

Angelo State University ● Magazine

Spring 2014 • Volume 7 • Number 1

MEMBER, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Angelo State
University



**the World
Comes to ASU**

Global Outreach • As the World Turns

Message

from the President

Dear Friends:

One of the great pleasures of leading the Angelo State University team is the opportunity to enjoy the successes of so many others. Whether these are individual or collective accomplishments, they all enhance ASU's overall reputation and visibility.

For instance, this fall for the fifth consecutive year, we made the list of *The Princeton Review's* "Best Colleges" nationally. What makes this year's listing particularly gratifying is that we received our highest academic rating to date by the prestigious college guide, putting us in a category equal to or better than some of the most recognizable names in public higher education.

Since our last magazine, ASU's Houston Harte University Center has been named one of the nation's top 25 student union buildings by BestCollegeReviews.org, an independent online college ranking guide. We were the only university in Texas to make the list. Further, ASU has been included on the 2013-14 list of Best Colleges for Intramural Sports by BestColleges.com, another online rating service. On the academic side, ASU's College of Graduate Studies was named one of the nation's Top 50 Online Graduate Programs for 2012-13 by GraduatePrograms.com, an online guide using student evaluations to recognize top online programs.

Additionally, thanks to the generous support of several donors, we are upgrading some of our athletic facilities with artificial turf. In October we cut the ribbon on the \$1.2 million artificial turf project for the football field at the LeGrand Sports Complex. The field turf was funded through contributions by 1st Community Federal Credit Union, Larry C. Clark, the San Angelo Health Foundation and an anonymous donor. The public will be able to enjoy 1st Community Credit Union Field and its new surface when the Rams open the 2014 football season there this fall.

Our Softball Field is also getting artificial turf in time for the upcoming season. The \$600,000 project was made possible by a gift from Richard and B.J. Mayer. Construction began in October and is scheduled for completion ahead of our home opener in late February. Both the softball and football projects will help increase our ability to recruit and field even stronger teams in the future.

These are just a few of the successes we should all enjoy as members of the ASU family. I look forward to more such successes in the future, thanks to your ongoing support and devotion to this university.

Sincerely,



Brian J. May
President



Brian J. May



Angelo State University Magazine

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Angelo State University
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Angelo State University Magazine

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Editor's Note: The world comes to ASU in different ways and by many routes. This issue of ASU Magazine examines how individuals the world over have reached Angelo State.

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On the Covers: The parade of flags along University Mall represents the increasing number of international students on campus and the growing number of ASU ties to the world in 2014.

(Photo by Danny Meyer)



The College Trap

By Kyle Longley, Class of 1987



Kyle Longley

“Americans are the only people in the world ... whose status anxiety prompts them to advertise their college and university affiliations in the rear window of their automobiles” – Paul Fussell

This time of the year, millions of young people head back to college, including many fresh-faced freshmen leaving home for the first time.

At the same time, millions have begun preparations for applying to colleges, hoping to become a member of the class of 2018 at an institution of their choosing.

Awaiting the latter are high expectations that they must attend a particular college to be successful (hence, the Fussell quote above). Yet, there is a major trap awaiting them and their parents.

Daily, it seems, stories surface about the massive debt issue facing students. The combination of states slashing support for higher education, students expecting first-class accommodations and amenities, and bloated bureaucracies at universities have ensured much higher costs.

Yet, many parents and students continue to mortgage their futures to pursue the pedigree of an expensive school. Others drain their savings trying to shelter their children from the secularism of society at costly religious institutions. The prices have led many to question the value of the investment.

Nonetheless, a college education remains a great long-term investment. Still, the obsession (often that of the parents) with chasing a degree that often costs more than buying a nice home has negative consequences.

In reality, the expensive pedigree does not necessarily guarantee a better education. From my own experience and observations

over 20 years in higher education, there are many keys to success beyond the institution name, including a willingness to work hard, innate personal skills and determination.

Thus, a good dictum from personal financial planning should apply to college: only buy what you can afford. Nonetheless, students turn down scholarships to schools without the brand name, ultimately leading to debt.

Yes, having a degree from a perceived lower level institution ensures some obstacles. If you want to be a Supreme Court justice, you must attend one of a small group of schools. But, really, are the odds in your favor? Even those searching for jobs with elite degrees encounter factors beyond their control, such as family connections. You also must still have a work ethic, interpersonal skills and a host of other variables to succeed. Simply relying on your pedigree may get you in the door, but it ensures nothing more.

Ultimately, does getting out of college with \$100,000 in debt really mean that the experience differed by that much from that person who went to a solid school with great professors (not teaching assistants) that ensured a good experience at an affordable price?

I am an example of the latter happening. I attended Angelo State University, where I benefited from the small classes taught by dedicated professors more concerned with the students than their research. I had a Carr Scholarship that paid much of my education and, when combined with grants, allowed me to emerge with zero debt.

Furthermore, looking back, I recognize the superb education I received.

I hold a chair at a top-rated university with seven books published and major teaching awards won, and I attribute much of my success to Angelo State. Many other ASU alumni have become prominent doctors, lawyers, journalists, military officers and businesspeople. If anything, we have worked harder to prove that the starting point helped us succeed and also to validate the hard work of the outstanding faculty and staff.

There are many other great options beyond Angelo State, particularly in Texas, at schools like Sam Houston, Texas State, Lamar and West Texas A&M (and many others). Good students can find scholarships and great teachers (and a good education) at any of these universities.

Finally, success at college comes from students working hard, interacting closely with the professors and their colleagues, and challenging their intellectual boundaries. The costs must be weighed against the outcomes, for too often students and parents want to buy a Corvette instead of an Elantra. Both will get them to the final destination, although with the latter it will be without the stress of payments and maintenance that leaves people in debt for many years.

While I wish everyone could drive the sports car, some of us from middle class backgrounds, myself included, did just fine in the economy car. I hope more future college students will think about the choices and recognize the benefits of not accumulating the debt for the name and go for the affordable, excellent options. ■

Longley is the Snell Family Dean's Distinguished Professor of History and Political Science at Arizona State University.



Growing Reputation

For the fifth consecutive year, Angelo State University has made *The Princeton Review's* list of “Best Colleges” nationally, but the latest ranking is especially noteworthy because ASU’s academic rating is its best ever, surpassing that of many of the nation’s best-known universities.

When *The Princeton Review's* “Best 378 Colleges” came out last fall, Angelo State scored a 73 on a scale of 60 to 99. The latest rating compared to a 67 in both the 2012 and 2013 editions, a 65 in the 2010 volume and a 62 in the 2011 edition.

ASU was one of 13 Texas schools making *The Princeton Review* list, with Rice earning the state’s highest academic rating at 93. While ASU’s rating did not match Rice’s, it was identical to that recorded by Colorado-Boulder, Maryland-College Park, Ohio State, Penn State and Virginia Tech.

“*Princeton Review's* rating,” said ASU President Brian J. May, “is just another sign of Angelo State’s growing national reputation as a great place to get a college education. The ongoing and improving recognition by *The Princeton Review* is the result of the longstanding dedication of our faculty and staff, the hard work and accomplishments of our students and the success of our alumni.”

With a rating of 73, ASU compared favorably to a host of national institutions listed by their scores: 72 – Marquette, Seton Hall; 71 – Georgia Tech, Minnesota, Syracuse, UT-Austin; 70 – Alabama-Tuscaloosa, Auburn, Cincinnati, Drexel, Nebraska, Temple, Tennessee-Knoxville; 69 – Iowa, Mississippi, St. Bonaventure, Washington State; 68 – Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado State, Howard, Missouri, West Virginia; 67 – Kentucky, New Mexico, South Carolina-Columbia, Utah; and 66 – Louisiana State, Michigan State.

“We should all be proud,” May said, “of how well Angelo State ranks with some of the nation’s most prestigious institutions of higher education, particularly the public and land grant universities.” ■

(Reprinted by permission of Kyle Longley and the *Austin American-Statesman*, where this piece first was published Aug. 24, 2013.)



Roscoe and Chancellor Kent Hance celebrate the announcement of the ASU/TTUS affiliation in 2007.

True Blue

Kent Hance's favorite colors may have been red and black when he became chancellor of the Texas Tech University System (TTUS) in 2006, but as he moves toward retirement later this year, he has added blue and gold to his preferred hues.

"I love ASU," Hance said. "It's been a great addition to Texas Tech. It has helped the Texas Tech System as much as the Texas Tech System has helped ASU. I love the people down there and it's a great asset for us as a system."

And, ASU alumni and friends would agree that Hance, who announced at the October Board of Regents meeting his intentions to retire in 2014, has been an asset for the university. Since becoming a part of the Texas Tech University System on Sept. 1, 2007, Angelo State has set records for overall and graduate enrollment, completed a successful \$35 million capital campaign, seen research grants/funding increase six-fold and achieved Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) status.

"Chancellor Hance is incredibly effective in legislative affairs on both the federal and

state levels," said ASU President Brian J. May. "ASU is a better place due to his legislative expertise. On top of that, he is an amazing fundraiser for the system with outstanding people skills in dealing with students, employees, alumni and community leaders."

State Rep. Drew Darby of San Angelo said, "Chancellor Hance has been a strong leader for Texas and higher education. In 2007, I had the great honor to work with him on the legislation that improved Angelo State University by moving it into the Texas Tech System. That provision, along with his tireless efforts to advance the entire system with historic research investments and record capital fundraising, has left a powerful legacy of service for the system's graduates and 44,000 active students."

One of Hance's goals when he became chancellor was to expand the number of TTUS institutions beyond Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

"The Texas Tech System was not just looking for any school," Hance said. "When it came to our attention that Angelo State

would consider moving, we really jumped at it because it is a very fine smaller liberal arts university that turns out great people. ASU enhanced our reputation as a system in certain areas that I felt were beneficial to all of us."

TTUS Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Joseph C. Rallo, who was ASU president during the transition from the Texas State to the Tech System in the summer of 2007, said Hance's role in raising Angelo State's national visibility both in Washington and in Austin, as well as in the media, was his most significant ASU accomplishment as chancellor.

"Right after the transition," Rallo recalled, "I accompanied him on his annual trip to Washington to meet congressional leaders and explain our priorities. I was given the same time and opportunities as my colleagues from TTU and TTUHSC to make ASU's case. The immediate outcome was the significant funding for the Center for Security Studies led by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

"Naturally, we did a lot of other things to foster that visibility, such as gaining HSI status, but his willingness to treat us as an equal was vitally important to our other efforts," Rallo said.

Once his successor is named as the fourth chancellor in TTUS history, Hance will serve as chancellor emeritus and continue to teach his popular seminar on leadership at his alma mater.

Though his role is changing, his favorite colors – red and black along with blue and gold – will not.

"I look forward to serving Angelo State and the other great universities in our system in the years ahead," Hance said. ■

A Place of Their Own



Now approaching its first birthday, Angelo State's Veterans Educational and Transitional Services (VETS) Center has become a sanctuary for campus student veterans.

Designed to be a one-stop shop for helping veterans transition from the military to student life, the VETS Center opened last spring in the Houston Harte University Center. Its services include assisting with enrollment and utilizing military education benefits, as well as academic advising.

Perhaps most important, though, is the safe haven the center provides for veterans like Ivan Chavez of Iraan, who spent eight years as a U.S. Marine, including three combat tours in Iraq. Going from being a Marine sergeant to an undergraduate student majoring in border security created for Chavez a host of issues not faced by typical students.

"Being a sergeant, you're in charge of training Marines," Chavez said. "You lead them in combat, you do everything with them and you have something to live for. When I got out of the Marine Corps, I felt like I was nobody since I was out, like I had no purpose."

"But post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was probably the biggest issue that affected me," he added. "I was used to the high-speed Marine Corps environment, so it was a big transition to a slower lifestyle. I have some anger issues and no patience for people who don't understand what I went through. I thank God for the VETS Center because veterans like me need support."

During the fall 2013 semester, more than 400 ASU students received veterans benefits, either as veterans themselves or as

spouses or children of veterans. That number is expected to keep increasing.

"When the federal government changed the way it does benefits with the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill in 2009, a lot more people started utilizing those benefits," said Kerri Mikulik, assistant director of admissions. "And, you can give it to dependents, so it just sky-rocketed how many people were using education benefits."

In light of ASU's growing student veteran population, the VETS Center has begun offering faculty and staff specialized Green Zone Training led by U.S. Army retiree Russ Baker, the center's veterans outreach coordinator.

"We mainly talk about veterans and their transition to college life from the military life," Baker said, "including the differences between college culture and military culture. We also talk about the strengths veteran students can bring to the classroom and the campus."

"What we really want to do," he added, "is have a physical network of people who

have gone through this training, are military friendly and are advocates for veterans."

ASU has been named a "Military Friendly School" by *G.I. Jobs* magazine for five straight years, and the VETS Center staff is working hard to maintain that reputation. In addition to the wealth of assistance the center provides, it has become for many student veterans a favorite spot for studying, surfing the Internet, socializing and even napping. Veteran students are also encouraged to connect with staff and each other through the center's Facebook page.

"I refer to PTSD a lot," Chavez said, "because most people don't understand it. The VETS Center is important for the support it gives to veterans because they need a place to feel welcome and safe."

"It has also helped me to meet other veterans," he added. "The majority of my friends are veterans, and it's a trust issue. Veterans understand veterans, and in the VETS Center, we all speak the same language." ■



Photo by Danny Meyer

Manager of VA Benefits Kerry Hyde stands outside the new VETS Center with Ivan Chavez.

Check out what ASU's other distinguished speakers had to say on campus last fall by visiting the Web extras at www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine.

Climate Wars

The proof of ongoing climate change can be found in a hockey stick.

Dr. Michael E. Mann, distinguished professor of meteorology and director of the Earth System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University, wielded that hockey stick to great effect as he addressed ASU's E. James Holland University Symposium on American Values last fall.

In Mann's case, the hockey stick is actually a graph shaped like a hockey stick that was first unveiled in 1999 in a paper he co-authored that introduced statistical techniques for hemispherical climate reconstructions, including what was dubbed the "hockey stick graph" because of its shape. That initial assessment of the human impact on Earth's climate, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), thrust Mann from the scientific stage to the political and policy stage he calls the "climate wars."

"The hockey stick graph, 15 years ago, showed unprecedented change going back 1,000 years, as far as we could go at that time," Mann said. "It has been attacked as if that one 15-year-old study were the entire basis of the climate change argument."

While the debate over global warming continues to rage between governments, scientists and environmental groups, Mann said the scientific facts are "basically straightforward" – that the "Greenhouse Effect," in which rising concentrations of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere are increasing the planet's overall temperature, has been known for two centuries.

"We're engaged in this unprecedented experiment with our planetary atmosphere," he said.

Using statistics to back his argument, Mann said the carbon dioxide concentration



Photo by Danny Meyer

in the Earth's atmosphere just passed 400 parts per million. Before the dawn of the Industrial Age, the concentration was 280 parts per million. Consequences of that rising concentration include the melting of the Arctic, droughts, unprecedented wildfires, fiercer storms and acidification of the oceans.

"Texas is on the front lines of this issue in many ways," Mann said, "both in the environmental aspect and the political aspect. The 2011 drought in Texas is one of the most profound events we do think is linked to climate change."

The IPCC, which was established in 1988 by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization to provide a scientific evaluation of international information relevant to climate change, recently published its fifth assessment.

Mann said the IPCC conclusions are based on a consensus and are conservative, but that the most recent report still found it "extremely likely" that human influence is the primary cause of global warming. In addition, he said, the hockey stick graph was

recently extended back further in time by a group of 80 scientists.

