computer Science Department in producing exceptional graduates for the workplace.

On the grand scale of things, the demolition of University Hall may not have been that important. After all, several other campus buildings also were demolished during the 2000s due to economic obsolescence. However, if you were there for the implosion that last October Sunday morning of the decade, you would have agreed that no event of the last 10 years went off so spectacularly or so quickly. During the 2000s, the campus lost the Rosemont Apartments, ultimately to be replaced on the west side of campus by Centennial Village, and the ASU Police Station, Mayer Hall and Rambelles Hall in the center of campus. Their demise was, frankly, blistering. Not so for University Hall. While the abatement of, preparation for and cleanup after the demolition of University Hall took more time than the destruction of Rosemont, Police Station, Rambelles and Mayer combined, the moment of truth was over in just 18 seconds, when 140 pounds of dynamite collapsed the 10-story building into a three-story pile of concrete and steel rubble.

To those that saw University Hall fall, it was a memorable moment. Those who missed seeing it in person can still watch it angles on YouTube.

Even though the 2000s are gone and we won’t be able to relive them, everyone will have a second chance to watch a high rise fall when Concho Hall comes down, possibly as soon as next year.

At the start of the decade, a 3.5-inch floppy disk stored the equivalent of 415 printed pages. By the end of the decade, an 8 gigabyte USB flash drive could manage the equivalent of 2,285,715 printed pages. That’s the type of geometric progression Information Technology at ASU has had to keep up with in a digital world because the Web is so critical to today’s educational process, both academically and administratively.

Since 2000, Information Technology staff members have managed an over 6,000 percent increase in bandwidth or channel capacity for Internet communication. They have moved from dial-up to direct wired to wireless access. They have increased the ASU classrooms with multimedia capabilities from 20 percent to 85 percent and have built the electronic skeleton for greater delivery of online courses.

The major IT project of the decade was the $6 million conversion of the university’s multiple administrative software systems, mainly incompatible with each other, into a single integrated software system. The Portico Project converted six independent systems into a single system that handles all administrative functions, ranging from accounts payable to registration and from human resources to financial aid.

The successful ASU conversion was completed ahead of schedule and under budget, becoming one of the major accomplishments of the Hindman presidency and earning Angelo State’s Information Technology team a national reputation in successful project planning and implementation.

Head for the Hills

The College of Education became the home for the Department of Curriculum and instruction, Department of Kinesiology and Department of Teacher Education. The College of Nursing and Allied Health provided the administrative umbrella for the Department of Nursing and Department of Physical Therapy, which had been housed in the College of Sciences.

Though ASU’s physical therapy program was authorized in the previous decade, the department did not accept its first class until 2000. By the end of the decade, it would be the first academic program to offer a doctorate at Angelo State.

In between accepting its first students and being approved to offer a doctorate last year by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Physical Therapy Department received full accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education and began building the foundation for the doctorate in line with the American Physical Therapy Association’s long-term goal to graduate by 2020 autonomous, self-directed physical therapists qualified to provide services without a doctor’s referral.

The ASU program will graduate its last of nine Master of Physical Therapy classes this year, then miss a year of graduates before the first doctorate is conferred in 2012.

In the decade since accepting a class of primarily Texas students, the program now draws applicants from as far away as Wisconsin and Massachusetts. Applicants are attracted by the small classes and the economical tuition, even for out-of-state residents.

Last year the Physical Therapy Department joined the Nursing Department in the new College of Nursing and Allied Health, which is poised for growth to address shortages in health care professionals, particularly in West Texas and rural areas. With nursing’s extensive online programs and PT’s new doctorate, the college is on a new threshold for health professionals at Angelo State.

Of the numerous academic programs and initiatives begun in the 2000s, perhaps none carries the potential for growth as the Hill Country Initiative. As a new member of TTUS in 2007, ASU began to offer classes at system facilities in Fredericksburg and Marble Falls. By the end of 2009, Angelo State had begun enrolling students at a new facility in Boerne.

Provided at no cost to ASU by the Kendall County Economic Development Corp., the Boerne facility in 2010 became Angelo State’s first remote campus, with the college of Graduate Studies offering education, nursing and communication programs less than 35 miles up Interstate 10 from San Antonio. Enrollment at the Boerne extension helped ASU record its highest spring and its highest graduate enrollment ever this year.

Additionally during the 2000s, the Graduate School evolved into the College of Graduate Studies and two new colleges were created. The College of Education became home for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Department of Kinesiology and Department of Teacher Education. The College of Nursing and Allied Health provided the administrative umbrella for the Department of Nursing and Department of Physical Therapy, which had been housed in the College of Sciences.

Dr. Yes

Since 2000, Information Technology staff members have managed an over 6,000 percent increase in bandwidth or channel capacity for Internet communication. They have moved from dial-up to direct wired to wireless access. They have increased the ASU classrooms with multimedia capabilities from 20 percent to 85 percent and have built the electronic skeleton for greater delivery of online courses.

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Brittany Hoffman
Bruce Gonzalez

Amid the organized chaos of an ASU musical theater rehearsal of Carousel, Bill Reynolds stood out as an island of calmness.

After all, Reynolds had performed on Broadway and in the first revival of the Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein stage classic. When Dr. Bill Doll, director of ASU’s University Theatre, decided last year to stage the musical, he thought Reynolds’ experience would be an asset to the play and to his young thespians.

Reynolds, who played the Starkeeper and Dr. Seldin in ASU’s spring production of Carousel, had seen it all before. His fresh-faced fellow cast members, on the other hand, were intently familiarizing themselves with their lines in the Arts at ASU production during a Friday night run-through.

By contrast, the 80-year-old veteran actor first witnessed the play up close as a member of the chorus in the 1953 revival at the New York City Center.

“The revival was directed by William Hammerstein, who was the son of Oscar Hammerstein,“ Reynolds said. “I had been a member of the chorus of the New York City Opera Company and I was going to be an opera singer. I got my Actor’s Equity Card and was listed as an understudy to the main tenor, a Mr. Snow, when I got on with Carousel.”

The New York City production was only the first Carousel for Reynolds, who performed the musical again in 1984 in a dinner theater on Long Island, N.Y.

“I did Dr. Seldin, the very role that I’m doing now,” he said. “There’s a time limit for the lines come back to me.”

