Dear Friends,

One of my more enjoyable tasks as President is to introduce the newest edition of the Angelo State University Magazine. The magazine’s current format was established in the fall of 2007 as part of the integrated marketing campaign we instituted when transitioning to the Texas Tech University System. Since then, the magazine has highlighted the many accomplishments that make Angelo State University proud. The articles build on our traditions, while also underscoring the many new initiatives designed to ensure our success in the evolving landscape of higher education in Texas and beyond.

This fall’s edition focuses on the many and varied ties that ASU has to our military and its storied history and traditions. As our nation remembers and celebrates the sacrifices of the Civil War with the 150th anniversary of that conflict, three of our professors share their perspectives on that distinctive and dramatic chapter in our nation’s history. ASU’s Memorial Oak Grove commemorates the sacrifice of our students who died during World War II, as well as underscoring the many stories of many others who served during that pivotal conflict.

Our West Texas Collection serves as a repository of many military-related materials, including the letters of a World War II chaplain profiled in this issue. Just this summer, the West Texas Collection has learned that one of our former ROTC students died during the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon. More recently, our new language and culture programs within the Center for Security Studies (CSS) focus on the skills that our military will need to succeed in the conflicts of the future. Our superb CSS faculty members represent a blend of academic and operational skills, which have enabled them to craft new degrees to meet the academic goals of the next generation of ASU students.

Finally, and as I note regularly, people are what define an institution, and ASU has some incredible individuals. It is most fitting in this issue to highlight and thank USAF Col. Mike Buck for his 30 years of service to our nation. Mike and I arrived at ASU at the same time in 2007, and he led our ROTC detachment to new levels of recognition, none more fitting than scoring the service of many others who served during that pivotal conflict.

Again, enjoy this issue of the magazine and its tribute to ASU’s role in our military heritage.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Rallo
President
The Ultimate Sacrifice

First Lt. Raleigh S. “Shed” Ragsdale sacrificed his life for something bigger than himself.

Today, he is memorialized on the Angelo State University campus as one of the 30 San Angelo College students and alumni killed in World War II. The Memorial Oak Grove, planted in 1949 in remembrance of SAC’s war casualties, includes a monument with his name and those of 29 others who died in service to their country in a global cause greater than them individually.

In 2005 when ASU’s Office of Development looked to establish a group honoring university alumni and friends who had included Angelo State in their estates, staff members agreed that the “Oaks Society” was the most meaningful designation.

Dr. Jason Penry, ASU’s vice president for development, said, “The Oaks Society represents service and generosity, and has special meaning at ASU because of the Memorial Oak Grove in front of the Mary Administration Building.”

Penry said the Oaks Society is a way the university can provide meaningful recognition to those who want to make a lasting impact on Angelo State through their wills. Further, it provides a way the Development Office can help benefactors maximize the benefits to both their survivors and to Angelo State University.

“Many ASU students currently benefit from gift annuities, charitable trusts and other deferred gifts,” Penry said. “We are available to donors, friends and alumni who want to use planned gifts to make a difference in the lives of the next generation of ASU students.”

Ragsdale was a member of what became known as “The Greatest Generation,” but he died decades before that term became a popular appellation for those who grew up in the Great Depression and fought in World War II. In fact, Ragsdale was the last European theater casualty among the almost 700 SAC alumni and students who fought in World War II.

His story, along with those of other SAC veterans, is told in “The Impact of World War II on San Angelo College,” a master’s thesis by ASU history graduate Jennifer Marie Prichard. A native of Rotan, where he would return for burial, Ragsdale was the only child of Shed and Gorda Ragsdale. He enrolled in San Angelo College in 1941 and played football, Prichard discovered. He went on to play football at McMurry in Abilene in 1942 before enlisting in the Army Air Corps.

Assigned to the 356th Fighter Group of the Eighth Air Force in Europe, Ragsdale flew some 45 missions, first in a P-47 Thunderbolt and later in a P-51 Mustang. Twice he was shot down in a P-47, almost daily sweeps over enemy territory as a fighter-bomber, the young pilot has reported, “Flying his big Thunderbolt in England in his P-51 named “Big Lefty-Little Ann.” About 30 miles west of Koblenz, Germany, he reported engine trouble. Wrote Prichard in her thesis, his commanding officer “instructed him to bail out, and Ragsdale’s last radio transmission indicated he had decided to follow orders, but he either crashed with the plane or ejected from the craft and died on the ground.” Another account says he was too low to bail out and attempted a belly landing. The plane flipped on impact, crushing him.

To the Army, he was serial number 1820274. To his parents, he was their only child. The Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters he earned brought them little solace. Twenty-nine days after his crash, the war in Europe ended.

Today, 1st Lt. Raleigh S. “Shed” Ragsdale is memorialized on his Rotan tombstone, on the 356th Monument at Martlesham Heath and on the marker at Memorial Oak Grove. His spirit, as well as that of the other 29 SAC casualties of WWII, is memorialized in ASU’s Oaks Society. ■
Fire and Nice

With flakes of ashes drifting on the wind all the way to campus from a wildfire north of San Angelo, a feeling of helplessness fell over Becky Brackin that Friday morning in the middle of April.

North of town, the “Wildcat Fire,” as it was called because of its geographic origin near Wildcat Mountain in Coke County, was accelerating due to high winds and moving toward San Angelo. Overnight volunteer firefighters had been battling a fire that had ballooned from 66 acres to more than 12,000 acres and was still growing.

For Brackin, ASU’s director of community relations, the need to assist in the fight against the blaze became paramount. By the time she was done that April 15 evening, she had brought together university and community resources that provided eight trailer loads of supplies and more than $6,400 in donations to assist area volunteer fire departments.

“It hit me that if smoke and ash miles away were affecting my co-workers and me,” she said, “it had to be much worse for those up close and personal to the fire.”

Using contacts at the San Angelo Standard-Times where she had worked before joining the ASU staff, Brackin learned from the San Angelo emergency operations manager that bottled water, hand wipes and eye drops were desperately needed. Knowing the need, but not the logistics of organizing such an operation, she contacted Skip Bolding, director of environmental health, safety and risk management.

Bolding in turn contacted ASU Police Chief James Adams. With Bolding volunteering an ASU pickup and trailer and with Adams offering the department’s mobile operations trailer, the two agreed to set up a donation site on the parking lot at Foster Field and to operate it from noon until 5 p.m.

As Bolding and Adams addressed logistics, Brackin went to work on communications, posting the collection site on ASU’s Facebook page, sending an everyone e-mail to campus employees, notifying the media and alerting the public information office for the City of San Angelo.

Then she went to grab a quick lunch before reaching the collection site at 12:30 p.m. “I drove up to find stacks upon stacks of bottled water already sitting in the Foster Field parking lot next to the mobile operations trailer,” Brackin recalled. “Bags of snacks, hand wipes and eye drops were already waiting, as well. Bolding and David Hartin of environmental health and safety were loading water, food and other supplies into the pickup and trailer. Marc West, Orlando Villarreal and Mary Wilson of the ASU Police Department were on the scene directing traffic and unloading cars and all the trucks and trailers as they drove up.”

From then on, the afternoon was a blur for Brackin as people and companies offered assistance in various ways. Volunteers stopped by to help unload vehicles and load trailers. ASU staff, personnel from Goodfellow AFB, cadets from ASU Air Force ROTC Detachment 847 and individuals who left no name pitched in to help.

“What started as an idea for a simple, somewhat modest effort to assist the firefighters quickly became an overwhelming cause,” Brackin said. “At times cars were lined up out the parking lot and down the street with drivers waiting to drop off the requested items or money.”

Several businesses also pitched in. First Financial Bank delivered several cases of water for thirsty firefighters. As Bolding and Adams addressed logistics, Brackin went to work on communications, posting the collection site on ASU’s Facebook page, sending an everyone e-mail to campus employees, notifying the media and alerting the public information office for the City of San Angelo.

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Several businesses also pitched in. First Financial Bank delivered several cases of energy drink and then dropped off one of the bank’s trailers. Angelo Apartment Movers loaned a trailer as well. Two men from West Central Wireless appeared with a pickup and trailer, loaded them both and then delivered the load. One woman stopped by with a horse trailer and then delivered the load when it was packed. Jim Chiomini, the owner of Granite Publications, found Brackin with his checkbook in his hand, wanting to know who to make a check out to. Local optometrist Ashley David provided two grocery bags full of eyewash plus every bit of cash she had in her wallet, then proffered her business card with instructions to call if anything else was needed.

“I helped one woman unload a trunkload of supplies,” Brackin said. “She handed me a fistful of cash and threw her arms around my neck. She began to cry and said, ‘My husband has been out there all night.’”

Later a woman driving a Tahoe pulled up and gave Brackin a plastic bag full of change with a label for “$49.11” on the side. She told Brackin, “You may not appreciate this, but each year my husband and I collect our change during Lent. After Easter we give what we have collected to a non-profit organization. We’re a week early, but here it is.”

Her gift was indeed appreciated.

Jamie Akin, an ASU development officer, said, “It was awesome to see our community come together to help. Pretty sure I got teary eyed a time or two. I saw a disabled gentleman carrying water bottles to the drop-off spot. It is something I will never forget.”

The blaze would rage on for more than two weeks, and state resources would be brought in to help contain the fire. It would be the first week of May before the Texas Forest Service would report the Wildcat Fire contained. By then, it would have consumed almost 160,000 acres and threatened the communities of Grape Creek, Quail Valley, Bronte, Robert Lee, Tennyson and Orient. Though some 400 homes were at risk, only one was destroyed.

Under the circumstances, that was the best outcome that the Concho Valley could expect, but that outcome was far from assured that afternoon when ASU and the community pitched in. “Along with the entire community, ASU employees are deeply grateful to the firefighters, auxiliary personnel and all those who gave of themselves that frightening week,” Brackin said. “We received a wonderful thank you note from the Grape Creek and surrounding volunteer fire departments, but the credit really goes to the hundreds of people who stopped by to donate or help in some way. ASU was just privileged to start the process and watch the community unify behind the cause. If our faith in humanity had ever failed, it was most certainly restored that afternoon.”
An academic consolidation and realignment combined with a 9.9 percent increase in tuition and fees helped Angelo State University manage a $7.1 million reduction in state appropriations for the next biennium as the Texas Legislature faced its biggest economic challenges in decades. Anticipating decreased appropriations, the ASU administration a year ago began taking steps to minimize the impact on the educational product delivered to students and on university employees. The decision by the Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System in June to approve the reduction in state appropriations for the next biennium as the Texas Legislature faced its biggest economic challenges in decades.

Under the new tuition-and-fee schedule, students taking a course load of 15 semester credit hours will see their costs go from $3,343.50 to $3,674.55, an increase of $331.05.

Even so, Rallo noted that since 2007 the average out-of-pocket costs per semester to ASU students had dropped from $1,156 to $919 in 2011, thanks to ASU’s expanded program of gift aid. Otherwise, the most visible impact of decreased appropriations was this fall’s re-organization of several colleges and departments. “We began an academic review process last fall and accelerated that process this spring to determine how best to realign our academic units,” Rallo said. “After a thorough review of all academic departments and after discussions with deans of the respective colleges, we developed a realignment that will provide significant administrative savings.”

Under the realignment, the College of Liberal and Fine Arts and the College of Sciences were consolidated into a College of Arts and Sciences with the following departmental changes:

- The departments of Mathematics and of Computer Science were combined to create the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.
- The departments of English and of Modern Languages became the Department of English and Modern Languages.
- The departments of History and of Political Science and Criminal Justice became the Department of History and Political Science.

The College of Nursing and Allied Health was re-named the College of Health and Human Services (CHSS) with the following departmental changes:

- The departments of Nursing and of Physical Therapy were combined to create the Department of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences.
- The Department of Kinesiology moved to CHSS from the College of Education with its athletic training degree programs transferred to the new Department of Nursing and Rehabilitation Services.
- The Department of Psychology, Sociology and Social Work moved from the College of Liberal and Fine Arts to the CHSS.

Finally, the College of Business added the Department of Security Studies and Criminal Justice, which united the new security studies programs with the criminal justice program, previously offered through the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice.