"The warming spike of the past century is really unprecedented," Mann said.

Reminding the audience that he, too, lives in a fossil fuel-producing state – Pennsylvania – Mann said the first step toward curbing climate change is to launch an international discussion.

"How do we find a way to meet our projected energy needs in a way that preserves the environment?" he said. "There is no magic bullet, but despite what you may have heard, there's still time to reverse the impacts, to avoid crossing the threshold into that red zone."

Author of two books, *Dire Predictions: Understanding Global Warming* and *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars: Dispatches from the Front Lines*, Mann also was the organizing chair for the National Academy of Sciences Frontiers of Science in 2003 and has been selected by *Scientific American* as one of the 50 leading visionaries in science and technology. ■

Online Expansion

For a growing number of students, brick-and-mortar university classrooms are being replaced by home computers.

As a result, U.S. colleges and universities are recognizing the need for additional online degree and course offerings, and Angelo State is no exception. ASU currently offers online courses in almost every subject and online degree programs in nursing, curriculum and instruction, business administration, psychology, security studies and border security.

"I know that if we don't go down this road – carefully so – it's like being on the freeway and going 30 mph while everybody else is going 80," said Dr. Nancy Allen, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. "They'll pass us by."

Allen was in at the beginning of the move toward computer-based education about 20 years ago when she directed ASU's developmental English program. In addition to gathering in a classroom at a scheduled time, students could access the courses on their own time through networked campus computers.

"You posted assignments there," Allen said, "and you could offer them in-depth discussion. You said, 'This is what's due tomorrow.' They could submit their papers online, and we graded them online. We presented research on how much better the developmental students engaged using the computers."

A few years later, ASU's nursing program launched the university's first online degree program, developed to allow working registered nurses to earn a bachelor's degree in their field.

"We were the first completely online RN-to-B.S.N. program in Texas," said Dr. Leslie Mayrand, College of Health and Human Services dean. "When we first started it, we were literally developing the courses

for the next semester while we were teaching the previous course."

ASU's College of Education was the next to enter the online world about a year later, focusing on master's degrees and professional certifications for working teachers and administrators.

"If you have face-to-face classes and you deal with public school employees, they almost always have something going on every day of the week," said Dr. John Miazga, College of Education dean. "In the past we tried Saturday classes; we've had evening classes forever, all of that, but online is better."

Mayrand and Miazga "were visionaries in online education at ASU," Allen said.

The largest number of ASU's online degree programs is offered through the Department of Security Studies and Criminal Justice. Originally funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Defense in 2010, available online degrees include bachelor's and master's in various fields of border security, cultural fluency, intelligence, security studies and criminal justice. Much like working nurses and teachers, military personnel and border security agents can study to advance their careers without leaving their posts.

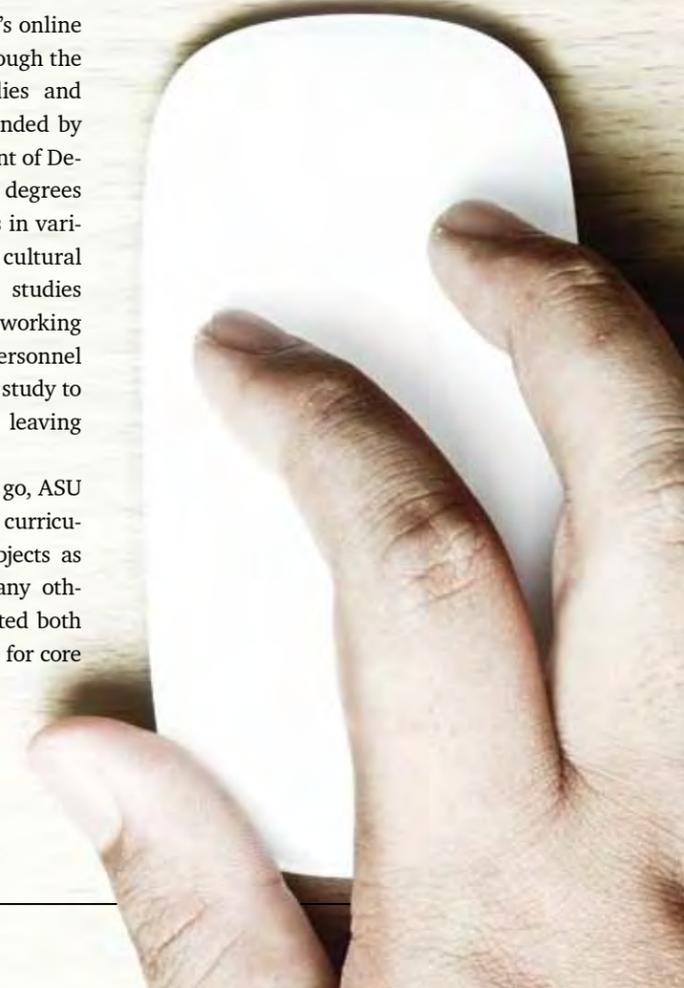
As far as individual courses go, ASU offers the state-mandated core curriculum online, including such subjects as math, history, English and many others; however, students are limited both in the choices available to them for core completion as well as to the capacity of online offerings.

"It's all available online now," said Dr. Paul Swets, College of Arts and Sciences dean, "but we're ramping

that up so we'll have more capacity in the online courses by fall of 2014."

Having the core curriculum online not only allows students to tailor their schedules around work, but also offers an answer to the age-old dilemma of choosing between two or more courses offered at the same time.

"We have students who have jobs," Swets said. "We also have programs with just a single section and you have to be in that course at 10 a.m. So if that conflicts with some other course you want to do, it would be nice to have that online option." ■



Accolades Galore

A multitude of national recognitions came ASU's way in the fall, saluting Angelo State achievements in everything from intramurals to academics and from student unions to veterans services.

ASU was named to the BestColleges.com 2013-14 list of the **50 Best Colleges for Intramural Sports**, based on the number of intramural sports, the quality of team management and coaching, and the survey responses from current students. More than 2,000 ASU students participate in intramural sports throughout the fall and spring semesters.

The College of Graduate Studies was named one of the **Top 50 Online Graduate Programs** in the U.S. for the 2012-13 academic year by GraduatePrograms.com, an online guide that recognizes higher education graduate programs, based on student evaluations. Overall, ASU's online graduate program is ranked No. 18 nationally. Programs are rated by more than 15,000 students enrolled in more than 500 different online graduate programs. Students rate their respective programs using a 10-star system, with one being the worst and 10 the best. ASU's average ranking was 8.72 stars.

The Houston Harte University Center was named one of

the **25 Most Amazing Student Union Buildings in the U.S.** by BestCollegeReviews.org, an independent online college and university ranking guide. Overall, ASU's University Center was ranked No. 22 nationally and represented the only Texas institution in the top 25. The rankings encompass numerous factors, including architectural distinction and student satisfaction.

For the first time, ASU was named one of the nation's **120 Best Colleges for Veterans** by the Military Times organization in its "Best for Vets" college rankings for 2014. Angelo State was ranked No. 39 out of 86 four-year institutions on the list. The "Best for Vets" rankings are based on a 150-question survey analysis of university offerings for veterans and take into account such factors as service member enrollment, percentage of tuition covered by the G.I. Bill and availability of specific programs for military and veteran students.

The Military Times honor complements the "Military Friendly School" designation ASU has received for the fifth consecutive year from *G.I. Jobs* magazine, which serves military personnel transitioning into civilian life.

Other recognitions included *Princeton Review's* list of best colleges nationally (See story, Page 5) and the *Chronicle*

of *Higher Education's* list of 2013 Great Colleges to Work For, as reported in the fall issue of *ASU Magazine*.

Record Grad Enrollment

ASU's graduate enrollment set another record for the 2013 fall semester while undergraduate numbers declined from 2012 levels, resulting in an overall enrollment of 6,536, the fourth highest ever for the university.

Graduate enrollment continued its record upswing with 990 students signing up for graduate courses, 12.5 percent more than the 880 reported last fall. The 2013 fall graduate enrollment marked the eighth consecutive long semester in which the College of Graduate Studies has set an enrollment record.

Total 2013 fall enrollment was down 352 students, or 5.1 percent, from the 2012 total of 6,888, the second highest in school history. Undergraduate enrollment for last fall was 5,546, down 462, or 7.6 percent, from the 6,008 undergraduates reported in 2012.

ASU's enrollment figures are based on totals at the end of the 20th class day.

Comparisons by classification for the fall 2013 and 2012 enrollments with the percentage change were: freshman, 1,589, 1,830, -13.1 percent; sophomore, 1,095, 1,283,

-14.6 percent; junior, 1,191, 1,253, -4.9 percent; senior, 1,525, 1,494, 2 percent; unclassified, 148, 146, 1.3 percent; master's, 921, 820, 12.3 percent; doctoral, 69, 60, 15 percent; and total, 6,536, 6,888, -5.1 percent.

ASU's fall enrollment included students from 44 other states and 27 countries. Texas residents attending ASU this past fall came from 220 of the state's 254 counties.

Flying High

Air Force ROTC Detachment 847 at ASU has been named the 2013 High Flight winner as the top medium-sized detachment in the Southwest Region for the second consecutive year and the fourth time in the past seven years.

As the winner of the region, which includes 14 medium-sized detachments in 11 states from Mississippi to Hawaii, ASU's 110-member detachment qualified to compete against winners of the three other regions in the national Headquarters AFROTC Right of Line competition.

High Flight honors are based upon the cadets' university activities, community participation, military preparedness and success in meeting AFROTC goals in academics, fitness and retention.

Well Done

ASU's Meat Judging Team finished third out of 17 teams and produced the top-scoring individual contestant at the 2013 American Royal Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest last fall in Omaha, Neb.

One of only two teams not from a Division I university, the ASU team scored 3,984 points to finish behind Texas A&M University (4,038 points) and Texas Tech (4,020) in the overall standings. ASU junior Clay Kelley of Ballinger was the high scoring individual with 1,038 points, finishing ahead of more than 60 other competitors.

In the team event standings, ASU posted seven top-five rankings, finishing second in Placings; third in Beef Grading, Pork Judging, Specifications and Reasons; and fifth in Lamb Judging and Overall Beef. ASU also finished sixth in Beef Grading.

Individually, Kelley finished first in Overall Beef and Reasons, tied for first in Pork Judging and Beef Judging, second in Beef Grading and ninth in Beef Judging.

Teacher Ed Honor

The Teacher Education Department has been honored by the Texas-based Quest for Quality program for ASU's joint initiative with the San Angelo Independent School District (SAISD) to involve ASU students in the

local Head Start/Early Head Start program.

The initiative in field-based placements for students enrolled in ASU's Applied Child Development course was launched during the 2012-13 school year and is led by Dr. Sandra Maxedon, assistant professor of early childhood education. Quest for Quality cited the ASU program as an Exemplary Example of Field-Based Instructional Practice. Only five programs in Texas received that designation for the 2013 spring semester.

DOJ Grant

The Office of Student Services has been awarded a two-year, \$35,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to expand campus efforts in education, awareness and prevention of violence and sexual assault.

The grant is being awarded through the DOJ's Office on Violence against Women under its Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking on Campus program.

Audrey Wilson, ASU director of student services, will oversee the campus efforts funded by the grant, which will include collaborations with the Health Clinic and Counseling Center, Office of Housing and Residential Pro-

Blue & Gold Events

February 17 Civil War Lecture Series:

"Memory and Meaning: Civil War Memorials and Their Artistic Antecedents"

February 14-16, 21-22 Arts at ASU Musical:

"The Musical of Musicals, the Musical"

February 20 18th annual Writers Conference

in Honor of Elmer Kelton

March 6 College of Education: Symposium for Educators

April 4 Department of Agriculture: ASU Invitational

Career Development Contest

April 24-27, May 1-3 Arts at ASU Play:

"The House of Bernarda Alba"

May 9 Leadercast Angelo State: "Beyond You"

May 10 Commencement

Athletics schedules may be found at

www.angelosports.com

View the detailed ASU calendar of events at

www.angelo.edu/events

grams, Center for Student Involvement, University Police, Athletics Department, Faculty Senate and Staff Senate.

Cheer Up

ASU's cheerleading squad brought home multiple honors from the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) Cheer Camp at Texas State University in San Marcos last summer.

Competing against squads from 32 other colleges and

universities, the ASU cheerleaders took first place in the Cheer, Sideline and Game Day categories, and were awarded plaques in the Most Collegiate and Leadership categories.

Cheer Coach Brandy Quigley said the 16 members of ASU's squad had only two days of practice before competing at the camp, where they were also one of only four squads to earn a plaque for being "Game Day Ready." ■



Photo by Denny Meyer

Rodgers Award Honorees

During the fall semester, Suzanne Campbell, Dr. Shirley Eoff and Dr. Andy Wallace were named recipients of the 2012-13 Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Awards honoring outstanding staff, faculty and administrators at ASU.

Campbell, head of the West Texas Collection, received the Distinguished Staff Award. An ASU staff member since 1996, she was recognized for her knowledge of West Texas history, her willingness to help students and her overall commitment to preserving the region's history and making it available to students and the public.

Eoff, Honors Program director and professor of history, earned the Distinguished Faculty Award. She was recognized for her passion to students through both her love of history and her dedication to the Honors Program. Under her guidance, honors students have received multiple national awards, further enhancing ASU's academic prestige. She joined the faculty in 1981.

Wallace, dean of the Freshman College and a professor of physics, received the Distinguished Administrator Award. As founding dean of ASU's Freshman College, Wallace was recognized for his leadership and vision in overseeing

the new administrative unit. An ASU employee since 1989, Wallace is known for his leadership, friendliness and persistent optimism.

The Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Awards were created by San Angelo native and former Angelo State student Gary Rodgers and his wife, Pat. They established the awards and provide a \$2,500 honorarium for each recipient.

Corey Owens

Corey Owens, instructor of animal science and research associate in the ASU Agriculture Department, was named the 2013 Outstanding Young Range Professional by the Texas Section, Society for Range Management (TSSRM).

The award is presented annually to a TSSRM member who has demonstrated extraordinary potential and promise as a range management professional. Owens received his award at the recent TSSRM Annual Meeting in Fort Worth.

According to his nomination letter, "Corey's accomplishments to range management cover all facets of the Society for Range Management. He excels in research, teaching, and public and professional service, as well as public outreach. In essence, he exemplifies the definition of an Outstanding Young Range Professional."

A member of ASU's agriculture faculty since 2007, Owens earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science at Angelo State. In addition to teaching classes, he mentors graduate student research projects and oversees management decisions at ASU's Management, Instruction and Research Center.

Owens is the second ASU faculty member to be named TSSRM's Outstanding Young Range Professional. Dr. Cody Scott, professor of animal science, won the award in 2007.

Trey Moore

Donald "Trey" Moore, a junior in ASU's Honors Program, has been selected as a 2013-14 national Presidential Fellow by the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress (CSPC).

A political science major and philosophy minor from Colleyville, Moore will participate in a 10-month, non-resident fellowship. The 70 national fellows will attend two three-day conferences in Washington, D.C., to study the American political process and network with top policymakers and government leaders.

Moore's participation in the fellowship is being funded through the Alvin and Patricia New Honors Program Enhancement Fund, which was

created in 2008 through a \$250,000 donation to the ASU Honors Program by former San Angelo Mayor Alvin New and his wife, Patricia, who are both ASU alumni.

Karen Shumway

Dr. Karen Shumway of the business faculty has been named chair of the Board of Commissioners-Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Accreditation for the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

An associate professor of management and associate dean of ASU's College of Business, Shumway recently completed a year as chair-elect of the 13-member board and will now serve a one-year term as chair followed by one year as past chair.