The protagonist of the play, a carnival Barker named Billy Bigelow, played by freshman Joe Zimmerman, dies and goes “up there,” where he meets the Starkeeper. Billy is sent back to Earth for one day, where he encounters the daughter he never knew. Then Billy meets Dr. Seldin, at the prom of Billy’s daughter.

“He is a no-nonsense character who won’t let Billy get away with his bluster,” said Reynolds, “but he’s very generous and warm.”

Reynolds’ connection with the performing arts has waxed and waned since his days as a college student at the University of Texas. He began in pre-med but switched to music before World War II intervened. After the war and service in the Navy, he returned to UT to finish his music degree, then took a master’s in music education.

He snagged a role on Broadway, sang in another Broadway chorus, did some off-Broadway productions and even worked as an extra in several television soap operas. In between, he taught in public school as a choral director for 25 years in Levittown, N.Y.

After retiring from teaching, Reynolds sang in radio cigarette commercials, joined the NBC-TV Opera Company, sang in a quartet and performed in Broadway musical productions in Atlantic City, N.J. In addition, he appeared in several Saturday Night Live programs, usually as a politician on an investigating committee.

Looking for a place to retire, the native of Florida found his way back to Texas. While visiting a relative in San Angelo, he and his wife, Janet, discovered their new home.

Although retired, Reynolds still performs when offered the opportunity. He stays busy singing at garden clubs, for Sun Day school classes and senior citizen groups and performing the occasional play.

Last year when Dr. Doll was planning to produce Carousel, he approached Reynolds.

“It was really appealing to me to see if I could get him to join us,” Doll said. “He said, yes, so it was really excited about that and about what he could bring to the performance and to our students.”
Sometimes, timing means everything.

For 2006 Angelo State graduate Audrey Sato, good timing has led to a string of firsts, including her becoming the first participant in the state’s Joint Admissions Medical Program (JAMP) to be matched to a medical residency. Appropriately, an ASU JAMP graduate was first because the Angelo State program became a model for other universities statewide.

Sato graduated high school in Amarillo the same year that the Texas Legislature established the JAMP. When her school counselor told her about Angelo State’s Carr Scholarship Program and that ASU was a JAMP participant, she was hooked.

“She told me I would be in the first JAMP class if I went to ASU,” Sato said. “ASU pre-medicine students also have a really high chance – I think it is greater than 50 percent – of getting into medical school. So, those were my deciding factors. They are great characteristics of Angelo State.”

Aimed at academically strong but economically disadvantaged students, JAMP guarantees college and medical school scholarships for selected students who meet and maintain the financial and academic guidelines. Sato has flourished in the program, graduating from ASU in 2006 and from the Texas School of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of North Texas this year. In December, she became the first JAMP student in Texas to be matched with a medical residency, which she will begin in July at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C.

“It is a great honor to be the first JAMP student to match,” Sato said. “I was lucky to be able to join such a great program and to be able to reach my ultimate goal, for now. I’ve always wanted to be a doctor since I was very young. It’s strange to think that I’m the first, but it’s awesome!”

It is not strange, though, to a pair of Sato’s former ASU professors, who expected her success. She made a distinct impression on associate biology professor Dr. Russell Wilke.

“She was not afraid to speak her mind,” Wilke said. “Usually, freshmen are kind of timid and will sit back, not wanting to say anything stupid. But, Audrey was very straightforward and outspoken, and she could also support her opinions. That was unusual for a freshman.”

Retired biology professor Dr. Alan Bloebaum, at that time Sato’s pre-med adviser, spoke fondly of one of his favorite students.

“Over the years,” Bloebaum said, “there were several students who, for one reason or another, I always felt closer to, and Audrey was one of them. Those students and I would communicate or connected and ‘spoke the same language.’ I got to calling them my ‘adopted sons’ or ‘adopted daughters.’”

Though she did not know it, Sato also timed her arrival at ASU to correspond with Bloebaum winding down his teaching career. She was able to benefit from his expertise, while also getting to take advantage of his unloading many of the mementos stuffed into his crowded office.

“We would play games, and if you won, he would give you a prize,” Sato said. “We would all stack our prizes up by our microscopes and when he got tired of them, we could tell him how we had won. It was really fun for the students.”

Sato’s timing outside the classroom was also spot-on. She was in the first group of students who joined ASU’s new Honors Program, which received multimillion-dollar grants from the National Science Foundation and from the Texas School of Osteopathic Medicine in 2006, and was the first JAMP student to be matched with a residency. Sato knew what she wanted to do and was able to graduate from high school in a year that allowed me the chance to become part of JAMP and to go to ASU, which is a great program for pre-meds, and all the other great programs. I owe a lot to ASU.”

Additionally, Sato did her own independent research, attended Texas Academy of Science conferences and conducted her Carr research project with Dr. David Marsh on maggots and meat.

“It was kind of a social science thing,” Sato said. “I was trying to see if flies that were on meat could communicate or connected and ‘spoke the same language.’”

“Definitely she made her mark.”

For 2006 Angelo State graduate Audrey Sato, good timing has led to a string of firsts, including her becoming the first participant in the state’s Joint Admissions Medical Program (JAMP) to be matched to a medical residency. Appropriately, an ASU JAMP graduate was first because the Angelo State program became a model for other universities statewide. Audrey Sato

So, Sato will head to Walter Reed this summer, due in large part to her participation in JAMP. She has repaid the program by not only excelling at every level, but also by acting as an advocate of the program to both government leaders and prospective ‘JAMPers.’

“I was able to go back with one of my JAMP year-mates to tell them how we had been benefitting from the money that they had allotted for JAMP,” Sato said. “I’ve also been able to speak to high school students about attending colleges that have the JAMP program.”

As for the future, Sato said her plans are pretty much up in the air right now, though she would like to stay in the Army as long as she can.

“Doing an Army career would be great,” Sato said, “just to have the opportunities to better myself, to better my education and to later on move into administration. But, one of my big dreams is to teach. I would like to go back and teach pathology to medical students, which is a big part of the education in medical school.”

Regardless of what she decides, Sato has the support of the folks who helped her along the way and were charmed by her in the process.

