

Angelo State University •

Magazine

Fall 2011 • Volume 4 • Number 3

MEMBER, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Déjà Blue & Gray

The Culture of Security • Military Salutes • Ice Road Therapists

Message

from the President

Dear Friends:

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

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

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

Finally, and as I note regularly, people are what define an institution, and ASU has some incredible individuals. It is most fitting in this issue to highlight and thank USAF Col. Mike Buck for his 30 years of service to our nation. Mike and I arrived at ASU at the same time in 2007, and he led our ROTC detachment to new levels of recognition, none more fitting than being selected as the Outstanding Large Squadron by the Arnold Air Society at its annual conclave in New York City. Mike's recent retirement and the appointment of ASU alumnus Lt. Col. Stephen Magnan as the new commander of Detachment 847 are subtle reminders that while institutions endure, it is people who make them thrive.

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

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Rallo
President



Joseph C. Rallo





Angelo State University Magazine

Fall 2011 Vol. 4, No. 3

Angelo State University
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Angelo State University Magazine

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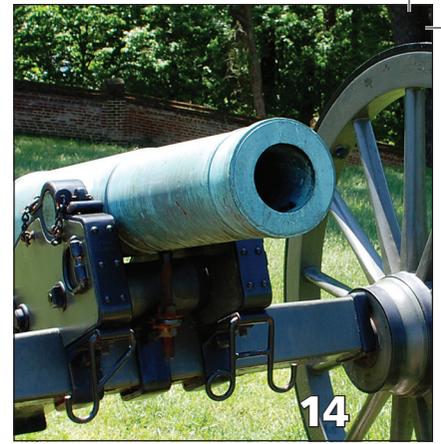
Editor's Note: In this issue, *ASU Magazine* focuses on the military and its ties to ASU through our faculty, our programs, our alums and even our archival holdings. To all those who have served our country, we salute you and your service.

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The 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War provides an opportunity for reflection on perhaps the pivotal event in American history. ASU scholars examine its implications and pertinence to contemporary America.



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On the Cover: Where artillery roared 150 years ago on the Manassas Battlefield, birds sing from a Parrott field cannon. Though the guns are long silent, even today the echoes of the Civil War still resound through American society and politics. (Cannon photo by Preston Lewis, photo illustration by Michael Martin)

Back Cover: Two F-16s of the U.S. Air Force's Thunderbirds demonstration team pass in the skies over San Angelo. (Photo by Danny Meyer)

The Ultimate Sacrifice



Photo courtesy of US 8th Air Force Little Friends Website (www.littlefriends.co.uk)

Raleigh S. Ragsdale beside the P-51 that claimed his life

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ragsdale was a member of what became known as "The Greatest Generation," but he died decades before that term be-

came a popular appellation for those who grew up in the Great Depression and fought in World War II. In fact, Ragsdale was the last European theater casualty among the almost 700 SAC alumni and students who fought in World War II.

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

Assigned to the 356th Fighter Group of the Eighth Air Force in Europe, Ragsdale flew some 45 missions, first in a P-47 Thunderbolt and later in a P-51 Mustang. Twice he was shot down in a P-47, surviving both times.

Citing an Eighth Air Force press release on Ragsdale, the McMurry *War Whoop* in November of 1944 reported, "Flying his big Thunderbolt as a fighter-bomber, the young pilot has been pounding the Nazi war machine in almost daily sweeps over enemy territory ... Lt. Ragsdale bombs gun emplacements, bridges and key railway centers besides taking part in ground strafing operations, raking concentrations of enemy troops and tank and motor vehicle columns with withering machine gun fire from his eight .50-caliber wing guns."

On his final mission on April 9, 1945, Ragsdale took off for targets in western

Germany from Martlesham Heath airfield in England in his P-51 named "Big Lefty-Little Ann." About 30 miles west of Koblenz, Germany, he reported engine trouble. Wrote Prichard in her thesis, his commanding officer "instructed him to bail out, and Ragsdale's last radio transmission indicated he had decided to follow orders, but he either crashed with the plane or ejected from the craft and died

on the ground." Another account says he was too low to bail out and attempted a belly landing. The plane flipped on impact, crushing him.

To the Army, he was serial number 18202714. To his parents, he was their only child. The Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters he earned brought them little solace. Twenty-nine days after his crash, the war in Europe ended.

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

Oaks Society

For more information on becoming a member of the Oaks Society, contact the Angelo State University Office of Development by phone at 325-942-2116, by e-mail at development@angelo.edu or by mail at ASU Station #11023, San Angelo, TX 76909-1023.



Fire and Nice



Photos by Danny Meyer

Concho Valley wildfire scenes

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

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

For Brackin, ASU’s director of community relations, the need to assist in the fight against the blaze became paramount. By the time she was done that April 15 evening, she

had brought together university and community resources that provided eight trailer loads of supplies and more than \$6,400 in donations to assist area volunteer fire departments.

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

Using contacts at the *San Angelo Standard-Times* where she had worked before joining the ASU staff, Brackin learned from the San Angelo emergency operations manager that bottled water, hand wipes and eye drops were desperately needed.

Knowing the need, but not the logistics of organizing such an operation, she contacted Skip Bolding, director of environ-



Trailer load of supplies bound for firefighters

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

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

Then she went to grab a quick lunch before reaching the collection site at 12:30 p.m.

"I drove up to find stacks upon stacks of bottled water already sitting in the Foster Field parking lot next to the mobile operations trailer," Brackin recalled. "Bags of snacks, hand wipes and eye drops were already waiting, as well. Bolding and David Hartin of environmental health and safety were loading water, food and other supplies into the pickup and trailer. Marc West, Orlando Villarreal and Mary Wilson of the ASU Police Department were on the scene directing traffic and unloading cars and all the trucks and trailers as they drove up."

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

"What started as an idea for a simple, somewhat modest effort to assist the fire-fighting teams quickly became an overwhelming cause," Brackin said. "At times

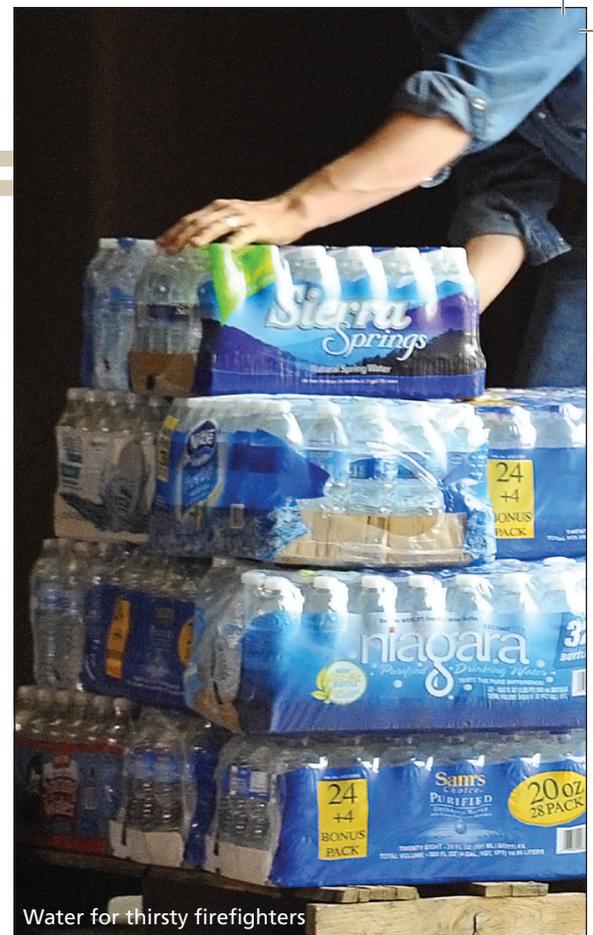
cars were lined up out the parking lot and down the street with drivers waiting to drop off the requested items or money."

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

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

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

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



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

Under the circumstances, that was the best outcome that the Concho Valley could expect, but that outcome was far from assured that afternoon when ASU and the community pitched in.

"Along with the entire community, ASU employees are deeply grateful to the fire-fighters, auxiliary personnel and all those who gave of themselves that frightening week," Brackin said. "We received a wonderful thank you note from the Grape Creek and surrounding volunteer fire departments, but the credit really goes to the hundreds of people who stopped by to donate or help in some way. ASU was just privileged to start the process and watch the community unify behind the cause. If our faith in humanity had ever failed, it was most certainly restored that afternoon." ■

Belt Tightening

An academic consolidation

and realignment combined with a 9.9 percent increase in tuition and fees helped Angelo State University manage a \$7.1 million reduction in state appropriations for the next biennium as the Texas Legislature faced its biggest economic challenges in decades.

Anticipating decreased appropriations, the ASU administration a year ago began taking steps to minimize the impact on the educational product delivered to students and on university employees. The decision by the Board of Regents of the Texas Tech University System in June to approve the request for a tuition and fee hike helped soften the blow to the campus community.

“We never like to have to raise tuition and fees,” said ASU President Joseph C. Rallo, “but this year it was particularly critical, if we were to stay on track for our educational and growth goals. We take comfort in the fact that most of our students will not see that large of a hike in out-of-pocket cost due to the university’s extensive gift aid

programs, which have increased 86 percent, from \$18.5 million to \$34.5 million, over the last four years.”

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

Even so, Rallo noted that since 2007 the average out-of-pocket costs per semester to ASU students had dropped from \$1,156 to \$919 in 2011, thanks to ASU’s expanded program of gift aid.