The Baccalaureate/Graduate Degree Board of Commissioners convenes quarterly to review application materials for ACBSP member institutions in candidacy for accreditation. Degree programs in ASU's College of Business are accredited by the ACBSP.

Kirk Braden, Loree Branham

Dr. Kirk Braden and Dr. Loree Branham of the Agriculture Department have been awarded a three-year, \$270,000 grant from the U.S. Department of

Agriculture (USDA) for a new meat and food science student research and outreach project.

Awarded through the USDA's Hispanic Serving Institutions Education Grants program, the grant will fund a project titled "Developing Tomorrow's Meat and Food Scientists: A Program to Recruit and Retain Under-represented Students."

The project will target high school students in Texas Education Service Center Regions 15, 18, 19 and 20, which are headquartered in San Angelo, Midland, El Paso and San Antonio, as well as ASU undergraduate students.

The primary component of the grant project will provide distinctive research opportunities to participating students in the fields of meat and food science.

June Smith

Dr. June Smith of the communication faculty was recognized by the Texas Speech Communication Association (TSCA) at its 2013 conference for her long-time dedication to mentoring students and bringing them to TSCA conferences.

The TSCA Executive Council voted unanimously to rename the organization's Graduate Student Teaching Award as the TSCA June Smith Graduate Teaching Award. The award is given annually to a graduate stu-

dent for exemplary performance inside and outside the classroom.

A member of TSCA since 1975 and an ASU faculty member since 1991, Smith has served as the organization's president and executive secretary. Her previous TSCA honors include an Educator of the Year Award and an Outstanding Service Award. As a TSCA officer, she served on various Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board committees and testified regarding speech communication curriculum to the State Board for Educator Certification.

Chase Sauvage

Senior Charles "Chase" Sauvage was selected as the first participant in the ASU Department of Political Science and Philosophy's new Government and Public Service Internship Program in Washington, D.C.

A political science major from San Antonio, Sauvage spent the fall semester working as an intern for a member of the U.S. Congress. He stayed at the Texas Tech House and received an \$8,000 ASU scholarship to help defray Washington, D.C., living costs. ■



Photo by Danny Meyer

Dr. Won-Jae Lee with some of his South Korean recruits, (left to right) Jiwon Kang, Haneul Yim, Lee, Sangmin Kim, Hye-Eun Jang and Soomin Kim

by Tom Nurre

the world comes to ASU

“A frog in a well can only see a tiny part of the world. But if the frog gets out of the well, he can see the whole world.”

– Won-Jae Lee

In increasing numbers, students are traveling from abroad to attend Angelo State University.

For the second consecutive academic year, ASU set a new record for the number of international students on campus with 195 enrolled this past fall semester. Representing 27 countries, they included 49 returning students, 113 new students and 33 in the Center for International Studies’ (CIS) English Language Learners’ Institute. The vast majority of them came from South Korea, mainly through the efforts of Dr. Won-Jae Lee of the ASU criminal justice faculty.

“There is a cultural and financial benefit for ASU to attract international students,” Lee said. “Over the last fiscal year, we had 235 students from South Korea alone. As we try to grow our student body, we need to bring in more students from outside the U.S.”

In addition to his faculty role, Lee is director of the CIS’s Asian Division. Over the last several years, he has worked tirelessly to bring South Korean students to ASU for the benefit of the entire campus community.

“We are living in a ‘global village,’” Lee said. “Korea is a small country without many natural resources. In Texas you can put a straw in the ground and drink oil, but Korea is not like that. The way for Korea to survive is global education. The students are very motivated to have global experiences and learn the language and culture of the U.S. so they can be global leaders.”



“Also, Texas students often don’t ever move out of Texas,” he continued. “So it is important to bring the international setting to them. When they interact with international students, they learn something new and different. Through having diverse people on campus, all students have the opportunity to learn and appreciate the differences between them.”

In 2011, Lee was instrumental along with then-ASU President Joseph C. Rallo in formulating a 1+3 agreement with Sejong University of South Korea to send students to ASU. While that agreement did bring in some South Korean students, it has since fallen victim to a new South Korean government policy negating such private contracts between universities. Not to be deterred, Lee last fall returned to South Korea with Rallo, now vice chancellor for academic affairs for the Texas Tech University System, to sign a new 0+4 agreement with the Korean education company YBM.

“Dr. Rallo and I went to YBM headquarters to visit with Dr. Min, the president and CEO,” Lee said. “We had a signing

ceremony for the new 0+4 agreement. The Korean students will get educated in English at YBM and then come to ASU to finish their education. We expect to have at least 100 Korean students per year come to ASU through this program.”

Those efforts fell under Lee’s other title, executive assistant for Asian relations to the vice chancellor for academic affairs. However, Lee’s role in the ASU international community is not simply about getting Asian students to campus.

“I’m also in charge of the care and supervision of our Asian students, both academically and in life,” Lee said. “If a student is injured or sick, I take them to be cared for. I’ve had to go to Dallas to help students replace their lost passports. There are many tiny details I have to handle while also working on overall system strategies and networking to bring in more students.”

Another way Lee takes care of the Asian students is to help them integrate into the campus community. Generally acknowledged as the best badminton player on campus, he arranges games between himself and a variety of students to facilitate communication and interaction.

“It helps Korean and American students hook up with each other doing something fun,” Lee said. “Then after we play, they are more comfortable getting together at other places as well, like maybe the cafeteria or university center. I get challenged by students all the time and I just say, ‘Let’s go!’”

That personal touch also extends into Lee’s criminal justice classes, where he recognizes the importance of his role as an international faculty member.

“I have both an Eastern and Western educational background,” Lee said, “so I can compare and contrast the criminal justice systems and practices of Korea and the U.S. I can also pass along new ideas from other countries and talk about the different philosophies that brought about the different systems.”

“I tell my students, ‘Don’t be a frog in a small well,’” he continued. “A frog in a well can only see a tiny part of the world. But if the frog gets out of the well, he can see the whole world.”

It also helps that Lee knows well the issues faced by international students and their American counterparts. Following his freshman year at Dongguk University in South Korea and two years of compulsory military service, he was ensconced in a Buddhist temple preparing for an advanced government entrance exam when his plans got sidetracked by the opportunity to study abroad at Michigan State University.

“Compared to my home university, the lectures were much more substantial,” Lee said. “I was really impressed and picked up a lot of important knowledge. Then when I got back to Korea, I started thinking that maybe I should become a professor. U.S. criminal justice education was much more advanced than ours, and I wanted to work on that discrepancy.”

After earning his bachelor’s degree at Dongguk University, Lee returned to the U.S. as the first student in Sam Houston State University’s accelerated criminal justice doctoral program. In addition to his studies, he also facilitated international exchange trips for Korean law enforcement officials, criminal justice faculty and students.

“I was very proud of what I was doing,” Lee said, “because seeing is believing. Showing them a better criminal justice model was a great way to help develop the Korean system and practices. First, it was the professionals who came, then the scholars and then the students.”

When ASU found itself needing criminal justice faculty in 2004, Dr. Casey Jones, now chair of the Security Studies and Criminal Justice Department, personally recruited Lee from SHSU.

“He came to SHSU and got me,” Lee said. “My dean, Richard Ward, told him that if he took me, I would help bring Korean students to ASU. Dr. Jones interviewed lots of candidates besides just me, and he very sneakily watched my lectures from outside the classroom. He told me he liked my interaction with the students. It wasn’t until later that he told me what the dean had said.”

Luckily for ASU, Ward’s prediction has been proven accurate, and the campus community is the better for it. ■



Global Outreach

by Tom Nurre

Most of Angelo State's international students do not find their way to ASU without help; often, someone has to go get them.

That task falls to the staff of ASU's Center for International Studies (CIS) and primarily on Meghan Pace, assistant director and coordinator of international student and scholars services. Over the last several years, she has made recruiting trips through such organizations as the Institute for International Education (IIE) and EdUSA to Asia, the Caribbean, Central America, the Middle East and South America in the hopes of enticing students to enroll at ASU.

"There may be a small number of students who find out about ASU on their own," Pace said. "But, because of our recruiting efforts – talking to school counselors, working through EdUSA and IIE, and our various website and database updates – that is how the majority of our international students learn about ASU. We also get great word-of-mouth recruiting through our international students when they return home."

"ASU admittedly is not known worldwide," she added, "so we have to go to other countries, talk to the people there and tell them about our university. If we don't, they are not going to pay any attention to us. If we just send out brochures, they will get read. But without someone actually there to talk to students and counselors about our programs, scholarships, benefits and other opportunities, ASU can often get lost in the mix."

For the fall semester of 2013, ASU enrolled a record 195 international students from 27 countries. Having international students on campus benefits the university both culturally and economically.

"It is important for a campus such as ASU to promote diversity in our student body," said Dr. Sharynn Tomlin, CIS direc-

tor. "Our students need exposure to international students in order to better understand different cultures and countries. This is a critical responsibility that ASU has to our students in order to educate them as globally competent employees and citizens."

"Our international students also generate a significant amount of tuition and fees, plus formula funding for the university," she added. "The economic impact is also felt in the local community. In the IIE's latest study, the economic impact of international students to San Angelo in 2011-12 was over \$2.1 million with only 93 international students. In the fall, we had 195, so the impact for the next reporting period will be significantly more."

While many of those international students came through a cooperative agreement with several South Korean universities, most of the remaining students found ASU because of Pace's recruiting efforts.

Her first step every year is to decide where to go looking for students. To aid in that decision, Pace and the rest of the CIS staff utilize country, student and demographic data compiled annually by IIE.

"We try to look at countries that are sending students to the U.S., but aren't completely saturated with attention from other schools," Pace said. "Sometimes we base our decisions on which countries are contacting us inquiring about particular programs. We also look at countries where ASU has alumni we can contact. We have to wade through a lot of data and weigh lots of factors when picking where to concentrate our efforts."

For most of 2013, those efforts were targeted at Brazil, Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, and Vietnam on trips coordinated through either IIE or EdUSA.

"They know how to advertise, market and generate student interest in the countries we

visit," Pace said. "I also make individual trips to visit particular schools or contacts, but the college fairs organized by IIE and EdUSA are great places to start. I like to participate in those fairs, but then I always plan an extra day or two, if I can, to visit some high schools or try to connect with ASU alumni in the area. It just depends on where I'm at."

The first place Pace found herself in March was Vietnam for college fairs in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and Da Nang, as well as for visits to several high schools.

"I had not done that before in Vietnam because it is really hard to get the high schools to let you visit," Pace said. "So I really enjoyed that because we got to visit some of the top-notch high schools, and I actually think it worked out better than our college fair visits."

Next up was a first-ever ASU visit to Brazil and Chile, where Pace participated in large college fairs in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Santiago, Chile, each attended by more than 1,000 prospective students.

"In many countries, the students are locked in on wanting to be doctors, lawyers or engineers," Pace said. "But in Brazil, one of their main interests was computer and video game design, so I got to talk to them about our program at ASU, and hopefully generated some interest in that. It was refreshing to be in a country where the students were interested in art, music, kinesiology and other programs besides just medicine, law and engineering."

In Brazil, Pace also made contact with representatives of the Texas Tech University Independent School District (TTUISD), which has partnerships with more than 40 Brazilian high schools to provide Texas high school curriculum to their students.

"We are partnering with TTUISD to visit their partner high schools and recruit those students," Pace said. "They are following a curriculum that was designed by Texas high school teachers, so when they graduate, they will have a Texas high school diploma issued through TTUISD. Texas Tech is already recruiting those students, and we are not trying to undercut them. We are just offering an alternative to students who may want to study on a smaller campus or have a different experience."

About 160 students subsequently visited Texas Tech through that program last summer, and also made a side trip to ASU.

"Both the students and counselors said they had not been that excited to visit ASU," Pace said. "But after their visit, they commented on the wonderful campus, friendly people and surprising programs. They actually ended up having to rush off because they spent more time here than they planned, asking questions and wanting more information. So we now have a nice two-way communication going on with them, and I'm really hoping to develop that."

Pace was also joined in Brazil and Chile by Mary Hunter, coordinator of ASU's English Language Learners' Institute (ELLI). Hunter was there to learn the ropes so she can begin making her own recruiting trips to bring additional students to the ELLI, ASU's English as a second language program.

"My primary responsibility is to recruit for the ELLI," Hunter said. "But, there is the overall outlook that I am also trying to help recruit for the university. So there is an advantage to Meghan and me knowing each other's goals so that we can divide and conquer."

"Most of our students," Pace added, "from non-English-speaking countries go through the ELLI first. We want our students to come in, have a great experience on campus through our ELLI and then hopefully join the ASU student body full time. When we talk about recruiting, having the ELLI makes a huge difference."

Trinidad and Tobago was the next port of call in October for another large EdUSA college fair and efforts to reconnect with ASU alumni.

"We used to always have students from Trinidad and Tobago, but we haven't had any the last couple of years," Pace said. "We got a new freshman from Trinidad last fall, so we were excited to go there and re-establish those connections."

For her final trip of 2013, Pace joined the Study Texas Consortium (STC) for a jaunt to Columbia.

"Once a year, we plan a trip for Study Texas members to go somewhere that every-

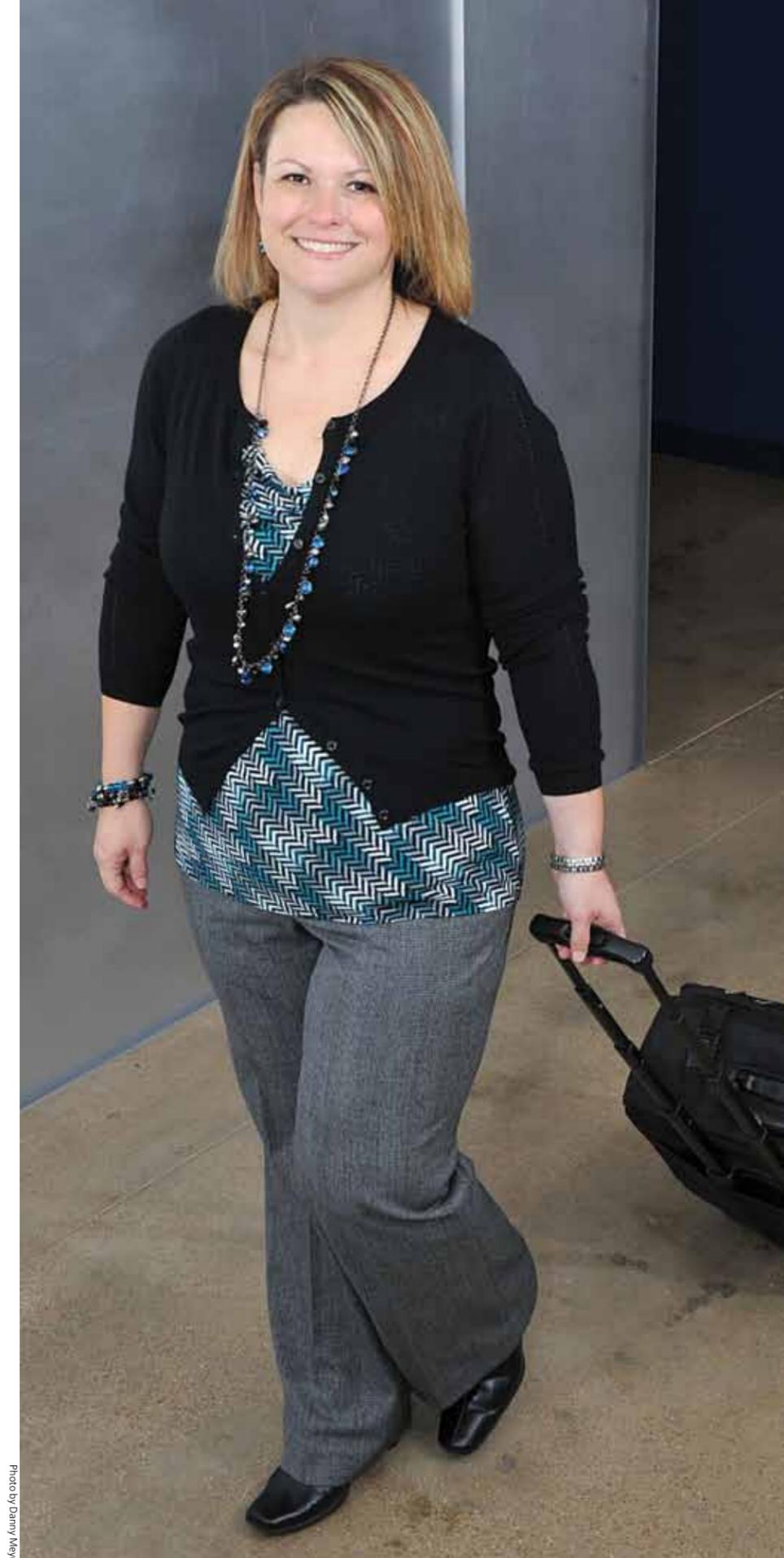


Photo by Danny Meyer

Global – continued on page 43

Brothers in Badminton

by Tom Nurre



Drs. Mansoo Ko, Han-hung "Floyd" Huang and You-jou Hung

The physical therapy (PT) program brought them to Angelo State, and their fondness for badminton brought them together.

