

Angelo State University • Magazine

Spring 2010 • Volume 3 • Number 1

MEMBER, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



Blast

from the Past

Head of the Class

Generation Yap

Fall Classic

Message

from the President

Dear Friends:

Fall always brings with it a sense of change and the past few months on the Angelo State University campus have been quite eventful!

This fall we saw record student enrollment on campus with our second highest undergraduate enrollment and our largest graduate enrollment ever. We also achieved the required 25 percent Hispanic student population needed to apply for Hispanic Serving Institution status from the federal government. I continue to stress that our future as an institution depends on steady growth to achieve the 10,000 student goal set by the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents for Angelo State.

This issue of *Angelo State University Magazine* has a number of articles related to change on campus. Perhaps the most dramatic of these occurred Oct. 25 with the implosion of University Hall. Long a feature of the San Angelo skyline, University Hall had been home to generations of undergraduate women since it was built in 1968. Taking its place will be an expanded green space with new volleyball and basketball courts as well as an outdoor track for our increasingly residential student population.

We have also begun several new academic initiatives designed to support our enrollment growth targets. Perhaps the most striking of these programs is the new federally funded Center for Security Studies. A partnership between ASU and the Department of Defense, the new center will coordinate a variety of programs that will augment educational needs at Goodfellow AFB for security and intelligence training, research and policy analysis as well as for cultural competency. Construction will begin shortly in the Academic, Rassman and Hardeman buildings on the specialized classrooms needed by the center for its various programs.

Finally, and most importantly, the heart of any great university is its faculty. Our talented, dedicated and creative faculty members continue to provide an outstanding education to ASU students. It is then fitting that Professor Ellen Moreland, senior instructor in mathematics, has been selected as the 2009 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Texas Professor of the Year. Professor Moreland was recognized by the Carnegie Foundation in November at a Washington, D.C., reception with the honorees from the other 49 states. Congratulations to her for standing among the top faculty in the country.

Again, as you read through this issue remember that our great heritage and our exciting future merge to provide an exceptional experience for all those that we count as members of our extended ASU family.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Rallo
President



Joseph C. Rallo



Angelo State University Magazine

Spring 2010 Vol. 3, No. 1

Angelo State University
Member, Texas Tech University System

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Angelo State University Magazine

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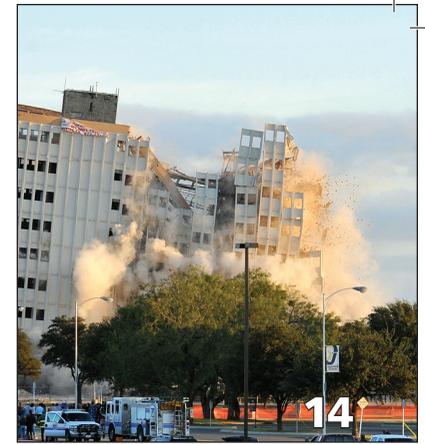
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Blink and you practically missed it. That's how fast University Hall came down, but it took months of work and planning to change the ASU and San Angelo skyline.



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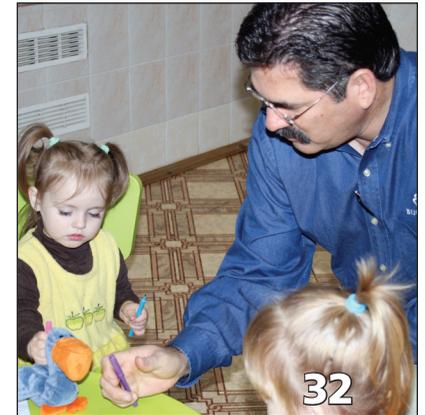


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On the cover: In one of the most anticipated and recorded events on campus in years, Angelo State said goodbye to University Hall on Oct. 25 when the obsolete, 10-story building was demolished by implosion. Some 60 different videos of the implosion appeared on YouTube.com after the implosion, according to *San Angelo Standard-Times* columnist Rick Smith. (Photo by Hiltrud Martin)

Back Cover: Before its autumn demolition, University Hall stood as one of the twin sentinels on campus. Known as the Women's High Rise for most of its 41-year lifespan, the building was home to a generation of ASU coeds between 1968 and 2004 when it was vacated. (Photo by Danny Meyer)

ASU @ Boerne

Beginning this January, Angelo State University is branching out to Boerne and initiating a new and promising era for extending the reach of ASU well beyond the Concho Valley.

With a facility made available to ASU at no cost by the Kendall County Economic Development Corp. (KCEDC), the College of Graduate Studies began offering education, nursing and communication programs this spring in Boerne. Undergraduate courses may soon follow in the community of some 7,000, less than 35 miles up Interstate 10 from San Antonio.

“The Boerne program marks a new milestone in the history of Angelo State University,” said President Joseph C. Rallo. “We are excited about the benefits it will offer both to Boerne and to ASU.”

While ASU has offered courses at distant locations in the past, most recently in Marble Falls and Fredericksburg as part of the Texas Tech University System’s Hill Country Initiative, the Boerne arrangement is the first where ASU has its own facilities and offers courses in multiple disciplines. Visibility in the Hill Country will extend ASU’s name and reputation throughout the region.

“This gives Angelo State a presence there, not only in graduate courses and nursing, but anything else we would want to take down there in the way of graduate or undergraduate offerings,” said Dr. Brian May, interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies. “It also will help give ASU exposure in trying to recruit students in that area to get their undergraduate degrees in San Angelo.”

A significant amount of ASU’s current student population comes from the Hill Country, May said, so it is important that the university develop a big footprint in that area.

“Boerne will allow us to start our presence there,” he said. “We don’t intend to stop at Boerne. We are talking to other municipalities in that area. It’s part of the new age of universities in looking at satellite campuses. It’s not a new thing for regional

or major universities in Texas, but it’s a new thing for ASU.”

The College of Education got the ball rolling for ASU in 2008, partnering with Texas Tech, to offer courses at the Hill Country sites established by TTU in Marble Falls and Fredericksburg.

“We’ll have a half-time person in Marble Falls and in Fredericksburg and a full-time person in Boerne,” said Dr. John Miazga, dean of the College of Education. “The full-time person in Boerne will be the point person for all things ASU at the present time.”

Lydia Warden of Boerne filled that full-time position as off-site coordinator in Boerne and Deborah Matlosz works part time at the Marble Falls site. They are overseeing student recruitment.

Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Dr. Leslie Mayrand said mostly online nursing classes began in January with professors going to Boerne three times a semester.

“The populations we are looking at in Boerne right now are already RNs who want to earn the bachelor’s or master’s degrees,” she said, “and the program will expand with demand.”

Of the off-campus sites, Graduate Dean May said, “This is something that will become part of the culture at ASU. It’s not something we are going after just because it’s part of our mission. We’re going after this because we think it will help the school financially to bring in more student credit hours and more state funding.”

“Long-term, it is ASU’s plan, as the market dictates, to get permanent space that would include classrooms and additional offices, perhaps for full-time faculty,” said May. “We would coordinate that with the Kendall County groups and try to establish a presence there, not only for Kendall County, but Comal County and the surrounding area, including the north San Antonio area.”

The implications for ASU are significant, especially as the university works to increase its enrollment to 10,000 students by 2020, he said. ■

Photo by Danny Meyer

International Perspective

by Tom Nurre

The international business program in the College of Business has just opened a world of new opportunities for ASU students.

With the introduction this spring of Dr. Detelin Elenkov as the first holder of the Norris Family Chair in International Business, ASU business students can now take classes taught by one of the most well-known and widely published figures in the field.

“Dr. Elenkov brings a wealth of experience to our international business program,” said Dr. Corbett Gaulden, dean of the College of Business. “Obviously, he will add to the vibrancy of our very successful study abroad programs, but will also enable us to penetrate other markets and develop other kinds of relationships with universities all over the world. Overall, his expertise will add immensely to what we are already doing in the College of Business.”

A native of Bulgaria, Elenkov came to Angelo State from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, where for nine years he was a professor of international management. ASU is the latest stop in a successful career that has seen him teach international business, management and leadership at Adelphi University in New York, University of Maryland-Princess Anne, University of Memphis, New York Institute of Technology, Sofia University in Bulgaria and the Institute for Strategic Studies in Sofia.

“I had become aware that Angelo State has made great progress under the leadership of President Joseph Rallo, who is also a professor of international business,” Elenkov said. “The recent recognition of the university in the *Princeton Review’s* list of the ‘Best Colleges’ in America testifies to

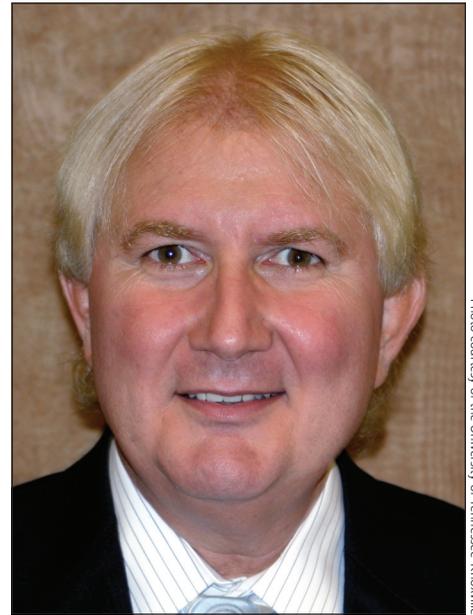
this effect. I saw a clear opportunity to join a dynamic team of academics in the search for excellence.”

ASU students will also benefit from Elenkov’s hands-on industry experience gleaned from his time with Honeywell International Inc. as a country manager in his native Bulgaria and as a regional manager in Zurich, Switzerland.

“I am joining a team of enthusiastic people who have already built the foundation for my future work,” Elenkov said. “Hence, I intend to work in close cooperation with them to develop new study abroad, online and executive education programs as well as to enrich the university’s international curriculum. I have a successful record in all those areas, and I hope to contribute my expertise to enhance the quality of education at Angelo State.”

Additionally, students considering international business research projects could not ask for a better mentor. Elenkov has produced more than 130 publications, including research papers, professional journal articles and two books, *Strategic Management of the Firm: An Integrative Approach* and *Total Quality Management: The New Frontier of Modern Management*. In 2005, he had the top-ranked article in the *Journal of Management’s* “The Top 50 Most Frequently Read Articles” and he was ranked as the second-most prolific contributor to academic research in Central and Eastern Europe from 1986-2004 by the *Journal of International Business Studies*.

As a recognized expert, Elenkov is also a peer reviewer for about a dozen professional publications and serves on the editorial boards of nine others, including the



Detelin Elenkov

Photo courtesy of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville

International Journal of Business Strategy, International Journal of Effective Management, Journal of International Finance and Economics and *Journal of Leadership and Organizational Studies*. He is also vice president of the International Academy of Business and Economics.

“All of us live in a global economy today,” Elenkov said. “This means that even people in domestic businesses have to be aware of what is going on overseas or across the border with Mexico. Just consider the global economic and financial crisis.”

“Also,” he added, “my personal research published in top international journals has indicated that possessing intercultural awareness and cultural intelligence are critical factors that explain the difference between success and failure in today’s interconnected markets.”

Elenkov received his Ph.D. in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He and his wife, Kalina, have a son, Kristian, and a daughter, Eva-Samantha.

The Norris Family Chair in International Business is ASU’s first endowed chair. It was made possible by a \$1 million gift from the Lloyd Norris family of San Angelo. ■

You like Us! You Really Like Us!

The *Angelo State University Magazine* stacks up well against college magazines nationally, according to the results of a readership survey conducted through the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

More than 440 *ASU Magazine* readers responded to the CASE survey, which has been utilized by some 100 colleges and universities nationally, to evaluate their magazines. As a result of more than 30,000 reader responses nationally, ASU is able to compare the acceptance of this magazine with those at other institutions across the country.

Reader perception of quality in *ASU Magazine* exceeded the national averages in all six survey categories: content, cover, ease of reading, layout and design, photography and writing.

The percentages of respondents rating their magazine as excellent for ASU as compared to other institutions nationally were as follows: cover, 60.92, 44.61; photography, 59.82, 45.08; layout and design, 47.44, 34.74; ease of reading, 45.16, 36.87; writing 38.66, 29.06; and content, 34.10, 27.08.

The percentages of respondents rating their magazine as *either* excellent or good for ASU versus other institutions were: cover, 90.35, 85.86; photography, 90.30, 86.58; ease of reading, 87.79, 84.46; writing, 86.11, 81.27; layout and design, 85.11, 81.91 and content, 81.34, 80.32.

After two years and six issues of *ASU Magazine*, editor Preston Lewis said the survey provided an opportunity to evaluate successes and needs.

“While you never achieve perfection in a magazine because of the many variables involved, the survey results tell us we are on the right track in providing a quality product that reflects well on Angelo State University and compares favorably with other colleges across the country,” Lewis said.

“The credit,” he added, “goes to a talented communications and marketing staff and to all the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends, who have provided so much support for what we are attempting to do with the magazine.”

Reader comments overall were positive but not unanimous, ranging from the magazine “gives me confidence I am sending my daughter to a wonderful school” to “it’s dull. Yawn ... institutional drivel.” Sometimes the responses contradicted each other like “not enough sports” and “overemphasis on sports,” but overall they helped spot

some holes in coverage and some needs that should be factored in to future issues.

Based upon the comments from readers in the survey, the two most popular issues were the fall of 2008 with a cover story on history Professor Arnoldo De León and the spring of 2009 with a cover story on the Nursing Department’s outreach at San Jacinto School Health Clinic.

“The magazine is about the ASU community, whether local or extended,” Lewis said, “and we invite suggestions for stories and topics. Our goal is to make the magazine even better.” ■

Angelo State University Magazine

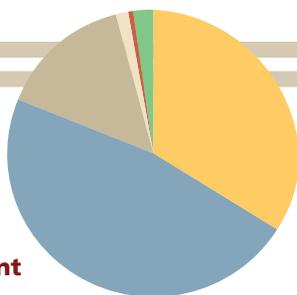
ASU Magazine Readership Survey

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	No opinion
Content	34.10%	47.24%	14.75%	1.15%	0.69%	2.07%
Cover	60.92%	29.43%	7.13%	0.23%	0.46%	1.84%
Ease of reading	45.16%	42.63%	8.53%	1.15%	0.69%	1.84%
Layout and design	47.44%	37.67%	11.16%	0.70%	0.70%	2.33%
Photography	59.82%	30.48%	6.70%	0.69%	0.23%	2.08%
Writing	38.66%	47.45%	10.65%	0.23%	0.46%	2.55%

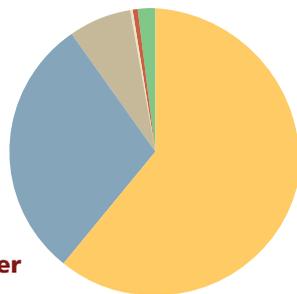
Other College and University Magazines

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	No opinion
Content	27.08%	53.24%	15.35%	1.14%	0.29%	2.89%
Cover	44.61%	41.25%	9.92%	0.78%	0.23%	3.20%
Ease of reading	36.87%	47.59%	11.72%	0.80%	0.23%	2.79%
Layout and design	34.74%	47.24%	13.60%	1.14%	0.26%	3.02%
Photography	45.08%	41.50%	9.74%	0.65%	0.15%	2.88%
Writing	29.06%	52.21%	14.70%	0.63%	0.20%	3.20%

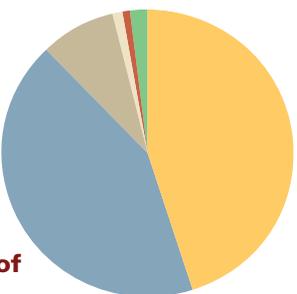
Content



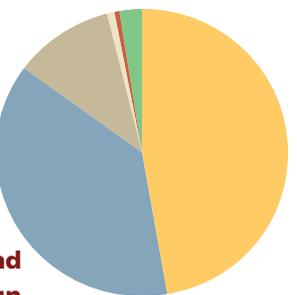
Cover



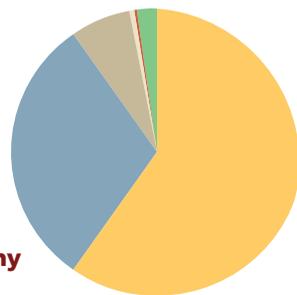
Ease of Reading



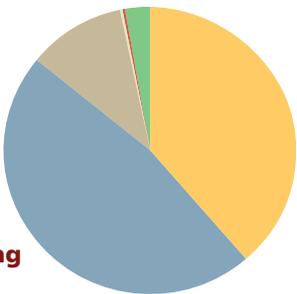
Layout and Design



Photography



Writing



New Expertise

Two consultants will be used by Angelo State University in the coming months to help shape marketing strategies and to apply for the designation of Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), which would qualify ASU for new federal grants from the U.S. Department of Education.

The Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) in October approved a \$180,000 contract with the Austin firm Cohn & Wolfe to address marketing issues and a \$25,000 contingency contract with Dowden Associates Inc. of Duvall, Wash., to support ASU's HSI application to the Department of Education.

Objectives of the marketing study are to develop strategies to increase ASU's overall enrollment; to identify measures to take full marketing advantage of ASU's affiliation with TTUS; to assess the current state of ASU recognition in major and mid-sized cities across Texas; and to broaden the effectiveness of the Office of Communications and Marketing in conjunction with the Office of Admissions in communicating an effective ASU message.

The study will be organized in three phases. Phase 1 is the market research component that will provide qualitative and quantitative data based on surveys, focus groups and individual interviews. Phase 2 will provide a communications audit, assessing ASU's printed materials, Web sites and ASU "touch points," those critical contact opportunities between the university and prospective students. Phase 3 will incorporate the findings of the first two phases into a strategic marketing plan addressing stated needs and initiatives for the university.

Under the contingency contract, Dowden Associates will receive payment only if ASU's application for HSI status is successful and the university receives related Education Department grants.

Universities are eligible to apply for HSI status when their Hispanic enrollment equals or exceeds 25 percent, as ASU's did in the fall of 2009 for the first time. Once an institution is designated HSI, it qualifies to receive Title V or "strengthening" grants, which help universities address critical campus needs for all students.

For instance, strengthening grant monies could help ASU address retention and graduation rates, benefiting all students. One of the advantages of HSI status is that while an institution qualifies based on Hispanic enrollment, the resulting grants are meant to help all students, regardless of their ethnicity. ■

Time Travel

While it may have taken two years from the groundbreaking in the fall of 2007 until the ribbon-cutting for Centennial Village, that number seems minuscule compared to the 44 years before the time capsule marking the occasion will be re-opened by a new generation of ASU students.

On the first Wednesday of December, Angelo State formalized the opening of Centennial Village by closing up a time capsule for revelation in 2053 on the 125th anniversary of the opening of the institution as a community college. The time capsule contents, representing “A Day in the Life of a Student, 2007-08,” were sealed in a stainless steel container and then cemented in a limestone monument in front of the Centennial Village Commons.



To see a complete list of items in the time capsule, visit *Angelo State University Magazine* on the Web at www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine!

As an ASU delegation that included President Joseph C. Rallo, Residential Programs Director Connie Frazier, Facilities Planning and Construction Director John Russell and a variety of students watched, a masonry contractor completed the mortar work that covered the time capsule with a bronze plaque.

The contents resulted from a contest sponsored by the Student Government Association and the ASU President's Office in the spring of 2008 in anticipation of the opening of Centennial Village that fall. While the rooms did open on schedule, construction on the \$28.6 million, 526-bed residence hall did not end until early 2009.

The contest was coordinated by the West Texas Collection with the winning student organizations determined by a vote of the student body. The winning organizations with prize money were: first, Epsilon Sigma Alpha, \$500; second, Society of Physics Students, \$200; third, Student Government Association, \$100; and fourth, Panhellenic Council, \$75.

Items selected for the time capsule included the traditional, such as a 2007-09 ASU Undergraduate Catalog, an ASU parking pass and an aerial view of campus. Other items were more modern or timeless, such as an iPod nano or radioactive material, provided by the physics students, of course. The radioactive material was a perfect addition to the contents because it will reach its half-life in 2053 when the capsule sees the light of day again.

Time capsules can be a tricky business, according to West Texas Collection Head Suzanne Campbell, who said they are often either forgotten or handled improperly. Due to seepage in underground time capsules, the contents are often a soup when they are re-opened. That was why she insisted that this time capsule not be buried, but rather entombed in a stone monument.

Time capsules provide a window into a time and place, especially when the contents are well preserved, Campbell said.

“What students 44 years in the future find in 2053 when they open the time capsule may be as quaint to them as transistor radios and 45 rpm records are to today's students,” said Campbell, “but that's the fun of time capsules.” ■



Healing Health Care

Curing what ails the American health care system will take more than a financial Band-Aid, according to two noted health-care experts who visited Angelo State in the fall.

Dr. Leiyu Shi, professor of health policy and health services research at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, and Dr. Gregory Stevens, assistant professor and associate director of research in the Center for Community Health Studies at the University of Southern California, agree that American health care needs a complete change in direction for meaningful reform.

Shi, who grew up in Shanghai, China, has studied world health-care systems and has published extensively on the subject. Stevens said he knew early on in his education that he wanted to help improve the lives of children, which led him to study health issues related to vulnerable segments of the population.

Shi told an audience at the 2009 E. James Holland University Symposium on

American Values that the workable future of health care is an integrated service delivery system that takes in communities as a whole rather than patients as individuals.

“The health-care system will be organized as a comprehensive information system where patients can go to any provider in a community and get treatment without having to repeat information,” he said, “because all health providers in the community will be linked by electronic medical records. Right now, that is enjoyed by less than 10 percent of the U.S. population. In the future, community health care delivery will be the goal.”

The U.S. health care system’s emphasis is on treating illness rather than preventing it, he said.

Stevens advocates health care-related groups sharing records and coordinating services, which will stop putting them at odds and forcing them to compete for the same financial resources. He also believes

that problems with the system will take multiple strategies.

“If we think that President Obama’s health-care reform proposals to give insurance coverage to everyone is going to solve the health problems in this country, we’re crazy,” he said.

Shi is critical of some health-care proposals, including a governmental single-payer system. He said that when government takes over health care, it regulates fees, dictates what is covered or not covered and takes decision-making away from health-care providers.

Shi said the pure market system is no better because private insurance tends to exclude the vulnerable segments of the population who are costly to insure. These include the elderly and indigent as well as low-income families, some racial or ethnic groups, the uninsured, the unemployed and immigrants or refugee groups, who are least likely to get health-care services.

Stevens recounted a health fair in Los Angeles that attracted 8,000 people who waited overnight to get health-care services they couldn’t afford otherwise.

“That brought attention to the hidden needs of the vulnerable population,” he said.

Both experts agreed that Americans are not getting good value for their health-care money and that the nation’s health-care expenditures are the most in the world.

“The U.S. spent more than \$6,500 per person per year on health care in 2005,” Shi said. “The next highest was Switzerland with \$4,000. That year, the U.S. had 6.8 infant deaths per 1,000 people which is the middle of the pack for industrialized countries. Iceland and Japan had 2.4 per 1,000.”

“We have to implement some healthy-people initiatives at the community level, not at the federal level,” Shi said. “Change has to come from the grass roots.” ■



Gregory Stevens and Leiyu Shi

Photo by Danny Meyer

Comedy

Plus a Message



Convincing college students to listen to some hard facts about living away from home for the first time takes some sugar with the medicine.

Harlan Cohen, the best-selling author of *The Naked Roommate*, dispensed remedies with comedy in September as he tried to help Angelo State residence hall dwellers adapt to life on their own and to roommates, who may see the world and even hygiene differently.

A musician, syndicated advice columnist and motivational speaker, Cohen made his points by singing about naked roommates, telling scatological tales about his own college experience and prodding audience members to share their stories of irritating or smelly roommates. Though the delivery was funny, the topics were serious as Cohen addressed the numerous pressures many students face from their peers to have sex, use drugs or drink too much.

"When your friends want you to go out drinking or using drugs," he said, "it's okay not to do that. When you feel pressure to have sex, you don't have to do that, either."

Much of the program, sponsored by the Office of Residential Programs, was based on Cohen's personal experiences and *The Naked Roommate*, a college student's guide to dealing with the unexpected, like walk-

ing into the room and finding a roommate lounging on the couch in the buff, an experience which Cohen highlighted in song.

Social networking was also a hot topic, and whether lonely students should "friend" their parents and, if they do, whether parents should participate in their children's discussions.

"It's like when you go to the mall," he said. "If you go with your parents, you don't want them hanging out with you. It's okay if they watch from across the way, but they shouldn't hang out with you."

Besides infusing his routine with his own experiences, Cohen borrowed stories from students who have sought advice through his column and spoke of challenges such as getting dumped by girlfriends, meeting new people, joining groups in college to fit in or dealing with physical imperfections.

"You may have noticed I have big ears," he said, pointing to his protruding lobes. "I thought about getting them worked on to look better, but they are part of me, so I kept them."

While Cohen kept the audience laughing, he also left a serious message that while college may have its unique challenges, it is largely like life beyond graduation. No matter the trials, all are handled better with a dose of humor. ■



briefs

By the Numbers

Smiles abounded on campus in September when 20th class day enrollment figures showed the largest class of graduate students ever and the second highest overall enrollment in the history of Angelo State University.

On the official reporting date for universities statewide, ASU listed 528 graduate students and an overall 2009 fall enrollment of 6,387. Graduate enrollment topped 500 for the first time ever and the total enrollment was 3.7 percent over the 6,155 enrolled for fall of 2008. ASU's record enrollment was set two decades ago when 6,408 took classes in the fall of 1989. The enrollment increase stopped a trend of declining enrollment that began in 2006.

Hispanic enrollment for the fall stood at 25.08 percent, marking the first time it has exceeded a quarter of overall enrollment and qualifying ASU to apply to the federal government for Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) status, which when granted allows universities to seek additional grant support from the Department of Education.

ASU President Joseph C. Rallo affirmed his satisfaction with the enrollment numbers.

"While one year does not make a trend," said Rallo, "we are pleased with the enrollment totals and believe they reflect various initiatives we have taken over the last two years to broaden our appeal to prospective students and to bet-

ter accommodate the needs of our current students."

Kent Hance, chancellor of the Texas Tech University System, said "My goal for ASU is 10,000 students by 2020. I am confident we will achieve that goal."

Comparisons by classification for the fall 2009 and 2008 enrollments with the percentage change were: freshman, 2,105, 2,111, -0.38 percent; sophomore, 1,265, 1,140, 10.88 percent; junior, 973, 991, -1.82 percent; senior, 1,392, 1,292, 7.74 percent; unclassified, 124, 128, -3.13 percent; and graduate, 528, 493, 6.9 percent; total, 6,387, 6,155, 3.7 percent.

Additionally, the semester credit hours were up 2.75 percent, totaling 79,453 for this fall, compared to 77,302 for last fall.

From Everywhere

Fall enrollment figures confirmed once again that Angelo State maintains a broad appeal from throughout Texas, the nation and even the world.

Students represented 220 of the 254 counties in Texas. The top five counties after Tom Green with 2,297 students were Bexar, 186; Williamson, 139; Tarrant, 131; Travis, 130; and Dallas, 109.

Thirty-nine states were represented at ASU last fall. Besides Texas, the top states in enrollment were New Mexico, 35; California, 11; Oklahoma, 8; Florida, 7; and Arkansas and Arizona, each with 5.

International enrollment totaled 62 students from 20

other countries with the top five being Mexico, 12; Germany, 10; Netherlands, 6; Nigeria, 5; and France, 4.

Air 'Rad' Alert

With the installation of a new RadNet station at the Facilities Management compound on the east side of campus, Angelo State is now part of a nationwide network that monitors environmental radiation and overall air quality for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Operated by the Physics Department, the ASU RadNet station houses air sampling units that communicate in real time with the EPA lab in Montgomery, Ala. Additionally, filters from the station are removed twice a week, sealed and sent to the EPA lab in Alabama, where technicians measure the particulate matter trapped in the filters to monitor local air quality.

The ASU station is one of 16 in a region that includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico and one of only three on a college campus.

Physics Department Head Andy Wallace is delighted to have the station on campus because the state-of-the-art monitoring and measuring equipment can be used by ASU physics, Earth science and chemistry students for undergraduate and graduate research.

"There are beta and gamma spectrometers that are such high quality, we just don't have them," Wallace

said. "They are so expensive that, for us to get them, we would probably have to get an external grant. Students will now get to use equipment that we otherwise would not have and that could be a foot in the door when they go to look for jobs."

Making Physics Simple

The national Society of Physics Students (SPS) named Angelo State University's SPS chapter one of only five in the nation to receive a 2009 Blake Lilly Prize for outstanding physics outreach.

The ASU group was honored for its annual "West Texas Road Trip" program presented by its SPS Peer Pressure Team. Every spring, team members design, construct and present a variety of flamboyant physics demonstrations to elementary and middle school students in school districts throughout West Central Texas with the goal of getting kids interested in science.

This is the second time that program has been honored with a Lilly Prize, having won its first one in 2007. Since 2006, the Peer Pressure Team has made presentations to nearly 5,000 elementary and middle school students, teachers and parents.

The Blake Lilly Prize has been awarded since 2003 in recognition of SPS chapters and individuals who make a genuine effort to positively influence the attitudes of school children and the general public about physics.

briefs

— continued from previous page

Nursing Grants

The Department of Nursing has received two major grants, one to expand health care delivery at San Jacinto School Health Clinic and Family Wellness Center and a second to help address the state's projected nurse shortage.

Texas Department of State Health Services funds of \$125,000 were provided to add mental health services and programs to the San Jacinto Clinic and to hire mental health professionals to administer them. The grant is a sub-award to ASU through the San Angelo Independent School District.

In addition to offering the new services to the public, the clinic will provide ASU students the opportunity to train in mental health services. Located on the campus of San Jacinto Elementary School, the ASU-operated clinic has been offering health care to the San Angelo community since 1994.

The Nursing Department also received \$90,000 from the Texas Legislature to aid ASU's efforts to increase enrollment of first-year nursing students. The money was awarded through the Professional Nursing Shortage Reduction Program—Over 70 Program, which distributes awards in varying amounts to Texas nursing programs that posted graduation rates of more than 70 percent in 2008. The amount of money given to each school is based on the number of additional students it would take to reach the legislature's goal of a 12 percent enrollment increase in first-year registered nurse programs.

ASU enrolled 78 new nursing students in 2007-08. Based on that number, the Nursing Department has to enroll 87 new students this year to meet the 12 percent increase requirement. Since the needed increase was nine students, ASU was awarded \$90,000 to pay for the faculty and equipment to teach them. Since ASU already exceeded its goal by enrolling 98 new students last fall, the Nursing Department may also be in line for additional money this spring.