Otherwise, the most visible impact of decreased appropriations was this fall’s re-organization of several colleges and departments.

“We began an academic review process last fall and accelerated that process this spring to determine how best to realign our academic units,” Rallo said. “After a thorough review of all academic departments and after discussions with deans of the respective colleges, we developed a realignment that will provide significant administrative savings.”

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

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

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

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

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



Gum Tree Down



Photo by Jayna Flinnery

Drought, perhaps accompanied by a little wind, did what years of yucks and bad puns could not do – topple the Gum Tree.

You might say luck ran out on one of the oddest college traditions anywhere. The Gum Tree, a campus fixture from the time the institution became a four-year university in the 1960s to now, supposedly brought good luck to the students who stuck a used wad of gum to its gnarly bark.

Generally more popular with the students than with their parents, some of whom were known to complain that it was too gross to be so close to the sidewalk, the Gum Tree was splayed across the walk on the south side of the Porter Henderson Library on the morning of June 10.

Like the loss of a great statesman, the event drew media coverage and sent ASU followers to the university's Facebook page to learn more as facilities maintenance workers fired up chainsaws for a funeral dirge. Pieces of the tree went to the Porter Henderson Library and the West Texas Collection for posterity, and the rest went first to the dumpster and then to the landfill, its bark worse than its height.

In the end, though, workers re-planted the Gum Tree stump at its traditional location at the southwest corner of the library, but shorn of its branches it was a sad monument to the hopes and dreams of five decades of gum-popping students who maybe needed a little extra luck on an exam or with a proposal to a sweetheart.

And while there was a lot of nostalgia and humor with the demise of the Gum Tree, the loss pointed out a serious campus problem with the ongoing drought across West Texas.

Barely a month after the Gum Tree fell, Jay Halbert, ASU director of facilities management, notified the campus, "The current lack of precipitation is taking its toll on the campus grounds. There are parts of campus we have not watered at all since the beginning of spring ... The grounds crew is currently manually watering the trees with portable water wagons. ... Even with these efforts, we will lose some trees and other vegetation before the drought ends. I also anticipate that watering other areas of campus

will soon come to an end. If this continues, recovering will take years."

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

In the end, if only the Gum Tree is lost among the campus' 400 trees, perhaps it is an acceptable drought casualty, in spite of its place in ASU history.

Despite the seriousness of the drought, perhaps the Gum Tree can provide one last smile for us all. If so, then ASU alumnus Rick Smith may have written a fitting epitaph in his *San Angelo Standard-Times* column:

"Rest in pieces, Gum Tree. Thanks for sticking around for so long. You certainly had gumption." ■

New joins old gum on the replanted stump.



Photo by Danny Meyer

Ditto Princeton Review

For the third year in a row, *The Princeton Review* has named Angelo State University to its list of best colleges nationally. The announcement came with the release of the publication's annual guide "The Best 376 Colleges – 2012 Edition" in August.

Angelo State is one of only four state-supported universities in Texas to make the guide for the 2011-12 academic year. *The Princeton Review* is the only guide nationally to utilize student ratings in its selections.

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

Interim Provost

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

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

Rallo said May's familiarity with Angelo State, both as a

faculty member and as a successful administrator, made him the perfect candidate for the interim position. Additionally, he said May could be a candidate for the permanent position when that search opens.

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

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

New Development VP

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

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

"Since Dr. Penry arrived on campus in the summer of 2009, donations to the

university have set annual records and our capital campaign is on a pace to significantly surpass our original \$25 million goal," Rallo said. "That success is attributable to Dr. Penry's leadership and the hard work that he and the team he has put together have done on behalf of Angelo State."

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

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

Top Squadron

ASU's Robert G. Carr Squadron of the Arnold Air Society (AAS) ROTC honor society received the Maryland Cup as the Outstanding Large Squadron at the annual AAS National Conclave this past spring in New York City.

Eight members of Angelo State's AAS attended the conclave, where they were also presented the Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ) Cup, which is

given to the squadron operating the most outstanding candidate training program. The group's former faculty advisor, Maj. Cody Whittington, was also named Outstanding Area Advisor for Area IX, which includes 15 AAS squadrons in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas.

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

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

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

Education Accreditation

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

Accreditation was approved by NCATE's Unit Accreditation Board for 18 months for both ASU's initial

teacher preparation and advanced preparation levels. Under provisions of the accreditation, the Unit Accreditation Board will revisit the campus in the fall of 2012 for an additional assessment.

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

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

Topic One

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

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

ment, the QEP is intended to enhance the quality of learning at ASU and help the university and the people it serves become more of a learning community.

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

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

Summer Record

ASU graduate enrollment in the first summer session of 2011 rose more than 25 percent over the same session last year, marking the univer-

sity's highest summer graduate enrollment ever.

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

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

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

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

International Influence

Angelo State University is going abroad this fall as co-host of a major international business conference in Bulgaria. Learn more in the bonus features on the *ASU Magazine* website at

www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine/.



angelostaters

PEOPLE WHO MAKE ASU GREAT

Dowler, Livengood, Smith, et al

Dr. Robert C. Dowler of biology, Dr. Kimberly K. Livengood of curriculum and instruction and Dr. John C. "Trey" Smith of mathematics received 2011 President's Awards for Faculty Excellence at the conclusion of the spring semester.

Dowler received the award for Faculty Excellence in Research/Creative Endeavor. Livengood's award was for Faculty Excellence in Teaching. Smith was the award winner for Faculty Excellence in Leadership/Service. Each received \$2,500 and Signature Presidential Recognition Awards. Dowler and Livengood will be ASU's nominees for the Texas Tech University System Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Research and Excellence in Teaching.

Winners in the three categories from each college received a \$500 award. They were, by college:

Business – Sudhir K. Chawla, marketing, research/creative endeavor; and S. Murat Kara, economics, teaching.

Education – Alaric A. Williams, curriculum and instruction, leadership/service; and Livengood, teaching.

Liberal and Fine Arts – Mark L. Hama, English, teaching; Won-Jae Lee, criminal justice, research/creative endeavor; and Jeffrey B. Schonberg, English, leadership/service.

College of Nursing and Allied Health – Harriet K. Lewis, physical therapy, leadership/service; and R. Kelly Michael, nursing, teaching.

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

Top Grads

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

The Distinguished Student Award recipients were Whitney Block Dane of San Angelo, College of Business; Anna G. Hall of Bangs, College of Liberal and Fine Arts; Madalyn Mertz of Llano, College of Education; and William G. Register of San Angelo, College of Sciences.

Other nominees were Matthew Bullard of Ozona, College of Business; Alix Dean of Collinsville and Meaghan McCoy of Austin, both College of Liberal and Fine Arts; and James Reid of Guthrie and Sebastian Requena of San Angelo, both College of Sciences.

Brian Jackson

Brian Jackson, a technology services project manager in information technology, re-

ceived the inaugural Chancellor's Col. Rowan Award for Excellence in Execution.

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

Jackson, an ASU employee since 2008, was honored for his work leading the implementation of technology, infrastructure and other logistical aspects for ASU's new Center for Security Studies. He received a plaque and a \$500 honorarium.

Other nominees for the inaugural award were Jeane Irby, director of strategic planning and communication, information technology; Kurtis Neal, director of human resources; Clayton Smith, construction project manager, facilities planning and construction; and Jon Wilcox, web development specialist, information technology.

Travis Taylor

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

Taylor, a history major, received the award for his paper, "Garrison Life at Fort Chadbourne, 1852-61." He earned

a certificate and a check for \$400 at the WTHA's annual business meeting last spring.

Grad Student Honorees

The College of Graduate Studies named its top graduate students for the 2010-11 academic year at the conclusion of the spring semester.

The honorees by college were Karen Mallott of San Angelo, business administration, College of Business; Alyse Nicole Herndon of Christoval, coaching, sport, recreation and fitness administration, College of Education; Erin Marks Whitford of Midland, English, College of Liberal and Fine Arts; Mimi H. Baugh of San Angelo, integrated nurse educator, College of Nursing and Allied Health; and Jason L. Strickland of Seminole, biology, College of Sciences.

Other nominees for the top awards were: Darla Alexander and Jennifer L. Yarbrough of San Angelo; Lance A. Smith of Snyder; Richard A. Caraway of Merkel; Tami K. Spearman of Georgetown; Monica C. Ulbricht of Spring Branch; Kaitlyn Brosh of Munday; Jennifer Lovett of Odessa; Travis Taylor of Greenville; Leo M. Batot of Sabinal; and Jaclyn E. Brindus of Canton, Ohio.

Scott Williams

The Department of Physics will receive high-tech lab equipment valued at \$200,000 through a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

grant awarded this summer to Dr. Scott Williams, assistant professor of physics.

The equipment consists of four germanium detectors, and is being awarded to Williams through the DOE Energy Related Laboratory Equipment grant program. The detectors will support student and faculty research in the ASU Physics Department.

According to Williams, two of the detectors will be used in the atomic collisions lab, another in the X-ray fluorescence lab and the fourth in modern physics and applied radiation physics courses. Students and faculty will utilize the detectors for research related to accelerator experiments, X-ray detection, fluorescence, geological material composition, and atomic and nuclear radiating processes, among other topics.

Shirley Eoff

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

Eoff, who joined the ASU history faculty in 1981, received the recognition during WTHA's annual meeting in Lubbock earlier this year. Designation as a fellow is the highest academic honor an organization can bestow upon an individual.

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

Jason Strickland

Jason Strickland, a biology graduate student, received the Wilks Award for best student research presentation at the 58th annual meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists at the University of Texas at Tyler earlier this year.

