Engineering our future
Meet the State Historian of Texas

When Governor Rick Perry appointed Texas State University Professor and Department of History Chair Dr. Frank de la Teja as the first-ever State Historian of Texas, de la Teja went from researching and teaching Texas history to making it. Renowned scholars such as Dr. de la Teja make Texas State’s faculty stellar!
In fact, it does.

The headwaters of the San Marcos River originate on the campus of Texas State University–San Marcos. Home to many unique geologic features and aquatic species, the San Marcos Springs are among the largest freshwater springs in the western United States. The springs are a refuge for six threatened or endangered species and have been identified as a “critical habitat” by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

A Unique Environment
The River Systems Institute offers a unique environment for research related to the geography and biology of freshwater systems. This includes the springs, streams, groundwater aquifers and watersheds that feed them, as well as the lakes, bays and estuaries into which they flow.

Our Department of Geography is recognized as one of the finest in America and provides important contributions to the analysis, regulation and management of natural resources, particularly water. Within the Department of Geography are two remarkable entities—the Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research and the Texas Center for Geographic Information Science—that provide the leadership for this department’s water research.

Similarly, Texas State is home to one of our state’s most respected aquatic biology programs and to the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center. These programs investigate contemporary issues related to both underground and surface water ecosystems and hydrology.

We also offer outstanding Ph.D. programs in Aquatic Resources through the Department of Biology, and in Environmental Geography and Geographic Information Science. Attracting exceptional young scholars from around the world, these programs add to the university’s ability to conduct research in aquatic biology, climate, hydrology and public policy.

A Stellar Research Partnership
The Texas Rivers Center is one of the most remarkable freshwater research partnerships in Texas. Working together are the River Systems Institute, the Texas office of the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program, and the Freshwater Resources Program of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This collaboration is producing important research related to environmental flow needs of Texas rivers, enhancing recreational opportunities, and moving our state forward in its efforts to protect the habitat of our rivers, bays and estuaries.

Water is a critical resource, and Texas State is working to ensure that future generations of Texans inherit river systems that are carefully managed and environmentally sound.
Texas State is proud to announce the availability of the first in a series of limited edition fine art prints. The first print is “Bobcat Country” by Texas State alumnus Wade Butler ’69. Mr. Butler’s painting depicts the Texas State bobcat in front of the End Zone Complex at Bobcat Stadium. All proceeds support scholarships at Texas State University-San Marcos.

17” x 20” $25
Signed giclee poster print
11” x 15” image size
$10 for shipping & handling

19” x 25” $125
Limited edition giclee paper print signed and numbered with certificate of authenticity
$12 for shipping & handling

11” x 14” unframed print $125
Limited edition giclee print on canvas signed and numbered with certificate of authenticity stretched and ready for framing
$15 for shipping & handling

22” x 28” unframed print $295
Limited edition giclee print on canvas signed and numbered with certificate of authenticity stretched and ready for framing
$25 for shipping & handling

To order your print, call 512-245-1555 or visit the web site at http://umktg.txstate.edu/butler_painting.html
Make that Doctor Strait

2006 was a good year for country music superstar George Strait—it included an honorary degree from his alma mater.

Hail to the Chief

Texas State’s most famous alumnus made a symbolic return to campus this fall when a statue of former President Lyndon Baines Johnson was unveiled on the Quad.

Putting Tejanos in Texas History

History chair Jesús F. de la Teja brings scholars to Texas State to discuss Tejanos’ place in state history as part of the celebration of 100 years of Latino presence on campus.

Wild & untamed thing

The Rocky Horror Show hit the Texas State stage in November with 10 sold-out performances. Writer Jayme Blaschke talked with cast and director Jay Jennings as rehearsals proceeded.

Track star James Ortiz (wearing guest coach jersey) and football star Walter Musgrove have faced big life challenges recently. Read about these amazing young men on pages 62 and 64.
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**Hillviews** is published three times a year by Texas State University-San Marcos, a member of the Texas State University System and an equal opportunity educational institution. Creative services involved in the production of **Hillviews** are provided by Texas State’s offices of University News Service, University Marketing, Alumni Relations and University Advancement. **Hillviews** circulation includes some 25,000 copies distributed to friends of Texas State.

**Letter to the editor** Mail to **Hillviews**, Texas State, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666-4613; fax to 512-245-8153; or e-mail trowe@txstate.edu. Limit 250 words.

**Alumni news** Send to Dorothy Evans, Alumni Relations, Texas State, 400 N. LBJ, San Marcos, TX 78666-5723; fax to 512-245-2514; or e-mail to alumni@txstate.edu.
I love the balance that Texas State seems to find between holding onto tradition and changing with the times. As usual, we did a little of each this fall.