They are Drs. Han-hung "Floyd" Huang, You-jou Hung and Mansoo Ko, all PT faculty who hail from the Far East, and each with his own distinctive path from home to ASU.

Huang and Hung are both natives of Taiwan and earned their physical therapy bachelor's degrees at Chung Shan Medical University, but that is where their similarities pretty much end. Hung is not married while Huang and his wife, Pei-Jung Cho, have two young children, son Shang-En and daughter Hsiang-Ching. Huang was born in Taipei, population about 7 million, while Hung was born in Zhunan, population less than 100,000. Huang decided to study abroad for his advanced degree on the advice of a college advisor, but Hung had a long-standing urge to see more of the world.

"From a very young age, I was very 'westernized' compared to my peers and classmates," Hung said. "The Eagles have been my favorite band forever and I only watch American movies, especially the epic movies. I've always been intrigued by the culture. I'm not saying I don't enjoy the Asian culture, but it was always my goal from an early age to come to the U.S. to study and work."

Hung earned a master's degree at the University of North Carolina and his doctorate at the University of Iowa. Conversely, Huang went straight into the doctoral pro-

gram at the University of Kansas Medical Center. ASU is the first faculty posting for both of them, but again for disparate reasons.

"San Angelo has a very family friendly environment," Huang said. "When I applied to ASU, I had a 1-year-old baby and I was looking for a good place to raise a family. Now I have two small children, so it's even more important."

"I had applied to other schools," Hung said, "but ASU was the first one to give me a job offer. I was also most impressed by the program director and faculty. We have a great work environment and I very much enjoy the small-town feel of San Angelo, which is similar to where I went to college in Iowa City and Chapel Hill, N.C."

Hung's route to ASU also took quite a bit longer as he spent 10 years getting his doctorate in Iowa.

"I set a goal to visit every state in the U.S. before I turned 40," Hung said. "So while I was studying for my doctoral degree, I spent a lot of time working teaching-assistant jobs to make as much money as I could so that during the summers I could travel all around the U.S. Traveling gives me great pleasure, and not many people can say they have been to every state in the U.S., but I can."

The third member of the Far East trio, South Korea native Ko, spent five months studying English in Sydney, Australia, and a year as an exchange student from his hometown Daegu University to the University of

Iowa in preparation to pursue his advanced degree in the U.S.

"Most of the PT faculty in South Korea got their degrees in subjects like biology or kinesiology," Ko said. "But, no one had a degree in physical therapy or rehabilitation science. In terms of academic capacity in PT, South Korea is far behind the U.S., so I am part of really the first generation to study abroad in a physical therapy Ph.D. program."

Ko and his wife, Dr. Jung-Eun Lee of the ASU psychology faculty, have a young son, Daniel. ASU is Ko's second faculty post after spending several years at the University of Texas at El Paso.

"At that time, UTEP only had a PT master's degree program," Ko said. "ASU was transitioning from a master's program to a doctoral program, so that was exciting to me. Our program here is well supported by the university and I get to be more involved in campus life. We also have really quality faculty here."

The one thing Huang, Hung and Ko all have in common is badminton, a wildly popular sport in their Far East homelands. Along with Dr. Won-Jae Lee of the criminal justice faculty, they regularly play rousing matches in the ASU Center for Human Performance with Lee the acknowledged champion.

"It was a way for us to get to know each other through a common interest," Huang said. "Dr. Lee could probably be a professional, and he trained Dr. Ko before I got here. Dr. Hung and I just play for fun, but Dr. Lee is like the master and we are his students."

"Dr. Lee is the king," Hung said. "Dr. Huang is taller and younger than me, so he is a bit better than me. I think I'm actually the worst. I like to do weight training and cardio training, but it is more fun to play badminton."

Ko added, "Dr. Lee is the top player. When we play, he usually wins. But, when I play our beginners, Floyd and You-jou, I can usually win fairly comfortably. I don't think I've ever lost a game to them."

On a more serious note, the trio also agrees about the key role each plays as international faculty on the ASU campus.

Badminton – continued on page 43

Academic Ambassador

Teacher, administrator, ambassador and professor, Dr. Randolph Peters has done them all.

An assistant professor of French in Angelo State's Department of English and Modern Languages, Peters joined the ASU faculty in 2009 as the next step in a career that has taken him to several continents and survived one of the most infamous natural disasters in U.S. history.

Raised on the Caribbean island of Trinidad, Peters earned a bachelor's degree in French and Spanish at the University of the West Indies. He then headed to Europe for his master's and doctoral degrees at the Université de Bordeaux in France. The scholarship that helped pay for his education required a subsequent five years of government service in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

"I wanted to work for the university," Peters said, "but the only opening was in the secondary school system."

Banished to secondary school, Peters taught French and Spanish, and later served as a vice principal and principal.

"I enjoyed the experience and administration," he said. "I was overqualified, but at the same time I got exposed to the ills of our education system."

A desire to correct those ills propelled Peters into politics. He served a term in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago and, in 1988, was named ambassador to Nigeria.

"It was a life-changing experience," Peters said. "The amount of energy, of human capital, is palpable. Yet at the same time, the waste of that energy, the corruption is everywhere."

"As a black person, seeing the systems, the chieftaincies, you can get an insight into how it was before the Europeans came," he continued. "The concept of family, of extended family, of the social hierarchy in which everybody plays their role, these are all part of it. My experience of Africa was really comprehensive, both the negative and the positive."

When a political power shift in Trinidad ended his ambassadorship, Peters returned to his dream of working at a university, and in 1994 landed a position as associate dean of global studies at Dillard University in New Orleans.

"I taught part time, but I was really brought in to internationalize the campus," Peters said. "Anything international, I was the point person."

Peters became a fixture at Dillard, but then Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in 2005.

"It changed the equation," Peters said. "The population shrank and didn't recover. Dillard started downsizing programs, among them French and study abroad."

As a result, Peters was eventually forced to move on, and Dillard's loss became ASU's gain.

"Teaching in San Angelo is no different than in New Orleans, really," he said. "You are astonished at what the students don't know, what they need to know. But, we have to realize they have been bombarded their whole lives by information. It's our job as teachers to link it up for them, help make it relevant."

In addition to teaching ASU French and Spanish classes, Peters recently began teaching English to immigrant workers as a volunteer at a local church. He also earned a master's degree in Spanish in 2013 after two summers of study in Spain. Despite the fact that his wife, Priscilla, remains in New Orleans working to restore their home that was nearly destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, Peters continues to live his dream at ASU.

"I love teaching," he said. "It's stimulating, it's fulfilling. You might be teaching the same class year after year, but every single year is a different experience. Teaching these young students keeps me young." ■



As a local church volunteer, Dr. Randolph Peters teaches English to Yessica Razo.

Philosophical Differences

Dr. Susana Badiola sometimes finds that being a “foreigner” at Angelo State is actually an advantage.

An associate professor of philosophy, the Spanish national feels that having a different background helps her interactions with her mostly American students.

“Being a foreigner, I ask them things like, ‘Why do you think U.S.A. is the country of freedom?’” Badiola said.

“The students don’t feel I’m attacking their view,” she added, “but they have to think about why they believe what they believe so they can explain it to me, an outsider. I think, in that sense, it’s an advantage.”

Though a self-proclaimed outsider, Badiola has been right on the inside as ASU’s philosophy program has grown from only offering a minor when she arrived in 2004 to now offering a Bachelor of Arts degree and being a full partner in the Department of Political Science and Philosophy.

“When I came here, philosophy was only available as a minor,” she said. “The philosophy program has grown and the student Philosophy Club is very active. They organize events, go to philosophy conferences. That wasn’t here when I arrived.”

“Students in general, because they haven’t been exposed to philosophy, didn’t even consider it as a major,” she added. “Once they’re exposed, it’s easy for them to like it or not. And, a philosophy degree opens doors to a lot of different careers, including law, medicine, business and education.”

Being a foreigner, though, has also come with a few disadvantages that Badiola has had to overcome. While she enjoys the ASU class settings that are much less formal than the classes she taught while earning her doctorate at Universidad Complutense in her native Madrid, her Spanish students had already been required to study philoso-

phy in high school. That meant she did not have to start from scratch like she does in her introductory ASU classes.

“At ASU, one of the biggest challenges I had was I had never worked with students who know nothing about philosophy,” she said. “I became aware of the philosophical jargon I was relying on and had to learn to define basic philosophical concepts.”

An even greater adjustment was the move from Madrid to rural Ballinger, where Badiola and her husband, Rodney Stephens, an associate professor of English at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, are raising two toddlers.

“In the beginning, I was in a state of shock,” Badiola said. “You move from a city of 3 million people to a town that looks like something from a western movie. It was shocking, but in a good way.”

“Living in a rural area has been a new adventure,” she added. “It has helped me with the adjustment because I was not asking for what I could not get. It’s so different; it doesn’t even allow me to miss what I had. I feel we have a very good quality of life.”

Their life together began when they met as undergraduates at St. Louis University in Missouri. Badiola got there through the university’s campus in Madrid.

“I had the opportunity to explore, to experience another country,” Badiola said. “I’m very glad I did that.”

Stephens had already accepted a job at Howard Payne when he encouraged Badiola to apply at ASU.

“With two professors in the humanities, it’s not easy to find full-time jobs,” Badiola said. “We’ve been very happy to be so lucky, both teaching what we love.”

“I’ve always loved philosophy,” she added. “I’ve always been curious about the world about me.” ■

As a youth growing up in Jordan, Dr. Jamal Husein dreamed of visiting the United States.

What the now 50-year-old never dreamed was that he would spend half his life in the U.S., with the past 11 years as an Angelo State professor of economics.

“I did not intend or plan to stay here,” Husein said. “I thought I would finish my studies, experience the American way of life and then go back home to teach at one of the Jordanian universities. Obviously, that changed over time and I am so happy and grateful for that.”

Husein’s journey to the U.S. began as a way to further his education after earning a bachelor’s degree at Yarmouk University in Jordan. His family wanted him to be close to relatives in the New York area, but not in the city itself because of its reputation. A Yarmouk professor recommended the University of New Haven in Connecticut as a good school in a good area.

“At a professional level,” Husein said, “the U.S. was on the top list because of the reputation, the prestige and the value of American higher education.”

While earning his Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) at New Haven, Husein was again counseled by a professor who recommended his alma mater of Utah State University for Husein to get his doctorate in economics.

“I always wanted to do my Ph.D.,” Husein said. “I always wanted to be a college professor.”

During his doctoral studies at Utah State, Husein met his wife, Karla, a native of Honduras, through the university’s international student organization. He also worked as a research assistant and later an instructor, which reaffirmed his desire to teach.

Nevertheless, after earning his doctorate, he was lured by the income potential to work

in business, first at AT&T in New Jersey, then at the national accounting firms of Deloitte & Touche and Arthur Andersen in California.

“But after a year or two, I realized how much I wanted to teach,” Husein said.

So, he started applying to universities across the nation. At Angelo State, he met Dr. Norman Sunderman, an accounting professor, and Dr. Murat Kara, an economics professor from Turkey, who soon became his colleagues.

“I was working 60 to 70 hours a week at Deloitte and we had a months-old baby girl I wasn’t getting to spend time with,” Husein said. “San Angelo seemed like a safe place and good for families. We had lived in cities on the east and west coasts. We decided it was time for us to go to a quiet, safe place with good schools.”

“We knew if things didn’t go well, we could always move,” he added. “Here we are, 11 years later.”

Husein specializes in international economics and the economies of the Middle East.

“That’s where the place I came from helps a lot,” he said. “Having been an international student, it does help as well. When I have international students, I really, really appreciate their presence in my classroom.”

He also enjoys giving ASU students their own international experience, having led two study abroad trips to Germany in 2004 and Scotland in 2009.

“Travel helps my students,” Husein said. “With international economic issues, like the strength or weakness of the dollar against other currencies, when the students see it firsthand, it really clicks.”

Basically, Husein has exceeded his original dreams.

“I love what I do,” he said. “I love the interaction with the students, making a difference.” ■



Dr. Susana Badiola



Dr. Jamal Husein



Binhong (Ben) Lin

China Connection

A native of Foshan, China, with its population of 7 million people, ASU senior Binhong (Ben) Lin never imagined he would end up going to college in a town with 6.9 million fewer inhabitants.

He did, however, always know he wanted to go to college in the U.S.

"In China, your last year of high school is all reviews and exams in preparation for the national college entrance exam," Lin said. "It's super competitive, and even if you score in the top percentage, you don't always get your first choice of college or even major. The U.S. has many more colleges, and there is stronger financial support. You also get to choose your major and switch anytime you want. Switching majors would be very difficult, if even possible, in China."

Despite both his parents being employed at a university in Foshan, his mom an English professor and his dad an administrator, they strongly supported Lin's decision to study in the U.S. When his dad took him to a college fair in the neighboring city of Guangzhou, population 13 million, Lin somehow picked Angelo State out of the multitude of universities in attendance.

"Meghan Pace, who works in ASU's international studies, was there promoting ASU," Lin said. "She told me about ASU's super-low tuition and Carr Scholarships, and that I could skip my last year of high school due to my high SAT scores. After I talked to her, I was almost certain I wanted to go to ASU, but then I had kind of changed my mind until she sent me the Honors Program materials."

Lin has repaid ASU's flexibility by becoming an exemplary member of the campus community. A chemistry major and Honors Program member, he also belongs to the Honors Student Association and Alpha Chi national honor society. He served

on the board of the local Adult Literacy Council through the Honors Program's Community Engagement Initiatives and last summer completed an Alvin and Patricia New Summer Internship conducting research with ASU alum Dr. Shivraj Sohur at Harvard University.