Chemistry Reaction

ASU's student affiliates chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) has received a Commendable Award from the national ACS for chapter activities during the 2008-09 academic year.

This is the fourth consecutive year for the ASU chapter to receive the "Commendable" designation. The chapter was recognized for its participation in chemistry outreach activities, attendance at national meetings, and fundraising and social events.

Of the more than 360 ACS chapter reports submitted to the society's Committee on Education, only 103 received a commendable or higher award. The award-winning chapters will be honored at the ACS National Meeting this March in San Francisco. ■

angelostaters

PEOPLE WHO MAKE ASU GREAT

Doug Fox

Doug Fox, ASU's associate vice president of information technology and chief information officer, received the 2009 President's Excellence Award in Information Technology from the Texas Association of State Systems for Computing and Communication.

The President's Award recognizes individual leadership and excellence in information technology by an individual who works for a state agency or institution of higher education. His nomination letter stated that Fox "understands the key role of IT in higher education and recognizes that the successful IT operations are a combination of both the technical and the personal. In a field where the human element, often in the end-users, is many times undervalued, Doug strives to ensure that IT professionals keep the individuality in the IT equation."

Fox has worked at ASU since 1996 and has overseen the growth of ASU's office of Information Technology from 15 employees to 45, not including some 70 student workers. During that time, Fox has become a statewide leader in the implementation of major computing/information technology projects.

Warren Simpson

Dr. Warren Simpson, associate professor of kinesiology, has been named the 2009 Recreation Educator of the Year by the Texas Recreation and Park Society.

Noted for his student pro-

fessional development, curriculum design and leadership/mentoring, Simpson joined the ASU faculty in 2008 and was praised in his nomination letter for his "qualities of leadership and service."

Simpson is the coordinator of graduate studies in the Kinesiology Department. He was previously honored by the National Intramural-Recreation Sports Association for lifetime achievement in recreation with the Regional Award of Merit in 2008.

Rick Lasly

Financial aid counselor Rick Lasly was awarded the Star Adviser Award by the Texas Association of Financial Aid Administrators at the organization's 2009 Fall Conference in Arlington.

Lasly is the first ASU counselor to receive the award, which is given to just one financial aid counselor/adviser in the state each year. Lasly has worked in the Financial Aid Office since 1998 and has been a financial aid counselor since 2007.

Kathleen Brasfield

Athletics Director Kathleen Brasfield has been named chair of the NCAA Division II Management Council, effective after the 2010 NCAA Convention in January.

The Management Council, which reports directly to the Presidents Council, is the division's primary policy-making governance body composed of representatives from each of D-II's 22 conferences, plus

one member representing independent institutions and two members selected at-large. Among the Council's primary functions is to develop and consider legislative recommendations from the Division II committee structure.

Brasfield began her ASU career in 1978 and in 1982 assumed the role of women's athletics director. In 2004, she was appointed director over both men's and women's athletics. As athletics director, she has seen the ASU programs grow to 12 intercollegiate sports, the most recent additions being baseball in 2005 and women's golf in 2009.

She has been active in both the NCAA and LSC while at ASU. During her coaching tenure, she served multiple stints on the NCAA D-II Volleyball Regional Advisory Committee and spent four seasons on the NCAA D-II Volleyball National Advisory Committee.

John Osterhout

Dr. John Osterhout, head of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has received a two-year, \$312,151 grant from the National Institutes of Health to conduct research on a potential cure for AIDS.

Awarded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the grant is designated R21 for exploratory/developmental research on a high risk/high reward project. It is the first R21 grant ever awarded to ASU.

Osterhout's project is titled, "Development of Thera-

peutics to Eliminate HIV." His objective is to develop Trojan Horse Inhibitors to eliminate the human immunodeficiency virus that causes AIDS.

Henry Schreiner III

Henry Schreiner III, a senior physics major and math minor, garnered national recognition for his research presentation at MathFest 2009 last summer in Portland, Ore.

Schreiner's presentation, "Edge Effects in the Use of Wavelets for Partial Image Reconstruction," earned the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics Award for "outstanding student exposition and research in applied mathematics." More than 125 students from 73 universities made presentations at MathFest, the annual meeting of the Mathematics Association of America and Pi Mu Epsilon, the national mathematics honor society.

"This is a significant recognition and a first for ASU," said Dr. Roger Zarnowski, ASU professor of mathematics. "While we've had students present their work at this conference before, this is the first time one of them has received such a prestigious award. I know there were people at MathFest who had never heard of Angelo State, but who now have a very positive sense of the talent of our students and the strength of our programs."

Schreiner partnered on the year-long research project with ASU math major Massooma Pirbhai, who graduated in

May but was unable to attend MathFest because he returned home to Mauritius. Zarnowski, their faculty adviser, said the project may have applications in medical imaging and computer graphics.

Joe Satterfield

Dr. Joe Satterfield, associate professor of geology, presented a paper in October at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Geology Society of America (GSA) in Portland, Ore.

Satterfield covered his research project "Dagger Mountain, Big Bend National Park, West Texas, Does Not Overlie a Laccolith." He was joined on the project by ASU graduate Jonathan Dyess, senior physics major Henry Schreiner III and former physics faculty Christian Poppeliers. This was the second straight year that Satterfield was invited to present his research.

Wana Dee Box

Wana Dee Box, director of operations for the Carr Foundation, has been appointed to the Sunset Task Force of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association.

By mandate of the Texas Legislature, the task force will conduct an extensive review of various state environmental agencies and their functions. The agencies include the Texas Railroad Commission, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Public Utilities Commission and the Texas Water Development Board, among others.

Box has been with the ASU Carr Foundation since 1982 and has an extensive background in ranching and real estate. Her office manages the mineral and royalty interests owned by the Carr Foundation in 16 West Texas counties. The interests were bequeathed by the late Robert G. and Nona K. Carr to form the foundation for the use by and benefit of ASU.

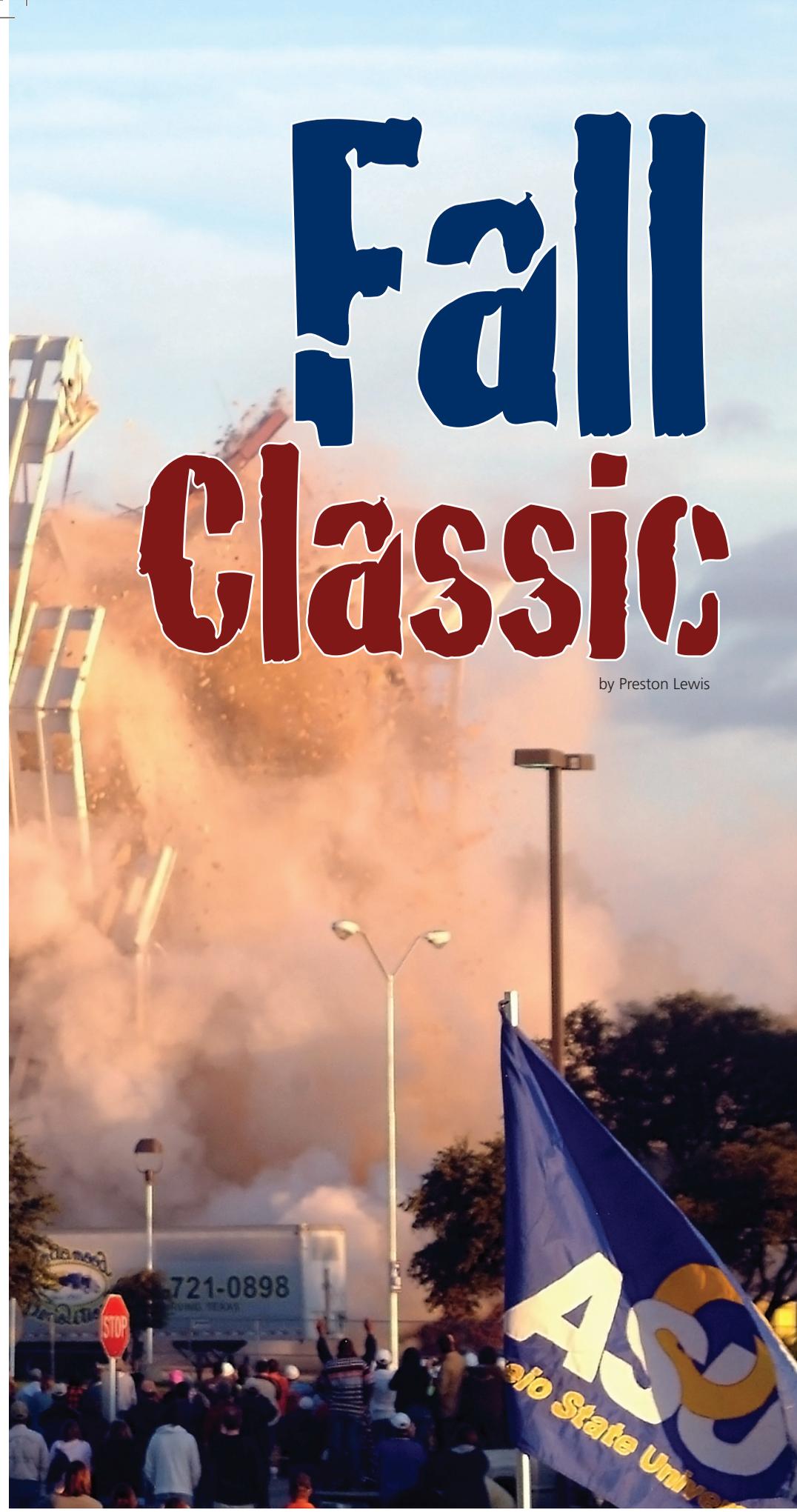
Bonnie Amos

Dr. Bonnie Amos, professor of biology and curator of the herbarium in the ASU Natural History Collections, has been named the recipient of the 2009 Texas Plant Conservation Award by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

The award is presented for outstanding contributions in Texas plant conservation. In the LBJ Center's notification letter to Amos, Flo Oxley, director of education and conservation, said "Your peers overwhelmingly supported your nomination, citing your excellence in the classroom, outstanding reputation for sound scientific research, passion and commitment to plant conservation, and mentoring of students as attributes that make you the obvious choice for this award."

As curator of the herbarium, Amos oversees more than 60,000 plant specimens from Texas, the U.S. and the world. She also built and maintains an electronic database for the herbarium. ■





Fall Classic

by Preston Lewis

It went down

as the most spectacular 18 seconds in the history of Angelo State University.

The implosion of University Hall, known for decades as the Women's High Rise, reduced a 10-story campus landmark to a four-story pile of rubble, changed the San Angelo skyline forever and left an estimated 6,000 early morning spectators in awe of the power of gravity, especially when aided by 140 pounds of strategically placed dynamite.

"I was a little surprised," said ASU Police Chief James Adams, "to see two long months of planning go down in a few seconds."

Beyond surprise, relief stood out as the most common emotion among Adams, John Russell, Doug Fox and Jim Redyke, each of whom played a key role in ensuring the overall success of the project.

As ASU's director of facilities planning and construction, John Russell had invested hundreds of hours of his work life in the demolition of the building, ever since it was closed in 2004 because of obsolescence. Three separate consultant studies, including one funded privately, had confirmed it would cost more to renovate the building in line with current code and Americans with Disabilities Act standards than to demolish it. Even so, demolition came with a hefty \$1.95 million price tag.

Though his formal title is associate vice president and chief information officer for ASU, Doug Fox can best be described as the head of the university's information technology operation. Simply put, he is ultimately responsible for keeping the university's computer servers and services operating. His offices and the ASU Data Center were housed in the Rassman Building, just over 100 feet from University Hall, which topped out at more than 120 feet tall.

Fox addressed multiple worries from the possible – such as a loss of electricity, a broken water pipe flooding the data center or a break in fiber optic lines – to the highly improbable, such as an "oops" scenario where



Doug Fox



John Russell

Photos by Danny Meyer

the building toppled the wrong direction. His team put together a 20-page action and contingency plan for the implosion.

“We turned out to be ‘nervous nellys,’” Fox said. “We probably over prepared, but we were ready in case something happened.”

As police chief, Adams was responsible for evacuating parking lots, cordoning off the area and ensuring the overall safety of the campus while at the same time providing spectator opportunities for all who wanted to witness the event.

Of the dozens of campus staff and contractor employees to work on the building, the last to arrive on campus was Jim Redyke, president of Dykon Explosive Demolition Corp. of Tulsa and a subcontractor on the project. A soft-spoken man with the look of your favorite uncle, Redyke has imploded hundreds of structures around the world, ranging from the old Hyatt at D/FW International Airport to the world’s tallest smokestack, a 905-foot structure in South Africa.

“Economic obsolescence keeps me in business,” said Redyke, who is regularly seen on *The Detonators*, a Discovery Channel series on demolition professionals.

Opened in 1968 at a cost of \$4 million or \$39.01 per square foot for the 103,883-square-foot building, University Hall came from a different era. When it opened, the minimum wage was \$1.60, a first-class stamp cost six cents and a half gallon of homogenized milk went for 49 cents. The Green Bay Packers won Super Bowl II. The top television shows were *Gomer Pyle*, *Bonanza*, *Gunsmoke*, *Family Affair* and *Laugh-In* while a newsmagazine show named *60 Minutes* debuted on CBS. For the first time in history, color TV sets outsold black-and-white models. Countering the trend, the *Ram Page* reported the university planned to put a black-and-white set on each floor of the new dorm while “a color television set and a piano will grace the formal lounge area.” The *Ram Page* also noted that the dorm would be wired for private phones in the rooms.

Today most students come to campus with cell phones. Many arrive with computers or video games plus hair dryers, microwaves and other appliances that their predecessors of the 1960s could only have dreamed about. Too, the 21st century students come with greater expectations of

privacy and are not interested in sharing a bedroom. University Hall did not lend itself to meeting the electrical outlet needs of today’s students, much less their desire for more personal space.

Those issues, however, were nothing compared to University Hall’s plumbing.

“The sewer lines and the water lines were shot in the building,” Russell said. “We got to the point that we were afraid we were going to have the world’s biggest water fountain, if the plumbing didn’t hold.”

The copper water lines had neared the end of their functional life and the cast iron sewer lines had long ago deteriorated, in large part because of the acid that was commonly used decades ago to unclog them. Sure the acid removed the blockages, but it also ate into the pipe.

After five years of discussion and planning for the demolition, Russell was relieved when the contractor, ARC Abatement of Garland, fenced the dorm off and began work in June. ARC handled the asbestos while subcontractor Lindamood Construction of Irving handled the demolition and removal work. Lindamood subcontracted with Jim Redyke and Dykon to handle the implosion work.

Everyone was in for some surprises once work began. Though Russell knew about the plumbing problems, the fireproofing and structural steel surprised him. Asbestos kept appearing in unexpected places such as the back of the pre-cast 8x11-foot panels that gave the structure its distinctive north and south facades. With only an inch between the back of the façade and the building structure, abatement personnel were required to use a chemical solution to loosen the asbestos coating and then employ steel brushes to scour the surface like you would a kitchen pan.

This delayed the planned implosion from Sept. 20 to Oct. 25 and cost an additional \$250,000.

The size of the rebar, or reinforcing bar, came as the second surprise. Rebar is a ridged or ribbed steel rod that provides the skeleton around which concrete is poured and reinforced. The high rise used No. 24 rebar, which is two inches in diameter. With six lengths of No. 24 rebar in each of the building’s 24 concrete columns, the structure was built to last.