It was our students who reached back into our past to literally set in stone (or at least bronze) a significant figure in our history by giving us a statue of Lyndon Johnson (see page 18). And it is a response to changing times (and generous gifts) that launched us into a new School of Nursing (page 24), a new School of Engineering (page 22) and a chair in business ethics (page 8). Lyndon Johnson, as much as anyone, would appreciate his alma mater’s commitment to meeting the critical needs of his beloved state.

The money for the statue and the new academic programs are examples of initiatives made possible by funding outside our state appropriation. While we are proud to be a public university and while we are grateful for the 32 percent of our budget that comes from tax dollars, we are increasingly dependent on private support to help us fulfill our potential.

“Fulfilling our potential” is at the heart of our upcoming capital campaign. It will have three pillars—academic and research enhancements, construction of a Performing Arts Center, and Athletics improvements that will allow us to attract the best student athletes—all to position us as one of the best public universities in Texas.

Of course we will set a monetary goal, but a capital campaign is really about more than money. It’s about sharing a vision for the university and a belief that we can fulfill that vision. People don’t give to institutions because they need the money. We give because we believe in the institution and believe that our gift can make a difference to the success of that organization.

You will hear more about the campaign later, I promise. We will be calling on you as friends of Texas State to help us as we balance our changes and our traditions.
HOT SALSA

Salsa – whether you’re talking about the sauce or the music, you are talking about flavor, warmth and texture. In Spanish, just call it sabor. Salsa del Rio, the Latin jazz band at Texas State University has performed internationally and won 57 performance awards, including the Best Salsa/Merengue Group in the Premios A La Musica Latina awards ceremony for the past two years. Under the direction of John A. Lopez, Salsa del Rio is one hot band, and another reason the student experience at Texas State is stellar!

TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN MARCOS
The rising STAR of Texas

www.txstate.edu
A member of The Texas State University System
Record number of Bobcats

Fall enrollment set a record for the eighth straight year, with 27,503 students registered. The number compares to 27,129 in fall 2005.

Retention—the percentage of freshmen who enroll the next academic year—was up two percentage points to 76.3 percent. That puts Texas State in the top ranks of public universities in this important statistic.

Anglo students are 71 percent of the enrollment, Hispanics 21 percent and African-Americans 5 percent. Fifty-six percent of students are women. Twelve percent of students are master’s or doctoral students (178 doctoral students).

Students come from 48 of the 50 states (Delaware and Idaho are the hold-outs), from 231 of Texas’ 254 counties, and from 63 countries.

The freshman class of 3,015 is the third largest in university history, and 51 percent ranked in the top quarter of their high school class. A total of 2,979 new transfer students enrolled, matching last year’s record number.

White House calling

It’s not a voice message he was expecting on a Friday afternoon. He returned the call to the White House and by Monday, he was headed for the Conference on School Safety at President Bush’s invitation.

Don Montague, retired Hays County sheriff and now executive director of Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) at Texas State, was asked to participate in the summit, along with other school safety experts and law enforcement officials from across the country.

Montague returned to Texas State later that week, in time to accept a $1 million grant from the Department of Defense to expand his program’s “active shooter” response training, which was credited with saving lives in September’s school shooting in Bailey, Colo.

ALERRT was established following the 1999 Columbine High School tragedy to retrain law enforcement personnel responding to such situations. In the past, officers had been trained to assess the situation, establish a perimeter and call in specialized SWAT teams. This new training allows them to react immediately to confront and isolate an active shooter. Since 2002, ALERRT has trained more than 7,384 officers from 600 agencies throughout the nation.

The Texas State agency is growing, as the demand for such training increases. Since its inception, ALERRT has received more than $7 million in funding to take the training to law enforcement agencies across the state and beyond. The U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance recently awarded ALERRT $650,000 to take the training to agencies beyond the Texas borders. The Texas Governor’s Office for Criminal Justice has awarded ALERRT $1.38 million for FY07 to teach 100 classes in Texas, as well as several train-the-trainer programs.

And ALERRT was recently approved for Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding, meaning that states can now use DHS funds to pay for training. ALERRT is the first operational training program to be approved for state-sponsored DHS funding.

Help for young parents

A $2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will help adolescent parents learn to become better partners to each other and better parents to their children. The program to build healthier families is administered by Michelle Toews, family and consumer sciences, and Karen Brown, social work.

McCoy College gets ethics chair

Jerry D. and Linda Gregg Fields have donated $1.1 million to establish an endowed chair in ethics and corporate responsibility in the McCoy College of Business Administration, thanks in part to Ken Lay.

The focus of the endowed chair will be the teaching and study of ethical business practices and corporate responsibility to customers, employees, shareholders and the community.

Jerry Fields, a 1969 Texas State business graduate, is founder, chairman and chief executive officer of J.D. Fields & Co., a worldwide supplier of steel products headquartered in Houston, with regional offices in Dallas, Tulsa, New Orleans, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles and Guadalajara, Mexico. Linda Fields is a 1966 graduate of Texas State.