Belt Tightening

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Gum Tree Down

Gum Tree was splayed across the walk on the south side of the Porter Henderson Library on the morning of June 10. The tree, one of the campus’ 400 trees, perhaps it is an acceptable drought casualty, in spite of its place in ASU history. Despite the seriousness of the drought, perhaps the Gum Tree can provide one last smile for us all. If so, then ASU alumnus Rick Smith may have written a fitting epitaph in his San Angelo Standard-Times column: “Rest in pieces, Gum Tree. Thanks for sticking around for so long. You certainly had gumption.”

In the end, though, workers re-planted the Gum Tree stump at its traditional location before the drought ends. I also anticipate that watering other areas of campus will soon come to an end. If this continues, recovering will take years.”

With the City of San Angelo reporting only a two-year supply of water on hand and implementing additional restrictions on local water usage, the university will face major challenges in meeting its irrigation needs.

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Ditto Princeton Review

For the third year in a row, The Princeton Review has named Angelo State University to its list of best colleges nationally. The announcement came with the release of the publication’s annual guide “The Best 376 Colleges – 2012 Edition” in August. Angelo State is one of only four state-supported universities in Texas to make the guide for the 2011-12 academic year. The Princeton Review is the only guide nationally to utilize student ratings in its selections.

Additionally this summer, ASU was again listed as a “Military Friendly” institution by G.I. Jobs, the honor marks the third straight year for this recognition as well.

Interim Provost

Dr. Brian J. May has been named interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at ASU.

President Joseph C. Rallo announced the appointment for a term not to exceed two years. May, a tenured professor of animal science, will continue to hold his position as dean of the College of Graduate Studies, which has attained record enrollments during his leadership. May succeeds Dr. Tony Bliese, who resigned as provost at the end of June to return to teaching.

Rallo said May’s familiarity with Angelo State, both as a faculty member and as a successful administrator, made him the perfect candidate for the interim position. Additionally, he said May could be a candidate for the permanent position when that search opens.

“Overall, Dr. May’s skills are perfectly suited for the challenges we face in maintaining a quality academic program in the face of reduced budgets and academic realignment,” Rallo said.

May joined the ASU faculty in 1994. He was named interim dean of graduate studies in 2009, an appointment that was made permanent the following year. May has also served as president of the Faculty Senate and as special assistant to the president for external affairs. In 2008 May was named “Citizen of the Year” by the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce.

New Development VP

Dr. Jason C. Penry, who has spearheaded the university’s record-breaking capital campaign, has been promoted from executive director of development to vice president for development.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said the promotion acknowledges the development team’s unprecedented fundraising success at Angelo State.

“Since Dr. Penny arrived on campus in the summer of 2009, donations to the university have set annual records and our capital campaign is on a pace to significantly surpass our original $25 million goal,” Rallo said.

“That success is attributable to Dr. Penny’s leadership and the hard work that he and the team he has put together have done on behalf of Angelo State.”

As ASU’s chief fundraising officer, Penny oversees the university’s advancement program, including the annual fund, donor cultivation, major gifts, capital campaign and foundation support. He also coordinates development activities in line with the broader fundraising goals of the Texas Tech University System, ASU’s governing body.

The 2010-11 academic year was the most successful fundraising year in the history of ASU with $7.46 million raised during the first nine months of the fiscal year. The previous annual high was $4.8 million in 2008.

Top Squadron

ASU’s Robert G. Carr Squadron of the Arnold Air Society (AAS) H.O.T.C. honor society received the Maryland Cup as the Outstanding Large Squadron at the annual AAS National Conclave this past spring in New York City.

Eight members of Angelo State’s AAS attended the conclave, where they were also presented the Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Cup, which is given to the squadron operating the most outstanding cadet training program. The group’s former faculty advisor, Maj. Cody Whittington, was also named Outstanding Area Advisor for Area IX, which includes 15 AAS squadrons in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas.

The Maryland Cup is awarded to the outstanding squadron consisting of more than 25 active members. ASU last won the award in 1998 when it was called the Hagan Trophy.

LBJ Cup nominees are judged on their candidate training manuals, candidate training schedules and a synopsis of their program, including the size of the host university, size of the cadet wing, total number of candidates and total candidates enrolled.

Whittington, who recently left ASU for a civilian career, is the first ASU advisor to win the Outstanding Area Advisor Award.

Education Accreditation

ASU has received accreditation from the Board of Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) for the university’s professional education offerings through the College of Education and other academic departments.

Accreditation was approved by NCATE’s Unit Accreditation Board for 18 months for both ASU’s initial teacher preparation and advanced preparation levels. Under provisions of the accreditation, the Unit Accreditation Board will revisit the campus in the fall of 2012 for an additional assessment.

In addition to NCATE, ASU’s education programs are currently accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and by the State Board for Education Certification/Texas Education Agency. NCATE, according to Dr. John J. Miazga, dean of ASU’s College of Education, is the national accreditation for teacher education.

“Accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education,” Miazga said, “will enhance the value of an ASU degree and the marketability of our graduates who enter the teaching profession.”

Top Topic

Dr. Doyle Carter, director of ASU’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), has announced that the university’s QEP will focus on community-engaged active learning.

The QEP is the centerpiece of ASU’s reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The QEP must focus on student learning and the learning environment, which are also central to ASU’s mission statement.

“Much more than an accreditation requirement, the QEP is intended to enhance the quality of learning at ASU and help the university and the people it serves become more of a learning community.

“Much work lies ahead,” Carter said. “We have two years of research and development, piloting an implementation strategy, and finalizing a document for submission. Once the plan is reviewed and approved for full implementation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges in the spring or summer of 2013, implementation will begin that fall.”

Community-engaged active learning involves students, faculty, staff, administration and community partners in the learning process. By actively engaging with the broader community, local and even global communities, students demonstrate personal and social responsibility and their ability to apply and integrate knowledge and skills in authentic settings. Therefore, this topic is closely aligned with the university’s mission to “prepare students to be responsible citizens and have productive careers.”

Summer Record

ASU graduate enrollment in the first summer session of 2011 rose more than 25 percent over the same session last year, marking the university’s highest summer graduate enrollment ever.

Enrollment in the ASU College of Graduate Studies was 507, up more than 100 from the 400 graduate students registered for the first summer term in 2010.

Overall enrollment for the first summer term was also up as 2,198 students signed up for classes this year compared to 2,120 for the same period last year. The totals were based on the sixth class day, the official reporting date for summer enrollment figures.

The summer session increased continued the good enrollment news over the past academic year. This past fall, ASU recorded its highest enrollment ever with 6,856 students. Then this spring, ASU set a record spring enrollment of 6,191, up 296 students from the previous record of 5,895 students in the spring of 2010.

“Enrollment growth is important for us because it will increase our revenues from the state and allow us to further enhance the academic programs we need to fuel growth with quality,” ASU President Joseph C. Rallo said. “Our goal is to maintain this growth trend into the fall because those enrollment figures provide the baseline for formula funding for state appropriations. The greater our enrollment and enrollment growth, the more resources that will come to us from the state.”

International Influence

Angelo State University is going abroad this fall as co-host of a major international business conference in Bulgaria. Learn more in the bonus features on the ASU Magazine website at www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine.
College of Nursing and Allied Health – Harriet K. Lewis, physical therapy, leadership/service; and Kelly Michael, nursing, teaching.

College of Sciences – Dowler, biology, research/creative endeavor; Smith, mathematics, leadership/service; and Karl J. Havlak, mathematics, teaching.

Top Grads
Amanda Michelle Hicks of San Angelo received ASU’s 2011 Presidential Award as the top graduate in her class, while four other ASU undergraduate students earned 2011 Distinguished Student Awards from their respective colleges.

Other nominees for the inaugural award were Jeanie Why, director of strategic planning and communication, information technology; Curtis Neal, director of human resources; Clayton Smith, graduate assistant in materials management; capacities planning and construction; and Jon Wilcox, web development specialist, information technology.

Travis Taylor
An article written by graduate student Travis Taylor on solid-life forgiveness Chadbourne prior to the Civil War was named the best student paper presented at the annual meeting of the West Texas Historical Association (WTHA).

Brian Jackson
Brian Jackson, a technology services project manager in information technology, received the inaugural Chancellor’s Col. Rowan Award for Excellence in Execution.

The Rowan Award recognizes an ASU staff member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in carrying out a major project during the previous academic year.

Jackson, an ASU employee since 2008, was honored for his work leading the implementation of technology, infrastructure and other logistical aspects for ASU’s new Center for Security Studies.

He received a plaque and a $500 honorarium.

Other nominees for the inaugural award were: Brian Jackson, director of strategic planning and communication, information technology; Kurtis Neal, director of human resources; Clayton Smith, graduate assistant in materials management; capacities planning and construction; and Jon Wilcox, web development specialist, information technology.

Shirley Eoff
Professor of history Dr. Shirley Eoff has been named, a fellow of the West Texas Historical Association (WTHA) in recognition of her numerous contributions to the study and preservation of West Texas history.

Eoff, who joined the ASU history faculty in 1981, received the recognition during WTHA’s annual meeting in Lubbock earlier this year.

Designation as a fellow is the highest academic honor an organization can bestow upon an individual.

She has done extensive research on local and West Texas history projects with a particular interest in San Angelo’s polio epidemic of the 1940s and 1950s and West Texas women’s philanthropy. She has written on the polio epidemic, the San Angelo Army Air Field bomberdier school, and San Angelo’s early judicial system and court rulings. She is currently involved in research projects on Billy Anson and the Concho Valley livestock and agricultural industries, Oma Bell Perry, noted Hill Country rancher and philanthropist; and San Angelo’s early social history as reflected in legal disputes.

Jason Strickland
Jason Strickland, a biology graduate student, received the inaugural Dr. Mark L. Strickland Undergraduate Research Presentation at the 58th annual meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists at the University of Texas at Tyler earlier this year.

The Willks Award includes a $1,000 honorarium. Strickland won for his research project “Phylogeny of the Crotalinae, Elapidae, and Viperidae,” which was presented at the meeting.

Dr. Toni Saucy
Dr. Toni Saucy, an associate professor of physics, has been re-elected president of the Society of Physics Students (SPS) National Council for a second two-year term.

As SPS president, Saucy chairs the Executive Committee, presides over National Council meetings and represents SPS to the American Institute of Physics (AIP) Governing Board and the AIP Advisory Committee on Physics Education.

In an ASU faculty member since 2000, Saucy is also faculty advisor to the Angelo State SPS chapter, which has been named an Outstanding Chapter by the SPS National Council for 10 straight years. Saucy was named the national Outstanding Chapter Advisor for 2007.

Nicole McDaniel
Dr. Nicole McDaniel, an adjunct professor of English, has won her second consecutive national writing award for an article on technical communication.

McDaniel received the Frank R. Smith Outstanding Journal Article Award from the Society of Technical Communication for her 2010 article “Technical Communication in the Health Fields: Executive Order 13166 and Its Impact on Translation and Localization.” The article was published in the STC journal Technical Communication.
The relevance 50 years ago during the 1960s celebration of the Civil War’s centennial revolved around race, as the Civil Rights Movement dealt with the unfinished business of the conflict. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 attempted to fulfill what had been promised by the 14th Amendment in 1868 on citizenship and equal protection of the law and by the 15th Amendment in 1870 on voting.

Today on the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, the relevant issue focuses on the extent of federal authority and its impact on personal and economic freedom. This issue remains as current as the ongoing debate over health care reform or the role of public sector unions as fought out in the statehouses of Wisconsin, Ohio, and Indiana last spring or whether states should issue license plates incorporating Confederate symbols as sought by the Sons of Confederate Veterans but opposed by the NAACP.

“What we are seeing,” Heineman said, “is blowback against the growth of public sector unions and federal regulation. If the 100th anniversary was about civil rights, racial equality and equal opportunity, then the 150th is about state’s rights and the proper role of the federal government in a free society.”