The Wilks Award includes a \$1,000 honorarium. Strickland won for his research project "Phylogeography of the Cottonmouth, *Agkistrodon piscivorus*, Determined by AFLP and Venom Protein Profiles." His ASU faculty mentors were Drs. Loren Ammerman and Kelly McCoy of the Biology Department and Dr. John Osterhout of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department.

Space/STEM Scholars

Three undergraduates have been awarded prestigious scholarships by the NASA Texas Space Grant Consortium (TSGC) for the 2011-12 academic year.

Sheryl Stultz, a senior mathematics major from Abilene, is one of only 21 students in Texas to be awarded a Columbia Crew Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship. She will receive \$1,000 from the TSGC. This is the fourth consecutive year that an ASU mathematics major has received this scholarship.

Bethany Droll, a junior computer science major from San Angelo, and Emily Hendryx, a senior mathematics major from Alpine, have been awarded Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Scholarships by the TSGC, and will each receive \$1,500. This is the first year the TSGC has awarded the STEM Scholarships, and there are only 22 recipients statewide.

Toni Sauncy

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

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

AIP Advisory Committee on Physics Education.

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

Nicole McDaniel

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

McDaniel received the Frank R. Smith Outstanding Journal Article Award from the Society of Technical Communication for her 2010 article "Technical Communication in the Health Fields: Executive Order 13166 and Its Impact on Translation and Localization." The article was published in the STC journal *Technical Communication*. ■



Photo by Preston Lewis

Déjà Blue & Gray

by Preston Lewis

Though the guns of North and South have stood silent for close to 150 years, the repercussions of the Civil War still resound through American life in 2011 as the nation begins the sesquicentennial commemoration of that pivotal event.

Mississippi novelist and Nobel laureate William Faulkner, whose literary views were largely shaped by the Civil War and its aftermath, may have stated it best when he wrote, “The past is never dead. It’s not even past.” For no event in American history does that statement ring truer than for the Civil War.

“The funny thing about history,” said Dr. Kenneth J. Heineman, professor and head of ASU’s Department of History and Political Science, “is that when you least expect it, the past becomes relevant.”



Photo by Danny Meyer

Above: Kenneth Heineman at the Confederate marker in Fairmount Cemetery, just blocks from campus.

Left: The muzzle of a cannon at Battle Monument on the grounds of the U.S. Military Academy commemorates the Civil War's most famous battle.

The relevance 50 years ago during the 1960s celebration of the Civil War's centennial revolved around race, as the Civil Rights Movement dealt with the unfinished business of the conflict. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 attempted to fulfill what had been promised by the 14th Amendment in 1868 on citizenship and equal protection of the law and by the 15th Amendment in 1870 on voting.

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

"What we are seeing," Heineman said, "is blowback against the growth of public sector unions and federal regulation. If the 100th anniversary was about civil rights,

racial equality and equal opportunity, then the 150th is about state's rights and the proper role of the federal government in a free society."

Heineman's book *Civil War Dynasty: The Ewings of Ohio*, due from New York University Press during the 2011-12 academic year, explores many of the issues of the Civil War era by examining the influence of Thomas Ewing, an Ohio lawyer and politician best remembered as Gen. William T. Sherman's father-in-law in spite of his role as an advisor to Lincoln and as the father of three Union generals.

Dr. Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, a Civil War historian who joined the history faculty this fall, said, "The Civil War is the defining moment in American history. The conflict helped resolve some of the most difficult questions that any generation of Americans has had to deal with. It helped resolve the contradiction in our own Constitution and national narrative by abolishing slavery. In the aftermath of the conflict, the United States was seen as a single entity rather than as separate states. In the aftermath, the nation finally defined the nature of citizenship."

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

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

Of all the Confederate states, Texas had the most complex legacy before, during and after the war. The mere admission of Texas to the Union in 1846 as a slave state and the ensuing Mexican-American War to secure the state's border at the Rio Grande exacerbated sectional tensions of the time. The war with Mexico and the clashes with Comanches on the Texas frontier provided combat experience for many of the junior officers who would become some of the most famous generals of the Civil War. Robert E. Lee, for instance, spent his last Christmas before the Civil War at



Photo by Danny Meyer

Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai

Fort Mason, just a hundred miles from the ASU campus. Other future generals who served on the Texas frontier included James Longstreet, John Bell Hood, Albert Sidney Johnston and Fitzhugh Lee for the South and George H. Thomas, whose Civil War exploits would earn him the sobriquet as the “Rock of Chickamauga,” and Philip St. George Cooke, sometimes called the “father of the U.S. Cavalry,” for the North.

Because of its remoteness, Texas was spared the destruction that the other Confederate States endured during the Civil War, but still suffered around the perimeters with battles or Union occupation at Sabine Pass, Galveston, Brownsville, El Paso and Palmito Ranch, site of the last land battle of the Civil War. Though the Union failed to hold much of the state, the Texas frontier during the Civil War retreated eastward from Fort Chadbourne due to the Comanche threat.

After Appomattox, Civil War heroes Ranald S. Mackenzie, who eventually drove the Comanches from West Texas, and Benjamin H. Grierson, who led Union troops through Mississippi during a daring 1863 raid that became the basis for the John Wayne movie “The Horse Soldiers,” both commanded Fort Concho. Today the Civil War is so ingrained in Texas nomenclature that people no longer recognize it. Tom Green and Stonewall counties, for instance, are named for Confederate generals as are the communities of Robert Lee, Cleburne and Granbury, among others. Even Fort Hood,

the largest active military facility in Texas and one of the largest in the world, is named for Confederate general John Bell Hood, even though he fought against the country that in 1942 established the base. Just down Avenue N from campus today lie the remains of some 140 Confederate veterans in Fairmount Cemetery on the eastern edge of campus.

If Texas was one of the complex friction points contributing to the Civil War, it was also a

starting point for fulfilling the promise of emancipation through native son Lyndon Baines Johnson, said Heineman. Though he considered himself a westerner, LBJ was one of only three southern Democrats who refused to sign the Southern Manifesto, a document written in 1956 in opposition to integration and in response to the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling *Brown vs. Board of Education*. Having witnessed racial discrimination and intimidation as a youth, Johnson abhorred it. As a southerner, he had legitimacy in speaking out against segregation. As president, he had the power and political skills to push through the Civil Rights legislation of the 1960s that tried to fulfill the promise of emancipation, Heineman said.

For Heineman, the complexity of Texas’ Civil War legacy may best be demonstrated at a cemetery in Granbury. On his move to San Angelo in 2009 to head up ASU’s history program, Heineman stopped there to see the grave of Hiram B. Granbury, one of six Confederate generals killed in the 1864 Battle of Franklin, Tenn. Buried first on the battlefield at Franklin, then moved to nearby Columbia, Tenn., Granbury was disinterred a second time in 1893 and moved to the Texas town established in his honor in 1866 as the county seat of the newly created Hood County; yes, that same Hood and the one under whose command Granbury died at Franklin.

“There are all those well cared for graves,” Heineman said, “but there were never any plantations in that area. It’s not

a ‘slave place,’ never was. Yet, those folks went hundreds of miles out of their way to get themselves killed for states rights, the right to be left alone, the right to govern themselves. And, that’s the complexity of Texas. There’s no doubt that a lot of those east Texans were fighting for slavery, but it’s not so clear once you get farther west, out by Granbury. We have to pay respect for that.”

For all its political, social and economic implications for the future of the nation, the Civil War in its time came down to the individual motivations and decisions of people who viewed the issues of the day with such passion that a war broke out.

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

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

“Prior to reading this book, I thought history was boring and just filled with dates and names,” Wongsrichanalai said. “Shaara’s book opened my eyes to the deep and conflicting emotions that could surround a single event. It demonstrated to me that history could be alive and that the characters who lived through remarkable times often had tough decisions to make about themselves and the course of their nation.”

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

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

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

"There is no doubt that the Civil War evokes some controversial issues," Taylor said. "In my opinion, the greater message resounding from the Civil War is the commonalities it presents. In a nation based on freedom and liberty, we all can aspire to achieve our life's dreams. The fact that our country strives to improve itself over time only increases such opportunities for all."

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

"Over the past fifty years," Taylor said, "the profession of history has changed dramatically. The scope of history has broadened to examine topics, peoples and events previously overlooked. In addition, the profession of history has also analyzed more traditional topics with innovative methods and new sources. The profession of history has expanded its toolbox to include new technology in research, teaching and publishing. Finally, the profession of history has become more mainstream, as evidenced by the increasing popularity of historical publications, television shows and Internet sites."

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



Photo by Danny Meyer

William A. Taylor

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

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

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

And, those ideals help us reconcile our past in surprising, sometimes coincidental ways.

Heineman related the story of a young Missouri girl so embittered by the Civil War depredations of northern-supporting Jayhawkers, known as "redlegs" for the crimson stripe up their pants, that decades later

she "freaked out" when her grandson prior to leaving for World War I combat visited her wearing the blue uniform of the United States with the red stripes of an artilleryman down the trouser legs.

The grandson was Harry S Truman.

"Here's your reconciliation," Heineman said. "His grandmother and his people were diehard Confederates, despising the Yankees, and yet here's this heir to all that who will be responsible for racially integrating the U.S. military as president of the United States. That's a cause for optimism." ■

Want to learn more about the Civil War? Check out the schedule for ASU's 2010-11 Civil War Lecture Series or peruse the recommended reading lists of Drs. Kenneth Heineman, William A. Taylor and Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai in the bonus features on the *ASU Magazine* website at

www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine/





the Culture of Security

by Tom Nurre

The future national security

of the United States is dependent on the cultural competence of the people who will work to preserve it.