“Audrey was a most memorable person, advisee and student,” Bloebaum said. “I am unbelievably proud of her. I owe everything to my ‘adopted daughters.’ What an accomplishment to have been selected to the pathology residency at Walter Reed Hospital. I wish her the very best!”
Job Crunch SURVIVAL

by Jayna Phinney

In today’s depressed job market, working professionals just as much as recent college graduates need to know the new rules for a successful job search because their economic futures could depend on it. For better or worse, the Internet and social media have changed some of the parameters for a successful job search. What worked a decade or even five years ago can fall short in 2010. Today, an online presence may be just as important as your résumé. The newspaper classifieds, once the staple of the job search, have given way to Twitter alerts and a myriad of Web sites targeted to job seekers.

Just how competitive is it for current workers? Even in Texas, which has avoided the more serious problems that other states have faced, the statewide unemployment rate jumped from 6.4 percent at the beginning of 2009 to 8.3 percent in December, with seasonal adjustments, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. Many men and women who had jobs in 2009 are looking for work this year.

The outlook remains bleak for recent college grads as well. Employers surveyed for the National Association of Colleges and Employers’ Job Outlook 2010 indicated that they expect to hire 7 percent fewer graduates during 2009-10 than they did in 2008-09.

However, don’t toss up your hands in despair just yet. Career experts and people who have recently searched for a job can offer advice and strategies to help you be more competitive. No matter what line of work you are in or where you are in your career, you can take something away from their words.

Find Your Passion

If you lost your job recently, you may want to use the situation as an opportunity to reassess your career. When you are first starting a career, you tend to focus on what other people want you to be, said Jenny Blake, who writes a blog for her Web site LifeAfterCollege.org and is a career development program manager at Google. “You need to balance that with who you are and what you are passionate about,” she said.

One way to find work that you are passionate about is by job shadowing someone in your selected field, said Julie Ruthe nebeck, director of ASU Career Development. You can learn a lot just by asking questions about the day-to-day tasks on the job. Dr. Tom Badgett, professor of marketing and head of ASU’s Department of Management and Marketing, said a job shadowing experience taught him that he did not want to be a lawyer, and it saved him from going to law school to discover that.

“Knowing what you want to do is half the battle,” Badgett said. “You’ve got to dream the dream before it can come true.”

Work Without Pay

If you know what you want to do but are still struggling to find work, you have another option: work for free. In e-book Recession-Proof Graduate, Charlie Hoehn stresses the idea of free work. The concept entails approaching potential employers and offering to do a project for them without compensation.

Using this method, you can prove yourself to employers and possibly line yourself up for something more than the lowest job on the totem pole. “I found work that, even if I never got paid, I would still continue doing because I enjoyed it,” Hoehn said via e-mail. Offering to do work without pay in a competitive market also can be a great way to network, Badgett said. The experience will be your pay.

Network

Networking may sound like something that other people do, but now it is your turn. “Most of the best jobs go to people with the best contacts,” Badgett said.

When it comes to calling upon your contacts, you should use everyone available to you, including your relatives or your friends’ relatives, said Adra Enos, an ASU career development assistant. Enos recommends setting up informational interviews, just to help you make contacts. Do not wait for job postings.

Networking helped ASU graduate Adri anne For tenberry land her job at MHMR of the Concho Valley. The sociology major now works as a case manager on a mobile crisis outreach team.

Her mother previously worked for a social services agency in San Angelo and had known several people at MHMR. Fortenberry’s mother asked her to set up an informational interview to meet face-to-face with some of the hiring personnel. MHMR told For tenberry that they weren’t hiring at that time, but they would let her know if any jobs opened up. It paid off.

The agency hired her two months later.

Market Yourself

You know who you are better than anyone else, but when it comes to promoting yourself, a few strategies can go a long way. Even if you don’t have job experience in your chosen field, you can word your résumé so that employers can distinguish transferable skills, Ruthe nebeck said. And if you are not very tech-savvy, now is the time to develop some computer skills.

Many employers now ask for applicants to submit résumés and applications electronically. Enos advises that you follow the application requirements because you won’t win any points dropping it off in person. Further, leaving your application in someone else’s hands is a good way for it to get misplaced.

You can also take your computer skills one step further by creating an online presence through a blog or a Web site. In today’s job market, Hoehn said, employers will inevitably “Google” job candidates. By creating a Web presence, job candidates can bump down unfavorable photos or videos that may pop up in search results of their name.

“Blogging is your opportunity to have positive and professional results associated with your name in a Google search,” he said.

Hoehn recommends continuing the blog after landing a job because you never know what opportunities will develop. “You’re actually putting your personal value on display by continuing your blog even after you get a job,” he said.

A Final Note

On the upside, the job slump won’t last forever. Baby boomers will begin retiring during the next 10 years, which will present opportunities of upward mobility for younger generations, Badgett said.

As difficult as it is, maintain your patience while being tenacious with your job search. Badgett said you can give yourself a boost by researching and acquiring the most in-demand job skills in your industry.

When you are pounding the pavement, keep in mind that you want to convey to employers that you are willing to take on new job responsibilities, Blake said.

“Your’s actually putting your personal value on display by continuing your blog even after you get a job,” he said.
**Roots**

Cultivating

Tim Gette looked right at home standing amid the building blocks of Texas heritage.

The 1968 ASU graduate was showing visitors some of his favorite displays in the Institute of Texan Cultures (ITC), the 192,000-square-foot complex in the heart of San Antonio, just a stone’s throw from the state’s most revered historical shrine, the Alamo.

With a fully appointed chuck wagon behind him and a mounted Longhorn from John Wayne’s herd looking on, the museum’s executive director revealed the most gratifying part of his job.

“Seeing the response of the kids when they come through our exhibits is the best thing,” Gette said.

He enjoys watching people of all ages get close to their roots and learn about the ethnic groups that shaped Texas. These pioneers left threads of their lives woven into a tapestry of history now carefully preserved in the sprawling complex.

When he signed on with the museum in February 1999, Gette accepted the challenge to protect those bits of bygone Texas, oversee their display and help educate the public on Texas’ past.

After first visiting the ITC when it opened as part of the 1968 HemisFair, Gette reconnected with it through a challenge that he couldn’t resist in the state he loves.

“The museum was virtually unchanged since the HemisFair,” he said. “This is my opportunity to update the exhibits, and we are improving the programming here at the museum.”

The Institute is part of the University of Texas at San Antonio, and Gette is charged with making the museum a top-notch facility as part of UTSA’s overall plan to become a Tier 1 university.