Heineman’s book Civil War Dynasty: The Ewings of Ohio, due from New York University Press during the 2011-12 academic year, explores many of the issues of the Civil War era by examining the influence of Thomas Ewing, an Ohio lawyer and politician best remembered as Gen. William T. Sherman’s father-in-law in spite of his role as an advisor to Lincoln and as the father of three Union generals. Dr. Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, a Civil War historian who joined the history faculty this fall, said, “The Civil War is the defining moment in American history. The conflict helped resolve some of the most difficult questions that any generation of Americans has had to deal with. It helped resolve the contradiction in our own Constitution and national narrative by abolishing slavery. In the aftermath of the conflict, the United States was seen as a single entity rather than as separate states. In the aftermath, the nation finally defined the nature of citizenship.”

Military historian Dr. William A. Taylor, who also joined the ASU faculty this fall in security studies, said, “Another important lesson of the Civil War is the undeniable value of freedom. Perhaps above all other values, freedom remains the most quintessential American value. It has always been a common thread running through American history. Granted, there have certainly been times where it was not equally shared. But in retrospect, American greatness is in many ways defined by a willingness to self-correct and to continually improve on the vision our founders set in motion so long ago. That long march of freedom is, in many ways, the American journey.”

The Civil War, though, was the bumpiest stretch of that national journey, accounting for more than 600,000 deaths in a country of 31 million, the equivalent of 5 million deaths with today’s population. Besides that, the war destroyed large portions of the South and devastated the region’s economy, taking generations to recover. While the war pulled some 4 million slaves out of bondage, the freed men, women and children were basically left to fend for themselves after Reconstruction and were ultimately relegated to economic servitude and political disfranchisement.

Of all the Confederate states, Texas had the most complex legacy before, during and after the war. The mere admission of Texas to the Union in 1845 as a slave state and the ensuing Mexican-American War to secure the state’s border at the Rio Grande exacerbated sectional tensions of the time. The war with Mexico and the clashes with Comanches on the Texas frontier provided combat experience for many of the junior officers who would become some of the most famous generals of the Civil War. Robert E. Lee, for instance, spent his last Christmas before the Civil War at

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Fort Mason, just a hundred miles from the ASU campus. Other future generals who served on the Texas frontier included James Longstreet, John Bell Hood, Albert Sidney Johnston and Fitzhugh Lee for the South and George H. Thomas, whose Civil War exploits would earn him the sobriquet as the “Rock of Chickamauga,” and Philip St. George Cooke, sometimes called the “father of the U.S. Cavalry,” for the North. Because of its remoteness, Texas was spared the destruction that the other Confederate States endured during the Civil War, but still suffered along the perimeters with battles or Union occupation at Sabine Pass, Galveston, Brownsville, El Paso and Pampa Ranch, site of the last land battle of the Civil War. Though the Union failed to hold much of the state, the Texas frontier during the Civil War retreated eastward from Fort Chabourne due to the Comanche threat.

After Appomattox, Civil War heroes Ronald S. Mackenzie, who eventually drove the Comanches from West Texas, and Benjamin H. Grierson, who led Union troops through Mississippi during a daring 1863 raid that became the basis for the John Wayne movie “The Horse Soldiers,” both commanded Fort Concho. Today the Civil War is so ingrained in Texas nomenclature that people no longer recognize it. Tom Green and Stonewall counties, for instance, are named for Confederate generals as are the communities of Robert Lee, Cleburne and Granbury, among others. Even Fort Hood, the largest active military facility in Texas and one of the largest in the world, is named for Confederate general John Bell Hood, even though he fought against the country that in 1942 established the base. Just down Avenue N from campus today lies the remains of some 140 Confederate veterans in Fairmount Cemetery on the eastern edge of campus.

If Texas was one of the complex friction points contributing to the Civil War, it was also a starting point for fulfilling the promise of emancipation through native son Lyndon Baines Johnson, said Heineman. Though he considered himself a westerner, LBJ was one of only three southern Democrats who refused to sign the Southern Manifesto, a document written in 1865 in opposition to integration and in response to the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling Brown vs. Board of Education. Having witnessed racial discrimination and intimidation as a young man, Johnson abhorred it. As a southerner, he had legitimacy in speaking out against segregation. As president, he had the power and political skills to push through the Civil Rights legislation of the 1960s that turned the promise of emancipation, Heineman said.

For Heineman, the complexity of Texas’ Civil War legacy may best be demonstrated at a ceremony at Granbury. On his way to the funeral of a general John Bell Hood, who died while in command of General J. E. B. Stuart’s cavalry, he passed a cemetery in Granbury. On his move to Texas in 1866 as the town established in his honor in 1866, General Hood carried with him a letter.

“One large field is already prepared for the burial of the fallen heroes of the war,” the letter read. “The majority of them are from the fifth Virginia Cavalry, and were shot down fighting. The ground is perfectly level, and is well adapted for the purpose.”

The Civil War is still with us, said Wongsrichanalai. “We continue to remember it, and Americans are still fascinated by the events and people of that period. Thus, the fact that the war has had such a lasting impact on American life and memory is justification enough to continue to study it. Besides, there are so many wonderful characters and stories that need to be told from that bloody conflict.”

Though Wongsrichanalai had no direct family tie to the American Civil War, he became interested in the conflict in high school thanks to a classmate and a passionate history teacher, who assigned a reading from The Killer Angels, Michael Shaara’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel on the Battle of Gettysburg and the role of protagonist Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain.

“Prior to reading this book, I thought history was boring and just filled with dates and names,” Wongsrichanalai said. “Suddenly, history opened up to me – to the deep and conflicting emotions that could surround a single event. It demonstrated to me that history could be alive and that the characters who lived through remark- able events often had tough decisions to make about themselves and the course of their nation.”

After high school, Wongsrichanalai earned his bachelor’s degree from Bowdoin College, where Chamberlain became president after the Civil War. He counts Chamberlain among a list of Civil War favorites that includes Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, George H. Thomas, John S. Mosby and Francis Channing Barlow.

Wongsrichanalai’s Civil War specialty revolves around the social and intellectual world of college-educated northerners who, because of their position and status, did not have to fight in the war but did anyway because they saw it as their duty to help preserve the Union.

As a military historian, Taylor’s specialties are strategy, leadership and military organizations. Confederate cavalry commander J.E.B. Stuart remains his favorite player in the Civil War because his “flashes of brilliance combined with occasional lapses of judgment made him profoundly human and a fascinating tragic hero.” A native of Maryland, Taylor became fascinated with the Civil War after walking the battlefields of Gettysburg, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, his favorite battle.

“There is no doubt that the Civil War evokes some controversial issues,” Taylor said. “In my opinion, the greater message resounding from the Civil War is the commonality of the values as freedom and liberty, we all can aspire to achieve our life’s dreams. The fact that our country strives to improve itself over time even increases such opportunities for all.”

Just comparing the Civil War’s centen- nial celebration, beginning in 1961, with the 150th anniversary, starting this year, reflects that evolution both in ourselves as a nation and in history as a profession.

“The interesting thing about the book,” Taylor said, “is that the profession of history has changed dramatically. The scope of history has broadened to examine topics, people and events previously overlooked. In addition, the profession of history has also analyzed more traditional topics with innovative methods and new sources. The profession of history has expanded its toolbox to include new technology in research, teaching and publishing. Finally, the profession of history has become more mainstream, as evidenced by the increasing popularity of historical publications, television shows and Internet sites.”

“During the centennial,” Wongsrichana- lai said, “much of the focus was on military and political events. Since then, historians have broadened their study of the conflict and have incorporated many more perspec-}

fives. Our understanding of the Civil War period is much richer now. Scholars have studied the role of women, African Americans, religious groups, refugees, civilians, children, foreign observers and a whole list of others whose voices were not considered when the students of the war in the 1960s were writing their histories … We have a much richer portrait of the Civil War.”

As a result, we have a better defined por- trait of ourselves as a nation and how we can overcome our differences.

“The freedoms and liberties we as Americans experience today in many ways were granted to us by the sacrifice of those Americans who came before us,” Taylor said. “In a multicultural society such as America, I think that it is our ideals – beliefs in such values as freedom and liberty – that bond us to a common cause. Those united ties make us stronger as a country.”

And, those ideals help us reconcile our past in surprising, sometimes coinci- dential ways.

Heineman related the story of a young Missouri girl so embittered by the Civil War depredations of northern-supporting Jay- hawks, known as “recluses” for the crim- son stripe up their pants, that decades later she “freaked out” when her grandson prior to leaving for World War I combat visited her wearing the blue uniform of the United States with the red stripes of an artillery- man down the trouser legs.

The grandson was Harry S. Truman.

“Here’s your reconciliation,” Heineman said. “His grandmother and his people were diehard Confederates, despising the Yan- kees, and yet here he is here to all that who will be responsible for racially integrating the U.S. military as president of the United States. That’s a cause for optimism.”
The future national security of the United States is dependent on the cultural competence of the people who will work to preserve it.

That is the philosophy being presented to this fall’s inaugural group of students taking courses through Angelo State’s new Center for Security Studies (CSS).

“Security studies is really international studies with a focus on relevance,” said Dr. Bruce Bechtol, CSS associate professor. “If you are a student in security studies at ASU, you are probably working at an intelligence agency, are a military professional or want to do one of those things, and you want to have a better grasp of the things that will better prepare you to face the issues that we are confronting in the international environment."

“That is what our program is really designed for,” he added. “Security studies, by its nature, includes culture as well as international studies, geopolitics and military studies.”

Ongoing political and military unrest in the Middle East, tumultuous relations with China and violent drug gangs along the U.S.-Mexico border are just a few of the complex problems that demand the attention of U.S. intelligence and security personnel – demand that is likely to increase rather than decrease in the future. By responding to that national need with its distinctive CSS programs, ASU is poised to become a leader in the security studies field.

“Our future as a nation will depend on the ability to successfully navigate, with understanding, the political, religious, social and cultural landscape of the world,” said ASU President Joseph C. Rallo. “Specific sub-topics within this broader context are of special importance to Texas. Thus, the new border security program will study in-depth concepts of drug and human trafficking, money laundering and immigration matters.”

“Ultimately,” added Dr. Robert Ehlers, CSS director, “all of our programs will have a significant constituency all over the world. Military personnel are everywhere. Federal Civil Service employees are everywhere. Plus, we already have some civilian students who have enrolled from out of state.”

The CSS began offering its programs online this fall, including bachelor’s degrees in cultural competence and security studies; cultural fluency and security studies with its added language component; and border security. Also available are master’s degrees in security studies and border security; two minor programs; and 13 certificate programs in specific areas of security studies and cultural competence.

“There is a huge thirst for these kinds of programs,” Ehlers said. “And, the reality is, if ASU wants to reach 10,000 students, I think the way it is going to do that is through online programs and hybrid programs that mix online and in-residence courses. We have to go effectively and aggressively into the online arena, and that is what we are doing with the CSS degree and certificate programs.”

“Most undergraduate students are Generation Y, or ‘millennials,’” he added. “They learn in a certain way and they like to have programs of a certain type. One of the things many of them really like is online education.”

For students who prefer on-campus classes or a mixture of online and on-campus, the CSS programs will be available in both venues starting in the fall of 2012, further supporting ASU’s drive to reach 10,000 students by 2020.

“The ability to take these programs online, on-site or as a combination will allow many individuals to enroll in ASU who might not have thought of us for their higher education needs,” Rallo said. “Once the core courses for the programs are online, we can then offer them to high school students as part of our dual/concurrent enrollment outreach. The mix of individuals in these...
programs will enhance the diversity of our student population and expand the global awareness of the campus and community.”

Leading the CSS courses is an interna-
tional faculty made up of professors with real-world experience in the subjects they teach. Several are based at ASU while oth-
ers work as distance faculty from around the U.S. and central Europe.

“Our faculty have a huge breadth of experience,” Ehlers said. “One is an inter-
nationally known East Asia expert, and we have an internationally known North Korea expert, two well-known military historians and several outstanding scholars in fields as diverse as criminal justice, social work and leadership studies. About half of our faculty have military experience with a combined total of 141 years of experience, and we have two former police officers with nearly 40 years of combined experience. We also have individuals who have worked for the Interna-
tional Red Cross and other non-govern-
mental organizations.”