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

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

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

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

national need with its distinctive CSS programs, ASU is poised to become a leader in the security studies field.

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

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

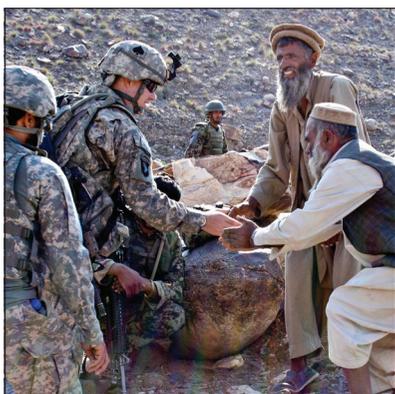
The CSS began offering its programs online this fall, including bachelor's degrees in cultural competence and security studies; cultural fluency and security studies with its added language component; and border security. Also available are master's degrees in security studies and border security; two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

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

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

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

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



programs will enhance the diversity of our student population and expand the global awareness of the campus and community.”

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

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

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

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

“We are helping students understand cultural complexity,” Ehlers said. “They have to have a certain degree of historical context so they understand why certain cultures have developed the way they have, and that includes understanding cultural differences.”

“The way that we in the U.S. perceive the world is very different than the way Eu-

ropeans, Asians or groups like the Taliban perceive it,” he added. “It is important to understand that these different rationalities drive different behaviors. If we charge headlong into a foreign policy construct and we don’t pay careful attention to those issues of context, culture and rationality, we will get it wrong and will not achieve our policy objectives, whether they are diplomatic, economic or military.”

Further enhancing the CSS programs is the recent move of its academic arm, the Department of Security Studies and Criminal Justice, from the College of Liberal and Fine Arts to the College of Business. Placing security studies, border security and criminal justice in the same college as management, economics and accounting offers a variety of advantages.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

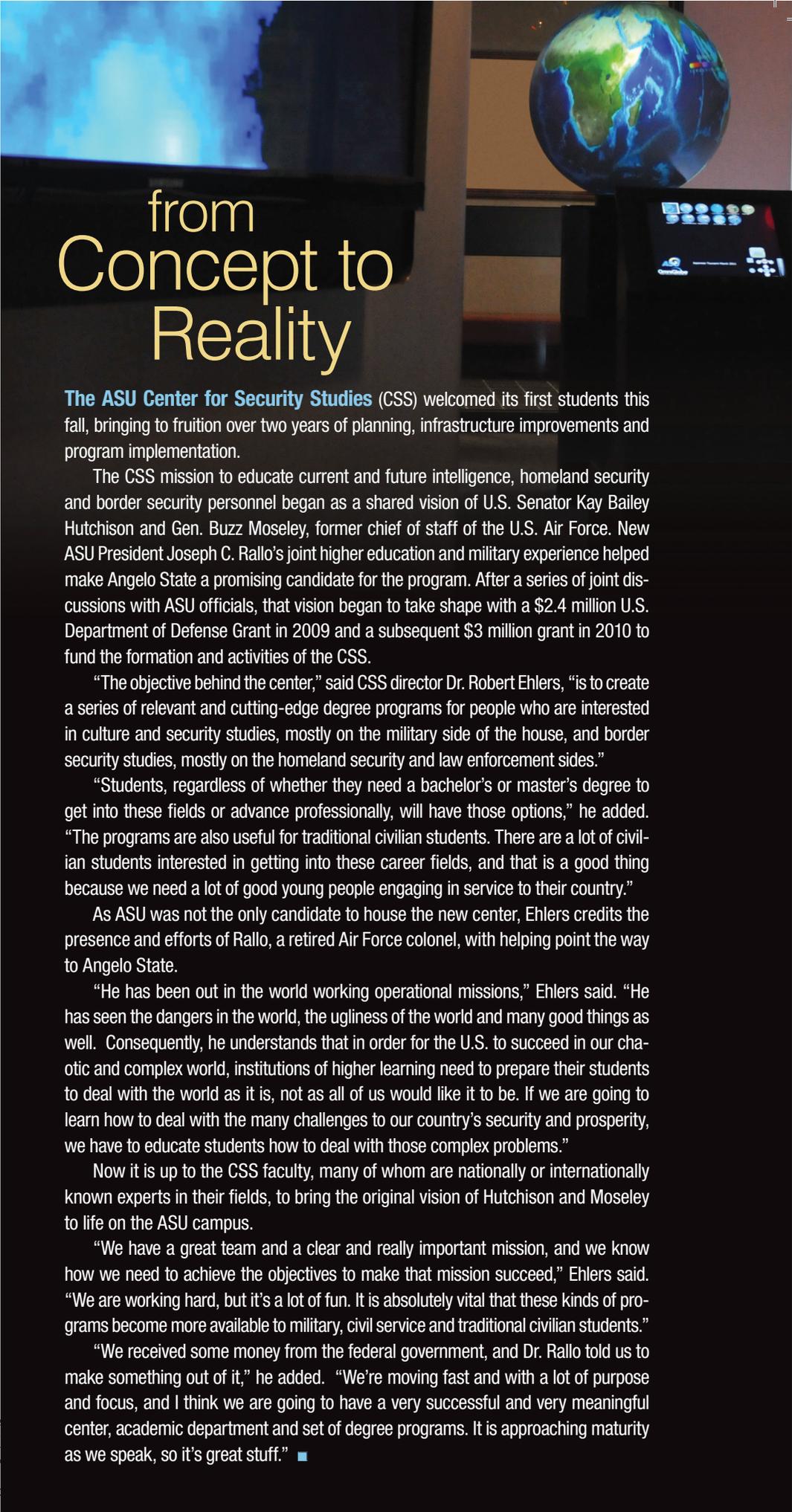
“We cannot afford to ignore or overlook those types of things,” Ehlers said. “Our program’s ability to help with that and to work with the other departments in the College of Business to provide an interdisciplinary approach to those kinds of problems is going to be very helpful and important.”

By utilizing all the tools and expertise at its disposal, the CSS has built a distinctive set of programs that effectively combine education and training to enhance the capabilities of the next generation of intelligence and security personnel tasked with keeping America diplomatically aware, economically viable and safe from its enemies.

“These programs are being taught by either nationally or internationally renowned scholars,” Ehlers said. “They will help students deal with a complex, non-linear world – to think about it, to advise their bosses, to act as necessary in their own professional capacities and to lead as they become more senior. This is about developing habits of thought.”

“Training teaches you how to perform a certain function,” he added, “while education prepares the mind to deal with very complex problems, to make sense of them and to arrive at decent policy or duty-related decisions. Those are the purposes of the CSS.” ■

Photo by Danny Meyer



from Concept to Reality

The ASU Center for Security Studies (CSS) welcomed its first students this fall, bringing to fruition over two years of planning, infrastructure improvements and program implementation.

The CSS mission to educate current and future intelligence, homeland security and border security personnel began as a shared vision of U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and Gen. Buzz Moseley, former chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force. New ASU President Joseph C. Rallo’s joint higher education and military experience helped make Angelo State a promising candidate for the program. After a series of joint discussions with ASU officials, that vision began to take shape with a \$2.4 million U.S. Department of Defense Grant in 2009 and a subsequent \$3 million grant in 2010 to fund the formation and activities of the CSS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“We received some money from the federal government, and Dr. Rallo told us to make something out of it,” he added. “We’re moving fast and with a lot of purpose and focus, and I think we are going to have a very successful and very meaningful center, academic department and set of degree programs. It is approaching maturity as we speak, so it’s great stuff.” ■

by Tom Nurre

Korean

CONUNDRUM

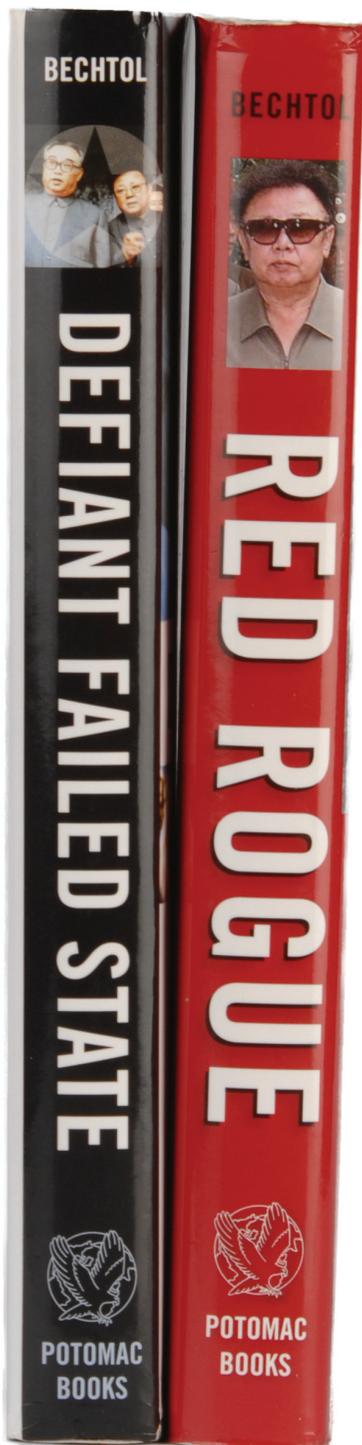


Photo by Danny Meyer

Though they display drastically different ideologies, both South Korea and North Korea constitute small countries with significant implications for U.S. foreign policy.