Jerry Fields said, “I was sitting in the courtroom during (former Enron Chairman) Ken Lay’s trial, and I heard him testify that people cannot become slaves to the rules. It made me realize that today’s executives think ethics are for other people and don’t apply to them. Right then, I knew...
that something must be done to teach our business students what ethics really are and who they apply to.”

Denise Smart, dean of the McCoy College, said, “J.D. Fields & Co. exemplifies the ethical business practices and corporate responsibilities that are essential in today’s corporate world and that should be an essential part of the curriculum for all future business leaders. We are very grateful to the Fieldses for their generosity and their loyalty to Texas State.”

Jerry Fields was named a Distinguished Alumnus during Homecoming ceremonies (see page 51).

The couple are well-known philanthropists and are involved with a number of charitable organizations, including the American Cancer Society and the Ronald McDonald House. He serves on the board of the Houston Museum of Natural Science. She is on the Ronald McDonald House Board of Directors.

Revitalized retired group

A group formerly known as the Retired Friends of the University is revitalizing itself to be more active, more fun and more important to the university. Under new co-chairs Ev Swinney and Marianne Reese, the Retired Faculty and Staff Association began to organize and restructure this fall.

Following models they studied from other colleges, Swinney said, the group seeks to improve retirees’ communication with the university, to give them an opportunity to remain active and to organize activities of special interest to retirees.

“We want to continue to recognize people who have given so much of their professional lives to service at Texas State and to help them feel that they are still part of this family,” said Reese.

To learn more about this group, check its website http://uweb.txstate.edu/~es08/rfsa/ or e-mail Swinney at es08@txstate.edu or Reese at mr11@txstate.edu.

Migrant children are target

Children of migrant workers will get help to come to Texas State, thanks to a $2.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) offers financial

Spirit of Place Gala raises more than $280,000

Last May—with the support of presenting sponsors Public Strategies Inc., AT&T and many other generous sponsors—Texas State brought The Spirit of Place to the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin with an evening that raised important funds for the Southwestern Writers Collection and the Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography. Evan Smith, editor of Texas Monthly, emceed the star-studded program that included Sam Shepard, Frances Nail, Jerry Jeff Walker, Lyle Lovett, G.W. Bailey and Tommy Lee Jones. Mary Margaret Farabee and Janis Pinnelli chaired the gala committee.
and academic assistance to 50 students from high schools in Central Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, where the highest concentration of migrant workers resides. “The objective is to get all 50 students to continue their education into their second year,” said Frank Contreras, director of Texas State’s Center for Migrant Education. The center will monitor the recipients through their remaining years at Texas State and help them obtain the financial and academic support they need to graduate.

“Mix It Up” math and science

A rethinking of how math and science are taught is the aim of a $714,762 grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. “Mix It Up” is administered by Selina Vasquez-Mireles, mathematics, and Sandra West, biology.

Roy Mitte: Alumnus, benefactor

Roy F. Mitte, who gave millions to Texas State through his charitable foundation, died Jan. 27 at the age of 74.

Mitte, who earned degrees in 1953 and 1956, started his own company, FIC Insurance Group, and nurtured it into one of the most successful companies in the insurance industry.

Philanthropy from Mitte and his wife, Joann Cole Mitte ’53, has funded 100 undergraduate and 25 graduate scholarships of $5,000 annually, five endowed chairs, an endowment for the Mitte Honors Program, the new Mitte Laureate program (see page 68), and support for the Grosvenor Scholars program in geography.

The Mittes have been named Distinguished Alumni of Texas State and are recipients of the President’s Excellence Award and honorary doctoral degrees. The Roy F. Mitte Technology and Physics Building and the Joann Cole Mitte Art Building are named in their honor.

Edward James Olmos, award-winning actor (Stand and Deliver, Miami Vice, Battlestar Galactica), talked to a campus audience Oct. 2 about his life as an activist and champion of humanitarian causes as part of the Common Experience theme of the year, “Protest and Dissent.” Early in his career, Olmos starred in Zoot Suit, which is Common Experience’s text for the year. After his talk on the Student Center mall, in an impromptu move, he invited students to watch and discuss his HBO movie Walkout, which is about a 1968 protest by 22,000 Los Angeles high school students over the lack of cultural history in the curriculum. He and the students talked until after 1 a.m. Photo: Monty Marion/The University Star

E verette and Donna Swinney of San Marcos were honored in October at the official dedication of the Everette Swinney Conference Room in the Taylor-Murphy Building. Swinney, who began teaching United States history at Southwest Texas State Teachers College in 1957, served as chair of the Department of History 1967-80 and chair of the Faculty Senate for more than a decade. He played a major role in securing Taylor-Murphy as his department’s home and in developing one of the first departmental computer labs on campus. The Faculty Senate’s major teaching award is also named for him.