“One of the changes we have made, which I feel is fairly significant,” Gette said, “is in our dome show, which starts off with people saying ‘I’m a Texan.’ The people saying that used to be white men, but now they are men and women of all ethnic backgrounds speaking English, Spanish and German.”

The museum hosted a traveling exhibit, “Race: Are We So Different?”, through May 16, from the Science Museum of Minnesota. The exhibit focused not only on scientific and historic perspectives about race, but also on personal experiences.

“The Institute of Texan Cultures was established to tell the stories of the many cultures that settled and established the state of Texas,” Gette said. “This type of museum, dedicated to diverse cultures and people, had never been conceived before. Through the race exhibit, we continue the conversation on race and racism, which are still felt throughout the United States.

Another way Gette’s museum advances Texas culture is by having people who lived Texas history record their experiences in live interviews.

“Oral history is something we do a lot of,” he said. “We get people to come in or we go to them and record them. When those people are gone, their stories can’t be told anymore.”

Texans pride themselves on their heritage, but that pride isn’t limited to his museum or the state, Gette said. He has traveled the world and heard it in the voices of Texans as they introduce themselves.

“If you go overseas and someone asks where you are from, if you are from anywhere else in the United States, you are going to say you’re an American. If you are from Texas, you are going to say you are a Texan,” he said.

Coming back to Texas and the largest storehouse of its ethnic heritage closed the circle on a career that started at ASU and led Gette around the world to some of its most exotic locations.

He began as a part-time reporter at the San Angelo Standard-Times in 1966 while attending ASU. After graduating in 1968, he taught school for a couple of years before returning for the second of four stops at the San Angelo newspaper.

“I had a dual major in journalism and history,” Gette said. “I majored in journalism because, No. 1, I could get a job in journalism, and although I loved history, I didn’t think I could get a job in it.”

He has worked successfully in the history field, however, with positions at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, the Dallas Historical Society and the Sixth Floor Museum, which houses memorabilia from the Dallas assassination of John F. Kennedy.

That museum is located in the former Texas Schoolbook Depository, where Lee Harvey Oswald fired the shot that killed President Kennedy in 1963.

“The Sixth Floor Museum wasn’t intended to be a museum, but people kept coming,” Gette said. “We had visitors taking taxis to the airport, stop in to look out the sixth-floor window and then go catch their planes.”

Before his stint at the Sixth Floor Museum, Gette served as project director for a Soviet-era space exhibit in Fort Worth and oversaw the 80,000-square-foot Catherine the Great show at the Dallas Historical Society.

Besides his museum work, Gette’s eclectic résumé includes stints as associate director of a creative arts theater and school; advertising and sales promotions manager with Bell Helicopter in Fort Worth and Tehran, Iran; and air intelligence specialist and wing historian in the U.S. Air Force.

While in the Air Force, Gette served in such diverse settings as Thailand, Blytheville, Ark., and Omaha, Neb. Among his assignments was a tour as 97th Bombardment Wing historian at Blytheville’s Eaker Air Force Base.

More recently, he worked at the Dallas Museum of Natural History and the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

Although Gette wasn’t born in Texas, he got here as quickly as he could.

“My dad was from Texas,” he said. “He married my mother, who was from California, so I ended up being born there, but Texas was always home from the time I was a baby. I couldn’t be born here, but I was raised a Texan.”

As he was growing up, Gette also learned a valuable lesson the teacher in him still advocates: That which came before us can help guide us into the future.

“Go back to Darius and the great Persian kings to consider the fact there was once this great society that lies in ruins today,” he said.

“What caused societies to rise as great as they were and to crumble into just stones? History is something we can all learn from. That’s a great mistake people make today. We don’t look at what we did in the past before we take that next step.”

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**By Roy Ivey**

Photo by Danny Meyer
Ned Cox has always lived his life in the spotlight. A celebrated high school athlete at San Antonio’s Roosevelt High School, the former Angelo State quarterback made the transition to the college game look easy. But, music was always his passion. “It’s so weird that people still remember me as a football player,” said Cox, who now runs his own music studio back home in San Antonio. “I’ve never been one to bring up the past and talk about football, but others will and I indulge them.”

People have talked about Cox, now 46, at Angelo State since he closed out his playing career as the Rams’ all-time leading passer a quarter century ago. A pass-first, run-second style quarterback for the Rams, Cox etched his name in the ASU record book on several occasions before finishing up in 1986. His 7,833 passing yards and 8,804 yards of total offense still stand as school records, though the former record could be in jeopardy this season when Josh Neiswander returns for his senior ASU season. Cox also ended his career as the all-time leader in total offense in the Lone Star Conference, but that record has since been broken. When he finished college ball, no NCAA Division II player had ever taken as many snaps.

“I remember every game I played,” Cox said. “We beat some Division I teams, but nothing compared to playing conference games. We really focused on those games, especially with an old school Texas A&I. It was old school on both sides of the ball.”

Cox earned first-team All-LSC recognition in both his sophomore and junior seasons, going 8-3 and undefeated in the LSC in 1984, then 7-4 with a runner-up finish in league play in 1985. As a junior, Cox was a regional candidate for the prestigious Harlon Hill Trophy, the award given to the top football player in NCAA Division II.

“Ned’s success came from his ability to keep a play alive,” Vandergriff said. “He had the ability to run, but he had the pocket presence to feel any pressure and just make a play. He wasn’t a real vocal player, but when he spoke, people listened.”

When his career ended, Cox held 22 of the 25 ASU passing and total offense records. Included in those records was an amazing 475 yards in a game against Texas A&I in the final contest of his career. He also finished his eligibility with four LSC career records.

“I knew going into my last game that more records would be on the line,” Cox said. “But, that season didn’t go the way we wanted it to go, so we just wanted to beat A&I. Looking back, breaking the single-game yardage record was nice, but I will never forget throwing five interceptions in the game.”

“The Rams fell to Texas A&I, 52-34, closing out a 6-5 season and Cox’s career in 1986. “My time at Angelo State will always be special to me,” Cox said. “It was a great time in my life. To have the chance to play football and have the college experience was wonderful and I’ll never forget it.”

But with all of the success he found on the playing field, Cox could not wait to move from under center to center stage. When he was just 14, his parents bought him his first guitar. Music was where he found relaxation from the rigors of football and class.