“We sought out faculty who have these kinds of qualities,” he added, “so they can teach our courses with maximum insight and effectiveness, based on their own per-
sonal experiences; direct involvement in policy and strategy development; single most distinctive qualifications. This is an absolu-
tely top-notch group of faculty, and the programs they are building are world-class.”

Virtual every course contained in those CSS programs includes a cultural awareness component because the days when “ugly Americans” can effectively im-
plement – or even simply try to implement – any type of foreign or border control poli-
cies based solely on their own view of the world are long gone.

“We are helping students understand cul-
tural complexity,” Ehlers said. “They have to understand why certain cultures have developed the way they have, and that in-
cludes understanding cultural differences.”

“The way that we in the U.S. perceive the world is very different than the way Eu-
ropians, Asians or groups like the Taliban perceive it,” he added. “It is important to under-
stand that these different rationali-
ties drive different behaviors. If we charge headlong into a foreign policy construct and we don’t pay careful attention to those is-
sues of context, culture and rationality, we will get it wrong and will not achieve our policy objectives, whether they are diplo-
matic, economic or military.”

Further enhancing each of the CSS programs is the recent move of its academic arm, the Department of Security Studies and Crimi-
nal Justice, from the College of Liberal and Fine Arts to the College of Business. Plac-
ing security studies, border security and criminal justice in the same college as man-
agement, economics and accounting offers a variety of advantages.

“Economic success and security, along with energy security, which is a subset of economic security, are absolutely vital na-
tional security issues,” Ehlers said. “A large number of the courses that we offer deal ex-
sively with those topics. There is a very clear and compelling tie between what the business world does and what we do.”

“People don’t normally think of busi-
ness or the economy as major national secu-
rity issues,” he added. “But there is a single most distinctive national security issue facing the U.S. right now is the nation’s debt ceiling. Bad fiscal management, whether on Capitol Hill, Wall Street or Main Street, will weak-
en the country’s security by undermining its prosperity, its ability to fund its military and its ability to intervene in other places in the world to ensure the safety and prosperity of Americans and our allies.”

The military has an acronym for that phi-
losophy, DIME, which includes diplomatic, informational, military and economic aspects of national power. All four components must work in concert with each other to ensure na-
tional stability, prosperity and security.

“In many instances in this country, they have not worked together very well, particu-
larly recently,” Ehlers said. “That is some-
thing we need to fix as quickly as possible.

By helping students in the College of Busi-
ness understand that the economic piece of DIME is absolutely as vital as the rest, and by their helping students in our programs understand the ways in which economic se-
curity is so vital, we have a perfect match.”

“We already teach the diplomatic, infor-
mational and military aspects of DIME in our programs,” he added. “We also work on economic issues, but the fact of the matter is, the place where that critical part of na-
tional security needs to be taught is in the College of Business. So, it makes sense for us to be there.”

Ehlers also hopes to see more emphasis on forensic accounting techniques that help authorities track money laundering opera-
tions, computer hackers, organized crime syndicates, scam artists, international espio-
gage activities and terrorist organizations.

“We cannot afford to ignore or overlook those types of things,” Ehlers said. “Our program’s ability to help with that and to work with the other departments in the Col-
lege of Liberal and Fine Arts to the Col-
lege of Business. So, it makes sense for

the programs to help with those com-
plex issues, to make sense of them and to ar-
rive at decent policy or duty-related deci-
sions. Those are the purposes of the CSS.”

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo’s joint higher education and military experience helped make Angelo State a promising candidate for the program. After a series of joint dis-
cussions with ASU officials, that vision began to take shape with a $2.4 million U.S.
Department of Defense Grant in 2009 and a subsequent $3 million grant in 2010 to fund the formation and activities of the CSS.

“The objective behind the center,” said CSS director Dr. Robert Ehlers, “is to create a series of relevant and cutting-edge degree programs for people who are interested in culture and security studies, mostly on the military side of the house, and border security studies, mostly on the homeland security and law enforcement sides.”

“Students, regardless of whether they need a bachelor’s or master’s degree to get into these fields or advance professionally, will have those options,” he added. “The programs are also useful for traditional civil students. There are a lot of civil-
ian students interested in getting into these career fields, and that is a good thing because we need a lot of good young people engaging in service to their country.”

As ASU was not the only candidate to house the new center, Ehlers credits the presence and efforts of Rallo, a retired Air Force colonel, with helping point the way to Angelo State.

“He has been out in the world working operational missions,” Ehlers said. “He has seen the dangers in the world, the ugliness of the world and many good things as well. Consequently, he understands that in order for the U.S. to succeed in our cha-
otic and complex world, institutions of higher learning need to prepare their students to deal with the world as it is, not as it was or what they would like it to be. If we are going to learn how to deal with the many challenges to our country’s security and prosperity, we have to educate students how to deal with those complex problems.”

Now it is up to the CSS faculty, many of whom are nationally or internationally known experts in their fields, to bring the original vision of Hutchison and Moseley to life on the ASU campus.

“We have a great team and a clear and really important mission, and we know how we need to achieve the objectives to make that mission succeed,” Ehlers said. “We are working hard, but it’s a lot of fun. It is absolutely vital that these kinds of pro-
grams become available to military, civil service and traditional civilian students.”

“We received some money from the federal government, and Dr. Rallo told us to make something out of it,” he added. “We’re moving fast and with a lot of purpose and focus, and I think we are going to have a very successful and very meaningful center, academic department and set of degree programs. It is approaching maturity as we speak, so it’s great stuff.”
Though they display drastically different ideologies, both South Korea and North Korea constitute small countries with significant implications for U.S. foreign policy.

South Korea is the U.S.’ seventh-largest trading partner and a staunch diplomatic and military ally in East Asia. Conversely, North Korea remains a major concern to U.S. national security. Perhaps no U.S. scholar is as well versed in the study of the two Koreas as Dr. Bruce Bechtol, whose expertise as one of the first members of the new security studies faculty is helping Angelo State University students understand the significance of those two countries half a globe away.

“For any students we have who are interested in international business, international trade or international politics, South Korea is a very big partner for the U.S.,” Bechtol said. “Politically, militarily, diplomatically and economically, South Korea is a player in everything that we do. With so many Korean-Americans in the U.S. now, they have also had a strong impact on our culture. So, the knowledge that we pass on about Korean culture will have effects for every nation, including the U.S., that has interests in that region.”

“For students coming to ASU,” he said, “it’s a very interesting and important concern in the study of the international political economy, or IPE. We see this right here on campus every semester. We have around 200 exchange students every year from South Korea, and unlike exchange students from many other countries, they are paying their own way.”

Conversely, North Korea, officially the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), is ruled by a military dictator: China. According to Bechtol, the DPRK presents four key issues to U.S. national security: conventional military forces; weapons proliferation to countries and terrorist groups unfriendly to the U.S. and its allies; nuclear weapons; and unstable leadership.

The DPRK’s conventional forces were on display in 2010 when they sank a South Korean ship and shelled a South Korean island. But, the most publicized threat is the North Korean nuclear arsenal.

“They have six to eight nuclear weapons,” Bechtol said. “They probably have at least one highly enriched uranium (HEU) weapon, and an HEU is important because it can be miniaturized to put on a ballistic missile. They’ve got ballistic missiles that can hit every inch of South Korea and Japan, and will eventually be able to hit Hawaii, California and Alaska.”

On the other hand, the least tangible threat to U.S. national security involves the succession of power from current aging dictator Kim Jong-il to his son, Kim Jong-un, who will inherit rule of the country in circumstances far different than those enjoyed by his father and his grandfather, Kim Il-sung.

“Kim Il-sung was able to build his power base with the help of the Soviet Union,” Bechtol said. “His son, Kim Jong-il, was able to build his power base over a 20-year time period with the help of his father. Kim Jong-un, who is now the heir apparent, has only had about a year to build his power base, and his father could die at any time.”

“If his father dies in the next five years,” he added, “the chances of Kim Jong-un being able to hold that government together are, at best, 50-50. If or when North Korea implodes, explodes or falls into civil war, that will have effects for every nation, including the U.S., that has interests in that region.”

This knowledge of both Korea’s conventional and nuclear military forces is putting to good use on the ASU campus in courses he teaches through the Department of Security Studies, which began offering programs in security studies, cultural fluency and border security this fall.

A retired U.S. Marine, Bechtol gleaned his expertise from several assignments to the Korean Peninsula as both a Marine and an analyst with the Defense Intelligence Agency. He holds a doctorate in national security studies from the Union Institute and has written two critically acclaimed books, Red Rogue: The Persistent Challenge of North Korea (2007) and Defiant Failed State: The North Korean Threat to International Security (2010). He has also been consulted by numerous major publications and news outlets, including Stars and Stripes, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Air Force Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Secure Freedom Radio and even the National Post of Canada.

“There are few Ph.Ds. who are retired military guys, and few who have a specific country interest,” Bechtol said. “I have a military background that enables me to study things about North Korea that most scholars in my field cannot. So, I’m the guy they pull out of the closet when something happens with North Korea military issues.”

In addition to his education and intelligence training, Bechtol spent his years in Korea immersing himself in the culture and social systems. He speaks Korean and has been married to his Korean-American wife, Jung-Eun, for 20 years.

“The way both North and South Korea are portrayed in our media, regardless of the outlet, displays a lot of misperceptions,” Bechtol said. “The events that occur over there are a real look into the cultural and historical elements of their society. The nuances of Korean society and the things that make Koreans Korean are things you have to experience by studying Korea in depth, and you can’t see a lot of that here at ASU.”

“I also think our South Korean student exchange program is helping not only ASU, but San Angelo as well,” he added. “We are getting a real look into Korean life, and you don’t see a lot of smaller universities doing things like this.”

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*Bruce Bechtol*
FALL 2011 Angelo State University Magazine

As a new Army chaplain on the verge of deployment to World War II Europe, West Texas native Ulmer Bird would be haunted for years by the statement of a young Marine headed in the opposite direction for battle in the Pacific.

“I don’t know how you are going to fit God into this mess,” said the Leatherneck, whom Bird had met in a chance encounter in Union Station in Washington, D.C.

Though more statement than question, the words stayed with Bird for the rest of his life.

“I was not ready with an answer,” Bird recalled, “but I was on my way to try.”

As one of 8,896 chaplains to serve the U.S. Armed Forces in World War II, Bird tried to accomplish the impossible, reconciling the grace of God with the horrors of war. Bird’s story and the challenge of his wartime assignments have been revived by University Archivist Shannon Sturm, who has studied his papers in Angelo State’s West Texas Collection (WTC) and made presentations on his WWII experience.

“In his official role as chaplain,” said Sturm, “Bird acted as preacher, pastor, religious educator and counselor, but just as often he filled the shoes of father, brother and friend to thousands of frightened soldiers far from home and family.”

Indeed, Bird may well have been seen as a father figure because of his age. Though he had volunteered for the chaplaincy 10 days after his 41st birthday and 17 days before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he was deemed too old by the Army. Two years later, the need was so great for chaplains that the Army raised the age limit from 40 to 45.

By Preston Lewis

For God and Country

Shannon Sturm

OPEN WINDOW

The last long convoy has brought us
Out of the last campaign,
As drift as a boat on the Danube
Peace moves like an old refrain.

As deft as a boat on the Danube
Youth will walk on the wood paths,
And the light of the stars come in.

Let the blackout of hearts be lifted,
And pines climb high up the hill,
And pines climb high up the hill.

Pitiful things of the dead;
The roar and the whine and the shamble,
As deft as a boat on the Danube

As tenuous as this training,
Let light flow out in the twilight
The last long convoy has brought us

Though more statement than question, the words stayed with Bird for the rest of his life.

“If all of us had it,” Bird wrote in a letter home. “Every soldier worth his salt has suffered from it, from the youngest recruit to the oldest general. Every man who had a home was homesick. Every man who never had a home was sicker.”

Sturm said, “Bird enjoyed knowing that even in the worst of times his men always had him for a companion or confidant. He not only offered these services to those in his unit, but to civilians abroad as well.

Bird often received and replied to letters from concerned family members. In providing these services he felt he was doing his part for his country and God.”

For his own emotional well-being when he wasn’t writing Josephine, Bird wrote poetry, a habit that continued after the war as he recalled his experiences.