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

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

"Also, for anyone who is going to work for the U.S. government or military in the international arena, North Korea is going to be involved," he added. "They cause too many problems for U.S. national security interests, and they will up until the day North Korea collapses. That could be tomorrow or it could be 20 years from now."

Freed from Japan by the U.S. and Soviet Union during World War II, the Korean Peninsula was divided along the 38th parallel with the Soviet Union maintaining influ-

ence in the north and the U.S. in the south. The Korean War of the 1950s strengthened the division between the two countries, both on maps and in political systems. South Korea, formally the Republic of Korea, has flourished through its friendship with the U.S. and developed into a democratic, free-market country.

"Americans drive Hyundais and Kias, and buy electronics like LG televisions made in South Korea," Bechtol said. "We have a very close economic relationship with South Korea. Frankly, it is one of our closest economic relationships on the planet."

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

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

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

"They have 6-12 plutonium nuclear weapons," Bechtol said. "They probably have at least one highly enriched uranium



Bruce Bechtol

(HEU) weapon, and an HEU is important because it can be miniaturized to put on a ballistic missile. They've got ballistic missiles that can hit every inch of South Korea and Japan, and will eventually be able to hit Hawaii, California and Alaska."

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

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

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

This knowledge of both Koreas that Bechtol provides is being put to good use on the ASU campus in courses he teaches through the Department of Security Studies, which began offering programs in security studies, cultural fluency and border security this fall.

A retired U.S. Marine, Bechtol gleaned his expertise from several assignments to the Korean Peninsula as both a Marine and an analyst with the Defense Intelligence Agency. He holds a doctorate in national security studies from the Union Institute

and has written two critically acclaimed books, *Red Rogue: The Persistent Challenge of North Korea* (2007) and *Defiant Failed State: The North Korean Threat to International Security* (2010). He has also been consulted by numerous major publications and news outlets, including *Stars and Stripes*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Air Force Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Secure Freedom Radio* and even the *National Post* of Canada.

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

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

"The way both North and South Korea are portrayed in our media, regardless of the outlet, displays a lot of misperceptions," Bechtol said. "The events that occur over there are deeply imbedded in the cultural and historical elements of their society. The nuances of Korean society and the things that make Koreans Korean are things you have to experience by studying Korea in depth, and you can do a lot of that here at ASU."

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





Shannon Sturm

For God

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bird enlisted to serve his country and to serve his God, even if it meant leaving behind Josephine, his wife of 15 years, to join the Army. The correspondence between Bird and his wife, his two wartime journals and an unpublished account of his wartime experience make up the bulk of his collec-

TOPHAT
CHAPEL



Historical photos courtesy of the West Texas Collection

OPEN WINDOW

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

Open the castle window.
Roll up the curtains of gloom.
Let light flow out in the twilight
From this stately and gracious room.

Full throated and youthful voices
Come up from the woodland near;
Over the stone wall, music, -
Release from tension and fear.

After the storm and the scramble,
When the prophets of hate have fled,
The roar and the whine and the shamble,
Pitiful things of the dead;

Out where the lilacs are blooming,
And pines climb high up the hill,
Youth will walk on the wood paths,
With a heart that’s for singing still.

Broad is my castle window.
The world has its quota of sin.
Let the blackout of hearts be lifted,
And the light of the stars come in.

– Ulmer Bird, Germany 1945

and Country

by Preston Lewis

tion in the WTC, which estimates about 14 percent of its holdings relate to the military. Other items in the Ulmer Bird Collection include his chaplaincy reports and his military orders, plus his wartime poetry and several photos.

Sturm said Bird, a Methodist, was certainly well qualified to be a chaplain, having graduated from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, then completing seminary and theology courses at Princeton, Southern Methodist University and Evangelical Theological Seminary. He then served as pastor and/or educational director of various churches throughout West Texas, including appointments in Kirkland, Goodlett and Coleman, before applying for service in the Chaplains Corps.

After six weeks of intense chaplaincy training at Harvard, Bird was commissioned a first lieutenant and assigned to the 95th Anti Aircraft Artillery (AAA) Group at Fort Stewart, Ga., in March of 1944. The Army issued him a typewriter, desk, jeep, trailer and an assistant to serve his “parish” of some 5,000 soldiers at the post.

Bird quickly learned about Army logic, such as being paired with the medic to give a lesson to a group of some 60 randy young men on the dangers of venereal disease. As Bird recalled, the medic passed out prophylactics, then said, “Take these with you when you go out on pass, and be sure to use them, and here’s how ... now, the chaplain will take over.” Bird questioned the effectiveness of this “training.”

Eventually, he was assigned to the 565th AAA Battalion, an indication that overseas deployment was imminent. He strove to build morale before departing for Europe, then to keep it up after they arrived in October of 1944, serving with Patton’s Army as it worked its way through France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. By December of that year, Bird had been promoted to captain.

During that time, he counseled his men incessantly, dealing with the hardships his men faced, the inequities of war and, most of all, homesickness.

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

Sturm said, “Bird enjoyed knowing that even in the worst of times his men always had him for a companion or confidant. He not only offered these services to those in his unit, but to civilians abroad as well. Bird often received and replied to letters from concerned family members. In providing these services he felt he was doing his part for his country and God.”

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

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

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

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

In evaluating Bird’s wartime career, Sturm said, “I feel it safe to say that finding God in the midst of war would be a very taxing venture and I’m sure, at times, very frus-



trating. In the end, I don’t know if it is fully possible to reconcile God and the chaplaincy with the horrors of war except to know that one is providing a sense of comfort and compassion where very little of either exists.”

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

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

That answer is known but to God. ■

by Roy Ivey

Educator, Citizen Soldier

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

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

“Sometimes, students’ disabilities impede learning,” Valadez said, “so we give them instruction here – whatever they need. Some of these students have hardships at home, so they may not get enough sleep or food to eat. If they’ve had a rough day or rough night, they are not worried about the story of Macbeth or learning anything else, so we provide what they need.”

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

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

Such honors were far from Valadez’s mind when he graduated from San Angelo Central High School in 1989. Without a true plan for his future, he joined the Army National Guard in 1991 at the urging of his uncle, also a guardsman.

“I started at ASU right out of high school and wasn’t successful at first because I just wasn’t focused,”

Valadez said. “When I joined the Army National Guard, I became pretty focused.”

Now a guardsman for more than 20 years, Valadez credits the discipline he learned in the military for giving him the impetus to restart his quest for a college education. He earned his ASU bachelor’s degree in kinesiology with a minor in special education in 2003, and is currently working on his master’s degree in school administration at ASU and expecting to graduate in December.

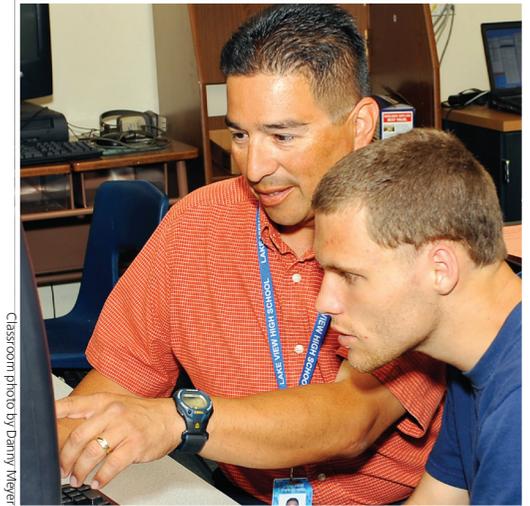
After earning his bachelor’s degree, Valadez coached football at Edison Junior High School/Central Freshman Campus, and continued raising a family with his wife, Carol. The couple has three daughters, Ariel, 19, a sophomore at ASU; Maci, 7; and Jami, 6. He also served through three Army National Guard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

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

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

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

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



Classroom photo by Danny Meyer



Photo courtesy of James Valadez

James Valadez in the classroom
and in the National Guard



Remembrance: 10 Years Later

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

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

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

Her Army position took her to the Pentagon that fateful day when at 9:37 a.m. hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the side of the iconic building. Wagner was one of 184 military personnel and civilians to perish in the attack on the Pentagon. A month later she was buried with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.

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

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

According to the pentagonmemorial.org website, Wagner served the Army as adjutant for the 85th Medical Evacuation Hospital at Fort Lee, Va.; executive officer and company commander of D Company in the 187th Medical Battalion at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio; and chief of personnel for the 57th Evacuation Hospital in Wuerzburg, Germany. She also headed the personnel services branch at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

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

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



Karen Wagner





The color guard of ASU's Air Force ROTC Detachment 847

Photo by Danny Meyer

All in the Family

by Jayna Phinney

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

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

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

The close-knit community is one of the biggest strengths of ASU’s Air Force ROTC Detachment 847. Maj. Valerie Reid, assistant professor, said the cadre, the active duty Air Force officers who teach and run the Aerospace Studies Department, know the names of every one of the 70-100 ROTC students each academic year.