He has also done research with Dr. Christopher Hobbs, ASU assistant professor of chemistry, and presented the results at National Collegiate Honors Council, Great Plains Honors Council, Alpha Chi and American Chemical Society conferences. And, he still finds time to do community service and participate in various campus activities, including the Conversation Partners program, helping other international students practice their English speaking skills.

Not surprisingly, Lin was included in the 2013 list of *Who's Who at American Universities and Colleges* and is quite satisfied with his choice to attend ASU.

"ASU is a really good university, especially the Honors Program," Lin said. "There are so many opportunities to take advantage of. I got to go to Boston to do cutting-edge neurological research at Harvard that was fully funded by the Honors Program, and that was a wonderful learning opportunity. The Honors Program also does a lot of social events and community service, so you get to meet a lot of people. We also get to serve on community boards."

"The fact that I did research," he added, "provided me the opportunities to present at several major conferences, so I got to travel to Philadelphia, Boston, Kansas City and Nashville for free! There are so many opportunities here at ASU. You just have to grab them!"

Scheduled to graduate in May, Lin plans to go on to graduate school in preparation for a career as a research scientist in green chemistry materials and energy. ■

Briton Brilliance

In Great Britain, the word "brilliant" is equivalent in slang to the American "cool" and can be used in just as many situations, including a description of ASU junior Alex Bryant.

Born in Great Britain to an American Air Force dad and British mom, Bryant took a circuitous route to ASU. After growing up in England, at age 14 he moved to Abilene when his dad was stationed at Dyess Air Force Base. He proceeded to graduate high school with honors in 2010 and then completed his core college courses at Cisco College. In 2012, he was one of only 100 students nationwide to win a National Buick Achievement Scholarship, which provides up to \$100,000 for him to pursue his education in graphic design.

"Usually, when other people do something like this they say, 'Oh, I've done everything. I've fulfilled my dream,' and then they stop and relax," Bryant said. "With me, I felt like, 'I got this scholarship, I wonder what else I can do to keep deserving it.'"

A couple of campus visits convinced Bryant that ASU was where he could both be himself and fulfill his potential.

"I had gone to Discover ASU and New Student Orientation, which was called SOAR at the time," Bryant said. "I'd go to other schools, and every time I kept coming back because I didn't feel like myself when I was there or comfortable with myself being there, and ASU was the perfect suit for me."

"I was nervous and thought everyone would make me feel like, 'He's special or he's unique,' because of where I came from originally," he added. "But we all treated each other in a unique perspective, individualized and personalized, which I really liked."

Since his arrival at ASU, Bryant has proven to be an unstoppable force. During his first semester in the fall of 2012, he noticed several of his peers in the graphic

design program were lamenting over what to do after graduation. To help them fully reap the benefits of their artistic talents, he founded the Graphic Design Club.

"I felt like we had all these people passionate about design," Bryant said, "and I said networking is so important for connecting with different people all over the campus, and especially with all these other organizations on campus. We can make them posters if they have meetings or special speakers and guests, and then we can connect with them. We can also reach out to the local community of San Angelo and beyond. We went to a few businesses and we did some logos, business cards, fliers and posters, and so on."

Bryant has also used his graphic design skills to promote campus events for the University Center Program Council, which he serves as vice president for marketing and communications.

But perhaps his most important influence is as a student leader for the New Student Orientation program. Reflecting back on his own path to and at ASU, he serves as a role model for new members of the campus community.

"The advice I usually give them is to get involved, work hard and always do the best in everything that they do," Bryant said. "At orientation they begin a quest, and then to the end, they're continuing that quest. So this becomes a long educational, career and personal journey so they can reach their own goals and aspirations. When they say the cliché, 'It's not the destination, it's the journey,' it's the progress. It's the growth that you have within yourself." ■



Alex Bryant

Lucky No. 3



Richard Amoateng

It is not always bad things that happen in threes.

Richard Amoateng's journey to Angelo State has involved three continents and three major decisions resulting in his current status as a junior biology major on a path toward medical school.

His first continent was Africa, where he was born and raised in Kumasi, Ghana. When he was 8 years old, his dad left Amoateng in his grandmother's care and headed to Dublin, Ireland, in 2001 to work during the "Celtic Tiger" economic boom. In 2008, Amoateng made his first major decision that led to his second continent.

"I wanted to join my dad in Ireland," Amoateng said. "So in 2008 when I finished school, I moved up there. I finished my last two years of high school there, so I was already kind of studying abroad."

"I got admitted to study accounting at one of the Irish universities because I took accounting in high school," he added, "but accounting is not what I wanted to do. I've always wanted to go to medical school."

Amoateng had also not lived in Ireland long enough to qualify for the free university tuition enjoyed by the country's citizens and would have had to wait another year before being eligible. That led to his second and third major decisions: to go to college in the U.S., on his third continent, and to enroll at ASU.

"A friend of my dad's in the U.S. told him I should go to college in Texas because it has some of the best schools," Amoateng said. "I used ApplyTexas.org and ASU was one of the first schools on the list. I applied to other Texas schools as well, and got accepted at sev-

eral, like Baylor and SMU. Baylor was going to cost about \$40,000 a year, so I decided on ASU for the low tuition, and Meghan (Pace) was very helpful with my application."

That third decision to attend ASU may have been Amoateng's luckiest as it landed him at a school with one of the highest medical school acceptance rates in the state for its pre-med graduates.

"That was something I learned after I got here," Amoateng said. "I also learned that we have one of the top physics programs in the country. So I knew I made a good choice."

He also discovered the ASU Honors Program and Student Endowment Scholarships that are helping him pay for his education. He is a member of the Beta Beta Beta and Alpha Chi national honor societies and the African Students Association, and a tutor in the Supplemental Instruction program. He has also studied Texas bats, doing research he hopes to publish.

In his limited spare time, he enjoys intramurals, particularly indoor soccer, which the rest of the world calls football, as he grew up an avid fan of the London-based Chelsea football club. He also likes to follow his favorite team through NBC's expanded coverage of English football.

"It's awesome!" Amoateng said. "You watch one game, and as soon as it's over they switch to another game. You can even watch one game on TV and another on your computer at the same time, and you don't have to pay extra for it. Chelsea is my team, the 'Blues!'"

Three continents, three decisions, one great outcome.

"I've gotten to meet a lot of great people," Amoateng said. "There were a lot of things about the U.S. and Texas that I didn't know, and now I've been exposed to them. Here at ASU I've gotten to experience a lot of different cultures and it has really been fun." ■

From Trinidad to Texas

One of the first things Mikheil Caraby had to do when he arrived at Angelo State was adjust his palate.

A freshman from Petit Valley in western Trinidad and Tobago, Caraby was just not prepared for the distinctive taste of San Angelo water.

"They told me at international student orientation that the water is perfectly safe to drink," Caraby said. "But it was still a drastic change from the water back home. Now I just drink filtered water."

"Back home, we also eat a lot of fresh food," he continued. "Here, I'm eating a lot of canned stuff and pre-cooked meals. That is a big difference."

Despite those early gastronomic issues, Caraby is gradually getting acclimated to his new home on the ASU campus.

"Trinidad is very Americanized, so everything here is very similar," Caraby said. "There might be a couple of things that are a bit strange to me, but the U.S. is the closest thing to home in terms of culture, even though the school system is different."

"The temperature here doesn't like me, though," he added. "It is either too hot or too cold, and that is a big shift for me. The first week I got here, I think I almost got heat stroke. Other people are like, 'But you're from the Caribbean,' and I say, 'Yes, but it has an island breeze.' It's just not the same."

Fortunately for ASU, Caraby passed up the "island breezes" of both Jamaica and England to go to college in the U.S. As a high school track star, he had visited those countries for track meets and received some college offers, but he had also heard about ASU from one of his coaches, former Rams

track athlete Derek Cardinez, so he started looking at schools in Texas. It was during that search that the persistence of Meghan Pace in ASU's Center for International Studies won out over the University of Houston.

"I got accepted to UH, but I felt they were treating me like just a number," Caraby said. "And ASU had Meghan, who was constantly messaging me about everything I asked. There were days when I didn't check my e-mail, and the next day I would find that she had sent me like four messages. I even told my mom about how much better Meghan treated me."

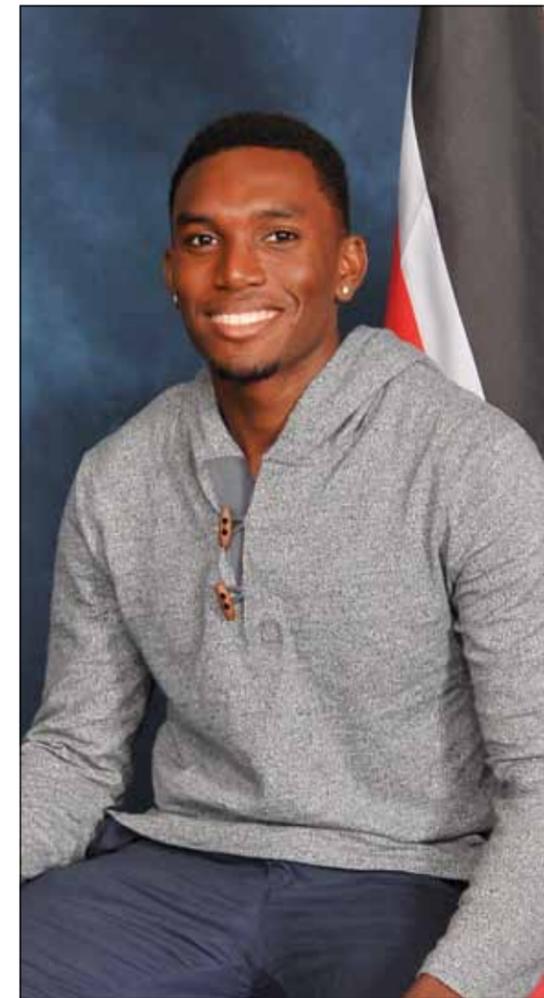
As a biology/chemistry major with plans to be a physician, Caraby was also impressed with ASU's academic offerings.

"ASU has a smaller population, but has a lot of success stories," he said. "I also found out that ASU is ranked among the top schools in Texas and has one of the highest medical school acceptance rates. I got offers from east coast schools as well, but decided I wanted to go to Texas and ASU."

Now that he has figured out the food and water situation, the rest is just gravy.

"I've made a lot of good friends here," Caraby said. "I also like having more control over my studying and my social life. I have everything I need right here, so I don't have to go off campus very often. It's a great school."

"I recommend ASU to my friends back home," he added, "and I think some of them would like to come here. I also have friends from home who are at bigger Texas schools, and I think some of them wish they had come to ASU as well." ■



Mikheil Caraby

Relating to Africa



Sasha Mabika

For junior finance major Sasha Mabika, Angelo State is all in the family.

A native of Zimbabwe, Mabika attends ASU with two cousins, Tanyaradzwa Mombeyarara and Simba Chavunduka, while one of her uncles, Tatenda Chavunduka, is a graduate.

"This has kind of become a family school," said Mabika, who credits her aunt, Rudo Mombeyarara, for the family tie to a university more than 9,000 miles from home. Ironically, Mombeyarara became aware of ASU while attending then-arch-rival Abilene Christian. Despite that and the fact that she now lives in North Carolina, she continues to urge family members to attend ASU.

"She's your No. 1 recruiter for Zimbabwe," Mabika said.

"ASU offers a very good scholarship," she added. "When we get the Carr Scholarship, we get to pay in-state tuition. That's a very positive thing for international students. I was accepted to other schools, but it came down to which offered the best financial support. Wisconsin was too cold anyway."

The family tie and the size of the campus make a big difference to Mabika.

"I think what's most important is it's a very small community and, coming from Zimbabwe, it's a very small country," she said. "We went to boarding school and people get very close. I wouldn't have liked a big school."

"Also, being close to Tanya, my cousin, is important," she continued. "She's like my sister. That's very helpful, especially for adjusting to the culture here."

In addition to her cousins, Mabika has a second "family" at ASU's Center for International Studies (CIS), where she works as a student assistant.

"I am working with an amazing group of people, my co-workers," she said. "I have a thousand moms here."

"My favorite part," she added, "is being able to meet international students, being able to help them, being able to share my experience and also having them share their experience with me. I get to eat a lot of good, different food."

Her ASU families also help Mabika overcome missing her father, mother and sister at home in Zimbabwe.

"But I also miss the food," she said. "It is very hard to adjust, and when you do start to enjoy it, you can't stop. It's not just the freshman 15, it's the freshman 20. I don't know what they put in the food here."

Whether through membership in the Delta Sigma Pi international business fraternity, helping organize a "Back to Your Roots" event for the African Students Association, or learning to kayak at the ASU Lake House, Mabika tries to expand people's understanding of Africa.

"I'm one to think the small things make a difference," she said. "I worked at Special Events, I worked at Chartwells, and now CIS. I always take the opportunity to talk to people, to tell them Africa is not what you see on TV. It's so much more than you think."

"People think that Africa's a country," she added, "and I say, 'No, it's a continent.'"

She understands some of the confusion, though, because she has experienced it herself.

"When I first arrived, I realized this wasn't the America I had seen on TV," Mabika said. "However, I am glad that San Angelo is the America I landed in."

After she graduates from ASU, Mabika plans to go to graduate school and would someday like to own her own business.

"It's been a good place to get my undergrad degree because you really study here, no distractions," she said. "Your teacher is constantly there for you. I honestly love ASU." ■

Learning the Lingo

Even at a young age, Asuka Hirano knew she wanted to learn to speak English.

Once she got older and realized that entrance into the business world of her native Japan would most likely require English language skills, her early intention became an imperative that eventually brought her to Angelo State University.

"I used to watch some American TV shows and I like to travel to different countries," Hirano said. "I traveled through Europe and realized that people there can speak English, even if it isn't their own language. I went through two years of college in Japan to study English and am now studying in America for my degree because I must have English to get a job."

While considering studying abroad from her home city of Chiba, population about 1 million, Hirano knew she wanted to live in a smaller city and attend a university that did not have a large Japanese student population. During her search for a quality English as second language (ESL) program, she found ASU through its English Language Learners' Institute (ELLI).

"I wanted to acquire English language skills," Hirano said, "but if you have a lot of other Japanese students around, you end up speaking more Japanese. I wanted to be away from that to better learn English."

"The ELLI consists of culture, projects and skills classes," she added. "You learn from speaking daily English and taking practice classes. You eventually can apply your English skills to college-level classes, and that is the goal."

A freshman marketing major and the only student from Japan on campus, Hirano began her ELLI classes in the fall of 2012,

and this past fall semester first enrolled in all regular ASU courses.

"Many Japanese colleges have big classrooms with many students," Hirano said. "But here at ASU, you can actually communicate with your professors. If you have questions, you can just ask them. ASU also has a very hospitable staff that can help if you need it."

"The lifestyle here is also very different," she added, "especially how you hang out with friends. Here, everybody just goes to a friend's house to hang out, but we don't do that in Japan. Also, in Japan you don't really need a car, but in San Angelo a car is necessary. I don't have a car here, so sometimes I have a difficult time going where I need to go."

Giving Hirano a helping hand when she needs it is her host family, Ron and Marsha Taylor, whom she met at ASU's Conversation Partners program designed to help international students practice their English.

"I have a sweet host family," Hirano said. "Whenever I need to go somewhere, they always help me. We also sometimes go to events in San Angelo and other cities. I have had many great experiences, thanks to them."

Hirano has also found kindred spirits in the International Students Association, and she has a particular affinity for the staff in ASU's Center for International Studies.

"I am the only Japanese student here, and they always recognize me," Hirano said. "They really care about me and always ask about my life and how my regular classes are going. That is a good feeling."