Said Sturm, “He reminisced in many ways, but most profoundly in his poetry, which covered every imaginable topic from religion and funerals to his relief at being home, where he did not constantly have to contend with ‘other people’s dire distress’—(where) your troubles are your own.”

Whether he was ever able to reconcile God with war or “fit God into this mess” is a question Bird took unanswered to his grave in 1988.

What is known is that when he returned to Coke County from active and reserve duty in 1948, he gave up the ministry. Instead, he tended his 80-acre home and worked primarily as a newspaperman. He owned the Robert Lee Observer, serving as editor and reporter, and contributed frequent stories to other papers.

In evaluating Bird’s wartime career, Sturm said, “I feel it safe to say that finding God in the midst of war would be a very taxing venture and I’m sure, at times, very frustrating. In the end, I don’t know if it is fully possible to reconcile God and the chaplaincy with the horrors of war except to know that one is providing a sense of comfort and compassion where very little of either exists.”

“It seems easiest to reconcile the two,” Sturm continued, “when viewed against the backdrop of good versus evil. Ulmer Bird did see the war as just. After witnessing the devastation and despair for human life in the concentration camps, he was grateful that the Allies had it in their power to put an end to Nazi aggression.”

“After the war, Bird served in the Officer Reserve Corps until 1948 as a chaplain in several hospitals, but, as far as I can tell, never returned to the ministry in civilian life,” she said. “This is not to suggest he lost his faith, as he most certainly did not, but it causes me to wonder if his departure had anything to do with his wartime experience.”

That answer is known but to God.
**Educator, Citizen Soldier**

**Both at home and abroad,**
James Valadez serves his country with an eye toward its future.

In his part-time job in the Army National Guard, Valadez has spent two tours in the Middle East helping maintain the security of the U.S. In his full-time job as a teacher at San Angelo Lake View High School (LVHS), he helps special education students stay in mainstream classrooms as a path to their future success in American society.

“Sometimes, students’ disabilities impede learning,” Valadez said, “so we give them instruction here—whatever they need.”

For his commitment to special-needs students, Valadez was named LVHS Campus Teacher of the Year in a May vote of his Lake View colleagues.

“That is quite an honor for me,” he said. “I didn’t know everyone knew what I do here.”

Some of these students have hardships at home, so they may not get enough sleep or food to eat. If they’ve had a rough day or rough night, they are not worried about the story of Macbeth or learning anything else, so we provide what they need.”

Valadez credits the discipline he learned in the military for giving him the impetus to restart his quest for a college education. He earned his ASU bachelor’s degree in kinesiology with a minor in special education in 2003, and is currently working on his master’s degree in school administration at ASU and expecting to graduate in December.

After earning his bachelor’s degree, Valadez coached football at Edison Junior High School/Central Freshman Campus, and continued raising a family with his wife, Carol. The couple has three daughters, Ariel, 19, a sophomore at ASU; Maci, 7; and Jami, 6. He also served through three Army National Guard deployments.

Valadez’s first National Guard call-up came in 2003, when he trained to go to Iraq, but stood down when the fighting quickly ended. His second tour began in 2005, and he spent 18 months training for and serving in a peacekeeping mission in Egypt.

During his last deployment in 2008, he served in Iraq escorting supply convoys across the war-torn countryside. It was during that assignment that Valadez’s two worlds came together as he got to take off his Army helmet and put on his teacher’s cap for a day at an Iraqi school.

“We did humanitarian missions where people from our platoon would go to a school or hospital and provide them with things they needed,” Valadez said. “During one mission, we took office supplies and snacks to a school in An Nasiriyah, about four hours south of Baghdad.”

“When they asked me if I wanted to teach a lesson through an interpreter, I said, ‘Shoot yeah,’” he added. “I used a book on geography with Mickey Mouse in it. That made it easier for the students to understand because everyone knows who Mickey is.”

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**Remembrance: 10 Years Later**

**Even a decade later,** the tragedy of 9/11 can still strike home with the discovery that a former Angelo State University student—Lt. Col. Karen J. Wagner—was one of the casualties at the Pentagon on that fateful day.

According to research by the staff of the West Texas Collection, Wagner attended ASU between 1979 and 1981 and participated in AFROTC before transferring to the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

At UNLV she changed her ROTC affiliation to the Army and graduated in 1984, beginning a career that culminated with her appointment to a Pentagon post as a medical personnel officer in the Office of the Army Surgeon General and Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

Her Army position took her to the Pentagon that fateful day when at 9:37 a.m. hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the side of the iconic building.

Wagner was one of 184 military personnel and civilians to perish in the attack on the Pentagon. A month later she was buried with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.

Five years after that tragic September day, Carol Hardy, who had known Wagner in the military, wrote on the 9-11heroes.us website, “I remember when she received the assignment to go to the Pentagon. Everyone was so excited. Karen had made it. It was not until later on in the week after 9/11 happened that I heard that people were trying to reach Karen on her cell phone and she did not answer. It was then that they learned that she did not make it out of the Pentagon. I grieved so hard.”

Wagner grew up in a military family in San Antonio, graduating from Judson High School in 1979 before enrolling at ASU. After completing her UNLV degree in 1984, she went on in 1992 to earn a master’s in health services administration at the San Antonio campus of Webster University in St. Louis.

According to the pentagonmemorial.org website, Wagner served the Army as adjutant for the 85th Medical Evacuation Hospital at Fort Lee, Va.; executive officer and company commander of D Company in the 187th Medical Battalion at Fort Sam Houston; and chief of personnel for the 57th Medical Battalion at Fort Sam Houston.

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The memory of Karen Wagner, though, remains alive in San Antonio, where the Judson Independent School District in 2004 named its newest high school in her honor.

The closing lines of the alma mater may be the greatest tribute to Lt. Col. Karen Wagner: “You lived to make us free. Give us strength, give us glory. Be faithful to our call. Wagner, Oh Wagner, live through us all.”

Karen Wagner

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**Photo courtesy of James Valadez**

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**By Roy Ivey**
All in the Family

Angelo State University ROTC students not only choose their friends, but also a professional family that can last a lifetime.

ROTC gives students a sense of tough family love, said 2nd Lt. Ricardo Gonzalez, who graduated and received his commission with the Air Force in May. For many students, going away to college is their first experience leaving home, so having a supportive group of students makes that transition easier.

“It’s not the stereotypical yelling, marching along and no fun,” Gonzalez said. “We have all types of people — people you would not expect to wear a uniform.”

The close-knit community is one of the biggest strengths of ASU’s Air Force ROTC Detachment 847. Maj. Valerie Reid, assistant professor, said the department knows the names of every one of the 70-100 ROTC students each academic year.

And just as family members take on several roles, so do the members of ROTC. They are peer mentors for their classmates, high school recruiters, volunteers at several community events and leaders in training.

Experience in ROTC can guide students to significant leadership positions. For instance, Ronnie D. Hawkins Jr., a 1977 ROTC alumnus, is the first ASU grad to reach the rank of major general.

The primary focus of ROTC is producing military leaders like Hawkins or Lt. Col. Stephen W. Magnaun, who returned to ASU this summer to head the ROTC program where he earned a bachelor’s degree in communication and his commission as a second lieutenant in 1992. Students who successfully complete the ASU program are commissioned as second lieutenants in the Air Force when they graduate.

ASU’s ROTC program received recognition earlier this year for its leadership achievements under the direction of Col. Michael Back, the detachment’s commander who retired at the end of the spring semester. ASU’s Robert G. Carr Squadron of the Arnold Air Society (AAS) ROTC honor society received the Maryland Cup as the Outstanding Large Squadron at the annual AAS National Conclave this spring in New York City. The conclave also presented ASU with the Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Cup, given to the squadron operating the most outstanding candidate training program. The group’s former faculty advisor, Maj. Cody Whittington, was also named Outstanding Area Advisor for Area IX, which includes 15 AAS squadrons in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas.

“Student leadership is a progression,” Reid said. “It’s a balance of what they know and what they are ready to take on. As long as they are ready to grow, they will be put in leadership positions.”

Cadets are divided into four flights, each with students from all class levels. The flights compete against each other, but they also allow upperclassmen to help students new to the program.

“They have made completing ROTC programs more challenging. The Air Force is currently overmanned and is becoming more selective about those chosen for field training,” Reid said. Students are required to attend field training to progress in the ROTC program. Last year, only 13 of the 24 ASU sophomore cadets who competed for field training were selected. Of those selected, the average student GPA was 3.3 and the average fitness score was 95 out of a possible 100 points.

“With the bad economy, there are a lot of people going into the military,” Reid said. Field training is only offered during the summer months and is completed at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. Cadets go to field training between their sophomore and junior years of school.

Students can compete a second time for field training, but they cannot progress in ASU’s ROTC program until they have completed field training. Reid said the cadre spent two weeks this spring agonizing over who would be selected because they knew it was a very important factor in being selected for field training.

The cadre is hoping the Air Force’s selective won’t slow down any recruitment efforts because the program has significant scholarship funding. Roughly 80 percent of the students in the program receive Carr ROTC scholarships, and new Hispanic Serving Institution scholarships are available to students of any ethnicity.

A big recruiting challenge for ROTC is the misconception of what the program actually is. Reid said many high school students assume that they are joining the military when they sign up for ROTC classes, but students sign a contract with the Air Force only after they have completed two years of ROTC and field training.

Another misconception is that everybody who joins the Air Force becomes a pilot, a group that makes up only 4 percent of Air Force personnel. Reid said the Air Force has virtually every job that is available to civilians for the remaining 96 percent.

ROTC - continued on page 29
The Angelo State University Alumni Association will make some major changes in the annual Homecoming dinner this year, starting with a new name – the ASU Homecoming Alumni Dinner Bonfire Ball and Bash – and a new location.

Instead of the C.J. Davidson Center in the Houston Harte University Center, the 2011 Homecoming dinner will move to the Norris Ballroom in the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center and be followed by the bonfire bash.

Festivities will begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail reception with the dinner following at 6:30 p.m. The bonfire bash will begin at 8 p.m.

The Homecoming dinner presentations will follow a format similar to past dinners, though faculty achievement awards for each individual college have been consolidated into a single university-wide faculty award. Dinner guests will also be able to participate in a Homecoming auction.

Tickets for the Homecoming dinner are limited and priced at $60 per individual. Tickets will go on sale Sept. 1. The ticket provides admission to the dinner as well as the bash. Valet parking will be available for dinner guests.

The Bonfire Ball and Bash will replace last year’s successful Reunion Round-up. The bash will be held outdoors with activities centered around the LeGrand Center’s Dale and Joy Chase Courtyard. A live band, complimentary beverages and activities for kids are planned.

Tickets for the bash will be $20 for adults and $5 for ASU students. Children will be admitted free.

Individuals or organizations who wish to help by sponsoring the evening’s activities can pick from eight giving levels:

- **Magna Cum Laude** - $10,000 (16 tickets)
- **Summa Cum Laude** - $7,500 (12 tickets)
- **Cum Laude** - $5,000 (10 tickets)
- **Honors** - $3,500 (8 tickets)
- **Oh Laude** - $2,500 (8 tickets)
- **Masters** - $1,000 (8 tickets)
- **Bachelors** - $500 (4 tickets)
- **Associates** - $250 (2 tickets)

For more information about the ASU Homecoming Alumni Dinner Bonfire Ball and Bash, contact the Alumni Association at 325-942-2122 or visit the website at [www.anglostatealumni.com](http://www.anglostatealumni.com).

### Alumni Award Criteria

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Distinguished Faculty Achievement
A current ASU faculty member selected by the Alumni Association for his/her profound effect on the lives and careers of ASU students.

#### Distinguished Staff Achievement
A current ASU staff member (outside of faculty and administration) selected by the Alumni Association for outstanding service that goes beyond the job description and is performed in a way that promotes the mission, spirit and/or vision of the university.

After surviving a troubled childhood, **Henry Jackson** has spent his life helping kids experiencing similar life situations.

A 1994 Angelo State graduate, Jackson was an All-American Linebacker on the Rams football team. He followed that with a stint in the Canadian Football League after nearly catching on with the Chicago Bears. But, after hanging up his cleats, he found a new path with Buckner Children and Family Services Inc. in Dallas, near his hometown of Garland.