“The building was really overbuilt in my opinion, but it was institutional construction,” Russell said. “That’s probably why it held up so well.”

Explosives expert Redyke said, “I’m working on a 32-story building right now that doesn’t have that big of rebar. What it means is the building will move slower, fail slower and the pile (of rubble) is going to be taller because it is not going to break up like a building built with standard rebar for its story height.”

By the morning of the implosion, the high rise was a shell of its former self. The dismantling had begun in June. It took three weeks just to remove the mattresses, beds, desks, chair, furnishings and other materials that had been stored in the building. Once the floors were clear, ARC Abatement personnel began removing asbestos in the basement while Lindamood workers removed the interior walls on the 10th floor. After that, ARC workers would follow with abatement on each floor cleared by Lindamood.

Once the process was started, the basement, first, second and sixth floors were



Jim Redyke

cleared next because that’s where the explosives would be set. Lindamood workers bored three drill holes into each column to hold the explosives that would help topple the building toward the southeast.

While this work was going on, a blast zone was identified for closure the day of the implosion. No one would be allowed inside the blast zone, which extended from the Super Slab on the West to Van Buren Street on the east and included the Food Service Center and Rassman, home to the ASU Data Center.

For Doug Fox and his Information Technology staff, the major worries became a loss of power and the intensity of the seismic vibrations the collapse would cause in the Data Center. While a diesel electric generator outside the east wall of Rassman normally provides backup power, the equipment would be sheathed in plywood to protect it from debris and disconnected so it would not start up and suck dust inside, damaging the machine.

“If we lose commercial power, we have a series of batteries that are designed to give us a few minutes of coverage until the generator comes on,” Fox said. “Our concern was how we could maintain vital services – networking, e-mail access, Web sites – if we did lose power for a while.”

Fox along with Brian Braden, the executive director of information technology, and Kent Corder, assistant director of infrastructure services, decided to bring down all the secondary services, starting early the morning of the implosion, so they could

maximize the battery power and either shut the system down or maintain the essential functions for 20-25 minutes until power could be restored.

“What you don’t want with a computer, whether it is a PC or a server generally, is a hard stop or loss of power,” Fox said, “because data is lost. What we didn’t want was an uncontrolled power outage.”

To monitor the vibration, the IT team hung a weighted string adjacent to the servers and focused a camera on it so they could monitor the servers from the adjacent Math-Computer Science Building. When University Hall fell, the string twitched for an instant, but moved no more. And, the power stayed on without a glitch.

By 10 a.m. Fox and the dozen IT staff who had come to work by 5 a.m. had the Data Center and the servers back in full operation, which was good because the ASU home page received a record number of hits for a Sunday to watch implosion videos shot by communications and marketing staff Leonor Constancio from the roof of nearby Concho Hall and Jayna Phinney from the observation stand at the soccer field.

On a typical Sunday the homepage gets approximately 3,250 hits. On implosion Sunday the Web recorded 5,297 views, a 63 percent increase, and viewers lingered 2½ minutes rather than the typical 1½ minutes.

Police Chief Adams that morning was concerned about the spectators who came out to see the event in person. His responsibilities, outlined in an 11-page action plan, were to empty parking lots, block off the

Exposed No. 24 rebar after test blast



Photos by Denny Meyer

As New finished his remarks, Jim Redyke found a place of solitude among the hundreds surrounding the Junell Center. He sat on a limestone planter wall and lowered his head for a moment of reflection.



Photo by Preston Lewis

campus to traffic starting at 3 a.m. that Sunday, make sure the blast zone was clear of people and keep everyone a safe distance away. His 14 University Police Department employees received help from a dozen city police, four Tom Green County sheriff's deputies, eight REACT volunteers and 41 Air Force ROTC cadets.



"On the morning of the implosion," Adams said, "there was no confusion and the security plan went exactly as anticipated."

From his mobile command post in front of the Junell Center, Adams made the final radio checks to ensure that all was clear before the buttons could be pushed to bring the building down.

"In my 20 years as a police officer, I've pretty much seen about everything, except an implosion of a high rise building," Adams said. "Even though we had a good, working action plan and had been extensively briefed by Dykon, there were some 'pre-game' jitters. I really didn't have a sigh of relief until I visually saw the building fall in the exact direction planned and the dust had settled. There is no greater satisfaction than to have a major event with thousands of people and then watch them enjoy themselves and leave the event safely."

Jim Redyke was the man responsible for making the building fall to the southeast as planned. Just three days before the implosion, he and his two-member Dykon team arrived on campus from Tulsa in his red Ford crew cab truck with utility bed. The little red trailer he towed behind the truck was the magazine which held the dynamite.

After a test explosion in the building basement that Friday morning, he met with more than 20 university officials and contractor representatives to go over the details.

"The \$64,000 question," Redyke said, "is what will the wind direction be Sunday morning. The reason is you want to plan to push the button so you are downwind. You don't want to subject dignitaries to the dust unless you absolutely have to. I understand you are going to have coffee and donuts (at the Junell Center) and more than once I have dusted the donuts. I don't like to do that."

The biggest dignitary of all on implosion Sunday would be Alvin New, Class of '84. In August at the ASU Athletic Foundation Blue and Gold Banquet and Auction, New had bought for \$10,500 the right to push the button that would bring the building down.

On Friday and Saturday, Redyke and his crew loaded the explosives, set the detonators and strung the primer cord. The Lindamood crew then wrapped the columns with a geotextile fabric to reduce flying debris.

"We'll basically be slicing it like a knife at a 45-degree angle, starting at the southeast corner, echeloning it back north," Redyke said. "When we say fire, there'll be 6.5 seconds between the first and last explosions. You are going to hear kaboom-kaboom-kaboom-kaboom-kaboom and nothing's going to happen for a few seconds. Then the building will begin to collapse toward the southeast, feathering itself as it comes down so the building is not hitting the ground all at once in one monumental event."

Less than 24 hours before the implosion, Redyke took a university administrator and photographer to the basement of the building to show the results of the test blasts and explain how the structure would collapse.





Alvin New

Photo by Tina Doyle

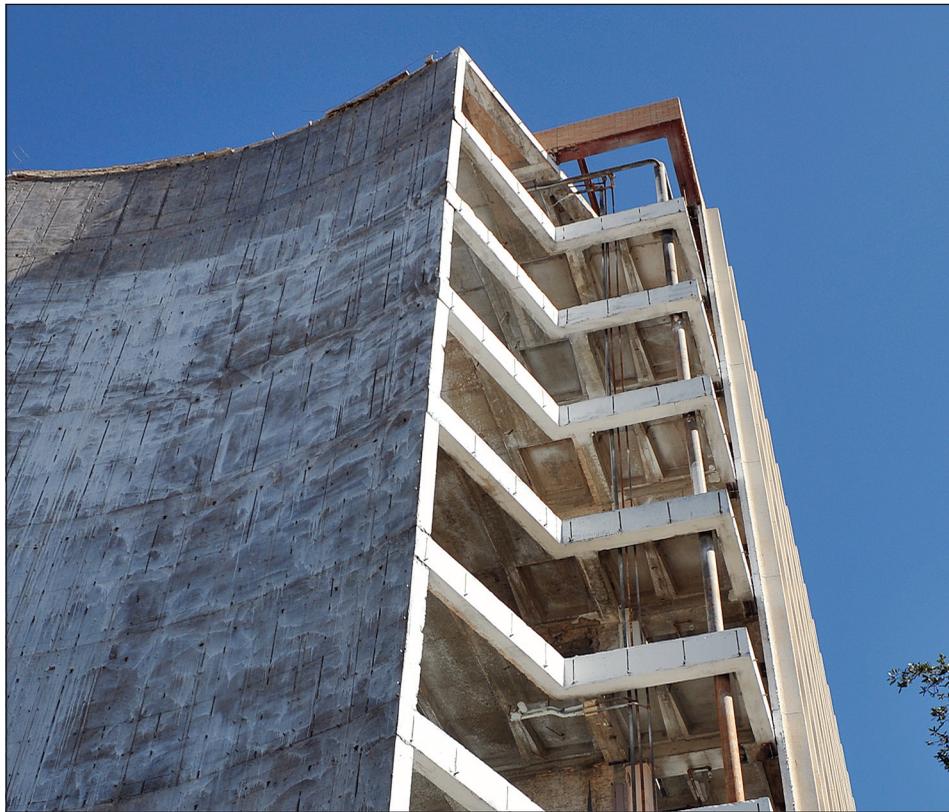


Photo by Danny Meyer

“I like the challenges of doing it and that I do something unique, that not very many people in the world get to do,” Redyke said. “It’s a business that’s kept me in tune spiritually because this business is not a zero risk business. We have some good ones and occasionally you have some that go not like you like them. So, it’s a business that keeps me in front of the Lord and so I can trust Him in all of this.”

On their last trip out of the building the afternoon before the implosion, Redyke and his crew scattered flour over all the entrances to the shell of the structure. As long as there were no footprints the next morning, they could proceed with the explosion. Other workers started pulling in heavy-duty construction trailers and plac-

ing them between University Hall and the two nearest buildings, Rassman and the Food Service Center. Others checked the adjacent trees, which had been sheathed with skirts of 2x4’s to protect them from flying debris.

The morning of the implosion, the 20x38-foot flag flying atop the 110-foot flagpole in front of the Junell Center waved north in the gentle breeze. Jim Redyke would not dust the donuts after all on implosion Sunday.

With thousands of spectators ringing the campus, a brief program began at 8 a.m. on the terrace of the Junell Center. Among many things, said ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, “universities are also repositories of memories.” He cited some memorable moments in the history of University Hall.

By 8:15 a.m. Alvin New stood at the podium, addressing the crowd. “To be benefited in life as we have, Patricia and I now look at the opportunity to give back to San Angelo as a great blessing,” New said. “It’s a great honor and pleasure to be here today and have this opportunity.”

As New finished his remarks, Jim Redyke found a place of solitude among the hundreds surrounding the Junell Center. He sat on a limestone planter wall and lowered his head for a moment of reflection.

New moved from the podium to a platform where two yellow wires were tied. He was accompanied by representatives of student organizations that had shown the most

– continued on page 39



Photo Sequence by Kimberly Parker

by Roy Ivey

Blast from the Past



Martha Dehnel Joyce and Martha Henderson Chitsey

Photo by Danny Meyer

The demolition of University Hall in late October sparked memories of a bygone era in Angelo State University history, when female students faced curfews, understood what it meant to be cool for the first time and dealt with isolation on campus.

When it was constructed, the building was a radical change for then-Angelo State College which maintained four small, two-story dormitories. By contrast, the Women's High Rise, as it was called when it opened in 1968, could house 490 students and was the first campus residential or academic facility east of Johnson Street.

What was a cutting-edge facility that changed on-campus residency in 1968 had by 2004 become a maintenance headache that could not be economically renovated to meet the needs of contemporary students. While the building may be gone, the memories of its early residents survive.

"It was a thrill of being one of the first to move into that new, modern and tall, tall building," said Empress McFarland Terrell, a 1970 journalism and English graduate who now lives in Lubbock. "That was such an exciting time. I lived in a dorm all four years and it was such an improvement for the girls who got to live in the high rise."

For one thing, many ASU students had never previously lived with refrigerated air conditioning and others had never experienced air conditioning at all.

"The high rise had air conditioning and I had grown up without it in Eden," said Debbie Helmers Allen, a San Angelo teacher who graduated in 1972. "I also thought the rooms were nice. I thought it was a wonderful place."

Mary Pirtle Walraven, a Bryan Independent School District special programs supervisor, also experienced central air conditioning for the first time when she moved into the Women's High Rise in 1970.

"We all thought the high rise was so wonderful," she said. "The beds, closets and desks were all built in and it was a suite concept. I spent a night in a dorm in Stephenville, and the high rise was a palace in comparison."

Martha Henderson Chitsey, a 1974 elementary education graduate from Colorado City, found the high rise to be resort-like, but cramped.

"It was brand new," Chitsey said, "and the top floors weren't even finished when we moved in. I thought, even back then, that we didn't have a lot of space. There were two in a room and a bath between two rooms, so we had suitemates. We also got phones in the room, and I think that was the first dorm on campus to get them."

Martha Dehnel Joyce, who moved in when the high rise first opened, recalled that it was the nicest dorm on campus, but still needed work when the fall 1968 semester began.

"The contractor had to pay a tremendous amount because it wasn't ready," Joyce said. "I moved to ASU from McCamey, and for me, it was the neatest place to live. There are a lot of dorms, even now, that aren't as good. I was shocked when I heard they were going to get rid of it."

Joyce said one of her favorite things about the high rise was the camaraderie and getting to know new people.

"I was majoring in home economics and had to transfer to Sam Houston State to finish," she said. "Sam Houston was a suitcase school and everyone went home on the weekends. I was 400 miles from home and couldn't do that, so I don't feel like I made good friends there like I did at ASU."

However, some students considered the residence hall remote from the rest of the campus when it was new. Built with the future in mind, the Women's High Rise and, later, the Food Service Center and the Men's High Rise, were the only ASU buildings on the east side of Johnson Street in the late 1960s.

"All of that area between Johnson Street and the high rise was cold, windy and open," Allen said.

Kathy Service Brasher of San Angelo also recalled the remoteness of the high rise.

"They didn't have the cafeteria open the first year," she said. "We had to walk to the student center to eat. The high rise was stuck out in the middle of nowhere and you

were constantly walking. Not many of the girls had their own cars then, either.”

The kinks inherent in the new building also impacted its first residents.

“The elevators broke down the day we moved in,” Templeton said. “I was assigned to the fifth floor and had to carry everything up the stairs. My dad asked, ‘Why did you bring all this stuff?’”

The residents were also faced with tough regulations imposed upon single, young women in the late-1960s. They had to sign out of the dorm if they were going out for the evening and sign back in when they returned.

“You had to say if you were going to a movie or something and say who you were going with,” Templeton said. “If you missed the curfew, you had to go back to the supervisor’s room, knock on her door and she had to let you in, which was not a good thing.”

Coming back late or other infractions could result in a high rise resident being ‘campused,’ said Cindy McBride Perry of Alpine, who was a senior in 1968. “If they smelled alcohol on you, you were ‘campused,’ and privileges were taken away. You could only go to the library or classes.”

Other hijinks could also land residents in hot water. Terrell recalled a couple instances when what seems like minor infractions now loomed larger then.

“We laugh about it now,” Terrell said, “but we were ‘campused’ for things like not emptying our trash. I remember my freshman year, we decided to have a slumber party and dragged a mattress from one room to another in Carr Hall and we got in big trouble for that.”

Terrell and Walraven both came away from living in the high rise the better for it.

“I was involved in the High Rise Association and was lucky enough to be the president,” Terrell said. “We had all kinds of competitions, like decorating our doors for Christmas. It drew us together and we had more opportunities for friendships. We were so proud to be the first group to live in that building. To us, that was the highlight of our college years.”

Walraven served as a resident assistant, which was a daunting task for someone so young.

“Considering I was a sophomore and 19 years old, and some of the students were two

or three years older than I was, it was scary,” she said. “I helped freshmen who were lonesome and girls who were having a hard time with their boyfriends. Those things touched me and, partly because of them, I’m now a social worker.”

Kay Matlock Templeton, now a nurse in Houston, remembers the community atmosphere in the high rise.