Missing in action

In the middle of this bustling campus at the northeast corner of LBJ Drive and Bobcat Trail, adjacent to Flowers Hall, is a quiet place. Here, nestled in a lovely bed of Asian jasmine and trailing lantana, is Texas State’s Veterans’ Memorial Garden. Monuments to students who served and died in World War II, Korea and Vietnam stand in this space. Conspicuous by its absence is a memorial for World War I.

Once there was a commemorative plaque in Evans Auditorium, which may have been moved in 1989 to the area between the Chemistry Building and Old Main that served as a memorial site. But somehow, perhaps because of damage or loss, it did not make it to the Memorial Garden, which was rededicated at its present site in 2000.

Four hundred thirty-five students and graduates served in World War I, and six died either in camp or on the battlefield. It seems inappropriate that their contribution has been forgotten. Plans are being made to solicit donations to correct this omission. For
People

Chris Frost, psychology, was named the university’s 15th Piper Professor before he left this fall to accept a position at San Diego State University. The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation recognizes eight to 15 college teachers each year as the best in the state. Texas State has garnered more of these awards than any other school except the University of Texas at Austin.

Debra Feakes, chemistry and biochemistry, and Thomas Simpson, biology, received Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching at fall convocation. Presidential Awards for Scholarly and Creative Activity went to Michael Forstner, biology, and Britt Bousman, anthropology; and Presidential Awards for Service to Timothy Mottet, communication studies, and Michael Supancic, criminal justice.

Faculty Senate Everette Swinney Teaching Awards at the convocation went to Laurie Fluker, journalism and mass communication, and Kenneth Margerison, history.

The Alumni Association chose Steven Wilson, English, for its Teaching Award of Honor.

Mary Ann Zapata, professional development, was named 2006 Employee of the Year.

Laurie Fluker, journalism and mass communication, and Stella Silva, multicultural student affairs, received the 2006 Mariel Muir Mentoring Awards.

Lu Montondon, accounting, received the Outstanding Advisor Award from National Beta Alpha Psi, which recognizes excellence in teachers of accounting.

Brock Brown and Richard Dixon, geography, were recognized as among the best college geography teachers in the country by the National Council of Geographic Education. These are the 13th and 14th such recognitions to come to the Texas State Geography Department, which has received the award more often than any other university in the country.

Lynn Brinckmeyer, director of choral education in the School of Music, was named president of the National Association for Music Education, the world’s largest arts education organization.

Byron Augustin, geography, and Frank de la Teja, history, are among 50 professors in Texas serving as scholar-speakers for the Exploration Texas speakers bureau of Humanities Texas, formerly the Texas Council for the Humanities. The 50 will offer public presentations on a wide range of humanities subjects. Augustin’s research has centered on the conservation of resources, Latin America and Texas. De la Teja’s expertise is Mexican-Texan history.

John Darling, distinguished visiting professor, management and marketing, was awarded the Insignia of Commander of the Order of the Lion of Finland from the president of Finland at the beginning of the academic year at the Helsinki School of Economics. The award, considered comparable to the Presidential Medal of Freedom in the U.S., recognized Darling’s work over three decades in “helping to develop the export marketing activities of Finnish businesses, particularly in adjusting from a focus on the markets of the former Soviet Union to those of Western countries.”

Zachariah Gompert, biology graduate student, became the first Texas State student to have a paper published in science’s pre-eminent journal Science in its Aug. 18th issue. Published with his supervising professor Chris Nice, the paper explored how the genetic diversity of plants impacts the species diversity of insects, spiders and other arthropods and how that combined diversity affects the overall health and biological vigor of a given ecosystem. Gompert was first author on a subsequent Science article.

David Butler, geography, has received the Outstanding Career Award from the Mountain Geography Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers, the scientific and education society founded in 1904 to contribute to the advancement of geography.

Walter Wright, political science, has received the Steve Brutsché Award from the Association of Attorney-Mediators. The award, which recognizes service and commitment to the field of alternative dispute resolution, is the highest honor awarded by the national association.

Charles Christopher, Student Health Center physician, was appointed to a four-year term as surgeon general of the international Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in July. In the position, he will keep fraternity members abreast of current medical issues that affect African-American males and their families and will coordinate all national health initiatives for the fraternity.

Laurie Fluker, journalism and mass communication, was elected president of the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education, a two-year term that began in March. She and husband Rod Fluker, assistant dean of students, were selected from a national pool to fill two of 30 fellowships in the National Leadership and Mentoring Institute at Savannah State University, sponsored by the American Association of Higher Education and the American Council on Education. Texas State was the only school with double representation.