“I felt a passion to work with kids,” Jackson said. “I saw an ad for a job at Buckner, applied for it and got hired as a childcare specialist working with troubled teens. It was a calling in my life to do that. I wanted to help other people, the less fortunate or vulnerable kids and families.”

“My father died when I was young and my brother was shot,” he added. “I knew the impact that had in my life, so I wanted to try and make a difference in other people’s lives.”

With Buckner now for 21 years and counting, Jackson in January was appointed senior director for international operations, supervising Buckner’s missions in Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala, Peru and Russia.

For his outstanding service to others and for overcoming the odds against him to reach a high level of success, Jackson has been named the ASU Alumni Association’s 2011 Distinguished Alumnus.

Buckner Children and Family Services Inc. is a division of Buckner International, which provides a wide array of social services, such as residential care, foster group care, foster care, adoption, transition care and humanitarian aid programs around the world. Many people are familiar with Buckner because of its commercials soliciting aid for underprivileged children in various countries. Those commercials particularly hit home with Jackson.

“The commercials show hunger and pain,” Jackson said, “but it’s hard to show the human nature side of it. They want to be hugged and touched to show that they matter. That’s the hardest part. You see how receptive they are when people talk to them.”

In his current duties at Buckner, Jackson oversees regional directors, but he also visits the far-flung Buckner missions and spends time with its non-governmental organizations.

“We provide support and guidance there through contributions from donors,” he said.

“We do have an endowment, but individual donors are critical to our services here and around the world.”

And, Jackson’s calling is not limited to his job at Buckner. He also serves as an ordained minister at the Emmanuel Newlife Fellowship in Dallas, leading Bible studies and teaching an adult Sunday school class.

While some might have been defeated by a difficult early life or turned to negative influences, it only motivated Jackson to strive for a better life for him and others.

In a letter recommending Jackson for the Distinguished Alumnus Award, fellow ASU alumn and Buckner President Albert L. Reyes said, “If all I was writing you regarding Henry was limited to his career at Buckner, he may not qualify as a Distinguished Alumnus. The bigger story is the person Henry has become as well as the obstacles he overcame to be one of our strongest leaders at Buckner during one of the most expansive periods in our 132-year history.”

“His educational experience at Angelo State University was instrumental in shaping his leadership for a career in service to others,” Reyes concluded.
If you know anything about Angelo State University, you are familiar with the work – often un-credited – of Michael Martin. Ever read an ASU Magazine? Martin laid it out. Ever gone to a basketball game in Stephens Arena? He designed the hard-wood court. Ever received a letter from ASU? He designed the stationery. Ever worn a cap or shirt with an ASU logo on it? Martin created the popular symbol. Ever stopped for speeding on campus? Yep, Martin wrote the ticket.

The list of individual designs Martin has done for ASU is too long to list. But ASU alumni are familiar with the work – tucked away in the university's Office of Communications and Marketing, Martin and his staff have handled over the last 34 years, he has seen things that required him to lead 250 students.

Martin recalled, “The magazine is definitely a favor- ite,” he said. “It’s always a challenge to find unique ways to present each story. I think the entire office takes a lot of pride in the magazine. It’s truly a team effort and I’m proud to be a part of it.”

Things have never looked the same at ASU as his designs appear everywhere on campus from business cards to publication racks to engraved windows.

“When I arrived at ASU, the senior class was older than me,” Martin said. “It was quite a shock several years later when one of them called me ‘sir’ for the first time.”

Among the thousands of projects he has handled over the last 34 years, he has his favorites.

“The magazine is definitely a favor- ite,” he said. “It’s always a challenge to find unique ways to present each story. I think the entire office takes a lot of pride in the magazine. It’s truly a team effort and I’m proud to be a part of it.”

“The 75th Anniversary Retrospective gave me an opportunity to learn things about ASU’s history that I didn’t know,” Martin continued. “The current logo was a lot of fun. Logos are tough as people tend to either love them or hate them. So, it’s been really grati- fying to see that design so well received. The police car design was a favorite just because you don’t often get to see your work cruising the campus on four wheels.”

When he is not taking care of ASU, he and his wife of 18 years, are tending a menagerie of cats and dogs. The Martins are active members of First Christian Church.

Honorary Alumnus
From Crayons to Logos

Dr. Amanda Marshall has come a long way from her days growing up as a country girl in southeast Texas.

Born and raised outside Inez, population roughly 1,000, Marshall has since moved only about 145 actual miles to San Antonio. It is how she got there and what she is doing there that are quite impressive.

An orthopaedic surgeon and assistant professor of orthopaedic medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, Marshall got her start by earning a Carr Scholarship, then graduating from ASU with a physics degree in 1994 and winning the Presidential Award as the leading student in her class. She then got her medical degree from UT-HSC-San Antonio, where she won the Ross C. Sterling Award, the faculty’s highest award for a graduating medical student.

Marshall’s biggest supporter is her wife of 23 years, Antoinette. Her parents, Richard and Susan Ross, taught him about hard work and imagination. They now reside in the Houston area.

Attending Angelo State University helped launch the career of Col. James P. Ross, this year’s Distinguished ROTC Alumnus, but now he is the one doing the launching.

Ross became the commander of the 50th Space Wing at Schriever Air Force Base near Colorado Springs, Colo., in early August. He is responsible for more than 5,300 people in support of more than 170 communications, navigation and surveillance satellites.

Prior to his new appointment, he served as vice commander of the 45th Space Wing at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida. He was responsible for processing and launching U.S. government and commercial satellites and served as the launch decision authority with final approval for launches.

During his senior year at ASU, Ross was the ROTC cadet corps commander, a posi- tion that required him to lead 250 students.

“Now she can add another award to her résumé as the ASU Alumni Association’s 2011 Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumna. “Without the support of the outstanding faculty and administration at ASU, many of my past accomplishments would have been unattainable,” Marshall said. “I am indebted to all the many people who believed in me, both throughout my col- lege career and beyond.”

While at ASU, Marshall also ran track and cross country, earning GTE Academic All-America honors in 1993 along with a nomination for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

Now a specialist in knee and hip replacement surgery, she also conducts grant- funded and award-winning orthopaedic research, and has been published in several noted medical journals.

Off campus, Marshall is active with Op- eration Walk, which raises money to fund joint replacement surgery for underserved women around the world. Marshall and her husband, Fred, have two sons, Freddie, 14, and Max, 10.
Angelo State University Magazine

Golden Ex of the Year
Dream Fulfilled

Growing up in Silver, Texas, Nita Allen Archer dreamed of attending San Angelo Junior College, the predecessor to Angelo State University. Financial help from her parents, a part-time job and a Robert Massie Scholarship enabled Archer to realize that dream, and she graduated as valedictorian in 1945. Twice after that, she returned to ASU to enhance her skills in accounting and business. She still uses those skills at Archer Floor Covering, the business started by her husband, Bill, and now operated by her son, Tim, and his wife, Babbie (Reynolds), both ASU alumni.

Archer has never forgotten what San Angelo Junior College and ASU did for her. She has returned the favor by serving as a volunteer on campus and with the ASU Alumni Association. She was instrumental in securing support for the ASU Alumni Association’s 2011 Golden Ex of the Year.

“Most of the changes moved us along right textbooks. She also has volunteered at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center and continues to participate in ASU-related activities.”

As a professor in the English Department, Skaggs focused on composition, and in the bookstore helping students find the right textbooks. She also has volunteered at a pregnancy health center, Meals for the Elderly and in a community Bible study. Skaggs and her husband have two children, Angela and Mel, and four grandchildren, Nathan, Alan, Marie and Bridget.

Living through a family tragedy that could have crushed her spirit, Pam Darby instead shined her brightest.

An assistant clinical professor in the ASU Department of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences, Darby spent the last seven years as the primary caregiver for her husband, Pres, who suffered from ALS, more commonly called Lou Gehrig’s disease. In order to be home with Pres, she started teaching her nursing courses online.

“I love interacting with the students and I miss that, seeing them face-to-face and really bonding with them,” Darby said. “But, I bond with them on the computer now.”

She also started her own business, organizing nursing symposiums to benefit both ASU nursing students and West Texas professional nurses.

Distinguished Faculty Achievement
Undaunted Spirit

As the first in her family to attend college, Adelina “Lina” Morales never imagined that she would have a career in the office of a university president. However, her soft-spoken efficiency and her pronounced proficiency as a student assistant in the ASU president’s office impressed Virginia Scott, who as administrative assistant to the president hired Morales as secretary in January of 1981, just weeks after Morales had graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration from ASU.

Upon Scott’s retirement two years later, Morales was named her replacement as administrative assistant to the president and today holds the title of executive assistant to the president. Morales is amazing as well, those who have worked with her would agree that Morales is amazing as well, based on how well she handles her job and manages her family life. She and her husband, Alfred, also an ASU employee, have sons David, Class of 2006, M.P.A. 2008 and M.Ed. 2009, and Adrian, Class of 2011.

Distinguished Staff Achievement
Simply Amazing

Looking back on her 31 years as an English professor and dean of graduate studies at ASU, Dr. Peggy Skaggs remembers her former colleagues and students with fondness.

“It’s wonderful to have spent my working life dealing with the well-educated people at ASU and teaching bright, respectful students,” she said. “They kept my perspective much younger.”

The mark she left at ASU and the connection she made with those she has earned her the ASU Alumni Association’s 2011 Outstanding Retired Faculty honor.

As a professor in the English Department, Skaggs focused on composition, American literature, American folklore and other literature courses. She also served on the Tenure Committee, Teacher Education Council and Publication Committee before becoming the dean of graduate and professional studies.

Skaggs has seen ASU evolve dramatically since she arrived in 1966 from a small college in Silver, Texas, to the vibrant university it is today.

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Looking for Luck

by Kevin McCarty

Halloween may arrive but once a year, but superstitions are certainly a game day if not a daily reality for many Rams and Rambelles coaches.

Immediately after Travis Scott’s No. 1-ranked softball team dropped a 10-inning contest to open the 2007 NCAA Division II Regional Tournament, he discounted the outcome of a hit-and-run situation or whether he left his pitcher in too long. Instead, Scott was thinking back to what he deemed his most costly decision of the day — eating the pre-game meal provided in the hospitality tent rather than making a run to Sonic for a hickory cheeseburger, cheese tater tots and a Route 44 Diet Coke.

Scott strayed from what has turned into an 11-year superstition, or “comfort zone” as he refers to it, and suffered the consequences. By the next morning at 8:30, he was back at Sonic ordering the usual before the ‘Belles were set to play an elimination game. Over the ensuing days, he ate six or seven burger meals while the team rallied to win the tournament and advance to the Division II Softball World Series in Akron, Ohio.

“It’s not very good on my figure, but it works,” Scott said. “It gets me into a comfort zone. Fortunately, you can order anything off the Sonic menu at pretty much any time of day.”

He is not the only ASU coach linking food with athletic success. Angelo State head track and field coach James Reid remembers when he was a player at Sweeney High School and the football team made a run to the state championship game. Prior to each contest, Reid and his teammates would eat at Western Sizzlin’, driving an hour and a half out of their way to keep the streak alive during the playoffs.

Reid also has a habit of giving things up during the season in hopes of better luck on the track. Some of his recent season sacrifices include Diet Coke, ice cream, chocolate and fried foods. Oatmeal is also strictly forbidden on race days after a poor performance by ASU at the LSC Championship in his first season.

Many superstitions are internal — Scott says the Lord’s Prayer during the National Anthem and Reid keeps a lucky penny in his shoe — but what a coach is wearing can lead to clues about a team’s performance. Angelo State cross country coach Tom Dibbern has a good luck shirt that’s barely hanging on to life. The worn, see-through charm was there when the women captured the 2010 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field National Championship and when the women won their third-consecutive LSC Championship in May.

For Reid, the secret is the shoes. He owns a pair of “meet shoes” that he purchases prior to each season and only wears during race days. Last season with the team struggling near the midpoint of the year, Reid bought a new pair and the women rallied to finish at the top of the LSC standings and the men placed in the top 10 at the national meet. Reid had a two-shoe rotation earlier in his coaching career after noticing his top jumpers performed best depending on the shoes he had on at the time. Depending on the athlete, he would leave one pair near the pit and change after each attempt accordingly.