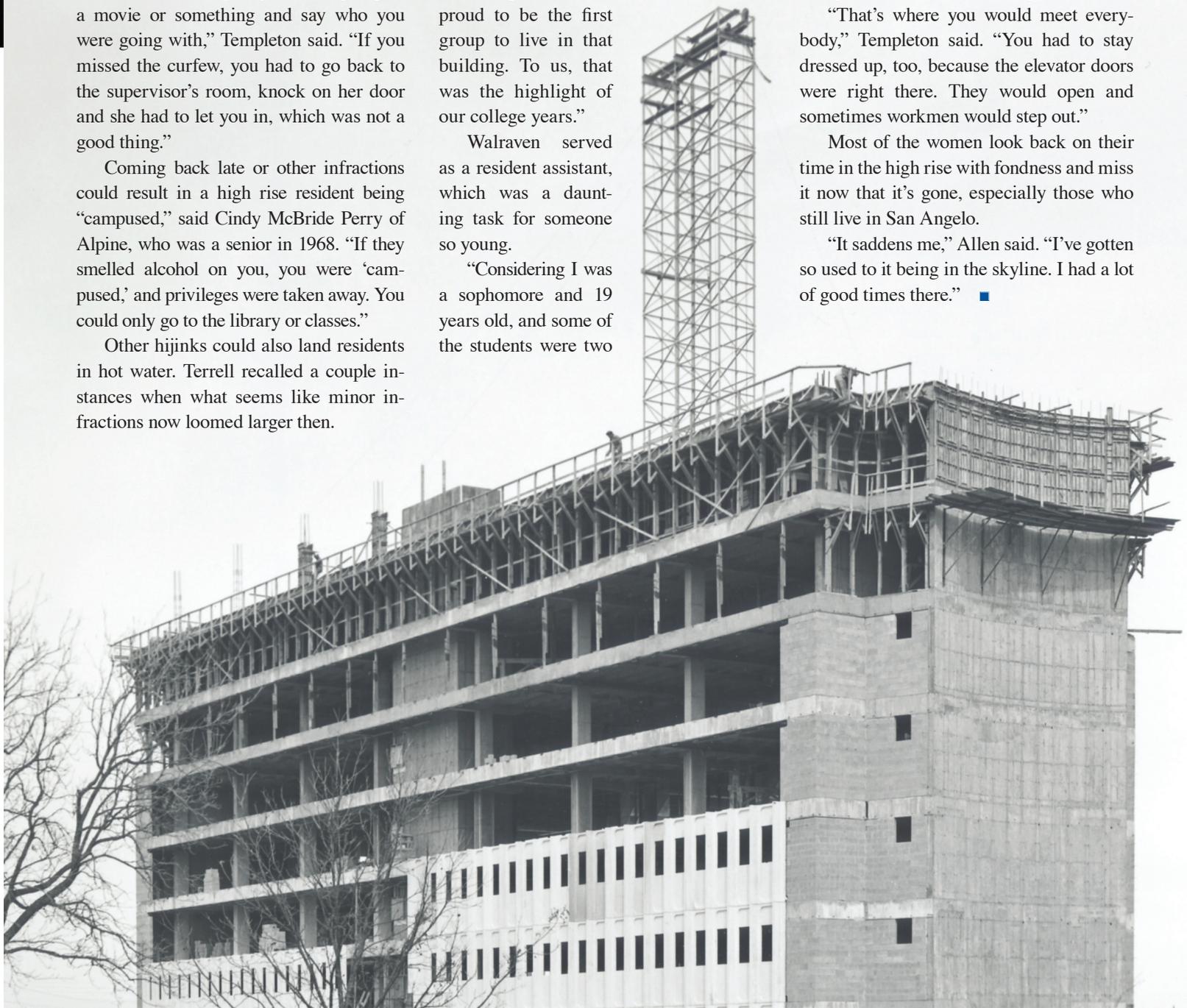
“We had a kitchen downstairs,” she said. “We would bring food from home and bake potatoes in the big oven. It wasn’t good when someone would come along and ‘borrow’ them.”

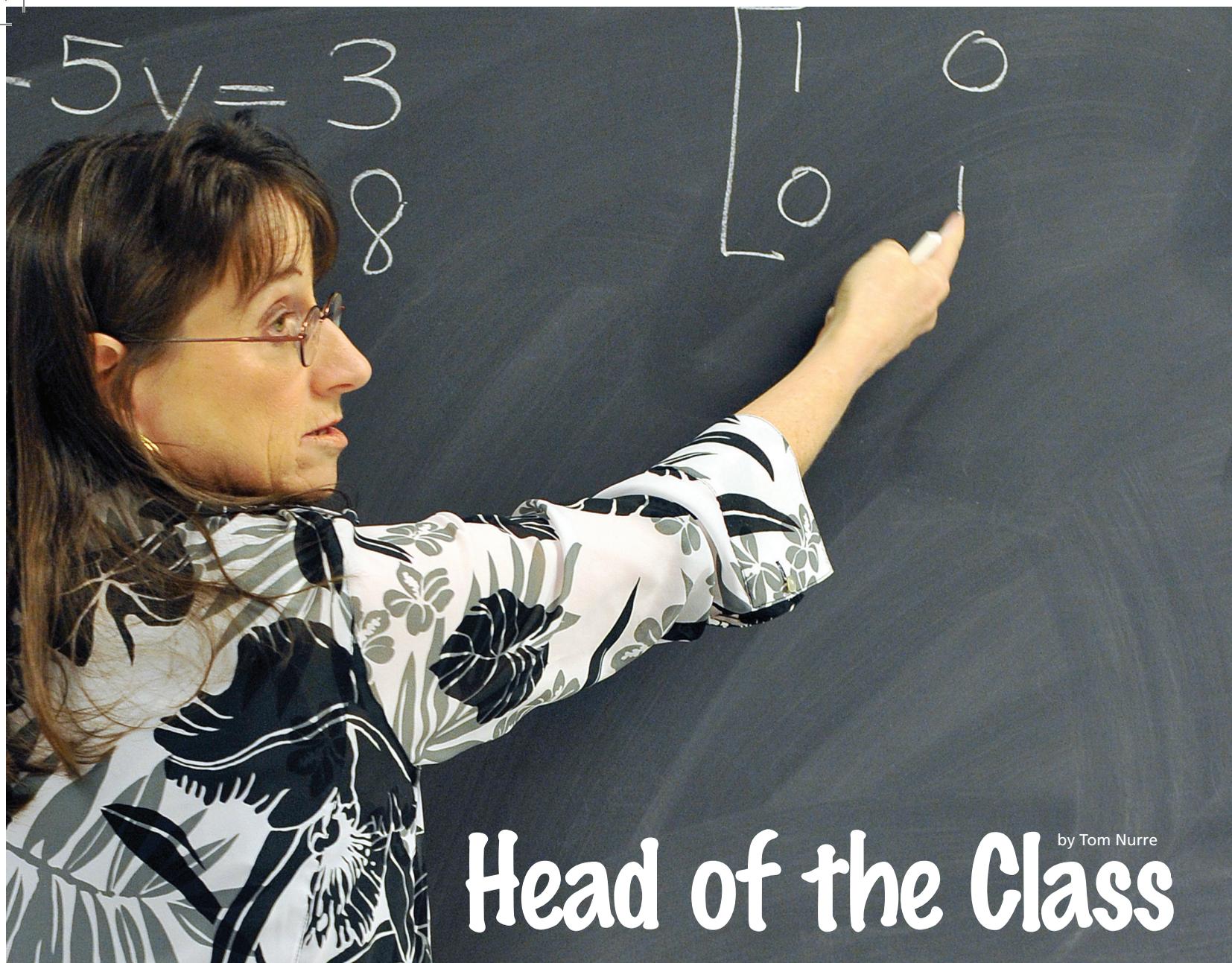
Each floor’s lobby had a television and lounge chairs where students gathered.

“That’s where you would meet everybody,” Templeton said. “You had to stay dressed up, too, because the elevator doors were right there. They would open and sometimes workmen would step out.”

Most of the women look back on their time in the high rise with fondness and miss it now that it’s gone, especially those who still live in San Angelo.

“It saddens me,” Allen said. “I’ve gotten so used to it being in the skyline. I had a lot of good times there.” ■





Head of the Class by Tom Nurre

Ellen Moreland

always wanted to be a teacher.

Now, she is recognized as one of the best in the nation.

In November, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education named her the Texas Professor of the Year. As a senior instructor in the ASU Mathematics Department, Moreland is fulfilling her ambition in a way that is bringing multiple honors to her and the university.

“I am very pleased to have won for Angelo State because I think it is a way of getting our name out there,” Moreland said. “I think there are far too many people who don’t realize what a great university this really is. I’m very happy and proud to have

received it, but I think anybody in this department could have gotten it. We have a great department.”

The Carnegie U.S. Professors of the Year program was launched in 1981 to salute the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country. All U.S. undergraduate teachers of any academic rank at any type of institution are eligible and one winner is chosen from each state. Honorees were recognized at a November ceremony in Washington, D.C.

And, the Carnegie Award is just the latest honor for Moreland, whose résumé includes a 2001 ASU Teaching Excellence Award and the inaugural Texas Tech University System Chancellor’s Council Distinguished Teaching Award for ASU in 2009. The Carnegie Award simply completes her

trifecta of local, state and national awards.

“The selection of Professor Moreland by the Carnegie Foundation for this national honor,” said ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, “is an affirmation of the caliber of instructor which has made Angelo State University such an exceptional institution over the past decades.”

The Long Island native, who grew up dreaming of being a teacher, took a circuitous route to achieve that dream. After earning her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mathematics from Clarkson College of Technology, Moreland spent the first phase of her adult life traveling with her military husband, Patrick. Along the way, she worked as an actuary and in a law office, then finally got a taste of teaching when Patrick was stationed in Germany, where she worked for branches of the University of Maryland and Boston University at various U.S. military bases.

“It was for Army soldiers and they are up and going early,” Moreland said. “So, I might have a 6 a.m. class on one base in one direction, then get in the car and drive to a lunchtime class in a second city, and then have a dinnertime class in a third city. So, I would go about 200 miles a day, but I loved it, loved the travel and had fun working with the soldiers.”

After Patrick retired from the Army in 1982, he landed a job with Ethicon Inc. So, the couple headed to San Angelo and started a family. In 1988, Moreland decided to go back to school to get her Texas high school teaching certification and to resume her quest to become a full-time teacher. Her timing turned out to be perfect. When she showed up at ASU to register for classes, she ended up being hired as an instructor instead.

“That was the year the Developmental Math class opened and (then-department head) Dr. Johnny Bailey needed somebody to teach it,” Moreland said. “Once I got here, I loved it. I love the kids and I love the school. My daughter didn’t even think about applying anywhere else, and she was in the top 10 percent of her class. She just grew up knowing that ASU is a great education for a good value.”

Over the years, Moreland has added other courses to her repertoire and now teaches everything from Developmental Math to Business Math to the capstone course for se-



niors in the secondary teacher certification program. She was hand-picked by Bailey to teach the capstone course, which reviews the entire mathematics curriculum. It was implemented in 1997 in an attempt to raise the percentage of ASU students passing the secondary certification exam.

“He knew that I would put forth whatever hours it took to get it done,” Moreland said. “I’m just a perfectionist, I guess. I also had a lot of background in different areas because of the jobs I’ve held. Because the capstone takes from a lot of different areas, I think that was also part of it.”

“He also knew that I could get the students to come in and get help,” she added. “He knew that I wouldn’t back down on my standards and I think that probably had a lot to do with it, too.”

Since Moreland started teaching the capstone course, every student who has completed the program has passed the teacher certification test on the first try. While she credits that success for her growing list of teaching awards, she thinks it also has a lot to do with her relationship with her students.

“If you come by my office in the morning, they are all over the place,” she said. “They are sitting on the floor and we have to move everything off my desk to make room. That is the big thing to me. I teach for the kids. I’m just not one who can turn a kid away. If they want to learn, I am going to help them.”

In addition to tangible awards, that dedication to her students also scores Moreland points with her boss.

“Ellen cares about her students more than any faculty member I know,” said Dr. Paul Swets, Mathematics Department head. “She cares enough to work with them, to comfort them when they are upset, to scold them when they are lazy and to push them to places they never thought they could go. She cares about them enough to do whatever it takes to get them to understand mathematics. Along the way, and as importantly, she teaches them an awful lot about success in life.”

Awards and kudos aside, though, Moreland just loves being a teacher and particularly being a teacher at ASU. Patrick is retired now and the couple’s daughter, Kimberly, is a senior exercise science major at ASU. With more than 20 years on the Angelo State faculty now, there is no place she would rather be.

“I love the kids and I love being surrounded by them” Moreland said. “I love ASU and I think it is a wonderful school. I think the kids get a great education here compared to a lot of the big colleges and I think we have some of the best teachers anywhere on this campus.”

“As a kid, I used to play school all the time and I always had to be the teacher,” she added. “Now that I have become a teacher again, I would never dream of leaving it.” ■



GENERATION

YAP

by Jayna Phinney



Flores Photos by Kimberly Parker

Sylvia Flores

Sometimes Sylvia Flores calls to wish her daughter, Michelle Flores, luck on a test. Other times, Sylvia texts a message to determine Michelle's work schedule or if she is available for lunch.

The reasons for the contact may vary, but it's a given that Angelo State University senior Michelle and her mother, Sylvia, communicate with each other almost daily.

"We're friends, and I think we have a good mother-daughter relationship," said Michelle, a nursing major.

Frequent parent-student communication, such as Michelle and Sylvia Flores' interactions, is growing among college students. But while parents may be trying to choose between texting or Facebook, researchers are more interested in the style of communication that parents are using.

Dr. Kristi Cordell-McNulty, an ASU assistant professor of psychology whose research interests include parental involvement in college education, said research has indicated that involved parents can have negative and positive effects on students.

In her thesis work, Cordell-McNulty found that students indicated lower motivation levels if their parents tried to help them adjust to college or frequently told them that school was important. However, students showed higher motivation levels if their parents expressed praise and encouragement.

"We're finding that it's great to communicate, but not if it's just to check in on them," Cordell-McNulty said.

Sylvia Flores of San Angelo said she knows her daughter is independent, so she hasn't felt the need to lecture Michelle about school.

In fact, Michelle decided during her junior year to switch majors from education to nursing. Her mother supported her decision without criticism.

"She's really matured a lot since she graduated high school," Sylvia said.

Decision-making is considered a crucial developmental process for college students experiencing life on their own for the first time, research suggests. Cordell-McNulty learned in her dissertation that students are

more likely to adjust and be social if their parents support them without making decisions for them.

Dr. Mark Taylor, a nationally recognized educator and speaker from Arkansas, visited ASU in the fall to talk about what he calls “Generation NeXt,” those college students born between 1982 and 1994.

Parents of “NeXters” have taken a “parent-as-a-friend” approach that includes more counseling and less authority than previous parental generations.

“When we were growing up,” Taylor joked, referring to the baby boomer generation, “our parents wanted us to hate them.”

Generation NeXters are also characterized by their closeness to their parents, Taylor said. Because parents today play an important role in financing college and even in helping their children choose a university, he said it only makes sense that parents would want to monitor that investment.

Because NeXters are technology-oriented, digital natives, it is natural for parents to use cell phones and computers to contact them.

“Technology impacts every part of their life,” Taylor said. “If we don’t impact them with technology, we don’t matter.”

Tucker Bearden, 21, a senior social work major at ASU, said he considers his daily communication with his parents a healthy relationship. He mainly uses his cell phone to talk to his mother, who lives in Lubbock, and his dad, who resides in Brownfield. Sometimes he e-mails his parents, and he texts with his dad.