“I played in bands in high school and continued while I was at ASU,” Cox said. “I started my current band when I left school and we’ve been together ever since. After I returned home, I got married, started a family and have a blessed life.”

Cox’s band, NDMan (pronounced like “in demand” without the “l”), works out of San Antonio, but has made regional and national appearances over the past few years. Cox even made his way back to San Angelo as recently as last fall for a gig. He’s primarily a bass player, but can hold his own on the guitar, drums and keyboard, something he does on a regular basis at his own recording studio, Probable Cause Studio, in north San Antonio.

“My spend my days as an insurance broker,” Cox said. “But I love the music industry and am hoping soon to start my own record label.”

He still finds time, however, to stay active as he plays basketball with some old friends twice a week. Once his son, Ned IV, was old enough to join his father, Cox would bring his son to the gym with him. It was obvious that athleticism ran in the family as the younger Cox, now 19, earned a basketball scholarship at NCAA D-I Evansville University.

“He’s primarily a bass player, but can hold something he does on a regular basis at his own recording studio, Probable Cause Studio, in north San Antonio.

Oct. 9 at Tarleton State* Stephenville

Oct. 16 at Midwestern State* Wichita Falls

Oct. 23 Incarnate Word (Homecoming)* San Angelo Stadium

Oct. 30 at Abilene Christian* Abilene

Nov. 6 at Southeastern Oklahoma** Durant, Okla.

Nov. 13 Central Oklahoma** San Angelo Stadium

ASCU’s Cotton Bowl game is one of 10 contests set for the fall. The Rams open their 47th year of football Sept. 4, when they host Eastern New Mexico, one of five home games for ASU this fall.

2010 ASU Football Schedule

Sept. 4 Eastern New Mexico** San Angelo Stadium 6 p.m.

Sept. 11 vs. Texas A&M-Commerce** Dallas (Cotton Bowl) 5 p.m.

Sept. 25 West Texas A&M (Family Day)* San Angelo Stadium 6 p.m.

Oct. 2 at Tarleton State* Stephenville 7 p.m.

Oct. 9 Texas A&M-Kingsville* San Angelo Stadium 6 p.m.

Oct. 16 at Midwestern State* Wichita Falls 7 p.m.

Oct. 23 Incarnate Word (Homecoming)* San Angelo Stadium 6 p.m.

Oct. 30 at Abilene Christian* Abilene 2 p.m.

Nov. 6 at Southeastern Oklahoma** Durant, Okla. 2 p.m.

Nov. 13 Central Oklahoma** San Angelo Stadium 2 p.m.

* LSC South Division game

** LSC crossover game

Woo Meets Cotton

Home both to a major bowl game for seven decades and to one of the top interstate rivalries in college football since 1932, the Cotton Bowl on Sept. 11 will welcome the Angelo State Rams.

Angelo State will play Texas A&M-Commerce at 5 p.m. that Saturday in the historic venue as part of the third annual Harvey Martin Classic, an event started in 2008 by A&M-Commerce to honor one of the best football players in school and Lone Star Conference history.

“We are excited with the partnership with Texas A&M-Commerce for the Harvey Martin Classic in the Cotton Bowl, and for all the activities surrounding that event,” said ASU Director of Athletics Kathleen Brasfield. “This is a great opportunity for former Rams and ‘Belles in the area to get together and enjoy LSC football.”

This will be the Rams’ first appearance in the Cotton Bowl and their first game in the Metroplex since 1984. “Almost a fourth of our players are from high schools within an hour of the Cotton Bowl,” said ASU head football coach Dale Carr. “This will be a great chance for their high school coaches, families and friends to see them play.”

“ASU athletics, band, ROTC, development office and alumni association are planning together to make it an eventful and memorable weekend,” said Brasfield.

“We hope our alumni in the Dallas area will mark their calendars and that others will begin their travel plans for the Rams and Lions fun.”

Details regarding ASU’s Dallas road trip and Cotton Bowl appearance, including pre-game festivities, will be available at angelsongameday.com.

ASU’s Cotton Bowl game is one of 10 contests set for the fall. The Rams open their 47th year of football Sept. 4, when they host Eastern New Mexico, one of five home games for ASU this fall.
Rams Build on Success

Angelo State head football coach Dale Carr signed 30 high school players during national signing day as the Rams benefited from their winning season last fall.

“We have likely over-signed this spring, but that’s a good thing,” said Carr, who will begin his sixth season at the helm of the Rams this fall. “We’ve got quite a balanced group of young men, nearly splitting the freshmen equally on both sides of the ball.”

Among the 30 freshmen signees, 15 new-comers will report this fall on offense, 12 on defense and three as “athletes” recruited for multiple positions. The Rams picked up six defensive backs, five linebackers and four defensive linemen on defense. On offense, ASU added six linemen, three wide receivers, two running backs and a tight end.

“Signing day was an exciting day for the Rams,” said Carr. “We felt that our recruiting efforts really paid off this spring and that our program is continuing to head in the right direction.”

The Rams, who finished 6-5 in 2009, open the 2010 season Sept. 4 against Eastern New Mexico in San Angelo Stadium.

2010 Angelo State High School Signees

Dakota Abernathy 6-2 210 DB Weatherford (Weatherford)
Colton Barnes 6-0 290 OL Bryan (Bryan)
Ryan Cappsaddle 5-11 170 DB The Woodlands (The Woodlands)
Quinton Crow 5-11 225 LB Austin (Lake Travis)
B.J. Davis 6-6 200 ATH Sudan (Sudan)
Colt Drennan 6-5 215 DL Boerne (Champion)
Beni Garcia 5-9 165 WR McAllen (Memorial)
Mackenzie Hirt 5-10 175 WR Brady (Brady)
Colby Houston 6-2 335 OL Red Oak (Red Oak)
Eric Hunsaker 6-0 220 LB Schertz (Clemens)
James Hurd 6-2 195 WR Boerne (Champion)
Paul Ives 6-2 275 OL Garland (North Garland)
Steven Jackson 6-3 295 OL The Colony (The Colony)
Alex James 6-0 185 DB Deer Park (Deer Park)
Anthony Jenkins 6-3 200 TE Killeen (Killeen)
Anthony Landry 6-3 295 OL Houston (Bellaire)
Paul Mason 5-8 155 DB Wichita Falls (Rider)
Demontre McCay 5-11 195 ATH Houston (South Houston)
Joshua Mullins 6-2 250 DL Austin (Crockett)
Austin Otto 6-1 220 RB Denton (Guyer)
Trevor Owens 6-0 200 LB Monahans (Monahans)
Stuart Redding 5-11 220 LB Keller (Central)
Jarred Ross 5-8 150 DB Corinth (Lake Dallas)
Daniel Scott 6-3 240 DL Decatur (Bridgeport)
Rush Seaver 6-1 210 LB Lampaapas (Lampaapas)
Blake Smith 6-0 225 RB Burleson (Burleson)
Lawrence Syron 6-0 160 DB Houston (Bellaire)
Xavier Taylor 5-10 170 WR Glenn Heights (DeSoto)
Jerrell Walters 6-2 285 OL Spring (Spring)
Preston Wimberly 6-2 250 DL Richardson (Berker)