LaRue Miller was the featured guest at Bobcat Stadium in September for the unveiling of the Bobcat Victory Ball. The bronze sculpture, created by Jason Scull of San Marcos, was dedicated in memory of her late husband Bill Miller, former head football coach and director of athletics. LaRue Miller started a new Bobcat tradition of touching the sculpture before every home football game for good luck. The sculpture project was led by Strutters founder Barbara Tidwell and the Strutters Always board. They told Miller of the project and presented a plaque to him in November 2005. He died Feb. 20, 2006. During his 30-year tenure in the Athletics Department, he was head football coach 1964-78 and set a record for the most victories in school history with 94 wins. The former Maroon and Gold Room at the top of the stadium was also named for Miller.
I am so proud to be a graduate of Texas State University and appreciate so much that you did this for me.
George Strait, who graduated from Texas State in 1979 with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture, was presented with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by university President Denise Trauth in May during a private ceremony.

"George Strait is the most famous and successful country music singer in the world. He has had more No. 1 hits than any singer of any kind in history. And he's our most prominent living graduate. The university is delighted to be able to honor him in this way," said Trauth.

"Doctor Strait? I like the sound of that," Strait said after the degree was conferred. "I am so proud to be a graduate of Texas State University and appreciate so much that you did this for me."

"We present honorary degrees only to individuals who have reached extraordinary levels of achievement," said Kent Adams, chairman of the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System, who was also present at the ceremony. "George Strait has truly attained the status of a living legend in country music, and we are proud to bestow this honor on him."

Texas State has conferred honorary doctoral degrees in the past to such individuals as President Lyndon B. Johnson, member of the class of 1930 at Texas State; Lady Bird Johnson, former first lady of the United States; Gilbert M. Grosvenor, chairman of the board of the National Geographic Society; and Distinguished Alumni and Texas State benefactors Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte.

Strait has been a loyal alumnus of Texas State and, in 1985, established an endowment fund for the development and operation of the Freeman Ranch for agricultural, land and wildlife management, and scholarships. He has been honored by Texas State on two previous occasions. In 1984, he was presented with the university's President's Excellence Award. In 1987, the Alumni Association Board of Directors named Strait a Distinguished Alumnus of the university.
Along the way

by Diana Hendricks

Born May 18, 1952, in Poteet, Texas, and raised in nearby Pearsall, Strait grew up the son of a junior high school teacher, who owned and operated a ranch that had been in his family for nearly 100 years. George spent his weekdays in town and his weekends on the ranch outside Big Wells, Texas. He formed a garage rock band as a teenager, playing “Gloria” and other typical garage hits of the ’60s.

Strait married his high school sweetheart, Norma Voss, and joined the Army in 1971. Stationed in Hawaii, he saw that there was an opening for the band that played at the officers club. The base commander was a big western swing fan, so George went to the music store and studied all the western swing music he could get his hands on. Soon he was playing country music with an Army-sponsored group called Rambling Country.

Upon leaving the Army in 1975, Strait returned to Texas and enrolled at Texas State University. While pursuing his agriculture degree and working part time at the Freeman Ranch, he saw a poster on campus. A group of progressive country musicians/university students had been fired by the lead singer of the Stony Ridge Band and were looking for their own lead singer. George tried out, and the rest is history.

The band changed its name to Ace in the Hole (some say it was based on the “gamble” they took in starting out in this new direction) and played their first show in 1975 at Cheatham Street Warehouse, becoming one of the most popular bands in the region over the course of the next two years, adding shows at Gruene Hall, Crystal Chandelier, Broken Spoke and Cheyenne Social Club to their calendar.

In 1977, Cheatham Street owner Kent Finlay and songwriter Darrell Staedtler loaded Strait and a couple of guitars into the old yellow Cheatham Street cargo van (two front seats and a folding lawn chair in the back) and took him to Nashville for the first time. Strait recorded a few of Staedtler’s songs, and the trio took the recordings to several record companies in an attempt to stir up some interest. He sounded “too much like Johnny Rodriguez,” they were told. “Too country.” “Not pop enough.”

So they came back to San Marcos, and Strait set his mind on finishing school and getting a “real job” on a working ranch. They were making ends meet on Norma’s salary, his GI Bill stipend and honkytonk income split five ways among the band members.

Meanwhile, Strait had become friends with Erv Woolsey ’69, when Erv owned the Cheyenne Social Club in San Marcos. In 1979, after Strait graduated, he and Norma decided to give this music career one more shot. He got in touch with his old friend Erv, who at the time was in charge of publicity for MCA Records. Woolsey invited MCA executives to watch Strait perform. They were sold. In 1980, Strait was signed to MCA Records, with Woolsey as his manager.

After hundreds of nights of playing on non-air conditioned stages under bare light bulbs and slow moving ceiling fans, George Strait and Ace in the Hole became what is called in the business “an overnight success.”

Though Ace in the Hole has increased personnel today, Strait still plays with those same original members for whom he auditioned in 1975. Mike Daily ’78 (steel guitar), Terry Hale (bass) and Tommy Foote ’75 (original drummer-now road manager) have played virtually every show with George since they debuted on that rustic stage at Cheatham Street Warehouse on October 13, 1975. Erv Woolsey is still his personal manager. And more than 35 years later, Norma is still the love of his life.
After hundreds of nights of playing on non-air conditioned stages under bare light bulbs and slow moving ceiling fans, George Strait and Ace in the Hole became what is called in the business “an overnight success.”