Scheduled to graduate in 2016, Hirano plans to take her well-honed English skills back home, where she hopes to work in marketing for a Japanese firm. ■



Asuka Hirano

Visit www.angelo.edu/ASUMagazine to learn about ASU's English Language Learners' Institute, the university's affiliation with the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program and more.

Global talent

International Student-Athletes

2013-14

Men's Basketball

Ice Asortse – Nigeria
Omari Guduel – Congo

Baseball

Jamie MacLean – Canada
Daniel McInnis – Canada

Football

Blair Smith – Canada

Men's Track and Field

Asael Ara – Israel
Alwin Flohr – Germany
Wala Gime – Papua New Guinea
Olisa Obiefuna – Nigeria

Women's Track and Field

Jasmine Ambowode – France
Kearah Danville – Jamaica

As the number of international students on the Angelo State campus continues to increase, it makes sense that some of them are student-athletes.

ASU has had a smattering of international athletes over the years, dating back to All-American and Olympic long jumper Joshua Owusu of Ghana in the 1970s. But now, more are suiting up than ever before for the Rams and Rambelles.

"It's a reflection of college in general," said Chris Beard, ASU men's head basketball coach. "There are more international students coming to the U.S. to get an education, as well as student-athletes."

For the 2013-14 academic and athletic year, ASU has 11 international student-athletes, up from seven in 2012-13. They include six track and field athletes, two men's basketball players, two on the baseball team and one on the football team. The most successful one is Kearah Danville of Jamaica. She won the long jump national title at the 2013 NCAA Division II National Indoor Track and Field Championships and was national runner-up at the D-II outdoor championships.

"We have always had a sprinkle of international athletes in my 27 years here," said James Reid, assistant athletic director and head track and field coach. "We try to get the best kid we can for that position we need filled. Sometimes they happen to be international."

Significant national academic recognition, including being named a "Best College" by *The Princeton Review*, along with athletic teams winning multiple national titles and making numerous regional post-season appearances in the past decade, have made ASU a more popular choice for international student-athletes. For its part, ASU welcomes them with open arms.

"We have always recruited internationally," Beard said, "because there are some really good players out there." ■

For Love of the Game

by Brandon Ireton

Canadian Blair Smith just cannot get enough of American football, an interest that has brought him from the "great white north" to the more moderate climes of Angelo State University.

"I always loved the game," Smith said. "The story goes, 'I learned to walk on a football field.' It has always been a part of my life. I tried to play when I was 9 years old, and I cried when I couldn't play, but I got right into it the next year."

In his native land, Blair naturally started playing Canadian-rules football, which has a different style of play, different rules and even different field dimensions than the American game. A Canadian football field is 110 yards long by 65 yards wide, and the goalposts are on the goal line instead of the end line. Canadian teams line up with 12 players instead of 11, and the offenses only have three downs to get another first down, rather than four.

Despite his early football experiences, Blair quickly embraced the American version.

"I was sick of the Canadian game," Blair said. "I always enjoyed the American game and had aspirations like any kid growing up for the best opportunity to further my career."

After just one season of college football in Canada, Smith transferred to New Mexico Junior College in Roswell, N.M., and then to ASU, where he is surrounded by Americans who love football as much as he does.

"It is a lifestyle here," Smith said. "You can see, even in the high school games, that it is huge. I can change the TV channel and it has updates on all the high school games. There is nothing like that in Canada."

"One of the biggest things," he added, "and my high school did a decent job of trying to recreate it, is the 'Friday Night Lights' thing. Most of my high school games were played in the afternoon, so a lot of the people in the community didn't come out to watch it and it isn't the same support. It is not the same."

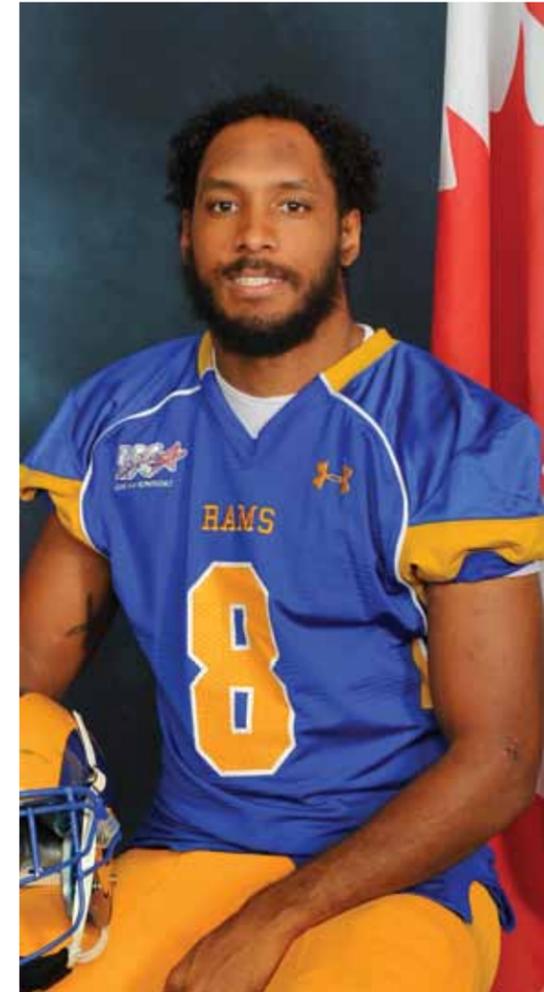
From his first glimpse of ASU, Blair knew that his long journey from Mississauga, Canada, to Roswell to San Angelo was going to be worth the effort.

"I really enjoyed the coaching staff and the guys when I came to visit," Smith said. "You could tell it was a close-knit family and everybody was joking around, poking fun. It was a really nice campus and the town was surprisingly big. Where I started university in Canada, it was really small, and last year I was in Roswell. This is quite a bit bigger than that. It is nice to see a city around the college."

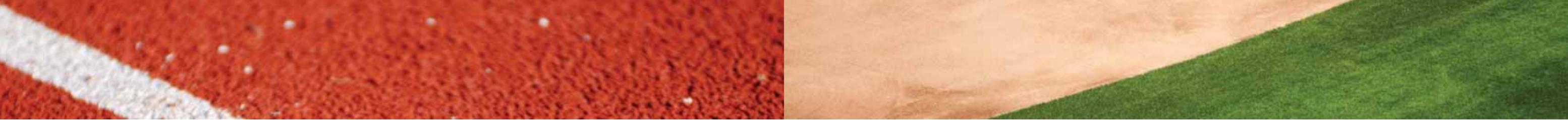
Originally recruited as a safety, Smith was shifted to linebacker and made his presence felt during the 2013 season, starting the majority of games and finishing among the team leaders in tackles. His main goal remains to continue playing football as long as possible, American style.

"I am still adjusting to the American game," Smith said. "I still have hesitation in my game. It is more downhill, especially with my position. I need to get that in my head. The game is a little more physical at times, and the U.S. has more athletes. We have great athletes in Canada, but it is more spread out, and here it is a level playing field." ■

Athlete photos by Danny Meyer



Blair Smith



Kearah Danville

Leap of Faith by Brandon Ireton

Since arriving at Angelo State, Kearah Danville has not only re-written the track and field record books, she has also found a second home.

The senior triple jumper grew up in Kingston, capital of the Caribbean island nation of Jamaica and a popular tourist destination.

"Jamaica is all about the beaches and trees," Danville said. "It is an island everybody would dream about going to, and the weather alone makes you want to stay."

Slightly smaller than Connecticut in land surface and populated by only about 2.9 million people, Jamaica is known worldwide for producing fantastic track and field athletes, and Danville is no exception. During her time at ASU, she has won an NCAA Division II national championship and two Lone Star Conference titles. She has also set new school records in both the indoor and outdoor triple jump.

"I have never seen my mom more proud," Danville said. "My mom, sister, my godmother and godfather, they are the most understanding people. They didn't expect this success. Since I have been here, I get to enjoy it more. I go to school and do track and field, but not because of the routine, because I enjoy it. They are very proud of me."

The first in her family to travel outside of Jamaica, Danville does not get to see her family during the school year because her mom is afraid to fly and her sister has yet to use her passport. But, while she misses them, she will probably not be going home anytime soon.

"Since last summer, because of the crime, I don't really want to go back," Danville said. "I want to go back for vacation and see family only. It is so hard to not see them for a year, but it is really not somewhere I want to stay. I don't feel like myself. Here, I feel more welcome and I am more open. If I had my family here I would be 100-percent comfortable."

To make up for not having her real family around, Danville has created a second family at ASU that includes other international track and field student-athletes who share the same struggle of being far from home.

"They are my closest friends," Danville said. "It makes me realize that we may be far from home, but we can still pull through this. They are my friends and family. When I am homesick, I know they are feeling the same thing."

A big dose of that good old West Texas hospitality that San Angelo and ASU are known for has also helped Danville get acclimated and concentrate her energies on her studies and the track.

"Everybody is so welcoming," Danville said. "When I first got here, I didn't have a good facial expression, but I have learned to understand to greet people with a smile. It is more like, 'you wake up and you have a bad day, but then you see someone smile at you and it changes your mood.' Everybody is pleasant and welcoming, and they have helped me feel more comfortable and at home." ■

Canadian Comeback

Jaime MacLean's first year in the U.S. certainly did not go as planned.

Instead of firing his 90 mph fastball for the Angelo State Rams baseball team in 2012, he spent his time rehabbing his left arm after "Tommy John" surgery and operating the scoreboard at Foster Field during the Rams' games.

"That wasn't the most fun I've ever had," MacLean said.

A left-handed pitcher from Nova Scotia, MacLean was recruited from Canada's second-smallest province by former ASU assistant coach Jerod Goodale, who played baseball with MacLean's coach from Bellerose Composite High School. Labeled by Rams head coach Kevin Brooks as one of the top professional prospects in the ASU program, MacLean could have lost heart when forced to redshirt his first season after injuring his pitching arm and undergoing surgery to repair the damaged ligaments.

"I was really upset for about an hour," MacLean said. "Then I started realizing that it could be a positive for me if I made it into one."

Though not able to pitch for the Rams in 2012, MacLean kept an optimistic attitude and worked to regain his arm strength in the weight room. As a result, he returned to the mound during the 2013 season, making eight relief appearances with five strikeouts and 11 walks. While it was not a movie-inspiring return to glory, it was progress and displayed glimpses of his ability.

"He has a great personality and came in here and adapted really quickly," Brooks said. "He's a guy that all of his teammates enjoy being around. He's worked really hard to change his body, and he's left-handed and throws 90. That's always going to catch attention. He's working really hard to get better and it showed in fall practices. We're excited about his potential on the mound for us."

Despite still adjusting to the more moderate southern climate of West Texas, MacLean is ready for the start of the 2014 season when he can once again attack hitters with his fastball, slider and changeup. His velocity reached the highest it has ever been last fall at 92 mph, and his command is improving. If it all comes together during the spring, the Rams could very well have one of the top left-handed pitchers in the Lone Star Conference.

"Every day, I go to the field and try to get better," MacLean said. "I'm really working on my mechanics to throw more strikes. My control needs to improve for me to be where I should be at." ■



Jaime MacLean



First-Time Champions

The Angelo State soccer team claimed its first-ever Lone Star Conference Championship in 2013 with an impressive 7-2-1 conference record.

Finishing as co-champions with Northwestern State, the Rambelles earned the top seed through a tiebreaker and the right to host the conference tournament for the first time. It was also the fourth straight postseason berth for the 'Belles, but a 1-0 loss to West Texas A&M in the LSC semifinal ended their season prematurely as they were not selected for the NCAA Division II South Central Regional, despite winning the regular season crown.

During the season, ASU personified the saying "defense wins championships." The 'Belles were the top defensive team in the conference, allowing only 14 goals in 18 games. Much of that success was due to the emergence of 12 underclassmen, along with the continued development of three juniors and the experience of six seniors.

"I thought that everything clicked for us from the start," said ASU head coach Travis McCorkle, who surpassed the 100-career-wins milestone and was named LSC Co-

Coach of the Year. "Our senior class had great leadership to guide a big group of underclassmen and had the right frame of mind to work hard for each other. They never settled for anything less than winning."

Senior defender Jordan Benfield (Oak Point) and senior goalkeeper Dani Edwards (San Angelo) served as team captains for the 'Belles. Benfield was selected to the All-LSC second team while Edwards posted seven shutouts to take her career total to 16. Senior midfielder Maggie Schaffer (New Braunfels) scored three goals and was named to the All-LSC first team. She finished her ASU career with 13 total goals. Fellow seniors Kara Edwards (Bastrop), Trisha Killen (North Richland Hills) and Katie Squires (Hurst) played a variety of roles to help in the team's success.

Sophomore Sierra Anderson (Wichita Falls) led the Rambelles' offense with seven goals and three assists, including five game-winning goals, with two of them coming in overtime to give ASU pivotal conference victories. Sophomore Selena Alvarez (Austin) scored five goals, with her final goal coming in the 87th minute of the regular season

finale against Northwestern State to give the Rambelles the right to host the conference tournament. Junior defender Caitlyn Conaway (Kennedale) was named to the All-LSC second team.

A talented group of freshmen added depth throughout the season. Jenny Kotowych (Humble) scored five goals and Kathleen Keoughan (Fort Worth) tallied three times as each earned a LSC Offensive Player of the Week honor during the season. Keoughan won her award by scoring just three minutes into the season opener at Northwestern State. Lauren Perry (Plano) earned All-LSC second team honors after providing stifling play on defense, while Kelli Regan (Richmond), Haley Mendel (Bastrop) and Cynthia Andrews (Fort Worth) played important roles for the offense. Regan finished the season with a goal and two assists, Andrews had one goal and Mendel recorded one assist.

"We have a really good group coming back next year, and I'm excited about the recruiting class that we're working on right now," McCorkle said. "We are losing some talent and great leadership, but the future looks bright for the program." ■



Jordan Benfield



Maggie Schaffer

Photos by Danny Meyer



Dani Edwards

Photo by Arturo Gonzalez

On a soccer field, the goalkeepers are the only players who have to wait for the action to come to them.

For ASU senior Dani Edwards, the wait was longer than most. After graduating from San Angelo Lake View High School in 2007, she tried out for the Rambelles, but did not make the team. She then had to wait four years for another opportunity, and when it came she certainly made the most of it, becoming the Lone Star Conference Goalkeeper of the Year in 2012 and helping lead the Rambelles to their first Lone Star Conference co-championship in 2013 as a senior captain.

"It was an amazing feeling knowing that we made history for ASU," Edwards said. "I'm honored just to be a part of this team, and to help us win the championship just adds to the excitement this opportunity gave me."

That opportunity did not look like it would ever come as Edwards waitressed at two restaurants and worked for a plumbing company and delivery service after not mak-

ing the team in her initial tryout. She also enrolled in school and played a bit of indoor soccer, but figured her chance at a college soccer career had passed. Then in the fall of 2011, injuries left ASU in need of a goalkeeper, and Edwards was added to the roster. She played sparingly and was challenged in practice that first season, but was part of the team and eventually improved enough to become the 'Belles' starting goalkeeper in 2012.

And what a season 2012 was for Edwards as she recorded 79 saves and nine shutouts to lead the LSC in save percentage and goals-against average on her way to being named LSC Goalkeeper of the Year. But when the season was over, she thought her career was also over as she had played the season as a senior. When she found out last spring that she could file an NCAA eligibility extension appeal, she had to wait once again until learning in the summer that her appeal had been granted.

As a senior for the second time, Edwards recorded seven shutouts and helped

the Rambelles claim a share of the LSC title. She also served as a team captain with Jordan Benfield and displayed strong leadership for a team with 15 underclassmen.