Home Sweet Home

Just one game shy of a perfect home record this past season, the basketball Rams let their road woes up at home come NCAA Tournament time.

While the Rams made a third straight trip to the postseason Lone Star Conference Tournament, a 66-58 loss to Northeastern State in the opening round killed any chance of making the NCAA D-II national tournament as they did in 2009.

“This was a season that came down to five or six possessions,” said ASU head men’s basketball coach Fred Rike, who closed out his fourth year with the Rams. “If you look at some of our losses, there are a few possessions that, if they fall in our favor, we extend our season.”

ASU ended the season at 17-11, including an 11-1 home record.

Brooks said, “Even though these changes did not produce a winning season this year, I strongly feel that we will see the positive results next year. Losing is never fun, easy or, quite frankly, acceptable, but I know we are doing the right things to get where we want to go.”

A bright spot for the ‘Belles this spring was once again the play of junior guard Camille Perkins, who was honored as a first-team All-LSC South selection for the third straight season after scoring nearly 16 points per game. Perkins will enter her senior season ranked eighth-all time for the ‘Belles with 1,299 career points and with her sights set on the program’s career scoring record.

“Camille has been the best player on our team for three years, and next year we will expect her to be the best player in the conference,” Brooks said.

Sophomore center Paige Weishahn was named honorable mention All-LSC South and freshman guard Leah LeMaire was tabbed the league’s Freshman of the Year.

This marked the second time in three seasons that a ‘Belle has earned this honor. Perkins claimed the award in 2008.

Belles Embrace Change

The Angelo State women’s basketball program is experiencing a spell of growing pains.

“Last year we changed our defense and this year we made significant changes to our offense,” said ASU head women’s basketball coach Sally Walling Brooks, who wrapped up her 10th year with the ‘Belles in March.

“We have also evaluated our recruiting philosophy and we spent a lot of time in the preseason developing a team concept in everything we do,” she said. “I was not satisfied with just making the regional tournament year after year. My goal has always been to win a national championship, and I strongly believe that the changes we are making will get us there.”

With a young roster that included just three seniors, Brooks nearly led the ‘Belles to a 10th straight appearance in the Lone Star Conference Tournament. ASU missed the playoffs by just one game, finishing fifth in the LSC’s South Division and ending the season with a 12-14 overall record.

“We have made a lot of positive changes for the program and I am proud of that, even though they didn’t produce wins this year,” Brooks said.

“I honestly, think this team was better than last year’s squad,” said Rike. “We were better in every statistical category. With one week to go in the regular season, we were still in the hunt for a division championship and one key road win would have likely secured us a trip to the NCAA Division II Tournament.”

The Rams’ 11-1 home record included a perfect 6-0 mark in LSC South Division play. Winning the program’s first division title in nearly a decade, though, came down to a road game at nationally ranked and defending conference champion Midwestern State in February.

Though ASU had pulled off an 84-76 upset of the Mustangs in January, handing them one of their two regular season losses, the Rams could only force Midwestern State -- continued on page 43
A Difference Maker

In the fall of 1978, Angelo State University stood at the pinnacle of the small college football world, thanks to Jim Hess and his Rams’ national championship season.

As Rams’ mentor from 1974-81, Hess finished his eight ASU years with a 65-23-3 overall record, six winning seasons and three straight trips to the NAIA playoffs. No doubt, he produced a résumé worthy of the first Rams football coach to be inducted into the Angelo State Athletic Hall of Honor.

“I’ve been very fortunate in my career to live a lot of the history of Angelo State,” said long-time ASU football coach Jerry Vandergriff. “And, I’ve been fortunate to be around a lot of great coaches. Without a doubt, Jim is the best football coach I’ve ever known.”

The memorable 1978 season was the crowning moment of Hess’ 22-year head coaching career, as the Rams rolled through the regular season 11-0 and dominated their three playoff games, outscoring their opponents 101-17.

“At that time, the NAIA was just as good as NCAA Division II,” said Hess. “During the 1978 season, we were ranked number one in the Dunkel poll, which ranked all non-Division I colleges in the country. Not only did we win the national championship, we were the best small college football team in America that year.”

While at ASU; Hess mentored eight All-Americans and 42 first team all-conference selections. The Rams had no fewer than two first team All-LSC picks each season under Hess, including a school-record nine such honorees in 1978. During the height of his tenure, Hess guided the Rams to a 19-game winning streak when they were almost unbeatable at home. His teams dominated at San Angelo Stadium, going 37-7-1 at the venue and claiming a program record 23 straight home victories from 1977-81.

“Jim has been around a lot of assistant coaches in my career,” said Hess, “but none to the likes of what I was around at ASU. You’re only as good as the people around you. This is a great honor, but it represents so many people that were around when I was at ASU.”

Vandergriff said, “All his life, starting from being a player to the end of his career, Jim Hess was a difference maker. Every stop he made, including ASU, he was the difference.”

A Success Story

Tim Howard left Angelo State with more points than any other Ram on the basketball court. He returned in 2005 to finish his degree and again this past January as the first men’s basketball player selected for ASU’s Athletic Hall of Honor.

From 1985-89, Howard scored a school-record 1,844 points and led the Rams to the back-to-back Lone Star Conference championships, plus a pair of NCAA Division II regional berths. His work at ASU, however, remained unfinished until more than 15 years later when he earned his bachelor’s degree in kinesiology.