Above: America’s No. 1 country singer performs before 30,000 fans recently at a soccer stadium in Frisco.

Right: Strait and Ace in the Hole in the early days at Cheatham Street Warehouse in San Marcos. 1975 photo courtesy of Diana Hendricks.
One summer night nearly 30 years ago, a lanky ag major sat on the tailgate of a pickup out on the Freeman Ranch. It was a little after dark as he looked up toward the heavens. About a million stars filled the Texas Hill Country sky. Did he know then that one of those stars had his name on it?

Texas State grad George Strait ’79 has put a lot of miles between the caliche roads of the Freeman Ranch and the dusty parking lot of the old Cheatham Street Warehouse in San Marcos, where he and Ace in the Hole played many “ladies-free Wednesdays” for the nickel-beer crowds.

Today he has sold more than 62 million albums, and his catalog includes 13 multi-platinum, 30 platinum and 33 gold albums. He has made more gold albums than any other country artist, and he is tied with Frank Sinatra in eighth place for the most gold albums of any artist in any musical genre. He holds the Country Music Association (CMA) record for most nominations with a total of 73 and was CMA Vocalist of the Year five times, the only artist in history to be so honored in two different decades.

Strait’s debut single “Unwound” from his first album, Strait Country, was released in 1981 and became a Top 10 hit. That was only the beginning. He has had at least one single hit the Top 10 every year since then and has established a reputation for consistently recording songs influenced by honkytonk and western swing traditions.

2006 was a hallmark year for Strait. He received an honorary doctorate from Texas State in May. He released his 35th album and earned his 53rd No. 1 hit, making him Billboard’s all-time leader in No. 1 songs. And he was named to the Country Music Hall of Fame in November.

If Strait has come a long way since wishing on stars from the tailgate of that old pickup, he has not left his roots far behind. One of his favorite pastimes continues to be a skill he honed while in college—team roping.

An accomplished roper, Strait is no make-believe cowboy. His agricultural roots—and passion for the sport of rodeo—continue to grow. A team roping competition that started as a family event has grown into one of the most prestigious roping competitions in the nation. The annual George Strait Team Roping Classic in San Antonio was held March 23-24 this year.
2006 was a hallmark year for Strait. He received an honorary doctorate from Texas State in May. He released his 35th album and earned his 53rd No. 1 hit, making him Billboard’s all-time leader in No. 1 songs. And he was named to the Country Music Hall of Fame in November.

For his excellence in competition, rodeo and business, George received one of Texas’ highest honors when he was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2003.

And speaking of stars, in 2003 Lt. Col. Paul Lockhart, the NASA shuttle pilot who flew the Endeavor to the International Space Station, took along one of Strait’s belt buckles and a copy of the Latest Greatest Straitest Hits. When requesting the items, he told George that he wanted to take something into space that truly represented America. Upon his return, Lockhart presented Strait with a commemorative plaque mounted with the CD that went into space and a photo of the CD floating in weightlessness with the earth in the background, along with an American flag that went up in the flight. The plaque featured an engraved dedication: “For keeping alive the spirit of western music—from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and crew of the Endeavor STS11.”

Strait’s version of “Amarillo by Morning” can be considered an intergalactic hit on the “space shuttle hit parade.” The Strait standard was played the first time as the Columbia mission’s final morning wake-up call, at the request of astronaut and Amarillo native Rick Husband. Husband, a Strait fan from the early years, died in the Columbia tragedy. The single was played again in the summer of 2005, aboard the Discovery mission, in a poignant tribute to Husband and the ill-fated Columbia crew.

Back on earth, Strait was presented with the American Success Award in 1989 from one of his biggest fans, President George H. W. Bush. Not to be outshined by his father, President George W. Bush honored Strait with the National Medal of Arts, the highest award given to artists by the U.S. government. Strait received this honor “by reason of his outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support and availability of the arts in the United States.”

If Texas State is the Rising Star of Texas, surely the brightest light among her current favorite sons is George Strait, the Super Star of Texas.
Texas State’s most famous alumnus made a symbolic return to campus this fall when a statue of former President Lyndon Baines Johnson was unveiled on the Quad on September 14.

For many, the statue was a long time in coming. Texas State remains the only Texas university to graduate a United States president or, for that matter, a United States vice president (also Johnson). Yet, although the university’s student center is named in his honor, no statue of Johnson has ever been erected on campus.

Ultimately, it took a referendum of the student body to provide funding from student fees to pay for the project, making the statue a permanent gift to the university from the students. Fittingly, the statue depicts a young Lyndon Johnson, as he might have appeared when he attended what was then known as Southwest Texas State Teachers College.