"She really improved her consistency from last year to this year," said ASU head coach Travis McCorkle. "She has a confident personality, but it took some time for her to carry that confidence over to every game. As a goalkeeper, it's about dominating the penalty area and not allowing goals. Once that clicked for her, she became one of the best goalkeepers out there."

Another season of playing soccer at ASU was also beneficial to Edwards.

"I've changed so much as a person since I joined the program," said Edwards, a biology major with plans of going to graduate school to earn a master's degree in nursing. "I've embraced taking on more responsibility and have learned to handle the pressures that come with being a leader. I feel like everything happens for a reason and that I was meant to play soccer at ASU." ■



Maddie Huth

Photo by Danny Meyer

All-Around Excellence

Being a returning All-American and team captain for the ASU Rambelles volleyball team meant more to senior Maddie Huth than just continuing to be a dominant player.

"I wanted to help the team remain confident and comfortable throughout the season through my play and leadership," Huth said. "I always played my hardest in the past, but this year was different because of the leadership role. I really enjoyed it and think it also pushed me to be a better player on the court."

While enjoying her 'Belles career that was marked by both team and individual success and honors, Huth never allowed the prosperity to go to her head. A middle blocker from The Colony, she is described by her teammates and coaches as one of the most humble players they have ever been around,

approaching each practice and match with positive and unselfish intent.

To her opponents, she was not so charitable, regularly dominating matches and dictating play even though opposing teams tried various strategies to neutralize her. But whether she had the most kills in a match was never as important as the team notching a victory.

"She knew that she was going to have to be a go-to player for us this season, but also that it wasn't going to be easy" said ASU head coach Chuck Waddington. "Teams came into every match keying on her, and she still found ways to score. She handled the pressures that came with that and had fun while also being a dominant player."

Huth's dominance is evidenced by her list of individual awards and is duly noted in the

ASU record books. She was named an All-American as a junior in 2012 after recording 387 kills and helping lead the 'Belles to their first Lone Star Conference Championship since 1992. She was also a 2012 All-LSC first team selection and earned enough respect to be named the LSC Preseason Offensive Player of the Year prior to her senior campaign. During the 2013 season, she surpassed the 1,000 career kills milestone and was named LSC Offensive Player of the Week on three occasions.

Further demonstration of Huth's team attitude and all-around ability is that she also became one of the most dominant blockers in ASU history. She surpassed 100 blocks in three of her four seasons, and her career blocks total ranks in the program's top five of all time. She was also at her best in important matches, producing a career-high 23 kills against arch-rival West Texas A&M and recording nine blocks against Regis at the 2012 NCAA Division II South Central Championships.

"Once you get that power on the court that they can't stop you, it gives you goose bumps," Huth said. "There's a real empowerment you feel on the court that allows you to control the game." ■

Sustained Excellence

During the 2013 season, the ASU volleyball team continued its reign as one of the top programs in the Lone Star Conference, South Central Region and NCAA Division II.

Ranking as high as No. 7 in the country and never dropping below No. 20, the 'Belles finished the regular season 21-8 overall and 11-5 in LSC play. They also went 13-1 in the ASU Junell Center/Stephens Arena, upping their home record to 24-2 over the last two seasons. The 2013 regular season was highlighted by a win over No. 3 University of Nebraska-Kearney and two separate six-match winning streaks.

Senior middle blocker Maddie Huth (The Colony) led the 'Belles offensively, finishing the regular season with 332 kills and a team-leading 102 blocks. She was named LSC Offensive Player of the Week three times and surpassed the 1,000-kill milestone to enter ASU's top 10 of all time. Junior libero Shelby

Wilt (Dalhart) also made the ASU record books by becoming the all-time digs leader in program history. She was named LSC Defensive Player of the Week three times and finished the regular season with 517 digs, upping her career total to 1,751.

Senior outside hitter Kaelen Valdez (Helotes) notched 380 digs during the regular season and entered the postseason ranked fourth in program history with 1,510 digs in her career. Junior setter Maggi Jo Keffury (Arroyo, Calif.) earned five LSC Setter of the Week honors in her first season at ASU and finished the regular season with 1,159 assists. Sophomore outside hitter Arielle Bond (El Paso) was second on the team with 307 kills and was twice named LSC Offensive Player of the Week.

Huth, Wilt and sophomore Katie MacLeay (San Antonio) were named to the CoSIDA Capital One Academic All-District 6 Team. ■

Strong Finish

The 2013 football season started slow for the Angelo State Rams, but finished with a bang as they posted the program's first season-ending three-game win streak since 1987.

In a season that saw six of the Rams' 11 games decided by a touchdown or less, ASU won just two of those games and wound up 5-6 overall and 2-4 in the Lone Star Conference. On the positive side, however, the Rams defeated Texas A&M-Kingsville for the first time since 2006 and recorded their first shutout since 2011.

The Rams offense posted a record-setting season, averaging a program-high 457.9 yards per game. Sophomore quarterback Kyle Washington (Humble) led the offense with 2,073 passing yards and 1,102 yards rushing. He is the first player in ASU history to throw for over 2,000 yards and rush for over 1,000 yards in a single season. He also broke former quarterback Josh Neiswander's record for total offense in a season with 3,175 yards.

"It has been fun to watch Kyle grow as a player on the field and be a leader each week," said head coach Will Wagner. "Hopefully, he is not satisfied where he is at, and he works hard to improve to become an even better player."

Junior linebacker Rush Seaver (Lampasas) led the ASU defense with 107 total tackles, becoming the first Ram since 2005 to record over 100 tackles in a season. As the season went on, the defense showed marked improvement. Over the final five games, the Rams held opposing offenses to 131.2 yards per game less than their season average.

With the season-ending three-game win streak as motivation, the Rams are anticipating 2014. Their first home game will be at the new 1st Community Federal Credit Union Field in the LeGrand Sports Complex on Sept. 13. ■

Solid Season

Wins by both the Rams and Rambelles at the Hardin-Simmons Invitational highlighted a mostly positive season for the ASU cross country teams.

The dual victories at Hardin-Simmons came in the second meet of the season as Jamin Goecker (San Angelo) and Jaylen Rodgers (Hamlin) also won the men's and women's individual titles, respectively. It was quite a turnaround from the season's opening meet at Midwestern State, where ASU's top finishers were Dylan Littlejohn (Godley) in seventh for the Rams and Candida Chairez (Del Rio) in 12th for the 'Belles.

Following the Hardin-Simmons meet, the Rams made it two in a row by winning the Alamo City Duals at Trinity University in San Antonio. Goecker again led the Rams with a second-place overall finish. The Rambelles finished fourth with Annifer Flores (Cedar Hill) their top individual performer in fourth place.

Back at home for the ASU Blue and Gold Classic, the Rams took second place with Goecker once again leading the way with a second-place finish in the individual standings. Also for the Rams, Littlejohn finished fourth, Tomas Callejas (Mason) placed eighth and Graham Hazlewood (Round Rock) crossed in ninth. The 'Belles finished fourth overall with Rodgers taking fourth and Flores placing 14th individually.

Eastern New Mexico University hosted this year's Lone Star Conference Championships, where ASU's men's and women's teams both finished sixth in a tough LSC field. Rodgers finished fourth for the 'Belles and Goecker placed 14th for the Rams as both were named to the All-LSC Team.

Three Rams qualified individually for the NCAA Division II South Central Regional Championships in Canyon, where all three finished in the top 75 on the 10,000-meter course. Goecker was again the top ASU finisher in 33rd place while Callejas and Hazlewood finished 71st and 72nd, respectively. ■



Left: ASU athletic director Sean Johnson, Clayton Weishuhn and LSC Commissioner Stan Wagon at the induction ceremony in Cowboys Stadium. Below: Weishuhn during his NFL career with the New England Patriots.

Weishuhn LSC Honoree

One of the top defensive football players in Angelo State history, linebacker Clayton Weishuhn has been inducted into the Lone Star Conference Hall of Honor.

Weishuhn played for the Rams from 1978-81 and was a member of the 1978 NAIA National Championship team. He was a two-time All-American and was twice named the J.V. Sikes Outstanding LSC Lineman of the Year.

"He is about as good as I ever coached," said former ASU head coach Jim Hess. "He had great quickness, speed and toughness. He had everything a linebacker needed. He was a good guy to coach, too. (Assistant coach) Mike Martin had a lot to do with coaching him. Mike developed him even though he didn't need much developing."

Weishuhn still holds the ASU career record for tackles with 523, as well as the single-season record of 173 tackles set in 1981. The Rams compiled a 39-8-1 record during his playing days, and he was named to the All-LSC first team three times.

Drafted by the New England Patriots in the third round of the 1982 draft, Weishuhn played five seasons in the NFL for the Patriots and the Green Bay Packers. He was named to the *Pro Football Weekly* All-Rookie Team in 1982 and led the Patriots in tackles with 229 in 1983.

Weishuhn joins former Tarleton State University football player James Dearth and former Abilene Christian University sports information director Garner Roberts in the 2013 Hall of Honor class. He is the 10th individual from ASU to be inducted into the Hall of Honor, following Amy Bippert Bohensky, Kyle Freeman, Phil George, Pierce Holt, Ed Messbarger, Shirley Morton, David Noble, Joshua K. Owusu and Lloyd Vincent. ■



Courtesy of the New England Patriots

Basket ball outc



Rams

Head Coach: Chris Beard (1st year)

Last year: 7-19 (4-14, 10th in LSC)

Outlook: It has been two seasons since Angelo State qualified for the postseason, but the Rams entered the 2013-14 campaign with renewed optimism supported by a talented mixture of returning players and newcomers. The roster includes seven seniors and four players who have earned junior college All-America honors. Chris Beard is in his first season after being named the fifth head coach in program history in March. He coached McMurry University to a 19-10 record last season.

Returns: ASU has nine players back from last year's roster, including four seniors. Bryan Hammond (New Orleans) averaged 9.4 points per game as a junior with 76 assists. Chris Talkington (Grand Prairie) averaged 10.7 points and led the Rams in 3-pointers with 43, while Zach Jones (Brady) and Ryan Marsh (Burlison) add experience and a steady defensive presence. Dakota Rawls (Bronte) and Justin Walling (Wall) are also back for their junior seasons. Rawls averaged 10.1 points per game as a sophomore, and Walling led the conference by shooting 53 percent on 3-pointers. Reggie Sutton (San Angelo) averaged five points per game as a freshman and had two double-doubles.

Newcomers: The Rams started the season with 13 newcomers on the roster, highlighted by senior forwards Kenny Williams (St. Louis, Mo.) and Ice Asortse (Makurdi, Nigeria). Williams averaged 20.9 points and 7.9 rebounds per game for McMurry last season before suffering a season-ending injury midway through the year. Asortse transferred in from Stephen F. Austin State University. Junior guards Jabbar Reid (Atlanta, Ga.), Daniel Skinner (Dallas) and Tommy Woolridge (Chicago) were each junior college All-Americans last year. Omari Gudul (Bukavu, Congo) transferred in from Ranger College after one season and has big expectations on his talented shoulders after a strong preseason.

'Belles

Head Coach: Cayla Petree (1st year)

Last Year: 14-13 (11-9, 6th in LSC)

Outlook: A new head coach, Cayla Petree, and an almost completely new team hit the floor for Angelo State this season. Petree was hired last March after stints as an assistant coach at University of North Texas and head coach at Cisco Junior College. She brought an up-tempo style of play to the 'Belles along with her new assistant coaches, former 'Belle Camille Perkins and National Junior College Athletic Association Hall of Famer Dennis Helms. Ten newcomers joined five returning players on the 'Belles' roster to start the season.

Returns: All-Lone Star Conference second team selection Haylee Oliver (San Saba) is the co-leading scorer to return this season after averaging 10.6 points per game last year. Senior Leah LeMaire (Corpus Christi) is a returning starter who averaged 10.6 points and 4.8 rebounds per game as a junior. Karli Kellermeier (Wall) started 12 games last season and averaged 3.4 points and 4.3 rebounds per game. Amanda Weaver (Center Point) came off the bench and has improved from last season. Hillari Adam redshirted last season, but has experience in the LSC after playing two seasons at Abilene Christian University.

Newcomers: Eight transfers and two freshmen provide depth and talent for the 'Belles. Tatiana Haynes (Pontiac, Mich.), Ashley Bettis (Houston), Rochelle Norris (Dallas) and Presley Statsny (Celina) transferred from four-year schools, while Kaya Turner (Amarillo), Ashley Rankine (Buda), Michelle Rosewell (Grapevine) and Khalisha Lee (Houston) are all from the junior college ranks. Ashlynn Graham (San Antonio) and Shannon Franklin (Duncanville) are the two freshmen of the group. Franklin and Bettis are both redshirting this season. Norris played for Petree at Cisco Junior College. ■

“When they thank me and ask me what they can do, I say, ‘Pass it on.’”
— Gail Stefanski



Gail Stefanski and Aldo Castaneda

Photo by Danny Meyer

Paying it Forward

Gail Stefanski lives by a simple rule: Give and you will receive joy.

Some of the main beneficiaries of that philosophy are international students at Angelo State. Stefanski so enjoyed acting as a host parent for international students that she has created ASU scholarships in the names of three of “her kids” to benefit those who follow.

“Her passion covers the spectrum, from the philanthropic side to the service leadership side of helping our students,” said Jamie Akin, executive director of ASU’s Development and Alumni Relations Office. “She wants to teach these kids about giving back.”

Her own study abroad experiences were what first drew Stefanski to participate in ASU’s International Student Host Family Program.

“When I was young,” Stefanski said, “I went to Poland on a student trip and I lived with a family who welcomed me.”

A native of Eden, Stefanski retired from her career as a librarian to live in San Angelo and was introduced to the host family program by its founder, Barbara Barnhart Rallo. The first student Stefanski hosted was Valerie Kuripko, a 19-year-old exchange student from Russia’s Kuban State University. It

was such a positive experience that Stefanski has since mentored at least eight ASU international students, either through the host family program or other connections.

“It’s not that they were all mine,” Stefanski said. “I’ve picked up students along the way. Some of them had a host family, but they were introduced to me by my student. They all needed something different.”

One of the main functions Stefanski performs is helping the international students get their bearings in a strange land. She takes them to buy school supplies, treats them to meals and takes them to visit her family ranch. She also connects them to her wide circle of friends for opportunities to make contacts in their career fields and to try new things, like fly fishing and skiing.

Also playing the role of advisor, Stefanski has taught “her kids” how to shake hands and dress for job hunting. She has edited their résumés and helped them practice for job interviews.

Kuripko, now 25 and working for a Russian company in Detroit, keeps in close touch with her mentor.

“I was very, very lucky,” Kuripko said. “The way she looks at life is different than most people. It doesn’t matter what you do

or what you look like. It’s your personality that matters.”

Another of Stefanski’s students, Aldo Castaneda of Chihuahua, Mexico, met her the day he arrived at Angelo State as a 21-year-old junior planning to improve his English language skills with a semester of study.

“From the get-go, she helped me,” Castaneda said. “I told Gail I wanted to practice English. Gail was calling me every day.”

In recognition of the impact several of “her kids” have had on her life, Stefanski has named her ASU scholarships after three of them, Kuripko, Castaneda and Dennis Myasishchev of Russia. She asks them to commit to adding to the endowments but also asks them to set the criteria for future recipients. For example, the scholarship named for Castaneda, a middle-distance runner in college, will go to a senior member of the ASU track and field team who exhibits high academic achievement.