Photo courtesy of Detachment 847

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

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

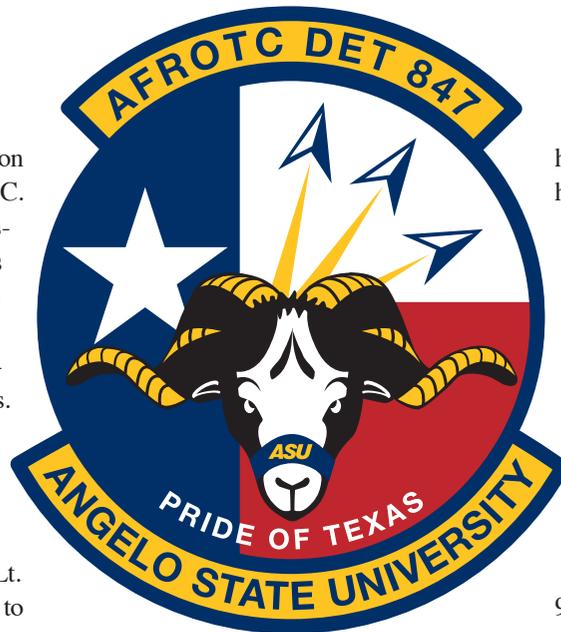
The primary focus of ROTC is producing military leaders like Hawkins or Lt. Col. Stephen W. Magnan, who returned to ASU this summer to head the ROTC program where he earned a bachelor's degree in communication and his commission as a second lieutenant in 1992. Students who successfully complete the ASU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

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

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

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

"Here we get to manage time for ourselves" as opposed to the Air Force Acad-



emy, said Cadet Capt. Jaymes Trimble, a junior. "It creates a big leadership opportunity, I think, more than anything."

During their first two years in the program, students devote five hours a week to ROTC: one hour in class, two hours in a laboratory and two hours in physical training. Juniors and seniors devote at least six hours a week to ROTC because they have jobs in the corps.

"There's a lot of dedication and not wanting to let down your fellow cadets," said Maj. Brant Fryar, assistant professor. "When you belong to something bigger than yourself, you don't want to let anyone down."

While the program may be small compared to other universities around the state, it is one of the largest student groups on campus. Heather Valle, coordinator for student organizations with the ASU Center for Student Involvement, said ASU's ROTC program receives funding like all other student organizations, but it also functions as an academic department.

"You can form a relationship with the cadre," said Cheyenne Clement, a senior biology major and vice wing commander. "You can ask questions and learn more about active duty military."

Clement said he loves ROTC physical training.

"It's fun when you're in a group with 50 people and you're all motivating each other and you can hear the echo," Clement said.

In the past, the closeness of the detachment plus efforts to provide student support helped keep program retention rates

high, but recent Air Force requirements have made completing ROTC programs more challenging.

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

"With the bad economy, there are a lot of people going into the military," Fryar said.

Field training is only offered during the summer months and is completed at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. Cadets go to field training between their sophomore and junior years of school.

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

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

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

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

ROTC – continued on page 51

Homecoming Dinner Facelift by AJ Lopez III

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Magna Cum Laude - \$10,000 (16 tickets)

Summa Cum Laude - \$7,500 (12 tickets)

Cum Laude - \$5,000 (10 tickets)

Honors - \$3,500 (8 tickets)

Oh Laude - \$2,500 (8 tickets)

Masters - \$1,000 (8 tickets)

Bachelors - \$500 (4 tickets)

Associates - \$250 (2 tickets)

For more information about the ASU Homecoming Alumni Dinner Bonfire Ball and Bash, contact the Alumni Association at 325-942-2122 or visit the website at www.angelostatealumni.com.



Alumni Award Criteria

Distinguished Alumnus

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

Honorary Alumnus

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

Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumnus

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

Distinguished ROTC Alumnus

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

Golden Ex of the Year

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

Outstanding Retired Faculty

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

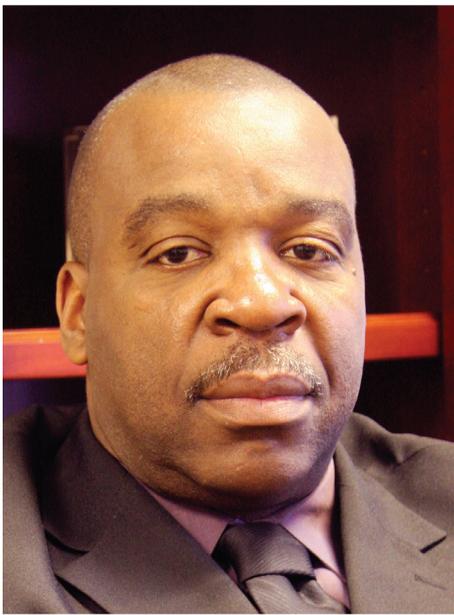
Distinguished Faculty Achievement

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

Distinguished Staff Achievement

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

Distinguished Alumnus Children's Champion



Henry Jackson

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

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

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

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

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

For his outstanding service to others and for overcoming the odds against him

to reach a high level of success, Jackson has been named the ASU Alumni Association's 2011 Distinguished Alumnus.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"His educational experience at Angelo State University was instrumental in shaping his leadership for a career in service to others," Reyes concluded. ■



Honorary Alumnus From Crayons to Logos



Michael Martin

If you know anything about Angelo State University, you are familiar with the work – often un-credited – of **Michael Martin**.

Ever read an *ASU Magazine*? Martin laid it out. Ever gone to a basketball game in Stephens Arena? He designed the hardwood court. Ever received a letter from ASU? He developed the stationery. Ever worn a cap or shirt with an ASU logo on it? Martin created the popular symbol. Ever been stopped for speeding on campus? Yep, Martin designed the wrap on the squad car.

The list of individual designs Martin has done for ASU brochures, posters, stationery, websites and other materials since he joined the staff in 1977 would run in the thousands. For his many contributions to Angelo State University and its graphic identity, the director of graphics in the university's Office of Communications and Marketing has been named the Alumni Association's Honorary Alumnus for 2011.

That honor is just one of more than 60 awards Martin has received since 2000 for his work. Those recognitions have come from the American Advertising Federation, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the College Sports Information Directors of America and the Dallas Press Club. Martin's outstanding job

performance has been recognized twice by the university with the Staff Excellence Award in 1998 and 2006.

His list of awards amounts to a lot of gold stars since he first became interested in art in grade school.

"I was hooked at an early age by that first box of crayons, the ones with the sharpener on the back," Martin recalled.

When he was a senior in high school, one of his art teachers recommended he pursue a career in art and design.

"Credit my mother," Martin said. "She always encouraged me to do something I love and was patient enough to step back and let me figure out what that was."

Martin earned an associate degree in commercial art in advertising from Texas State Technical Institute (TSTI), where he was 1977's top graduate. The head of TSTI's Art Department encouraged Martin to apply for an ASU position as "staff artist" and even called the university to recommend Martin as the "perfect" candidate.

After an interview, as Martin states it, "ASU decided to take a chance."

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

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

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

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

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

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



Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumna Superlative Surgeon

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

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

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

Now she can add another award to her résumé as the ASU Alumni Association's 2011 Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumna.

"Without the support of the outstanding faculty and administration at ASU, many of my past accomplishments would have been unobtainable," Marshall said. "I am indebted to all the many people who believed in me, both throughout my college career and beyond."

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

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



Amanda Marshall

Off campus, Marshall is active with Operation Walk, which raises money to fund joint replacement surgery for underserved women around the world.

Marshall and her husband, Fred, have two sons, Freddie, 14, and Max, 10. ■

Distinguished ROTC Alumnus Strong Leader

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

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

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

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

"It was a relatively low-risk place to

learn to lead and to learn about the Air Force," Ross said.

The ROTC students were a tight-knit group, and Ross's favorite activity was helping to build the Homecoming bonfire.

"We always had a lot of fun, and we were always trying to outdo the bonfire from the year before," he said.

Ross earned his bachelor's degree in physics from ASU in 1988. While in the military, he attended night school to earn a master's degree in 1993 in aerospace sciences at the University of Colorado. He is also a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, National War College and the French Test Pilot School.

Ross's biggest supporter is his wife of 23 years, Antoinette. His parents, Richard and Susan Ross, taught him about hard work and imagination. They now reside in the Houston area. ■



James P. Ross



Nita Allen Archer

Golden Ex of the Year Dream Fulfilled

Growing up in Silver, Texas, **Nita Allen Archer** dreamed of attending San Angelo Junior College, the predecessor to Angelo State University.

Financial help from her parents, a part-time job and a Robert Massie Scholarship enabled Archer to realize that dream, and she graduated as valedictorian in 1945. Twice after that, she returned to ASU to enhance her skills in accounting and business. She still uses those skills at Archer Floor Covering, the business started by her husband, Bill, and now operated by her son, Tim, and his wife, Babbie (Reynolds), both ASU alumni.

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

building the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center and continues to participate in ASU-related activities.

For her dedication and support of ASU, Archer has been named the Alumni Association's 2011 Golden Ex of the Year.

"I always felt joy and anticipation walking up the steps of the beautiful building on Oakes Street that was then San Angelo Junior College," Archer said. "It was a 'beacon of learning' to me."

ASU is a family affair for Archer as three of her sisters and a brother also attended, as well as three of her children, two daughters-in-law and several of their children.

Archer's family includes sons Tim and Lance, both of San Angelo; daughters, Rebecca Hardeman, an ASU alumna, who lives in Austin, and Dr. Susan Chiarito of Vicksburg, Miss.; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. ■



Peggy Skaggs

Outstanding Retired Faculty People Person

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

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

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

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

Skaggs has seen ASU evolve dramatically since she arrived in 1966

from graduate school at Texas A&M.

"Most of the changes moved us along the road to excellence in academics, athletics and artistic expressions as we grew from a junior college into a real university," she said. "Our campus and student body grew, and our faculty, administration and staff developed state, national and international reputations for a variety of accomplishments."