The unveiling ceremony attracted hundreds of onlookers, including Johnson’s daughter Luci Johnson and her husband, Ian Turpin; his grandson and fellow Texas State alumnus Lyndon Nugent; Texas State President Emeritus and Johnson colleague Robert Hardesty; State Rep. Patrick Rose; Founding Curator of the LBJ Presidential Library Harry Middleton; Texas State University System Chancellor Charles Matthews; and former Texas State First Lady Cathy Supple.

President Denise Trauth praised Johnson’s dedication to education, saying he was a president “whose vision for America was to open the doors of higher education to every citizen.”

“We believe that he cultivated his passion for education right here on this campus,” said Trauth. “He came to San Marcos from humble beginnings, determined to get a college education as a gateway to his future.”

Trauth drew parallels between Johnson as a student then and the student body of Texas State today.

“He was a committed, hard-working student with an eye on his future—that sounds like the students we have today. They set their heart on a goal and go after it. Our students set a goal of getting a statue of Lyndon Johnson on this campus, and they made it happen. We are indebted to them for their tenacity and their generosity. Lyndon Johnson would be proud of you, and so are we,” she said.

Texas State student Frank Bartley, who served as the student regent on the Texas State University System Board of Regents, said it is important to remember Johnson as a student “rushing through the Quad to a class, worrying about a rent payment that was due, wondering where he was going to get the time to study for a history test.”

“It is important to remember that he was once like that, because here on this campus he is more than a chapter in a history book. Here he is personal. This statue reminds us that even Lyndon Johnson was once a young man with dreams,” said Bartley.

The statue is the work of acclaimed sculptor Lawrence Ludtke of Houston. Ludtke is a fellow in the National Sculpture Society and a corresponding member of the Royal Academy of British Sculptors. His work appears at many prominent places across the United States, including the U.S. Air Force Academy, Johns Hopkins Medical School, Rice University, Texas A&M University, CIA Headquarters, the Portrait Gallery of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and the National Battlefield Park at Gettysburg.
He was a committed, hard-working student with an eye on his future—that sounds like the students we have today.
You sense energy and intellectual challenge, potential and opportunity, as you walk the floors of McCoy Hall. The building that opened to classes this summer was designed to reflect an atmosphere of corporate environments to promote the development of tomorrow’s business leaders.

More than 3,000 business majors and 1,800 business minors come to the McCoy College of Business Administration to develop their skills in information technology, oral and written communication, critical thinking, and teamwork in order to meet the tests of a dynamic business world.

The new five-story facility on Comanche Street is on the site of old Read Hall. It is accompanied by a parking garage where Buckner Hall once stood. Inside are 125,000 square feet of classrooms and offices, study areas, space for 15 student business organizations, the Texas State Small Business Development Center, the Center for Latin American Commerce and the McCoy College Development Foundation. An outstanding variety of art graces walls and inset areas.

McCoy Hall was formally dedicated October 21 with the major benefactors, Emmett and Miriam McCoy of San Marcos, attending. The college and proposed new facility were named for the couple in 2004 following announcement of their $20 million pledge, the largest gift in Texas State history.
Below: Cutting the ribbon at the Oct. 21 dedication of McCoy Hall are Regents Frank Bartley and Dora Alcalá, Chancellor Charles Matthews, McCoy College Dean Denise Smart, Brian McCoy, Miriam and Emmett McCoy and President Denise Trauth.

Right, above: The busy atrium of McCoy Hall.

Right, below: The T. Paul Bulmahn Research and Trading Lab in McCoy Hall was officially dedicated Nov. 7 and named for the founder and president of ATP Oil & Gas Corp., an international offshore development and production company active in the Gulf of Mexico and the North Sea. Bulmahn, 1978 M.B.A. graduate and a Distinguished Alumnus, was honored for his $1.5 million donation to McCoy College, which will support the lab for students to learn about financial analysis, forecasting and investing. The lab is also equipped with resources to support a new student-managed investment fund.
An engineering school at Texas State will become a reality after Bruce and Gloria Ingram of New Braunfels donated $5 million to that purpose in November. The new school will be named the Bruce and Gloria Ingram School of Engineering in their honor.

Bruce Ingram founded Ingram Readymix, a manufacturer of concrete products, in 1957, and the company now operates 26 plants in 22 Texas cities. The couple lived in San Marcos from 1970 to 2004, and were involved in numerous community and church activities.

“We chose to contribute to Texas State in an effort to support the San Marcos community where we lived for 34 years,” said Bruce Ingram. “Texas State is a wonderful university, and we believe its engineering programs have a bright future. We are happy to be able to help. Our contribution is given in appreciation of all the support we have received from many friends over the years.”

“We are enormously grateful to the Ingrams for their generosity,” said President Denise Trauth at the gift announcement. “This is a transformational gift for the university. It will allow us to expand and greatly enhance our engineering curriculum, and it will help us serve a vital mission—providing more engineers for the Texas workforce.”