“Deep down I know it doesn’t mean anything, but that doesn’t keep me from sliding back into that behavior on occasion,” Reid said.

Like Reid’s penny, some coaches revert to a good luck item. Scott picks a pen out before the year and sticks with it the entire year when filling out lineup cards.

A few years ago ASU baseball coach Kevin Brooks, frustrated with the team’s woes against Abilene Christian, asked his players to bring anything they thought might bring good fortune along on the trip. Infielder Jason Cross produced a stuffed raccoon. Subsequently, the Rams won twice, and the plush toy stayed with the team through the 2007 run to the NCAA Division II Baseball World Series.

Whether or not there’s a scientific correlation between superstitions and success, Angelo State as a whole has had its share of victories over the years. If a cheeseburger is going to help a team win a championship, the Rams and Rambelles coaches will be among the first in line.
Seven years later, Stephanie Fofi is still working for the ring. It’s 4 a.m., and the sun has yet to rise over Jacksonville, N.C., as the alarm breaks her slumber. She shuts off the alarm and sleepily shuttles around getting ready for another busy day at work. The insanity starts in just one hour at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, where she is near the midpoint of her three-year residency. As she climbs into her scrubs, she glances toward her dresser just to make sure it’s still there and to take a second to reminisce. Safely tucked away in its original box is the 2004 National Championship ring she won while playing softball at Angelo State. The memento sits atop her dresser and still serves as a motivating factor of sorts for the medical professional.

“I’m afraid I’ll set it down and then it will be gone forever,” Fofi laughed. “So, I just keep it next to my National Champion watch on my dresser where I know it’s safe.”

Fofi played two years of softball at a junior college in Arizona before transferring to Navy Bases. At the time, her father, Richard, was stationed near San Antonio and she was already familiar with the area after spending second and third grade in Texas. Fofi was named an Academic All-American her senior season.

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The next chapter for Fofi was medical school after being accepted to the University of Texas at Houston and entering the Health Profession Scholarship Program with the Navy. After graduating from medical school, she started active duty for the Navy and is working to complete a family residency medical program.

“I like doing a little bit of everything, and family medicine enables that,” Fofi said. “You’re able to take care of the whole person rather than specializing in a certain area, and I like that.”

Fofi can tell anyone about the four types of nucleotides in a human’s DNA sequence; however, what seems to be running through her veins is a love for sports. That’s why the girl who has been an athlete since childhood – she still jumps at the chance to play recreational softball – sees herself working with athletes in the future.

“I would love to do a sports medicine fellowship, whether it’s for the Navy or outside the armed forces,” Fofi said. “I also love the university setting, so I wouldn’t mind working in that environment.”

It’s hard to ignore the fact that Will Wagner played a role in Northwest Missouri State’s 35-31, last-second win over Texas A&M Kingsville in the NCAA Division II playoffs last fall. The location, strategies, implications and half the players were different, but Wagner’s Bearcats finished a task that eluded Angelo State just a few weeks earlier in a last-minute loss to the Javelinas.

As Wagner starts his first season leading ASU’s football program, his focus is on how the Rams will finish – finish plays, finish games and finish the season. The Odessa native inherits a squad that had high hopes last season, yet finished with a 5-7 record that included three losses by 10 points or less. Furthermore, the Rams dropped decisions to Tarleton State and Texas A&M-Kingsville after giving up scores in the final two minutes with no answer.

“It’s something that we’ve talked about with the players, even in the small things like finishing lifts in the weight room, finishing sprints when they’re conditioning,” Wagner said. “In everything we do, we’re talking about finishing so we have that mentality going into the season. A lot of it comes down to confidence. We want to be a more physical team, but these guys have to be confident in each other and what we can do on both sides of the ball.”

If anyone can instill a winning attitude, it is Wagner, who brings 15 years of experience as an assistant coach without a losing season and 11 NCAA Division II playoff appearances. Wagner learned from one of the best in all of football, Mel Tjeerdsma, while helping guide the Bearcats to three NCAA Division II National Championships.

The Rams return just five starters on defense, but have a host of players with game experience, including last season’s leading tackler, Austin Benson, and Alvin Johnson – two All-LSC Honorable Mention honorees. The shift to a four-man front creates more demand for an already thin defensive line, but a strong recruiting class and several transfers have a chance to contribute early.

“There’s no doubt that we’ve got to get better on defense to compete in this league,” Wagner said. “I’m really excited with what Coach (Mike) Walton has done with our defense, and our kids are excited too. From a schematic standpoint, if we can limit the big plays, then we have a chance to be really good. That’s always easier said than done. We have guys on our team that can do that, it’s just a matter of carrying it over to Saturdays.”

Angelo State begins the season with a pair of road games at Western State and Chadron State before opening at home against former LSC foe Central Oklahoma at San Angelo Stadium Sept. 17.
Being a fan in the Lone Star Conference should be a little easier this year as the league realigns itself following the departure of five schools from Oklahoma.

Central Oklahoma, East Central Oklahoma, Northeastern State, Southeastern Oklahoma State and Southwest Oklahoma State have left the LSC to pursue other conference affiliations, leaving the league with a truer Lone Star feel.

Many see the change as addition by subtraction, and the switch from a north and south division format will certainly make figuring out the standings simpler.

This fall Angelo State will play each football-sponsoring institution in the conference, and each game will count equally as teams jockey for position. In years past, a game against a LSC North Division foe, like Southeastern Oklahoma, counted as a conference contest, but did not affect either team’s divisional standing.

“Our fans will see teams like Texas A&M-Commerce and Cameron every year at home and we’ll play all the conference teams two times a year,” Angelo State head basketball coach Fred Rike said. “We were playing teams in the North Division once a year and it was an important in-region game, but it didn’t have much to do with the South Division standings. Now every game is a league game, so it carries more weight. I actually think our league will be stronger because of it.”

“Overall, realignment is a chance for our fans to become more familiar with who we’re playing for conference championships and not be so confused as to whether something counts or doesn’t,” Brasfield said. “There was never a commonality among the old conference members – it always seemed that divisional issues took precedence over conference issues. Hopefully, having all of us as one will bring us back together and point us toward what’s best for the conference.”

Kathleen Brasfield, who has helped expand ASU’s athletic offerings with the addition of baseball, women’s golf and women’s indoor track since taking over as the full department’s leader in 2004, was voted as the top athletic director in NCAA Division II’s West Region.

For more than three decades, Brasfield has been an ASU fixture and an influential voice in NCAA Division II. Under Brasfield’s guidance, ASU won its first two NCAA National Championships – softball in 2004 and women’s track and field in 2010.

Brasfield was also key in securing the first endowment solely for Angelo State athletics – a $1 million gift to benefit ASU student-athletes for years to come.

Brasfield has served on the Division II Management Council and as its chair in 2010. She has also spent time on the NCAA D-II Volleyball Regional Advisory Committee and four seasons on the NCAA D-II Volleyball National Advisory Committee, acting as national chair in 2004.

The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics recently confirmed what many at Angelo State have known for more than 30 years – Kathleen Brasfield is one of the best in the nation.

ASU’s director of athletics was one of 28 winners across all levels to be honored with the Under Armour AD of the Year Award this summer.

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**Memorable Ups & Downs**

by Lindy Zamora

ASU has plenty to look forward to as the new school year begins. The team will move into the new Norris Baseball Clubhouse, and the LSC announced it has accepted the Rams’ bid to host the LSC Championship Tournament next May.

“T’m excited about this year,” Brooks said. “We’ve got some good players coming in and the new facility will allow those players to get better. If you’re any type of competitor, when you get knocked down and embarrassed, you get back up and fight. I know our coaches and players feel like that, and our guys that were here last season are returning with a chip on their shoulder.”

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**South Division Crown**

The Rambelles softball team climbed to No. 1 in the national polls en route to an unblemished 17-0 record in the month of February and made yet another post-season appearance. All-American seniors Alix Dean and Kaycee Taylor helped the Rambelles secure the program’s sixth Lone Star Conference South Division regular season championship.

For the fifth-consecutive season and seventh time in the last eight years, head coach Travis Scott had the Rambelles in the playoffs. After dropping the opening game in the NCAA D-II South Central Regional to Emporia State, the fourth-seeded ‘Belles outscored their opponents in four of the ‘Belles’ six events.

The young squad finished in eighth place (316-312-304—932) at the Lone Star Conference Tournament with freshman Courtney Rutledge (T21) and Czarnecki (T21) both earning team-medalist honors in four of the ‘Belles’ six events. The young squad finished in eighth place (316-312-304—932) at the Lone Star Conference Tournament with freshman Courtney Rutledge (T21) and Czarnecki (23) both earning top-25 finishes. With two new players joining the team and the loss of just one senior, a deeper roster is experiencing the ‘Belles squad will look to improve during the 2011-12 school year.

**Experience Gained**

With six underclassmen on the seven-person roster, the Angelo State women’s golf team was led by sophomore Krista Czarnecki, who turned in five top-25 finishes in the spring while earning team-medalist honors in four of the ‘Belles’ six events.

The young squad finished in eighth place (316-312-304—932) at the Lone Star Conference Tournament with freshman Courtney Rutledge (T21) and Czarnecki (23) both earning top-25 finishes. With two new players joining the team and the loss of just one senior, a deeper roster is experiencing the ‘Belles squad will look to improve during the 2011-12 school year.

**A roller coaster ride – good or bad – produces a memorable result. The roller coaster 2011 season is one Angelo State baseball coach Kevin Brooks will not forget.

There were plenty of highs, including the Rams’ first-ever triple play, a pair of new career records, a 10-game winning streak and another winning record at 25-23 overall to keep the squad’s streak of winning seasons intact since the program’s first season.

There were also plenty of lows as the team missed the Lone Star Conference Tournament for the first time in program history, followed that winning streak with a 10-game losing skid, and made 14 errors in a game against Tarleton State to set a new NCAA Division II record.

“I hope I don’t remember too much, but yeah, it was just odd,” Brooks said.

Despite the extremes, Angelo State was still hopeful for a LSC Tournament berth entering the final week of the regular season. ASU won its first game of the season for the first time in the program’s short history and claimed regular season series sweeps over eventual LSC Tournament Champion Southeastern Oklahoma and Abilene Christian – a feat that had never been accomplished before.

Individual highlights included gritty play from Travis Lites, who played all season with an injured wrist; a team-best .400 batting average from Garrett Harris; and a stellar season from second baseman Zach Cohen. Cohen, the Rams’ leadoff hitter, recorded a 13-game hitting streak during the year and was second on the squad with a .382 average. Cohen finished the season by setting new ASU career records with a .529 on-base percentage and 25 hit-by-pitches.
Once pioneers of Angelo State’s physical therapy program, Russell and Kate Huckert have continued to blaze new trails in the Last Frontier.

Actually, it is probably more accurate to say that they have shoveled new trails out of the Alaska snow, but the experience has been so rewarding, they hope to convince other ASU physical therapy students to visit the 49th state, during the summer at least, for clinical experience.

As graduates of ASU’s first two physical therapy classes, Russell, Class of 2002, and Kate, Class of 2003, immediately headed to Bethel, Alaska, where for the last seven years they have been providing therapy services to the roughly 6,000 Bethel residents and 24,000 native Yupik Indians who live in the 56 villages scattered throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Their clinic in Bethel’s modern hospital is run by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation.

“We see scheduled patients for out-patient clinic,” Russell said. “Tied into that, we have two hours working with in-patients from the hospital, and we also have a walk-in clinic for two hours a day on at least one of the therapists’ schedules.”

The pair also helps oversee operations at five sub-regional clinics spread throughout the delta. They fly to their particular clinics in small bush planes every two months.

“Russ has two villages and I have one,” Kate said. “We stay in each village for two or three days each time in the clinic housing units, which are modern and comfortable.”