Thanks to that degree and his commitment to getting it, Howard became the girls’ basketball coach at Grape Creek High School, joining a long list of ASU graduates in the coaching profession.

“There are people at ASU who will have no idea how much respect I have for them,” said Howard upon his induction. “I was encouraged to keep my nose to the grindstone and to ‘get it done.’ ASU gave me the opportunity to play the game I love, get a degree and have a place to call home.”

After a freshman season hampered by injuries, Howard became a full-time starter for the Rams as a sophomore and a roundball phenomenon his third year on the team. As a junior, the Fort Worth native scored a Rams-record 729 points and led ASU to its first of two straight league titles and NCAA D-II appearances.

Though an ankle injury limited his scoring as a senior, he still ended his career with better than 400 points more than any other Ram in the 45 years of the program.

“Tim set this place on fire,” said Ed Messburger, who coached the Rams from 1978-98. “As the leader of the best group of athletes that I have ever coached, he will be in our record book for many years to come.”

In addition to his scoring title, Howard also holds ASU’s career record for field goals made (690) and ranks second all-time in free throws made (586) and rebounds (629).

“This is a team award,” said Howard of his induction. “No man can accomplish individual success in college basketball without great teammates.”

An ‘Ever’ Player

Tracy Morton Hastings was destined to play basketball at Angelo State University. She was born on a morning when her father, Charles M. “Chuck” Morton, and the Rams basketball team had a game. Her mother, Shirley Morton, had captained the San Angelo College spirit squad. Tracy Morton grew up in an apartment complex at the current location of ASU’s Center for Human Performance, a venue in which she would play every home game of her collegiate career.

With so strong a Rams and Rambelles lineage, it is only fitting that she would become the first women’s basketball player inducted into the Angelo State Athletic Hall of Honor.

“I was probably born on center court,” said Morton Hastings. “Basketball is a team sport, and there wouldn’t be anything that I would have accomplished without my teammates. ASU has provided me with a great foundation, and I am truly honored to be inducted.”

Named starter by first-year Belle head coach Peggy Till during her very first collegiate practice, Morton Hastings went on to start every game from 1985-89, leading the ‘Belles to four straight trips to the Lone Star Conference Tournament. A relentless rebounder, Morton Hastings became just the second ‘Belle to record more than 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds. To this day, she ranks fifth all-time at ASU in scoring and second in rebounding.

“Rebounding was Tracy’s mission on the court,” said Till, who led the ‘Belles from 1985-90. “In a game where scoring is noticed most, our best player understood the value of a rebound.”

For the past 16 seasons, Morton Hastings has taken the lessons she learned at ASU and shared her knowledge with the girls’ basketball players at San Antonio’s James Madison High School. She has amassed more than 340 career victories with the Mavericks, collecting three district titles and numerous coach-of-the-year honors.

“Her teammates loved her and, more importantly, they had great respect for her,” said Till. “There are good, great and ‘ever’ players. You have to be good to be a collegiate athlete. Some prove to be great, but rare is the athlete that is considered one of the best ever. Tracy is an ‘ever.’”

The Right Thing to Do

Dr. Lloyd Vincent served 27 years as president of Angelo State University, but his imprint on athletics will last for decades to come.

Upon his arrival in 1967, ASU was a fledgling four-year institution, just two years removed from the transition from a junior college. A decorated collegiate track athlete in his own right at Rice University, Vincent not only transformed Angelo State into one of the top regional institutions, but also built the foundation for a successful athletic program.

“Dad loved athletics,” said his son, Michael Ryan, former vice president and interim ASU president after Vincent’s death in 1994. “He would say ‘We’re not going to do anything unless we can do it well.’ He never believed that giving women a chance to participate in intercollegiate athletics and meeting Title IX requirements were drastic steps. They were just the right thing to do.”

Vincent’s legacy can be seen today in Rams and Rambelles teams that have expanded to 12 intercollegiate sports and nationally compete on the national stage.

“If you seek a monument to Dr. Vincent,” said Ryan, “just look around the ASU campus and all that we have available for students here. We stand in awe of all that he did and the foundation he left for all of us.”

“He was a pioneer and a friend to women’s athletics,” said Kathleen Brasfield, ASU director of athletics. “He was a man who championed equality in sports for everyone. Putting him in our Hall of Honor is the right thing to do.”
"I can remember," he added, "many times my family and friends telling me to quit school or to tell the professor that I would complete an assignment the next day, so I could stay at a family function. I learned the meaning of sacrifice and being able to stand up as a man when you have to make tough decisions. Today, some of those nay-sayers tell me they wish they had listened to me instead of enjoying the party. The reward is great."

When he graduated from ASU with his computer science degree, Aguirre had already moved up from his starting position as central office technician at GTE to central office supervisor. The ensuing 23 years have seen him add a master’s degree from the University of Dallas, advance through seven more promotions and move to the company’s then-headquarters in Irving.

"Each position that I have held has presented me with an opportunity to grow and develop my talents," Aguirre said. "In many cases, I was able to discover capabilities within me that I didn’t realize I had. For example, I have been blessed with an intuitive ability to recognize an individual’s strengths. This has helped me to place folks in positions that bring out the best of their talents. When they shine, I shine."

Hispanic Business magazine editors think Aguirre shines enough to put him on their Top 100 list that also includes several members of President Obama’s cabinet, a Supreme Court justice, an astronaut, a vice president of Walt Disney and baseball star Albert Pujols.

"I disagree in the other great success in Aguirre’s life is his family. He and his wife, Marie, have four children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. In what spare time he has, Aguirre enjoys photography, golfing and working on his ranch in Christoval."

"I have always enjoyed meeting other alumni and visiting with them about the university," Hunter said. "I also enjoy visiting with prospective students and sharing my thoughts and experiences. That is why this job is truly a dream job for me."

"It is such an honor to come back to San Angelo and work for an organization that supports the university that I have loved since childhood," Hunter said. "I am excited to be able to represent my fellow alumni and I want them to know I am working hard for them to make the association the best it can be."

"I feel as alumni, we are an important group to keep the past alive and share those wonderful memories with the current and prospective students. We also must be a strong group that not only focuses on the past, but also on the present and the future of Angelo State University," she said.
Looking Ahead

As she begins her tenure as executive director of the Angelo State University Alumni Association, Kim Hunter offers some plans for former students.