When he speaks to his parents, Bearden said, they usually talk about the things he has going on in his life, like his volunteer work teaching English as a second language at Southland Baptist Church in San Angelo. Sometimes he calls his parents, and other times they call him.

“It’s easier to know what’s going on,” Bearden said, “especially when you go back home. You’re not completely lost.”

On the other end of the spectrum is Chance Fincher, 22, who graduated from ASU in December with a degree in communication. He grew up with his grandparents in Pecos.

Fincher typically talks to his grandmother about once every two weeks. Most of the time, she initiates the conversation

because she knows he has been busy with school and may not have time to call.

“She calls if she has something important to say or to find out how things are going,” Fincher said.

Occasionally, when Fincher’s grandmother forwards his mail, she also includes a handwritten letter.

“The phone is quicker, but growing up with them and their old-school ways, you tend to appreciate the letter,” Fincher said. “When you’re writing a letter, you’re not doing anything else, you’re just focused on the letter.”

Families like Fincher’s are becoming more rare in a college setting. While some may be familiar with the “helicopter parent,” who hovers in a student’s life, it is becoming increasingly common to encounter “snowplow” or “bulldozer” parents who actually push anticipated obstacles out of the way for their children, Taylor said.

Connie H. Frazier, director of Residential Programs at ASU, knows all about the snowplow parents.

“Some parents just want their child to glide along,” Frazier said, “but we would like the students to learn to deal with some of the bumps along the way.”

Frazier’s staff members typically have at least one parent call a day. She said that ever since her office started offering housing applications online, it has become increasingly common for parents to fill out the applications. It can cause problems, however, in the roommate preference portion of the application.

“All parents think they know, but they don’t know what their student’s roommate preferences are,” Frazier said.

How the housing application was handled initially can present a problem later when it is time to re-apply for housing. Frazier said Residential Programs has started holding informational sessions during re-application periods because so many students don’t know how to log into the housing system because their parents did it for them the first time.

The lines of privacy are blurred in some instances. Frazier’s office regularly receives telephone calls from parents who say they are sitting in front of the computer checking their student’s e-mail and have a question about a looming Residential Programs deadline or something similar.



Michelle Flores

In her 20 years in higher education, Frazier has witnessed the generational shift. When she started her career, students who went to college were on their own and parents were hands-off. Today’s parents, by contrast, are hands-on and deeply involved with their college-age children. Finding the right mix of support while providing opportunities for collegians to feel comfortable on their own is the main challenge for today’s parents and university administrators.

“It’s hard to balance,” Frazier said, “but we all want your student to succeed.” ■

Family Matters

by Dave Wester

Those who say life is not all fun and games have yet to meet the Brooks family.

For Angelo State baseball coach Kevin Brooks and women's basketball coach Sally Walling Brooks, life without all the fun and games would be dull, if not downright boring.

After all, the Brookses must balance the stress of coaching two of ASU's most successful teams with the challenge of raising their two children – daughter Bailey, 9, and son Kannon, 7. As parents, Kevin and Sally maintain a schedule that would intimidate many,



Photo by Danny Meyer

but one that has made the hectic routine in their household.

Often times what happens on the diamond or court is less important than what is on the refrigerator door.

“There are lots of calendars,” said Kevin.

“Our fridge has our main calendar and all the little reminders from school,” Sally said. “We have a system that works despite having different styles. We haven’t screwed up our kids yet.”

Kevin nodded. “She is more organized than I am. I am more flexible, but that comes from coaching baseball. In baseball, a schedule doesn’t mean anything, so I’ve learned to adjust. In basketball, your schedule is set in stone and you can plan farther out. She can plan a whole week for us while I go day-by-day.”

The Brookses also have a built-in support system that has allowed them to maintain such a frantic schedule. Sally’s mother, Mary, serves as the family’s cook and the children’s unofficial part-time chauffeur. Mary moved to San Angelo in 2004 and has lived with the family since 2007.

“It all starts with my mom,” Sally said. “Of course, Kevin or I want to be the one who drops them off and picks them up from school every day, but it’s not always possible. She helps us more than she realizes.”

The Brookses also rely heavily on assistant women’s basketball coach Stacy Duffell, who played for Sally at the University of Incarnate Word and then joined her staff when Kevin and Sally moved to San Angelo in 2000.

“Stacy is my assistant coach, my best friend and my kids’ best friend,” Sally said. “One time when the baseball team made the regional tournament and we had to travel as a family, Stacy went with us. She even went to Disneyland with us. She makes our lives easier.”

With such a strong support structure in place, the Brookses have been able to focus on coaching their other “kids.” Sally has led

the ‘Belles to the last nine Lone Star Conference tournaments and guided her squad to six straight NCAA Division II playoff appearances. Kevin started the ASU baseball program in 2005 and in just three years took the Rams to the NCAA D-II World Series, placing fifth. Between them, the duo has won four conference championships and five division crowns.

That kind of success brings a smile to ASU Athletics Director Kathleen Brasfield, another important contributor to the Brookses’ work-life balance.

“Kathleen bends over backwards to allow us to be successful coaches and parents,” Sally said. “There are schools that don’t allow coaches to bring their kids to practices. Our kids are definitely part of the ASU family.”

Sally remembers when the children would come to practice and were adopted as her team’s mascots. Bailey and Kannon would sit between her legs as she ran her practices. But, as the kids have grown, so have the demands on mom and dad.

“Somebody told me that when both kids got in school it would be easier for us,” Sally said. “That was completely wrong. When they weren’t in school full-time, they came to practices with me. Now, if I don’t volunteer at their school or go have lunch with them, I won’t see them until nighttime. It was easier to leave them when they were babies. Their activities have increased as they got older and now they know when you’re not there.”

While Bailey failed to inherit the family athletic gene, she has taken to more artistic endeavors, such as acting, singing and painting. Kannon, meanwhile, is the family athlete, playing soccer, basketball and baseball. In spite of the calendars on the Brooks’ refrigerator door, the schedules don’t always mesh. From time to time, Kevin or Sally may miss a game or performance while Bailey or Kannon occasionally fail to make a rehearsal or practice.

“We keep in mind that it’s just a game or just a practice,” Sally said. “Our family

comes first. Our assistant coaches make it possible for us to be mom and dad. If we have to leave or miss a practice, our staffs can take over.”

“The plusses of being coaches’ kids definitely outweigh the negatives,” said Kevin. “You can’t control schedules and there are things we miss, but our kids get to go on road trips that other kids don’t. Bailey and Kannon got to go to Hawaii with the ‘Belles. We wouldn’t have had the chance to go to Hawaii as a family, if it wasn’t with the team. There are so many cool memories that they’ll have because they are coaches’ kids.”

Amid all the craziness, the Brookses pride themselves on being involved in the San Angelo community. Both Bailey and Kannon were born prematurely and the foursome has served as a “Miracle Family” since their arrival at ASU.

“Once a Miracle Family, always a Miracle Family,” Sally said. “If the Children’s Miracle Network calls, we answer. We have special lives and are blessed to do what we do and I think it’s our obligation to share that with people. There are a lot of people that would trade places with us to be college coaches.”

In spite of their busy schedules, the Brookses find the time to work with several community organizations. Sally serves on the board for the Concho Valley Home for Girls and Emergency Shelter and has recently become a Big Sister. Kevin is always an assistant coach for Kannon’s sports teams, whether it’s baseball or basketball. Both parents volunteered on the board of the March of Dimes before the organization left San Angelo.

“We’re not complaining about our busy schedule, that’s for sure,” Sally said. “We actually have a lot more flexibility than parents who have 9-to-5 jobs. We choose when our teams practice and we can move practice so we can be there for Bailey and Kannon.” ■

SPRING 2010 Sports outlook

'Belle Basketball

COACH: Sally Walling Brooks

(10th year, 195-76 at ASU;

19th year, 350-182 overall)

LAST YEAR: 16-12

(7-5, T-3rd in LSC South)

OUTLOOK: After a disappointing 16-12 season where the 'Belles missed the NCAA Division II postseason for the first time since 2001, head coach Sally Walling Brooks is focused on team unity to lift ASU back to the spotlight. Brooks returns eight players and adds seven freshmen this season. She looks to install more player accountability, something she felt was missing last year.

TOP RETURNERS: Junior guard Camille Perkins has been an All-LSC South pick each of the past two seasons and leads a very talented group of returners for the 'Belles. Perkins averaged 13.8 points and 4.1 rebounds per game, leading ASU in scoring for the second straight year. The 'Belles have three seniors – guard Christie Rasmussen and forwards Lindsey Leatherman-Schaertl and Casie Adams – who will be called upon for leadership this season. Leatherman-Schaertl was second on the team in scoring last season, but missed seven games due to injury. A sixth-year senior, Rasmussen finally put together an injury-free campaign last spring and averaged 6.6 points for the 'Belles. Adams averaged three points per game off the bench in her first year with the program. Sophomore center Paige Weishuhn also returns after averaging 6.1 points and 2.9 rebounds as a freshman.

TOP NEWCOMERS: With eight players returning, including five upperclassmen, Brooks brought in five freshmen and added two redshirt freshmen to complete the roster. Ashley James from Waco is a true point guard who should compete for playing time in her first year. Forward Lauren Holt, a Christoval product and daughter of former Ram and NFL All-Pro Pierce Holt, was anticipated as another scoring threat for the 'Belles but will take a medical redshirt year to recover from knee surgery.

Ram Basketball

COACH: Fred Rike

(4th year, 46-37 at ASU and overall)

LAST YEAR: 20-9

(8-4, T-2nd in LSC South)

OUTLOOK: Coming off its best season in nearly a decade, the ASU men's basketball team will look for back-to-back NCAA Division II playoff appearances for just the second time in school history. Head coach Fred Rike has transformed a program that was last in the league before his arrival into a regional contender. Rike returns six players, but just one starter, from last year's 20-win squad. Rike has added five transfers who will have an immediate impact on the floor to help replace the four lost starters.

TOP RETURNERS: Senior forward Shavar Burch, ASU's only returning starter, was named the Lone Star Conference South Division Preseason Player of the Year in October. Burch was third on the team in scoring with 11.9 points per game and led the Rams in rebounding with 7.1 boards per outing. Other returning seniors are forwards Johnny Barnes and Antwon Williams and guards Derrick Webster and Roger Johnson. Barnes and Williams averaged 7.5 points and 6.3 points per game, respectively last season.

TOP NEWCOMERS: Transferring in are three guards and a pair of forwards. Senior guard Stavon Williams comes to ASU after spending last season as the "sixth man" at Utah State. Williams and the Aggies amassed a 30-5 record last year and won the championship of the Western Athletic Conference to advance to the "Big Dance." Junior forward Kamarachi Onyiroha joins the Rams from Oral Roberts while junior guard LaMarshall Corbett comes to ASU from Kilgore College. Junior guard Chris Ellis and sophomore forward LaDonn Huckaby join the Rams after being teammates at Temple College.

Baseball

COACH: Kevin Brooks

(6th year, 206-100 at ASU and overall)

LAST YEAR: 45-20 (31-13, 2nd in LSC)

OUTLOOK: Coming off their second NCAA Division II playoff appearance in three seasons, the Rams will look to head deep into the postseason in 2010. Head coach Kevin Brooks returns 16 players from last year's squad that advanced to the South Central Region semifinals. The Rams return six of their top seven home run hitters from a 2008 squad that blasted a school-record 82 long balls, the third-highest total ever in the Lone Star Conference. ASU brings back seven pitchers, including two starters, from a squad that ranked second in the conference in team earned run average last spring.

TOP RETURNERS: The Rams return a pair of All-Americans in senior first baseman Keith Towne and senior catcher Chris Adamson. Towne, the LSC's home run champion with 26 homers, will head what should be a very potent Ram offense. Adamson led ASU with a .409 average, including nine homers and 11 doubles. Both Towne and Adamson were first team All-LSC picks for the Rams. Senior outfielder Isaac Garcia hit .386 with seven home runs and 11 doubles while senior infielder Austin Lasprilla led the Rams with 22 doubles and hit .360. Garcia and Lasprilla earned second team all-league recognition along with sophomore right-hander Craig Blair, who received LSC Freshman of the Year honors last spring after going 8-2 as a reliever.

TOP NEWCOMERS: The Rams return the bulk of their lineup from a year ago, but Brooks picked up several newcomers who should make an impact this spring. Zak Leonhardt will fill in at both first and third base and should add offensive support for the Rams. On the mound, hard-throwing right-hander Phillip Clinard joins the Rams as a junior after being part of a national championship team at Richland College. Several other new players could see considerable playing time this spring, according to Brooks.

Softball

COACH: Travis Scott
(7th year, 275-88 at ASU;
10th year, 376-138-2 overall)

LAST YEAR: 50-10
(14-4, 2nd in LSC South)

OUTLOOK: Thanks to the most home runs in school history, the Rambelles made their third NCAA Division II World Series appearance in six seasons last year. ASU's 91 homers last spring were the second-highest total in D-II history. The Rambelles rode the long ball to a third-place finish at the World Series. However, they lost their top three home run hitters and will have to rely on pitching and team speed this season, if they are to advance to the national stage. ASU returns both pitchers from last year's 50-win squad in addition to five position players as the team looks to capture a third regional title in four years.

TOP RETURNERS: Junior second baseman Alix Dean earned first team all-conference and second team All-America honors for the Rambelles after hitting .378 with 18 doubles and seven home runs. Senior right-hander Chelsea Nelson won 31 games, boasted a 2.47 earned run average and earned Lone Star Conference South Division Newcomer of the Year and second team all-league honors. Senior outfielder Megan Pumphrey also was a second team all-conference pick and is ASU's top returning home run hitter, belting 11 homers as a junior. The Rambelles will welcome back junior designated player Kaycee Taylor, who missed part of the 2008 campaign and all of the 2009 season due to injury. Taylor was a first team All-American as a freshman in 2007.

TOP NEWCOMERS: The Rambelles lost two seniors who will be hard to replace, but Coach Scott is confident his four freshmen and two transfers can replenish his lineup. Junior outfielder Brittany Astle, a transfer from Arizona Western College, will provide speed and a powerful arm in the outfield while freshman shortstop Chelsey Walters of Odessa will fill the void left by departing All-American and four-year starter Macy Baker, now an assistant coach for the Rambelles. Two freshman catchers, Temple's Kacie Easley and Wall's Allyson Seider, will give ASU two solid options behind the plate.

Golf

COACHES: Jason Hase, Jimmy Tidwell
(2nd year)

LAST YEAR: 5th at LSC Championships
OUTLOOK: In its inaugural year, the ASU women's golf program made a big splash in the Lone Star Conference with a fifth-place finish. The Rambelles return four players from an impressive squad that picked up two tournament titles in its debut season. The addition of two freshmen and a pair of transfers should allow ASU to compete for a conference title this spring. The squad played in four 2009 fall tournaments, finishing fourth or better in all four. The team closed out the fall with a win in ASU's first-ever home tournament. ASU will host a spring tournament March 29-30 at Bentwood Country Club.

TOP RETURNERS: A major reason for the early success of ASU's golf program is senior Raelyn Smith. Last year Smith won five events as a junior and placed second at the LSC Championships by just one stroke. She qualified for the NCAA Division II Regional Championships and her third-place finish sent her to the NCAA D-II National Championships in Findlay, Ohio, where she placed ninth. Smith won two individual titles from the Rambelles' four fall tournaments. Sophomore Megan Cisneroz returns after placing 24th at last year's LSC tournament and finishing in the top five of two events this past fall. Also returning are sophomores Melissa Demmin and Serena Sosa.