These days, Skaggs spends a lot of time ranching in Menard County with her husband, Merton, who taught chemistry at San Angelo Central High School. She also has stayed connected to ASU by volunteering at the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center and in the bookstore helping students find the right textbooks. She also has volunteered at a pregnancy health center, Meals for the Elderly and in a community Bible study.

Skaggs and her husband have two children, Angela and Mel, and four grandchildren, Nathan, Alan, Marie and Bridget. ■

Distinguished Faculty Achievement Undaunted Spirit

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

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

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

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

"I believe in education and I have a real passion for it," Darby said. "I think that, to get better, nurses need to go to these types of events. They need to stay up to date on medications and techniques."

For her dedication to ASU and her students, the ASU Alumni Association named Darby its 2011 Distinguished Faculty Award winner. Serendipitously, she was informed of the award shortly before Pres passed away in March.

"It was the week Pres was not doing very well and I knew he was dying," Darby said. "I told him I won this award and he was so proud of me. It was one thing positive during that time of our lives."

Darby's future goals include organizing international missions for ASU nursing students and honoring her late husband with John Preston Darby Symposiums for physicians and other health care providers.



Pam Darby

A certified clinical nurse specialist, Darby earned her associate and master's degrees in nursing from ASU. She is a member of the inaugural class in ASU's new family nurse practitioner program. ■

Distinguished Staff Achievement Simply Amazing

As the first in her family to attend college, **Adelina "Lina" Morales** never imagined that she would have a career in the office of a university president.

However, her soft-spoken efficiency and her pronounced proficiency as a student assistant in the ASU president's office impressed Virginia Scott, who as administrative assistant to the president hired Morales as secretary in January of 1981, just weeks after Morales had graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration from ASU.

Upon Scott's retirement two years later, Morales was named her replacement as administrative assistant to the president and today holds the title of executive assistant to the president. In the 30 years since she was hired, Morales has served under three presidents and one interim president, working effectively under their varied management styles and efficiently han-

dling the many tasks and functions necessary to keep the office operating smoothly.

"The people who work for ASU are like family," said Morales. "I like that at the end of the day somehow, even in a small way, I helped someone to continue their education."

For her outstanding service and her longstanding dedication to ASU, Morales has been selected for the ASU Alumni Association's 2011 Distinguished Staff Achievement Award.

Morales regularly puts in workweeks of 45-50 hours, always striving for excellence and practicing models of behaviors and ethics which reflect positively on the university. Her calm presence and her institutional memory are assets, whether dealing with a complaining parent or a representative of the governor's office.

"I have met some amazing people, not only ASU students, parents, faculty and staff, but also many of our distinguished



Adelina Morales

speakers and dignitaries when they came to campus," Morales said.

Those who have worked with her would agree that Morales is amazing as well, based on how well she handles her job and manages her family life. She and her husband, Alfred, also an ASU employee, have sons David, Class of 2006, M.P.A. 2008 and M.Ed. 2009, and Adrian, Class of 2011. ■

Looking for LUCK

by Kevin McCarty



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

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

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

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



Photo by Danny Meyer



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

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

Many superstitions are internal – Scott says the Lord's Prayer during the National Anthem and Reid keeps a lucky penny in his shoe – but what a coach is wearing can lead to clues about a team's performance.

Angelo State cross country coach Tom Dibbern has a good luck shirt that's barely hanging on to life. The worn, see-through charm was there when the women captured the 2010 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field National Championship and when the women won their third-consecutive LSC championship in May.

For Reid, the secret is the shoes. He owns a pair of "meet shoes" that he purchases prior to each season and only wears during race days. Last season with the team struggling

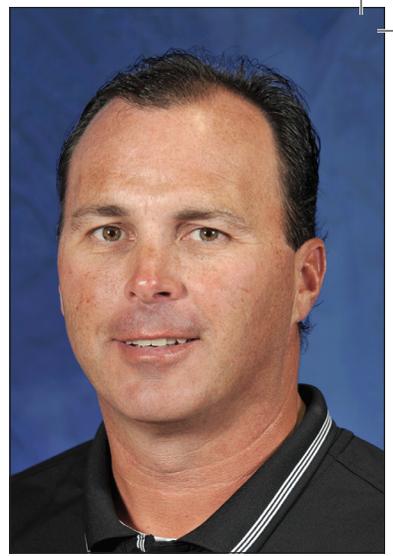
near the midpoint of the year, Reid bought a new pair and the women rallied to finish at the top of the LSC standings and the men placed in the top 10 at the national meet. Reid had a two-shoe rotation earlier in his coaching career after noticing his top jumpers performed best depending on the shoes he had on at the time. Depending on the athlete, he would leave one pair near the pit and change after each attempt accordingly.

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

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

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

Whether or not there's a scientific correlation between superstitions and success, Angelo State as a whole has had its share of victories over the years. If a cheeseburger is going to help a team win a championship, the Rams and Rambelles coaches will be among the first in line. ■



Travis Scott



James Reid



Kevin Brooks

Diamond Bases to Navy Bases

by Tommy Schield

Seven years later, Stephanie Fofi is still working for the ring.

It's 4 a.m., and the sun has yet to rise over Jacksonville, N.C., as the alarm breaks her slumber. She shuts off the alarm and sleepily shuffles around getting ready for another busy day at work. The insanity starts in just one hour at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, where she is near the midpoint of her three-year residency. As she climbs into her scrubs, she glances toward her dresser just to make sure it's still there and to take a second to reminisce.

Safely tucked away in its original box is the 2004 National Championship ring she

won while playing softball at Angelo State. The memento sits atop her dresser and still serves as a motivating factor of sorts for the medical professional.

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

Fofi played two years of softball at a junior college in Arizona before transferring to Angelo State. At the time, her father, Richard, was stationed near San Antonio and she was already familiar with the area after spending second and third grade in

San Angelo while her dad completed his master's degree in biology at ASU.

Like her father, Fofi majored in biology and graduated with an impressive 3.87 GPA. Thanks to her academic success, the Las Vegas native earned back-to-back ASU Athletic Academic Excellence Awards and was named an Academic All-American her senior season.

Fofi helped the Rambelles capture the NCAA Division II National Championship in 2004 and had a breakout senior season. She started all 62 games at shortstop while batting .311, including 11 doubles, and earning first team All-LSC South honors.

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

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

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

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



Stephanie Fofi

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Fofi



Will Wagner

End Game in Focus

by Kevin McCarty

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

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

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

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

The Rams have already seen a few changes under the new staff, including a switch to



Photo by Kimberley Parker

the pistol formation as the base offense and the 4-2-5 as the team's base defense. The tempo of practice and more physically intense workouts are other visible changes.

"I really like our enthusiasm," Wagner said. "The kids have really bought into the way we're doing things and they're excited about what we're doing on offense and defense. Anytime you have a new staff coming in, one of the biggest concerns is whether there's going to be any team cohesion, and there's a lot with this group."

Angelo State's offense is poised for another explosive year with the return of seven starters, including All-Lone Star Conference South Division second team members Nate Bayless (tight end), Dakarai Pecikonis (wide receiver) and Austin Sumrall (offensive line). The wide receiver position might be the deepest for the Rams with CJ Akins and Excellence Osborne as other targets, but replacing record-setting quarterback Josh Neiswander will be difficult.

"I'm excited about the potential on offense," Wagner said. "We've got some really good players. Our biggest question mark remains the quarterback position, and it's going to take some time to get the timing with the receivers. I feel good about our offensive line. Whoever is going to be quarterback has some big shoes to fill because of Josh."

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

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

Angelo State begins the season with a pair of road games at Western State and Chadron State before opening at home against former LSC foe Central Oklahoma at San Angelo Stadium Sept. 17. ■

LSC Minus Five



by Kevin McCarty

LONE STAR CONFERENCE



Photo by Danny Meyer

Being a fan in the Lone Star Conference should be a little easier this year as the league realigns itself following the departure of five schools from Oklahoma.

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

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

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

"For the fans, it's going to be a good thing because our conference opponents will be schools that they recognize," Angelo State Director of Athletics Kathleen Brasfield said. "There was always confusion about whether those crossover games counted and which

directional school it was that we were playing. Most of our fans are familiar with the core of the Lone Star Conference and the opportunity for rivalry is good."

The same holds true for volleyball, soccer and basketball, which will now play a home-and-home series with each conference school and bring each league member to San Angelo on a yearly basis.

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

Brasfield believes the new schedule for volleyball and basketball will also paint a better picture of the standings when preparing for the conference tournament as the home team has an advantage.

"It'll be clear who the top team is in the conference because you will have



Kathleen Brasfield

Peers Honor Brasfield

played everyone twice, at home and away,” Brasfield said.

Furthermore, the winner of the regular season in basketball will be crowned the LSC champion with the winner of the LSC Basketball Tournament earning the league’s automatic postseason bid.

The LSC football-playing members for 2011 are Abilene Christian, Angelo State, Eastern New Mexico, Midwestern State, Incarnate Word, Tarleton State, Texas A&M-Commerce, Texas A&M-Kingsville and West Texas A&M. Other league members include Cameron University and Texas Woman’s University.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sports briefs



Brian Holik

Top 10 Again

The Angelo State men's track and field season ended with a handful of All-America honors, a trip to the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships and a ninth-place finish at the national meet – the 27th time in program history the Rams have ended in the top 10.

Austin Slone (triple jump), Wade Goode (discus), Tyler Orlando (javelin), Jacob McDonald (javelin) and 4x400-meter relay members Isidro Garcia, Brian Holik, Terrence Holland and Robbie Thayer each earned All-American honors at the national meet at Cal State University – Stanislaus.