Settling into her new job and responsibilities, Hunter said, “I have a great staff that is helping me with new ideas. We look forward to seeing some new faces and members in the alumni association.”

She shared some thoughts on her vision for the future:

Networking: “The alumni association should be an organization which promotes networking among its members, whether it is for business purposes or job hunting.”

Alumni Chapters: “We will encourage alumni chapters outside of San Angelo to organize and connect with alumni in their area, whether they are in larger cities or smaller communities. The alumni chapters could then be the contact between the university and potential recruits.”

Family Orientation: “The association should have more events that are family friendly so parents of young children should have more events that are family oriented.”

Vision for the future: “We are excited to welcome new alumni and students.”

Kim Hunter offers some plans for the future of the alumni association.

Sign of the Times

Those passing by the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center these days know what’s going on thanks to an electronic sign donated by the alumni center’s namesakes, Dr. Robert and Jean Ann LeGrand. The 6x12-foot digital sign was installed on the southwest corner of center property where University Avenue intersects Jackson Street at the four-way stop. The LED sign is controlled wirelessly from the association offices inside the LeGrand Center, allowing staff to promote association activities and other functions to the public when renting the facilities.

“Once again by their generosity,” said association Executive Director Kim Hunter, “the LeGrand’s have demonstrated their commitment to the ASU Alumni Association and their love of Angelo State University. We are delighted that the new sign will increase the visibility of the alumni association and its activities.”

Huntersaid the sign helped promote the association’s first spring Ram Jam, which alumni sponsored April 9 before a Rams baseball doubleheader. The sign even helped announce the rain cancellation of the Ram Jam scheduled April 17 before a Rambelle softball doubleheader.

“In the past,” Hunter said, “we had to make our own signs, banners and posters and they were always at the mercy of the wind and the weather. Now, with the graphics capabilities, we are limited only by our imagination.”

In addition to the LeGrand gift of $50,900 to purchase the sign, Will Charlesworth of All About Signs and Graphics donated the company’s services for the installation. The sign is mounted on an Austin stone pedestal, matching the bases and state symbols.

Dr. Robert and Jean Ann LeGrand.

CLASSnotes

Each issue of the Angelo State University Magazine will highlight selected alumni and then invite you 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. Better yet, see what your friends are up to and then update the site with news about you, your family and your accomplishments.

1977

Dave Edmiston has been named to the board of directors of the Texas Farm Bureau. The third-generation rancher operates a cow/calf, wildlife and hay farm near Brady. Edmiston has served as both president and vice president of McCulloch County Farm Bureau and has served on various county and state Farm Bureau committees, including animal health, wildlife, resolutions and state affairs.

He and his wife, Peggy Scott Edmiston, have two grown daughters, Michelle and Celeste, and a grandson.

1981

Dr. Albert Reyes, who was featured in the spring issue of Angelo State University Magazine, has been elected the sixth president in the 131-year history of Buckner International.

As president of Buckner, Reyes will manage the organization’s nearly $100 million annual budget, while overseeing the daily operations of more than 1,300 employees worldwide through Buckner Children and Family Services’ domestic and international ministries and Buckner Retirement Services’ seven senior living communities in Texas.

A native of Corpus Christi, Reyes earned his Bachelor of Business Admin-

istration from ASU and both his Master of Divinity and his Doctor of Ministry from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He completed his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Andrews University in 2009.

1985

Rhonda R. (Gibson) Dane of Austin has taught special education students in the Austin area for more than 25 years. In addition to her bachelor’s degree, she also earned a master’s degree in special education in 1985 from ASU. In her spare time, she is involved in the welfare of animals and gardening.

1991

Alissa (Hambright) Carter, gifted and talented teacher and assistant principal for La Mesa Elementary in Plainview, has been named the Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted in Region 17 by the Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented.

The award honors one teacher from each region in Texas for outstanding service, contribution and commitment to gifted education.

Carter has been an educator for 19 years. In addition to her bachelor’s degree from ASU, she holds a Master of Education from Wayland Baptist University. She and her husband, Kevin, have a son, Blaine.

In Memoriam

Janna Elizabeth Boling, 27, registration assistant in the Registrar’s Office, died Feb. 1. She was the daughter of Jaxine Boling, office coordinator in the Department of Art and Music.

Col. Ernest Eugene Felts, 56, Class of 1976, died Nov. 30. From 2002-04 Felts served as head of ASU’s Aerospace Studies Department and commandant of the university’s Air Force ROTC Detachment 847. In 2008 he was named a Distinguished ROTC Alumnus by the ASU Alumni Association. A memorial scholarship in his name has been established through the ASU Foundation.

Brandon Jones Clark, 36, Class of 1998, died Nov. 25 after a three-year battle with cancer. Clark had been head tennis coach and a teacher at Lake View High School since 2001. The Texas Tennis Coaches Association had earlier honored Clark with the first Brandon Clark Courage Award, which will be presented each year in his honor to a coach demonstrating Clark’s courage.
they cap their undergraduate programs with mandatory demonstrations of the skills they have developed.

“We usually have four to six seniors giving recitals each year,” said Dr. David Scott, head of the Art and Music Department. “One of the things they have to do before they student teach is to give at least a half-hour public performance of either a vocal or instrumental program.”

“In April, our art students have a show with the best works from their portfolios,” he said. “They are graded on how their pieces look in the student gallery and how they present their work to their fellow students.”

The Art and Music Department also presents about 35 and 50 public concerts and recitals per semester. “Every one of them, except for the FAME Concert and Plate Auction in March, is open to the public at no charge,” Scott said. “The only reason we charge admission is in the event of a fundraiser.”

ASU art and music students benefit from the FAME event with proceeds fun 35 public concerts and recitals per semester. “Every one of them, except for the FAME Concert and Plate Auction in March, is open to the public at no charge,” Scott said. “The only reason we charge admission is in the event of a fundraiser.”

“We always encourage our students to give at least a half-hour performance of their music, giving recitals a year,” said Dr. David Scott, head of the Art and Music Department.

ASU art and music students benefit from the FAME event with proceeds from between 35 and 50 public concerts and recitals per semester. “Every one of them, except for the FAME Concert and Plate Auction in March, is open to the public at no charge,” Scott said. “The only reason we charge admission is in the event of a fundraiser.”