For the Texas-bred Huckerts, Alaskan adventures were far from their minds when they enrolled at Angelo State. A native of Amarillo, Russell was a member of ASU’s first physical therapy class. Navy brat Kate Fence moved to San Angelo from Dallas and joined the second class. They met, married and had their first child, Jacob, while still at ASU. It was Kate’s native heritage – she is part Cherokee – that spurred them to head north after graduation. She had received an Indian Health Services scholarship that included a service component, and the greatest need was in Bethel.

“Being part native, it was important to me to give something to the native population and to try to be a good example for youngsters to get an education, because it’s worth it,” Kate said. “We’ve mentored some students and had high school summer hires interested in learning more about what we do. Since we arrived, we’ve seen two students through PT school and believe we’ve got two more on their way. We are excited about that.”

Bethel’s official slogan is “Where No Roads Lead,” and that is literally the case. It can only be accessed by plane or by boat up the neighboring Kuskokwim River. Located on the flat western Alaska tundra, Bethel is serviced by mostly dirt roads and, in the winter, by ice roads and snowmobile trails. Most of the Huckerts’ patients arrive by tiny, non-pressurized aircraft or boat in the summer and by snowmobile or dogsled in the winter.

The Huckerts have it a bit easier as they live in a modern three-bedroom house with electric and phone service, though water has to be trucked in twice a month to fill their holding tank. Their typical day is much like anyone else’s – get the kids ready, go...
to work, run errands and head home. But, certain aspects are very Alaskan.

“It usually starts out with getting the fire going to warm the house,” Kate said. “We choose to do mostly wood heating because oil is really expensive. It can cost up to $1,500 a month to heat a home of our size in the winter when the cold is extreme.”

“In the winter, you have to plug in your car,” Russell added. “So, on those mornings, we have to unplug the car, warm it up for awhile and scrape the ice off the windows. In the summertime, we open the house curtains that have been blocking the sun that hardly goes down.”

“Many people ask about the darkness in winter,” Kate said. “Our shortest day reaches about four or five hours of light from around 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in December. That is one of the toughest parts of the year until February when the daylight gradually returns.”

Then we have a glorious summer of bright sunlight, when the sun barely dips into a dusky night from about 2-4 a.m. in June.”

Satellite and cable TV are available, though cable and Internet service is quite expensive. The area got its first cell phone service in 2010. Bethel lacks a movie theater, but there are a couple of good restaurants and two grocery stores that also stock some general mercantile merchandise.

“But, I don’t buy any of our clothes there,” Kate said. “In case of real need, I could buy a pair of gloves or something like that. I primarily get all of our household goods by shopping on the Internet, from catalogs or eBay. I also use shopping as an excuse to go into Anchorage for a trip. Then it is shop ‘til you drop.”

“We get a box of organic fruits and vegetables from Seattle once a week,” she added, “so that helps us to stay healthy. And, we have exercise equipment in our living room that the whole family uses. We eat a lot of organic game that Russ has hunted and processed himself, like moose, caribou, musk ox and lots of salmon. We rarely buy meat from the store, but sometimes I’m just desperate for chicken, so we bring chicken in from Anchorage.”

The entire family, which now includes four-year-old Leo, who was born in Bethel, has also found ways to stay occupied during the long summer days and frigid winter nights.

“Kate’s pottery is a really big part of getting her out of the house,” Russell said. “She is the president of the local Art Guild. There is a guy in town who teaches dance classes, and there is also judo and Boy Scouts for the kids.”

“We have formed some of the most remarkable friendships here that will last a lifetime,” Kate added. “We get together with other families and share holidays, karaoke nights, Dance Party nights, pot lucks, Wii nights and card games. It’s amazing to connect with people on such a deep level, which stems from a sense of survival as well. It is certainly not nightclubs in Dallas.”

“Russell, meanwhile, has become the Great White Hunter.”

“If I’m not near the hunter I am today, I was a fisher,” Russell said. “But, then you realize that you can hunt all these animals. Then you go to the grocery store and see that a pound of hamburger meat might cost $6. So, you think ‘hey, I get three caribou a year, a moose a year and a musk ox on a year, if I want it.’ There is no reason to have to buy meat out here. And with the fish, it’s the same thing.”

“It’s kind of ‘Russell vs. Wild,’” Kate added.

Kate and the kids have also fully embraced the Alaskan outdoors. Hunting, fishing and camping trips are common and, surprisingly, they have had no real close calls with the abundant wildlife that includes bears and wolves. Conversely, Russell did have a close shave when a bush plane he was riding in had to land without landing gear, and Kate is not a big fan of ice road travel.

“It is not for the weak of heart,” Kate said. “You are driving on a frozen river, but you can still hear it crack and that is very unnerving. Russ grew up on ATVs as a kid, but I didn’t have that experience, so I’m not so comfortable on a snow machine.”

“We don’t so much have crazy stories,” she added. “The real story lies in our everyday challenges with the environment, lack of access to a road system, the winter darkness and the seasonal outdoor adventures. We learn every day from our patients, whose lives are humbling and whose stories are an amazing testament to life on the frontier. We have been forever blessed by the patient experiences we have had here and the privilege of sharing space with our Native Alaskan family.”

Now, Russell and Kate want current ASU physical therapy students to enjoy some of the same adventures. They flew down to give a presentation on their work and life in Bethel to a group of ASU students in April, and are working with Harriet Lewis, ASU’s academic coordinator of clinical education, to set up a clinical rotation for ASU physical therapy students at their Bethel clinic.

At the end of their second year in the ASU program, PT students must do a 10-week summer orthopedic/skeletal rotation at an outside agency. This year, ASU is sending students to facilities in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Florida, Virginia and Connecticut. Next summer, Lewis hopes to have at least one student heading to Alaska.

“I think it will offer the students a unique experience and help broaden their view of the possibilities with a physical therapy degree,” Lewis said. “It will certainly give them a picture of rural health care. Delivering quality health care to everyone is being pushed by the government and is part of the mission of our national physical therapy association.”

“It will also give the students a chance to be in a freer atmosphere in terms of the constraints placed on them and how much autonomy they will be able to have in the clinic,” she added. “For those adventurous students who really want a distinctive experience that offers a chance to really grow and be independent and see how health care can be delivered in a much different setting, this will be a great rotation for them. I would go in a heartbeat if I could.”

The Huckerts hope hosting ASU students in their clinic will lead to them wanting to return after they graduate.
Each issue of the Angelo State University Magazine highlights selected alumni and invites you to visit the Angelo State University Alumni Association website for the latest on your former classmates. To learn more about Angelo State alumni, visit www.angelostatealumni.com. Better yet, see what your friends are up to and then update the site with news about you, your family and your accomplishments.

1977


In his new position, Hawkins will support joint integration efforts for command, control, communications and computer systems capability development, integration and assessments in order to balance joint warfighter priorities within available resources.

Hawkins is a distinguished graduate of ASU’s ROTC program and the first to reach the rank of brigadier general in 2005 and major general in 2008. In addition to his B.B.A. in computer science from ASU, he holds a Master of Science in management, a Master of Science in human relations from Abilene Christian University and a Master of Science in national resource strategy from the Industrial University and a Master of Science in national resource strategy from the Industrial University.

1979

For the second consecutive year, Dan Herrington has led the United Services Automobile Association’s (USAA) Information Technology (IT) Division to a top national ranking.

As assistant vice president for IT operations, Herrington played an integral role in keeping USAA in the No. 1 position on Computerworld magazine’s 2011 list of the “100 Best Places to Work in IT.” Last year under Herrington, USAA’s IT division topped the Computerworld list for the first time ever.

The top 100 were whittled down from 500 nominees, based on a survey of institutional features like benefits and employee turnover, as well as surveys of employee satisfaction at each place. Securian Financial Group, General Mills, Genentech Inc. and Verizon Wireless rounded out the top five.

1989

Dr. Michael Noe won the District 5 seat on the El Paso City Council in a late-June runoff election.

Noe, who earned his bachelor’s degree in biology/pre-med, received the Frank Brooks Award for his microbiology research while at ASU.

After completing his medical residency at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in 1993, Noe served on the El Paso City Council in a late-June runoff election. He was certified as a drug recognition expert in 2007 after his graduation from ASU. He was certified as a drug recognition expert in 2007 after his graduation from ASU. He was on the ASU Bachelor of Arts recipient in communications.

2009

David Stout has been hired as Byson Independent School District’s superintendent.

Stout, who received his superintendent certification from ASU in 2009, formerly served as the high school principal at Munday. He has worked 21 years in public schools as an elementary physical education teacher, history teacher and department chairman, coach, athletic director, and as elementary, junior high and high school principal.

2011

Col. Casey D. Eaton has been named vice commander, 918th Air Mobility Wing, Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

Eaton is second in command of the air mobility wing responsible for the formal training of all C-17 Globemaster III and KC-135 Stratotanker aircrews for active duty.

Eaton is a command pilot with more than 3,600 flying hours in the KC-10 Extender, C-21, C-17 and KC-135.

Since graduating from the ROTC program at ASU, Eaton has worked in various operational positions, including wing chief of safety, C-17 squadron commander and deputy operations group commander. He has served a tour at Headquarters Air Force, Washington, D.C., as a deputy division chief in the Operational Requirements Directorate and as the aide-de-camp to the Secretary of the Air Force.

Eaton has been an international security research fellow at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

2012

Adam Scott was promoted to sergeant in the San Angelo Police Department (SAPD) in April.

The SAPD hired Scott in October of 2004, after his graduation from ASU. He was certified as a drug recognition expert in 2007 and has been a member of the department’s SWAT team since June of 2009.

2013

Satsha Pretto has been appointed to the news desk of Univision’s flagship morning show “Despierta América” (Wake-up America), the No. 1 early morning show serving Hispanic America.

Pretto, who previously hosted Univision’s weekend newsmagazine “Primer Impacto Extra” (First Impact Extra) and served as a contributing reporter to “Primer Impacto” and “Noticiero Univision” (Univision News), will be covering each morning’s top news stories alongside fellow journalist Félix De Bedout.

A native of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Pretto has shared an Emmy as part of the KMXV Univision 34 team honored in the live special events programming category for the 2007 Tournament of Roses Parade broadcast. In addition to her numerous journalism awards, the ASU Bachelor of Arts recipient in communication has been featured on People en Español’s “Top 10 Best Dressed Celebrities list in 2009 and on the magazine’s list of 50 Most Beautiful in 2010.

2011 Homecoming Schedule

Friday, October 14

6 p.m. ASU Homecoming Alumni Dinner Bonfire Ball and Bash, reception at 6 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m., Norris Ballroom, LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center; bonfire ball and bash at 8 p.m., patio.

8 p.m. Pep rally; run-through sign contest judging; step contest finals, LeGrand Sports Complex.

9:15 p.m. Torch Parade, sponsored by ROTC, from the pep rally to the bonfire site.

9:30 p.m. Bonfire, sponsored by ROTC, Knickerbocker Road and University Avenue (behind Foster Field).

Saturday, October 15

11 a.m. Parade, downtown San Angelo, beginning at Fourth Street and North Chadbourne Street.

4 p.m. Ram Jam; LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center.

6 p.m. ASU Homecoming football game vs. Midwestern State University, San Angelo Stadium; halftime presentation of Homecoming court and announcement of king and queen.

2011 Top 10 Best Dressed Celebrities

In 2011, People en Español revealed the Top 10 Best Dressed Celebrities in the nation and the top five included Dan Herrington, USAA’s IT division, topping the Computerworld “Best Places to Work in IT” list for the second consecutive year.

Adam Scott, former ASU student and SAPD sergeant, was honored in the list for the first time ever.

“Your family and your accomplishments are up to you. It’s up to you whether you choose to live the life you want to live, and whether you’re willing to fight for it,” said Scott, who earned his bachelor’s degree in communications.

Visit www.angelostatealumni.com to read the full story and view a list of the top five best dressed celebrities.

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Jessica Biere,
Maurice Archer and
Johnell Vincent,
Michael Varnadore,
Steve and Susan Timms,
John Norman,
Robert and Jean Ann LeGrand,
Maj. Gen. Ronnie D. and
Gregory Ochs,
Dan and Terri Herrington,
Jeffrey and Deborah Brennan,
J. Milton and Terri Swift,
San Angelo
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