“With all of these kids that I have, I stress giving back,” Stefanski said. “When they thank me and ask me what they can do, I say, ‘Pass it on.’”

“I get joy,” she added. “When you ask what I get out of it, I say, ‘Look at these wonderful kids.’” ■



Photo by Danny Meyer

Jeanette McWilliams

Jeanette McWilliams cannot say exactly why she is passionate about everything Russian – the language, the culture, the countryside, the people – she just is.

“I have no excuse,” the Paducah native said. “I probably had my first brush with anything Russian when I was a junior in college. I read *Crime and Punishment* and I was fascinated with the people and loved the sound of the names.”

“I didn’t do anything with the interest then, but later on I met some people from Russia who came out when it was the Soviet Union,” she continued. “I was so impressed with them. Their perspective made me think how we’re not nearly thankful enough for what we have in this country.”

After retiring from the computer industry in Austin, McWilliams moved to San Angelo and translated her Russian enthusiasm into an endowment for Angelo State. The G. Jeanette McWilliams Russian Enrichment Endowment provides supplemental funding to ASU’s Russian enrichment and language programs, delivered through the English and Modern Languages Department.

Love of Russia

“One of the reasons I wanted to do something with the Russian program here is its instructor, Ewa Davis,” McWilliams said. “She is an excellent teacher, and I wanted to do something so I could meet other people who are interested in Russia or international things.”

In addition to helping bring in speakers for ASU Russian Club meetings, McWilliams’ endowment most recently helped pave the way for three ASU students to spend several weeks in Moscow last summer. The students, Belia Reyes, Chaise Corp and Marcus Nellums, were accepted into grant-funded Russian study abroad programs, and her endowment covered expenses not included in the grant funding.

“I’m really pleased about that for them,” McWilliams said, “because it was such an enriching experience for me to go and experience the culture.”

The first real taste of Russia for McWilliams came on a joint friendship tour in 1993, during which she “bonded immediately” with several of the tour’s Russian guides. One guide invited her to return, and McWilliams spent the summer of 1994 seeing more of Moscow.

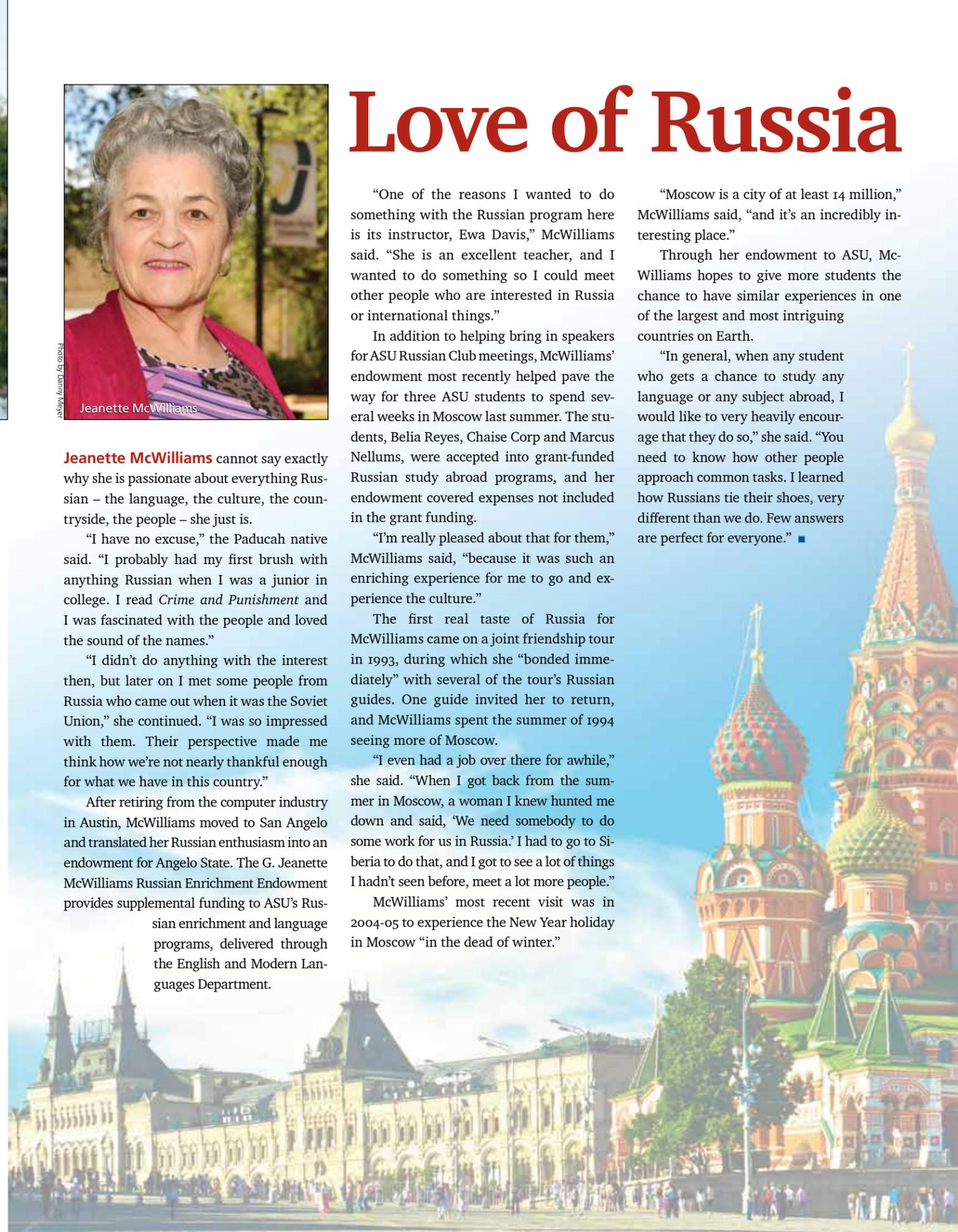
“I even had a job over there for awhile,” she said. “When I got back from the summer in Moscow, a woman I knew hunted me down and said, ‘We need somebody to do some work for us in Russia.’ I had to go to Siberia to do that, and I got to see a lot of things I hadn’t seen before, meet a lot more people.”

McWilliams’ most recent visit was in 2004-05 to experience the New Year holiday in Moscow “in the dead of winter.”

“Moscow is a city of at least 14 million,” McWilliams said, “and it’s an incredibly interesting place.”

Through her endowment to ASU, McWilliams hopes to give more students the chance to have similar experiences in one of the largest and most intriguing countries on Earth.

“In general, when any student who gets a chance to study any language or any subject abroad, I would like to very heavily encourage that they do so,” she said. “You need to know how other people approach common tasks. I learned how Russians tie their shoes, very different than we do. Few answers are perfect for everyone.” ■



CLASSnotes

Each issue of *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.

Steve Byrns, an award-winning writer and Texas A&M AgriLife Communications media relations specialist in San Angelo, has been named the Specialist of the Year in Texas Agriculture for District 7 by the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association, which is the professional organization for the state's county agricultural agents.

Byrns has been in his present position since 1982, and is responsible for media-related AgriLife Extension Service and research endeavors in 70-plus counties of West Central Texas, the South Plains and Far West Texas, as well as the Texas A&M University departments of entomology and wildlife and fisheries sciences at College Station.

He graduated from ASU in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and in 1982 with a master's degree in animal science.

1986

Suzanne Harrington has been appointed the chief wellness officer at Oklahoma State University after a national search. In her new position, she will oversee all programs and operations involving health and wellness on the Stillwater campus.

Harrington previously served as the director of health, safety and wellness for the American Nurses Association in Silver Spring, Md. After receiving her B.S.N. from ASU, she earned

a M.S. in health services from the California College for Health Sciences and a doctorate of nursing practice from Rush University.

1986

Christi Adams has been named the 2012-13 Teacher of the Year for Sweetwater High School, where she teaches AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) for students in all grades. She also serves as coach for the varsity boys and girls cross country teams and the junior varsity boys and girls tennis teams.

At ASU she earned her B.S. in kinesiology with a minor in English. She previously taught at Marble Falls and Miles.

1987

Li-An Chu has been named by the board of directors as the new chief executive officer and chief financial officer of American Jianye Greentech Holdings Ltd. For the previous 12 years, she served as chief executive officer of Jin Chih International Co. Ltd., an international trade company.

Chu received her undergraduate degree in business from Ming Chuan College in 1982, and her M.B.A. from ASU in 1987.

1988

Russell Kuykendall retired last year from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department af-

ter 18 years of service at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, including the last eight as the complex superintendent for the Battleground, the Monument and the *USS Texas* (BB-35).

Kuykendall played a pivotal role in developing a master plan for the site and in implementing critical aspects of the plan, including a \$29 million repair project for *Battleship Texas*. Other key projects included restoration of the tidal marsh, native tall-grass prairie and bottomland hardwood forest at the historic battleground.

Kuykendall earned his B.B.A. in 1988 and then went on to receive his M.P.A. from ASU in 1990. While pursuing his graduate studies at ASU, he earned a 1989 scholarship from the Texas Business Hall of Fame. He continues to reside in the Houston area.

1991

Chris Whatley has been appointed executive director of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA), a program of the United Nations Foundation. In his new role, he will lead UNA-USA's nationwide membership, educational and human rights programs.

Whatley will coordinate the association's efforts to advocate on behalf of the UN and UN causes, and educate the next generation of UN supporters in the U.S. through UNA-USA's Global Classrooms Model UN

program. He will also be responsible for the close coordination of UNA-USA with other programs, initiatives and activities of the United Nations Foundation and its sister organization, the Better World Campaign.

Whatley holds a B.A. in government from ASU and an M.S. in foreign service from Georgetown University.

Before joining UNA-USA, Whatley served as deputy executive director and Washington office director of the Council of State Governments. He began his career as a field-based program officer for the International Republican Institute, overseeing democracy assistance projects in Liberia, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

1998

The board of directors of Contango ORE Inc. (CORE) has named **Leah Gaines** as vice president, chief financial officer, chief accounting officer, treasurer and secretary. Gaines had previously served as vice president and chief financial officer of Juneau Exploration LP since 2010.

Gaines graduated magna cum laude from ASU with a B.B.A. in accounting. She is a certified public accountant with more than 15 years of experience.

CORE is a Houston-based company that engages in the exploration in Alaska for gold and associated minerals and rare earth elements.

2001

Native San Angeloan **Joshua "Josh" Blanek** has been designated as the Texas AgriLife Extension Service agent for agriculture and natural resources in Tom Green County. He transferred to Tom Green County from a similar position in Andrews County, where he headed a countywide educational effort in adult agricultural and natural resource commodity areas.

Blanek earned a B.S. in animal science with a finance/management supporting concentration from ASU. He went on to earn a master's degree in agricultural education from Tarleton State in 2007.

2006

Krystin Mitchell of NASA's Johnson Space Center's property accounting team was honored last year with a Power of One bronze-level award for organizational impact.

Power of One recognizes individual contributions and superior accomplishments for a one-time effort or project. Mitchell, who joined NASA in 2009, was recognized for contributions above and beyond her normal duties, including

her mentorship of a graduate co-op student. The award is bestowed on three levels: gold, for agency impact; silver, for center impact; and bronze, for organizational impact.

In addition to her B.B.A. in accounting from ASU, she holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Houston

2008

Third-grade teacher **Jimmy Bennett** has been named 2012-13 Elementary Teacher of the Year for Sweetwater Independent School District, where he teaches at East Ridge Elementary.

He holds a B.S. in interdisciplinary child development and learning from ASU.

2011

Scott Dykowski has been named presentation editor of the *Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald*, the primary daily paper for northeast North Dakota and northwest Minnesota. He had previously worked as a copy editor for the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*.

He graduated from ASU with a B.A. in mass media with a double minor in history and English. ■

ALUMNI HONOREES

The ASU Alumni Association bestowed its annual awards during Homecoming 2013. Recipients were (front row) Chris Sloan, Carr Scholar Alumnus; Leonor Constancio, Staff Achievement; Dr. Donald Shelby, Retired Faculty; and Tara Hart, Honorary Alumna; and (back row) ASU President Brian May; Dr. Alaric Williams, Faculty Achievement; Dr. Mack McCoulskey, Golden Ex; Alvin New, Distinguished Alumnus; and Col. Casey Eaton, ROTC Alumnus.



alumni association century club

as of November 1, 2013

DIAMOND

Bryan and Renee Hefflin, Monahans
Mark and Debbie Low, Dallas
Allen and Mesha Millsap Jr., San Antonio
Louie and Amy Perez, San Angelo
J. Milton and Terri Swift, Montgomery
Harold and Carol Turnbo Jr., League City

PLATINUM

Royce and Terry Baker, Paradise
Jeff and Deborah Brennan, Mill Creek, Wash.
Randy and Debbie Dews, Dallas
Mickey and Patricia Finley, San Angelo
Dan and Terri Herrington, Boerne
Randy and Emma Russell, Round Hill, Va.
Frank and Brenda Sturzl, Lakeway

GOLDEN

Steve and Marsha Arvedson, Houston
Gary Baty, Horseshoe Bay
Kyle and Pam Box, San Angelo
Larry Clark, Richmond
Dale and Sherry Dodson, Plano
Richard and Debra Farr, San Angelo
C.B. Franke, San Angelo
David and Jo Nell Harlow, San Angelo
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Gustavo Martinez Jr., San Angelo
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John Belk Attorney at Law, Texarkana
Legend Jewelers, San Angelo

GOLD BUSINESS CLUB

Caltech Software Systems, Inc., San Angelo
Wells Fargo Bank, San Angelo

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one has on their radar,” Pace said. “We did traditional college fairs in four cities and also hosted receptions for the high school counselors to meet with them individually, make more personal connections and generate ideas.”

The success of that STC trip is encouraging Pace and Hunter toward further partnerships with Texas colleges and universities for future recruiting in specific target areas.

“We’ve found that high schools are really open to visits from five or six schools at once rather than just one,” Pace said. “We’re not necessarily competing for the same students, so it would make all our efforts more attractive and would allow ASU to take advantage of sharing contacts and information with schools that may have much larger international recruiting budgets.”

Regardless of how they get where they are going, the overseas recruiting efforts of Pace and now Hunter have helped increase the cultural diversity of the ASU campus community, which adds an important international flavor to all ASU students’ college experience.

“If we did not send our recruiters out,” Tomlin said, “there would be a significant decrease in our international student enrollments, which would negatively impact our diversification efforts.”

“South Korea,” Pace added, “is our biggest source of international students. But, we have a sprinkling of students from 26 other countries, and it is fair to say that we have seen an increase in recent years. We’ve worked hard to maintain our international student numbers, but we also want to keep growing, and we’ve done that, even though it’s a very competitive market.” ■

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“We can educate our students to open their minds and see how big the world really is,” Huang said. “Many of the younger generation don’t read international news very often, so we try to emphasize an international view for our students. For example, more than 50 percent of physical therapy research is published outside the U.S.”

“Our PT program is distinctive because we have three faculty from Asia,” he continued. “I think that is an advantage for our students to be able to open their minds to the world outside of Texas. Not every student has a chance to travel outside the U.S., so besides teaching and research, I feel it is my job to encourage students to see how big and wonderful the world is.”

“Even though,” Ko said, “we are in a smaller town in West Texas, as international faculty and students, our experiences are spread all over the world. It’s just like the Internet. If you have a good computer network, you can reach anywhere. Having international students and faculty gives ASU a network all over the world.”

“Why do you think rainbows are beautiful?” Ko added. “It’s because they are different colors all together. I think it is the cultural diversity at ASU that makes the university much better and much more beautiful.” ■



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