TOP NEWCOMERS: The Rambelles picked up junior Randee Stegman of Holcomb, Kan., sophomore Jennifer Joyce of Andrews, freshman Krista Czarnecki of El Paso and freshman Maury McCormick of Wall. Stegman, a transfer from Dodge City Community College, opened the fall season for ASU with a third-place finish at the Lady Buff Invitational. Joyce spent one season at Redlands Community College, the 2008 NJCAA National Champions.

Track and Field

COACH: James Reid (11th year at ASU)
LAST YEAR: Women (2nd, NCAA D-II National Championships); Men (8th, NCAA)
OUTLOOK: After one of the most exciting years in ASU track and field history, the Rams and Rambelles plan to build on last year's success. ASU hosted the D-II National Championships for the fifth time in school

history. The Rambelles celebrated with a second-place finish, their best ever, and the Rams earned their 25th top 10 finish, placing eighth. Angelo State will host its annual Spring Break Multi-Event competition, March 18-19, and the 38th Annual David Noble Relays, April 8-10. Angelo State will also host the 2010 Lone Star Conference Championships, May 7-9, when the Rambelles will look to defend their conference title.

WOMEN TO WATCH: Senior heptathlete Aisha Adams will lead another talented group of Rambelles. Adams won the NCAA D-II heptathlon last spring, was named the D-II Female Field Athlete of the Year and competed internationally as a U.S.A. representative in the Thorpe Cup in Germany. Senior Celethia Byrd became the first Rambelle to earn All-America honors in the 200-meter dash and ended the season as a three-time All-American. Senior Chrystal Ruiz was an All-American in the 400-meter hurdles. The Rambelles placed second nationally in the 1,600-meter relay and return all six runners who competed either in the event's prelims or finals. ASU must replace two All-American throwers in Adree Lakey and Culley Jo Dawson. Coach Reid hopes that freshmen Kim Williams, state shot put champion from Roby, and Jordan Moses, a discus star from Corpus Christi, will fill the void. Crane freshman Summer Sutherland will add depth in the pole vault and 100-meter hurdles while freshmen distance runners Emeline Crutcher of Wellman and Jessica Boudreau of Forney will look to build upon their success in cross country.

MEN TO WATCH: The Rams return four All-Americans from last year's national championships. Junior Tyler Orlando placed seventh nationally in the javelin throw while senior James Howell finished seventh in the 400-meter dash. Howell, along with juniors Brian Holik and Terence Holland, were part of the Rams' 1,600-meter relay squad that placed fourth nationally. Senior Sam Gallander is the defending LSC champion in the 800-meter run. Junior Wade Goode, who qualified for last year's national meet in the shot put, along with senior Andrew Crookham, junior David Browne and sophomore Nick Alejandro, returns to bolster the Ram throwing crew. Crane freshman Isidro Garcia will be a solid addition in the 200- and 400-meter dashes as well as on the 1,600-meter relay squad, while Houston freshman Jeffrey Jones will contribute in the hurdles. ■

FALL 2009
Sports
recap

Air Attack

Thanks to the most prolific passing season in school history, the Angelo State football team entered the final two weeks of the regular season in the hunt for a conference title and a regional berth.

“We’re on the cusp of making the playoffs,” said fourth-year head coach Dale Carr. “There are so many positives to take away from this season beyond the winning record. Recruits can see we’re going in the right direction. That’s important.”

The pass-happy Rams went 6-5 to snap three straight losing campaigns and spent much of the season in the regional rankings, climbing as high as No. 7 in early October. ASU opened the campaign 5-1, with the only loss during that stretch to NCAA Division I Texas State.

“After this season, our guys now expect to win against every North Division team and that hadn’t been the case,” Carr said. “Our realistic expectations are much higher for next year than what they were going into this season.”

ASU opened divisional play Sept. 26 with a stunning 20-17 upset of No. 17 Midwestern State and followed up with a 47-23 win at Eastern New Mexico. The Rams would make their first and only appearance in the NCAA D-II Top 25 on Oct. 5, debuting at No. 23. It marked the first time that ASU had been nationally ranked since 2005.

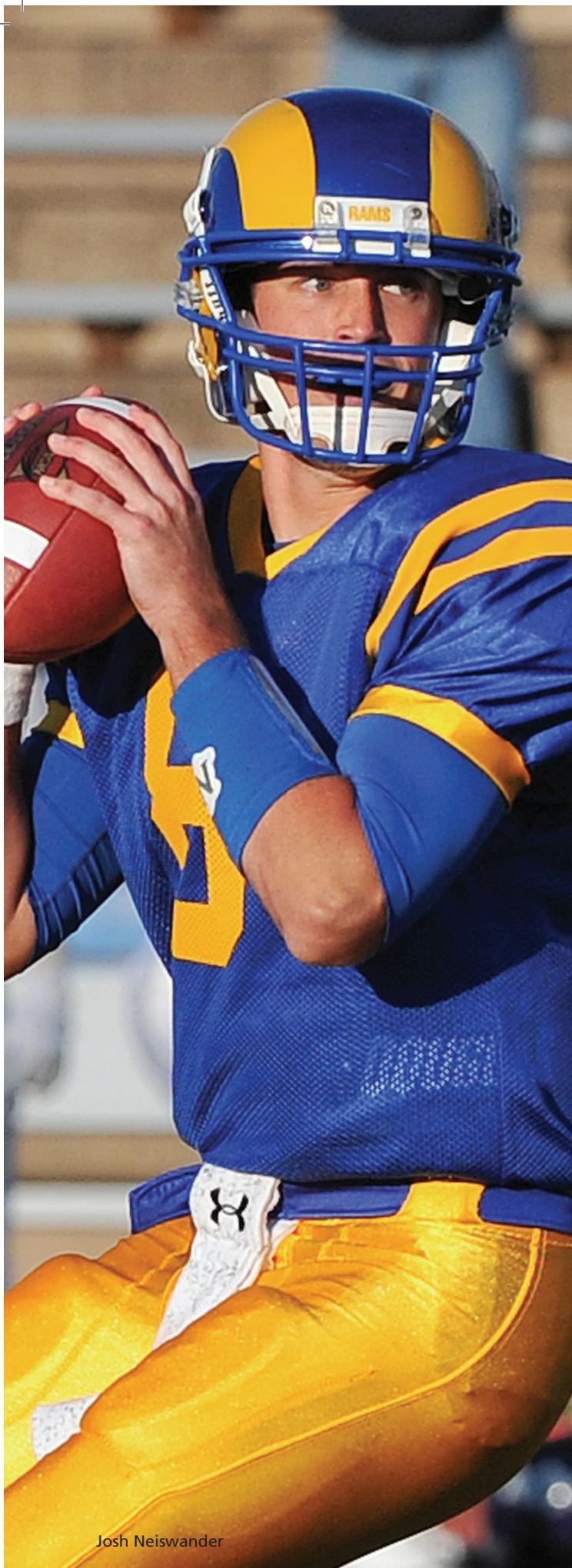
Angelo State’s aerial success corresponded with the return of junior quarterback Josh Neiswander, who missed last season due to injury. Neiswander set seven school records in his return to the field, including passing yards (2,933) and touchdown passes (25). As a team, the 2009 Rams had more completions, pass attempts and yards through the air than any other team in school history.

“We were able to throw the ball all year long,” Carr said. “There were only two or three teams that threw the ball more than we did. We’re not a conservative offense by any means, but we were forced to be conservative over the previous three seasons due to injuries.”

At season’s end, the Rams had four players earn second team All-LSC honors and eight others named honorable mention. Two wide receivers, junior V’Keon Lacey and freshman Dakarai Pecikonis, represented the Ram offense while two defensive linemen, senior Calvin Fance and junior Cody Smith, were honored from the ASU defense. Fance led NCAA D-II with 14 sacks this season.

Neiswander earned honorable mention status and was joined by senior linebacker Ian Ritchey on the LSC’s all-academic team. Pecikonis was recognized as the league’s Freshman of the Year. Coach Carr picked up LSC South Co-Coach of the Year honors.

“We’ll continue to get better,” Carr said. “I’ll be disappointed if we don’t make the playoffs next year. Offensively, the keys are in place to make a good run in 2010.” ■



Josh Neiswander

Photo by Danny Meyer



Rambelles Gibson, Standard, Duncan and Sivells

Photo by Danny Meyer

Rambelle Rollercoaster

Despite a school-record winning streak early in the season, the Angelo State soccer team narrowly missed the postseason for the second consecutive year.

The Rambelles strung together six straight wins after opening the season, 0-2, and seemed on their way back to the postseason after missing the Lone Star Conference tournament in 2008 for the first time in six years. However, the winning streak ended with back-to-back overtime defeats to open conference play. Plagued by injuries mid- and late-season, the Rambelles dropped seven of their last 11 games.

“We made good progress early in the season,” second-year head coach Travis McCorkle said. “We responded well to two early losses and started playing better as a team. If we were healthier midway through the season, we would have been much more competitive in conference play and we make the postseason.”

The Rambelles ended the season 10-9 overall and 4-6 in LSC play, finishing eighth and one win away from a playoff spot. ASU suffered four one-goal conference losses, yet still recorded the team’s fifth 10-win season in seven years.

Junior Ashley Brown and sophomore Brandie DeBacker each had eight goals for the Rambelles, while senior Christian Willman led the Rambelles with five assists. Junior goalkeeper Melanie Peterson had five shutouts.

DeBacker along with seniors Jennifer Bukowski and Skylar Searles were named honorable mention All-LSC while Willman was selected to the league’s all-academic team.

“We had a lot of young players who got significant playing time for us this season,” McCorkle said. “Those young players gained experience that should be beneficial for us in upcoming seasons.” ■

Turning Heads

From 2005-07, the Angelo State volleyball program earned only 19 wins, but just two years later, the ’Belles are contenders again.

Second-year head coach Chuck Waddington has revived a program that struggled through three straight losing seasons. The ’Belles have now made back-to-back Lone Star Conference Tournament appearances and this past fall nearly advanced to the league’s title game for the first time since 1993.

“Overall, we’re pretty pleased with the season,” Waddington said. “We may have had a record that was similar to last year’s, but the difference this season is we bumped up our schedule.”

The ’Belles went 19-14 in 2009, facing six nationally ranked opponents along the way, and stormed through LSC play with a 10-3 mark to enter the league tournament as the No. 3 seed. ASU would pick up its first conference tournament win in five seasons, downing Texas Woman’s in five games in the first round, before closing out the season with a five-game loss to Abilene Christian in the semifinals. The ’Belles would climb

as high as No. 9 in the NCAA Division II South Central Region late in the fall, thanks to a seven-match winning streak prior to their season finale.

“We’re excited about the future,” Waddington said. “We’re disappointed we didn’t make it to regionals this year, but we know it’s a process and we know we’re heading in the right direction. We played nine freshmen this season and our two seniors did a great job preparing these young players for what’s to come.”

Senior Alaina Sivells and freshman Chelsea Gibson were each named first team All-LSC, becoming the first such honorees for ASU since 2004. Gibson was also recognized as the league’s Freshman of the Year. Fellow freshman Caroline Cleveland was named honorable mention and senior Kimber Duncan was named to the league’s all-academic team.

“People are taking notice of our program again,” Waddington said. “That will lead to even better kids coming here. There is no doubt that this group of freshmen will end their careers with a very full résumé.” ■

Living the Dream

by Tom Nurre

Dr. Albert Reyes found his dream job, not once, not twice, but three times.

A 1981 ASU graduate, Reyes works in Dallas as president of Buckner Children and Family Services Inc., 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.

“We also provide church and community ministry,” Reyes said, “that is more on the preventive side of our continuum of services, to keep families healthy, functional and whole. That way, they are less likely to disintegrate, resulting in sending kids to out-of-home care like foster care or residential facilities.”

However, being the head of an international social services organization could not have been further from Reyes’ mind when he was working at his parents’ grocery, laundry and wholesale candy businesses in Corpus Christi.

“We had a very encouraging home environment and the church (First Mexican Baptist Church of Corpus Christi) played a very significant role in our upbringing,” Reyes said. “Our routine was to go to school, go to work and go to church. We did that just about every week. Our friends and fun were in those circles of life.”

At age 15, Reyes had already picked out his dream job and answered a call to vocational ministry. He planned to go to Baptist seminary right out of high school until, shortly before graduating, he found out that seminary is a graduate program and he would first need an undergraduate college degree. With one of his brothers going to Angelo State for his M.B.A., and

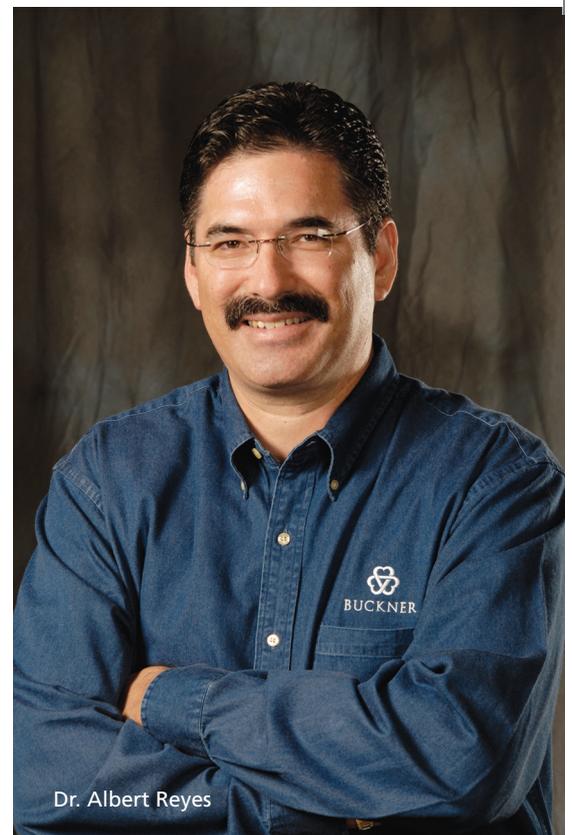
having made some recent ASU connections himself, Reyes headed to San Angelo with limited knowledge of the university.

“We had previously that summer met some of the youth from First Mexican Baptist Church of San Angelo at a youth camp, and some of them were also ASU students,” Reyes said. “We connected with them really well and we figured ‘here are some people that we get along with really well; they go to ASU; they think it is a good school; and the church is a good church.’ So, I figured that if I had to go to college somewhere, I may as well go with my brother and with a strong church connection, and ASU sounded like a good school.”

Armed with his family’s business background and the knowledge that seminary did not require any specific degree, Reyes entered the B.B.A. program at ASU. He singled out his business writing professor, Dr. Gerald Lacy, as having a particular influence on his life.

“I’ll never forget how appropriately brutal he was in correcting our writing skills,” Reyes said. “We would write papers and he would mark them all up and send them back. To this day, the ability to write and communicate is one of the skills that I use every day in business and everything I write. It goes back to the skills I learned at ASU with my English professor.”

One memorable “low-light” of Reyes’ time at ASU happened when he was up late studying after work in the library. When all the lights went out, he realized he had been locked in alone and had to call the security patrol to un-chain the doors and let him out. But, it was that study and work ethic that would stand him in good stead as he moved on to future endeavors.