In addition to strong performances on the track, Holik was given the Lone Star Conference Scholar Athlete Award and earned the NCAA Elite 88 Award as the competitor with the highest GPA at the men's national meet.

Another LSC Title

While the Angelo State Rambelles failed to defend their 2010 track and field national title, they kept their streak of Lone Star Conference titles alive. Led by 22 individual points from both Cathryn Rittenberry and Emeline Crutcher, the Rambelles captured the LSC Track and Field Championship for the third consecutive season.

The 'Belles' three-peat was a total team effort as 20 student-athletes racked up points. Together they scored 197 points, almost 30 points more than second-place finisher Abilene Christian with 168. Kati Holly (high jump), Bree Bennett (110-hurdles), Tiffany Wilcox (100-meter dash) and Kelsey Wilson (pole vault) all competed at the outdoor championships.

South Division Crown

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

For the fifth-consecutive season and seventh time in the last eight years, head coach Travis Scott had the Rambelles in the playoffs. After dropping the opening game in the NCAA D-II South Central Regional to Emporia State, the fourth-seeded 'Belles outscored their opponents 31-9 in three straight wins and forced the if-necessary championship game against top-seed Midwestern State, falling 5-2. The softball team closed its season with a 45-14 overall record.

Experience Gained

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

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

Memorable Ups & Downs

by Lindy Zamora

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

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

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

"I hope I don't remember too much, but yeah, it was just odd," Brooks said.

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

Individual highlights included gritty play from Travis Lites, who played all season with an injured wrist; a team-best .400 batting average from Garrett Harris; and a stellar season from second baseman Zach Cohen. Cohen, the Rams' leadoff hitter, recorded a 13-game hitting streak during the year and was second on the squad with a .382 average. Cohen finished the season by setting new ASU career records with a .529 on-base percentage and 25 hit-by-pitches.

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

"I'm excited about this year," Brooks said. "We've got some good players coming in and the new facility will allow those players to get better. If you're any type of competitor, when you get knocked down and embarrassed, you get back up and fight. I know our coaches and players feel like that, and our guys that were here last season are returning with a chip on their shoulder." ■



Second baseman Zach Cohen

Photo by Danny Meyer

Ice Road Therapists

by Tom Nurre



Photo by Preston Lewis



Photo by Danny Meyer

Russell and Kate Huckert

Once pioneers of Angelo State’s physical therapy program, Russell and Kate Huckert have continued to blaze new trails in the Last Frontier.

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

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

“We see scheduled patients for out-patient clinic,” Russell said. “Tied into that, we have two hours working with in-patients from the hospital, and we also have a walk-

in clinic for two hours a day on at least one of the therapists’ schedules.”

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

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

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

“Being part native, it was important to me to give something to the native popu-

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

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

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



to work, run errands and head home. But, certain aspects are very Alaskan.

“It usually starts out with getting the fire going to warm the house,” Kate said. “We choose to do mostly wood heating because oil is really expensive. It can cost up to \$1,000 a month to heat a home of our size in the winter when the cold is extreme.”

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

“Many people ask about the darkness in winter,” Kate said. “Our shortest day reaches about four hours of low light from around 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in December. That is one of the toughest parts of the year until February when the daylight gradually returns. We then have a glorious summer of bright sunlight, when the sun barely dips into a dusky night from about 2-4 a.m. in June.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

Russell, meanwhile, has become the Great White Hunter.

“Before, I wasn’t near the hunter I am today. I was a fisher,” Russell said. “But, then you realize that you can hunt all these animals. Then you go to the grocery store and see that a pound of hamburger meat



Top: The Huckert Family enjoys a summer fishing trip. Above: Kate Huckert stands by one of the bush planes used to visit sub-regional clinics, regardless of the season in Alaska.



might cost \$6. So, you think 'hey, I get three caribou a year, a moose a year and a musk ox a year, if I want it.' There is no reason to have to buy meat out here. And with the fish, it's the same thing."

"It's kind of 'Russell vs. Wild,'" Kate added.

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

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

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

Now, Russell and Kate want current ASU physical therapy students to enjoy some of the same adventures. They flew

down to give a presentation on their work and life in Bethel to a group of ASU students in April, and are working with Harriet Lewis, ASU's academic coordinator of clinical education, to set up a clinical rotation for ASU physical therapy students at their Bethel clinic.

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

"I think it will offer the students a unique experience and help broaden their view of the possibilities with a physical therapy degree," Lewis said. "It will certainly give them a pic-

ture of rural health care. Delivering quality health care to everyone is being pushed by the government and is part of the mission of our national physical therapy association."

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

The Huckerts hope hosting ASU students in their clinic will lead to them wanting to return after they graduate.

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Above: During winter, ice roads are the only way for the Huckerts to reach some of their patients. Left: Sunset in Bethel, Alaska, over the Kuskokwim River.

Photos courtesy of Russell and Kate Huckert

CLASSnotes

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

1977

Air Force **Maj. Gen. Ronnie D. Hawkins**, who has served as vice director of the Defense Information Systems Agency in Arlington, Va., since 2009, has been named the deputy director for command, control, communications and computer systems, Joint Staff, of the U.S. Joint Forces Command, in Norfolk, Va.

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

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

1979

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

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

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

1989

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

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

After completing his medical residency at the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in 1993, Noe served on the Tech Health Sciences Center faculty. He is now in private practice and owns Sun City Women's Health Care.

1993

Col. Casey D. Eaton has been named vice commander, 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus Air Force Base, Okla.

Eaton is second in command of the air mobility wing responsible for the formal training of all C-17 Globemaster III and KC-135 Stratotanker aircrews for active duty. Eaton is a command pilot with more than 3,600 flying hours in the KC-10 Extender, C-21, C-17 and KC-135.

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

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

2001

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

Pretto, who previously hosted Univision's weekend newsmagazine "Primer Impacto Extra" (First Impact Extra) and served as a contributing reporter to "Primer Impacto" and

2011 Homecoming Schedule

Friday, October 14

- 6 p.m. ASU Homecoming Alumni Dinner Bonfire Ball and Bash, reception at 6 p.m.; dinner at 6:30 p.m., Norris Ballroom, LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center; bonfire ball and bash at 8 p.m., patio.
- 8 p.m. Pep rally; run-through sign contest judging; step contest finals, Le Grand Sports Complex.
- 9:15 p.m. Torch Parade, sponsored by ROTC, from the pep rally to the bonfire site.
- 9:30 p.m. Bonfire, sponsored by ROTC, Knickerbocker Road and University Avenue (behind Foster Field).

Saturday, October 15

- 11 a.m. Parade, downtown San Angelo, beginning at Fourth Street and North Chadbourne Street.
- 4 p.m. Ram Jam, LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center.
- 6 p.m. ASU Homecoming football game vs. Midwestern State University, San Angelo Stadium; halftime presentation of Homecoming court and announcement of king and queen.

"Noticiero Univision" (Univision News), will be covering each morning's top news stories alongside fellow journalist Félix De Bedout.

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

2004

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

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

2009

David Stout has been hired as Bryson Independent School District's superintendent.

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

Photo by Danny Meyer



alumni association century club

DIAMOND

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Mark and Debbie Low, Dallas
Louie and Amy Perez, San Angelo
Randy and Emma Russell, Round Hill, Va.
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Brian and Doxie Watson, Midland
Jay and Michelle Young, Dallas

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Larry Clark, Richmond
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Patti Wetzler, San Angelo
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ROTC – continued from page 29

To help with recruitment efforts, the ROTC program gets assistance from its current students. Every spring, the program hosts a Drill Meet for Junior ROTC units from across the state that gives high schoolers a chance to practice and perform. ASU cadets obtain leadership experience by organizing the event.

Cadets also send handwritten notes to students who have shown an interest in ROTC.

Gonzalez said one of his favorite recruiting activities was hosting the Summer Leadership School for high school students. ASU cadets are in charge of training exercises as well as processing all of the student applications.

“Some students told us last year that because of us, they want to go to college,” Gonzalez said. ■

Therapists – continued from page 47

“I will create a position for someone who has the right stuff and wants to be there,” Kate said. “I am laying out growth and there is so much need in every aspect of rehabilitative care.”

“We can house two more therapists than we have now,” Russell added, “and in the next five years, there will be places for two more. Our hospital is building an assisted living facility that could house at least one physical therapist, the pediatric population and early intervention programs need more help, and there is a private practice in town. There is definitely the room and the need for more therapists.”

ASU graduates hold particular appeal because the Huckerts understand the type of training they receive in the PT program.

“Our ASU program was so rigorous,” Kate said, “and we were under such scrutiny being the first two classes, that we left ASU with tremendous independence and capability. We were able to step in to the Bethel PT clinic and thrive.”

“I think we went in extremely prepared for what we do,” Russell said. “I don’t think anyone can get this type of experience, both in and out of the clinic, anywhere else. I highly recommend it to anyone who is just coming out of school, just to take the time for the adventure.”

Lewis said the grapevine is already buzzing with students interested in possibly doing an Alaskan clinical rotation, and she is happy to help after seeing how the experience has affected the Huckerts.

“You kind of feel like a mother hen,” Lewis said. “You have them here for two-and-a-half or three years and you watch them grow and change. Then you send them out on their way and hope you prepared them well for a physical therapy career. Then they come back, and you think, ‘Wow, we did a good job.’”

“It was really fun to hear them talk and see how much they have grown and matured as professionals,” she added. “That was really cool.” ■

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