Dr. Albert Reyes

Photos by Buckner Public Relations

After earning his ASU degree, Reyes married the former Belinda Ruth Alvarado in 1982 and headed to Dallas and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. But, he also had to work to support his new family, so he took a job with Sprint, then known as U.S. Telephone.

“Everything I learned at Angelo State in terms of business, I put it right to work in the telecommunications industry,” Reyes said. “I did that during the day and went to seminary for theological training in the evening. My wife was going to the University of Texas-Dallas working on her master’s and then her doctoral degree.”

After receiving his Master of Divinity in theology, Reyes became a pastor at Love Field Church and North Temple Baptist Church in Dallas, while taking classes toward his doctorate in missiology. But, his first dream job lay to the west, and in 1992 he headed to El Paso as the founding pastor of the Pueblo Nuevo Community Church.

“We started a church, things were going well and I thought I would spend the rest of my ministry there and retire in El Paso,” Reyes said. “It was a really fun church with a contemporary format. I even played the congas in the worship band we had on Sundays. It was a really great situation.”

It got even better after Reyes finished his Doctor of Ministry and was courted by

several colleges looking for qualified instructors. He soon added “professor” to his list of titles.

“Howard Payne University, which has an extension in El Paso, asked me to teach a couple of courses,” Reyes said. “Hispanic Baptist Theological School also asked me to teach a couple of courses there. It just kind of evolved as part of what I did in ministry. I was interested in teaching what I learned for my doctorate and from the experiences I was having.”

Little did Reyes know, that early foray into academia would lead to a major life change. In 1999, he was approached as a possible candidate for president of the Baptist University of the Americas in San Antonio. Despite only agreeing to an interview as a way of helping the school figure out what it might want from the other candidates, Reyes was offered the post and it became his dream job No. 2.

“In those seven years, I helped the school become accredited and certified for the first time in its history,” Reyes said. “That had never happened before and we worked real hard to reach that goal. Then, enrollment and contributions and everything else followed that growth trend and, once again, I

found myself in a situation where I thought ‘I could really do this the rest of my life.’”

But, just like in El Paso, it was not to be. In 2007, Reyes was again contacted by a search firm for an entity wanting someone with his distinctive blend of talents. This time it was Buckner Children and Family Services Inc. searching for a president. After researching Buckner and praying about it, Reyes was considering the idea. Then, he ran into Buckner International CEO Dr. Ken Hall at a meeting and that conversation prompted him to officially throw his hat into the ring. His diverse background paid off, and he began what has become his dream job No. 3.

So, Reyes and his family headed back to Dallas, where it all began at seminary. In the fall, he added another implement to his toolkit when he earned a Doctor of Philosophy in global leadership from Andrews University.

Reyes’ family is also thriving in Dallas. He and Belinda have three sons, Thomas, 12, David, 14, and Joshua, 16. Belinda has her own career in helping others. She holds a doctorate in communication disorders and works in clinical rehabilitation with people who have suffered traumatic brain injuries

or strokes. She is also an adjunct professor at UT-Dallas in the Callier Center for Communication Disorders.

“She is a professional in her own right,” Reyes said. “She is a research scientist and a professor. I ‘married up,’ as they say.”

Unlike Belinda, however, and unlike his time as a pastor or university president, Reyes has limited personal contact with the people he is helping, except when he travels to the often far-flung Buckner branch facilities in 93 cities around the world. That is one reason he enjoys heading to places like Bangladesh, India, Egypt, Palestine, Guatemala, Mexico, Ethiopia, Kenya and Russia, as well as cities across Texas. But, mostly, he loves his job because he truly feels he is doing God’s work.

“Blending my diverse experience and background together to lead this division to serve vulnerable children, orphans and families is one of the most exciting things that I do,” Reyes said. “It’s the kind of thing that Jesus was really focused on, caring for children and families. So, every time I get the chance to make a difference in the life of a child or a family, it is the best thing that I can imagine spending my life doing.”

Perhaps the third time is the charm. ■



Ram Jam

Campus, Community, Tradition

by A J Lopez III and Melinda Springer, ASU Alumni Association

The hot dogs were roasting, the bands were playing and students were flocking to the 2009 Ram Jams for free fun, entertainment, food and giveaways.

It was the fifth year the ASU Alumni Association had hosted the home pre-game tailgating parties and, without a doubt, the very best year for participation.

The association's board of directors and staff decided the best way to increase 2009 attendance would be to partner with the ASU Student Government Association. The board wanted Ram Jam to become a bridge between students and alumni, so association representatives brainstormed with the student government leaders to identify the perfect lure.

It didn't take long to figure out that free food, entertainment and a party atmosphere would draw a crowd. Kington Properties stepped forward as the presenting sponsor together with other community sponsors. Thanks to the support, new contests, prizes and giveaways were added to Ram Jam.

"It was gratifying to see how local businesses were willing to provide equipment, supplies or monetary assistance," said Kyle Box, former Alumni Association president. "It showed that the community enjoys hosting college students and providing wholesome fun for everyone."

Student government took the lead in spreading the word about tailgating at the Foster Field parking lot, adjacent to the LeGrand Alumni and Visitor's Center. The number of tailgaters doubled from previous years. Many organizations and families brought giant grills to barbeque and set up chairs to relax and enjoy the music from area bands, including Brewed in Texas and

Crossing Tyler. Alumni staff rode through the parking lot throwing gift cards and t-shirts to tailgaters. Student tailgaters could even earn points toward the coveted Spirit Stick, which was awarded during the Homecoming game.

Foster Communications kept the community informed with highlights about Ram Jam on KIXY-FM, while radio personality David Carr provided a live remote and kept the atmosphere energized during each Ram Jam.

The Alumni Association allocated money for student prizes and started contests, such as "ASU's Got Talent." The talent ranged from beat-boxing to singing. The Student Government Association organized the preliminaries prior to Ram Jam. The talent then competed each week during Ram Jam for \$100 and the right to move on to the final round, where sophomore Kansas Calhoun won top prize after moving the audience with her singing.

"It was a fun experience to try and win \$800," sophomore and second-round winner Edward Ortiz said. "I participated in ASU's Got Talent because I wanted to be involved."

Themes were also added to this year's Ram Jam. The circus-themed Ram Jam featured alpacas, clowns and face-painting. The last Ram Jam followed a mascot theme, with various San Angelo-area mascots parading around the LeGrand Center, and included a Halloween costume contest with monetary prizes going to the top three students.

The Alumni Association worked to provide free food during Ram Jam. Texas Roadhouse supplied pulled-pork sandwiches and chips to students and alumni for both Homecoming and Family Day weekends, while Coca-Cola and A-B Distributing supplied beverages.

The Alumni Association brought back the VIP Room and offered a special place for its members to connect with friends, old and new. Association members also were able to relax and have a drink while watch-



Photo by Kimberly Parker



Photo by Mary Moreno

ing an afternoon football game televised on the new widescreen TV. Specialty food provided by local eateries and bakeries treated those gathering in the Norris Ballroom.

At the first Ram Jam, Alumni Association members enjoyed specialty foods from the ASU Meat Lab.

“It gave our members a chance to see the exciting venture the meat lab is taking and be able to taste their delicious food,” said Ronnie Willmann, association board member.

The ASU Marching Band, Angelettes and cheerleaders lifted spirits at each of the Ram Jams while Roscoe entertained and Dominic enthralled the youngest Rams.

“Attendance is up from years past and tailgaters are becoming more of a staple,” ASU Student Body President Jeff Harris said.

The Alumni Association intends to build on the 2009 success and to create better and bigger Ram Jams in the future, according to Brad Fly, association president.

“Ram Jam is a wonderful collaborative event that takes many hours of preparation, but when you see memories being made and hear words of excitement about ASU, it is all worth it,” Fly said. ■

2009 Homecoming Honorees



Photo by Danny Meyer

Association Honorees – The annual ASU Alumni Association’s Wells Fargo Homecoming Dinner recognized the association’s 2009 award recipients. Honored during the dinner were, from left, front row, Dr. Kathleen Price, Col. Sarah Garcia and Harriet Lewis; middle group, Dr. Norm Sunderman, Dale Chase, ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, Jeff Sefcik and Clayton Weishuhn; and back group, Dr. Ed. Olson, Dr. Alan Bloebaum, LeRoy Olsak, Renee Long and Texas Tech Regent Mickey Long.

CLASSnotes

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

1971

Philip C. Danaher, a former Ram football player and the third winningest coach in Texas high school football history, now has a football field named in his honor. The Calallen Independent School District in Corpus Christi rechristened Wildcat Stadium as "Danaher Field at Wildcat Stadium" at the start of the 2009 season.

Danaher became only the fourth Texas high school coach to reach 300 wins and by the start of the 2009 regular season had more than 350 wins at Dilley, Hamshire-Fannett and Calallen high schools. After becoming athletic director and head coach at Callalen in 1988, he began a state-record 16 consecutive seasons with 10 or more wins.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in physical education from ASU.

1973

Dr. Clayton Alred has been named president of the Ruidoso campus of Eastern New Mexico University. The former vice president for instruction at Odessa College began his new position in November. Alred was Odessa College's interim president, 2006-07, and previously held positions as dean and assistant dean.

Alred holds a Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in chemistry from ASU. He holds his master's degree from Sul Ross and his doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin, both in educational administration.

1980

Dr. Randall Frost of Boerne, the chief medical examiner for Bexar County, has been appointed by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas Forensic Science Commission.

Frost is a fellow and member of the ethics committee and board of directors of the National Association of Medical Examiners. He is also a fellow of the College of American Pathologists and a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

He received his Bachelor of Science in chemistry from ASU, then earned his medical degree from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

1985

Rebekah "Becky" Brackin, who holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from ASU, has returned to Angelo State as the university's first director of community relations. Before joining the ASU staff, Brackin was president and publisher of the *San Angelo Standard-Times* and gosanangelo.com.

Previous to her newspaper experience, she worked a decade for the San Angelo Independent School District as community relations coordinator and later as director of public relations.

Brackin serves on boards of the United Way of the Concho Valley, West Texas Rehabilitation Center, Concho Valley Center for Entrepreneurial Development and San Angelo Chamber of Commerce. She and her husband, Mark, have a daughter, Allison, and a son, Christopher.

1997

Charles Jason Hubbard of Austin has been named by Texas Gov. Rick Perry to the Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners for a term expiring in 2015.

Hubbard is a podiatric surgeon, owner of the Center for Feet and Ankle Surgery and chief of podiatry for St. David's Medical Center. He is an American Board of Podiatric Surgery diplomate and a member of the American Podiatric Medical Association and American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.

He received his Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in chemistry from ASU. He earned his medical degree in podiatric medicine from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine.

In Memoriam

Dr. Verna Mae Crutchfield, 94, of Center Point and former professor of education at ASU, died Oct. 14 in Kerrville. She joined the Angelo State faculty in 1966 and worked for the university until her retirement in 1976.

She was named a Piper Distinguished Professor for education at ASU in 1971. She was known as a true educator and longtime supporter of ASU, establishing the Dr. Verna Mae Crutchfield Special Education Scholarship.

Goldie Gray Coleman, 88, of San Angelo and a longtime instructor of home economics at ASU, died Sept. 14 in San Angelo. From 1973 through her 1992 retirement, Coleman taught apparel design, beginning sewing, tailoring and elementary foods.

In 1992 she was named Outstanding Home Economist of Texas. In 2008 she received the Eva Camuñez Tucker Award in honor of her outstanding contributions to San Angelo.

Overall, she taught home economics for more than 50 years on the high school and college levels. She and her husband, Dawson Coleman, were married for 56 years and their son, Randal Gray "Randy" Coleman, is an ASU graduate.

A Legacy of Words

If Elmer Kelton ever raised his voice, it happened well beyond earshot of anyone who knew him. A soft spoken man who valued listening above everything but writing, Kelton over the course of his life did, however, raise the reputation of the western novel.

In his study fewer than a half dozen blocks from the Angelo State University campus, Kelton penned some of the greatest western novels ever written, often times using books and other research materials from the West Texas Collection.

"If I had to sum up Elmer in a word," said West Texas Collection head Suzanne Campbell, "it would be 'gentleman.' I never saw him when he was anything else but a gentleman."

When he died Aug. 22 at the age of 83, San Angelo lost its best known resident and Angelo State lost a friend, who had given his library to the West Texas Collection and his name to the English Department, which each February since 1998 has held a writer's symposium in his honor. And, every year but one when his schedule took him out of state, Kelton attended the symposium, giving an opening talk and then sitting in on the sessions.

In 1995 Western Writers of America (WWA), an organization Kelton dearly loved, attending all but three of their conventions between 1956 and 2009, named him the greatest western writer of all time. In all, he published 62 books, including 49 novels. He won seven Spur Awards from WWA plus four Western Heritage Awards from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. He received lifetime achievement awards from the Texas Institute of Letters and the

Western Literature Association. When he died, even *USA Today* and the *New York Times* took note of his passing.

"Elmer Kelton," said ASU English Professor Don Coers, "embodied the best of West Texas, as down-to-earth, honest and unassuming in personality and manner as his writing was authentic. He transformed our own land, lives and historical experiences into literature that has meaning far beyond our region. As brilliantly as Kelton wrote about West Texas, his characters' struggles, failures and triumphs were ultimately universal. His art carried relevance well past the range of our mesquites, as surely as Mark Twain and William Faulkner transcend the Missouri and the Mississippi."

The Time It Never Rained, a novel set around San Angelo during the 1950s drought, was Kelton's hallmark book and personal favorite. *The Wolf and the Buffalo*, set in the region in the 1870s, chronicled the clash of cultures between a Comanche warrior and a buffalo soldier posted at Fort Concho. Kelton's *The Good Old Boys* became a TNT television movie starring and directed by Tommy Lee Jones.

Despite his critical acclaim and his commercial success, Elmer Kelton remained as genuine as his West Texas roots and his ranch upbringing, always ready to help an aspiring writer or answer a question from an awestruck ASU student.

"Our student assistants," said Campbell, "were always thrilled to meet Elmer. He took time to ask about them, where they were from, what their major was, etc. It was never about him and he was never in such a hurry that he didn't have time for others." ■



Rea Enoch's Photo Courtesy of the West Texas Collection

Elmer Kelton 1926-2009

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school spirit in the weeks leading up to the implosion. Shortly, Redyke and his assistant, Chester Grace, joined them on the platform with the battery box that would send the electrical charge to the explosives. University police sirens announced the impending blasts.

As soon as the battery was connected to the yellow wires stretching to University Hall, Jeremy Bryant, the voice of the Rams and Rambelles, began a countdown. At zero, New and the students pushed the button. A series of explosions followed. Just as Redyke explained, nothing happened for a couple seconds, then the building quivered on the east end, then collapsed upon itself, a defiant cast iron sewer pipe knifing its way through the roof on the way down

Alvin New and his student helpers had knocked University Hall down to its trees. A cloud of dust

billowed skyward, like the disappearing spirit of memories past of the Women's High Rise. Dozens of car alarms went off and thousands of voices cheered at the spectacle that left an estimated 800 truckloads of debris on the ground and two broken windows in Rassman, the only unanticipated damage from the implosion. For the first time in history, Concho Hall, the second of the high rises to be built, stood without peer on campus.

John Russell, the one person who had invested more time in the building's demise than any other ASU employee, watched from a golf cart in the nearest parking lot immediately south of University Hall.

"The building fell and all the dust came up," Russell said. "When the dust started settling we could see Concho Hall in the background and a little boy asked, 'How'd they build it back so fast?'" ■



Going, Going, Gone! To watch University Hall fall or to see additional photos, visit

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