The gift will establish the Bruce and Gloria Ingram Chair in Engineering and endow two professorships, merit scholarships, need-based scholarships and faculty development.

Texas State began offering a program in engineering technology in 1989, followed by manufacturing engineering in 2000 and industrial engineering in 2004. The electrical engineering program is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2007, with the first graduates expected in 2011.

Existing engineering programs have been offered through the Department of Engineering and Technology. That entity will become the Bruce and Gloria Ingram School of Engineering and the Department of Technology, both in the College of Science. Currently 100 students are enrolled as majors in engineering technology, 100 in manufacturing engineering and 50 in industrial engineering.

More than 1,000 students from Texas State engineering programs have entered the local, regional and national workforce over the past 15 years. “Their work has established an excellent reputation for those programs,” said Provost Perry Moore. “Our graduates are well educated and are able to contribute immediately after being hired.”

The fifth floor of the Roy F. Mitte Building, which opened in 2003, was reserved for engineering and will house the new program. The university is spending $3.6 million to finish out and equip the school.

Possible curriculum expansion in the future includes programs in materials science and engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering technology, construction engineering technology and mechanical engineering technology.
Need for engineers

• According to the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), the number of jobs for engineers and computer scientists is expected to grow by 36 percent through the year 2010. However, during the period 1985-2004 the number of undergraduate engineering degrees conferred in the U.S. declined by 20 percent.

• The state of Texas, whose economy is strongly vested in the high-tech industry could be devastated by this dearth. Texas, second only to California in the technology industry, employs 446,000 people in this sector.

• The State of Texas, as part of its Closing the Gaps initiative, has vowed to double the number of degrees and certificates awarded in engineering, computer science, math and physical science to 29,000 by 2015. (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

• According to estimates from the Texas Workforce Commission, the need for electrical and electronic engineers in the State of Texas will increase 11.9 percent and 20 percent respectively between 2000 and 2010.
Increasing access to health care is the foundation’s mission, and we saw a good way to give back to the community and accelerate the opening of the school in Round Rock.

—Dick Moeller

Meeting a need: Nurses

Texas needs nurses, and thanks to a generous gift from an area foundation, Texas State University is now in a position to help meet that need. In November, St. David’s Community Health Foundation and the university announced a $6 million gift from the foundation to be seed money for a school of nursing at Texas State’s Round Rock Higher Education Center. The money will be used as start-up funding to hire new faculty, equip laboratories and offset other costs for the new St. David’s School of Nursing, until the school becomes self-sustaining.

In December, Scott & White announced a gift of $250,000 to be given as scholarships for nursing students over five years. And in February, Central Texas Medical Center gave the project an additional $50,000.

“Increasing access to health care is the foundation’s mission, and we saw a good way to give back to the community and accelerate the opening of the school in Round Rock,” Dick Moeller, foundation CEO and president, said at the November announcement.

“Three years ago, we estimated that it would cost $8 million to establish a school of nursing,” said President Denise Trauth. “We were prepared to ask the legislature for all of this funding, but now, thanks to St. David’s, our request will be for considerably less than that, which will be a savings to taxpayers and allow us to get started more quickly.”

Texas State is an ideal place to provide nurse education. The university has a long history and a good reputation for preparing allied health professionals and already teaches a pre-nursing curriculum to more than 200 students every year. The College of Health Professions, where nursing will be housed, has been a part of the university since 1972, and some of the degree programs that formed that college had been functioning for decades by that time. The college has an enrollment of more than 1,500.

“The Round Rock Higher Education Center is an ideal location for such a program,” Ruth Welborn, dean of health professions, said. “It is in the center of one of the most rapidly growing corridors in the state, and it will be an excellent resource for the expanding group of health providers in Williamson County. To educate nurses, we must have health care facilities willing to provide clinical education, and St. David’s hospitals will be key sources for this education.”

The Legislature has previously approved tuition revenue bonds for a second building at the Round Rock Higher Education Center that will house the school of nursing. If debt service on those bonds is approved during the upcoming legislative session, the university could break ground in the spring of 2008. The first class of 100 junior-level students would be admitted to the school in the fall of 2010, with the first graduating class scheduled for the spring of 2012.

Announcing the St. David’s gift in November are Bonnie Clipper, chief nursing officer of St. David’s Medical Center; Ruth Welborn, dean of the College of Health Professions; President Denise Trauth; and Dick Moeller, president and CEO of St. David’s Community Health Foundation.
Texas will need 138,000 new nurses in the next seven to 10 years, and more than 1.2 million new and replacement nurses will be needed nationwide by 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in 2005.

Texas hospitals currently have more than 8,000 vacant nursing positions, and by 2010 Texas will have a shortage of more than 52,000 nurses, says a recent study by the Task Force on Access to Health Care in Texas.

The State of Texas, as part of its Closing the Gaps initiative, has vowed to increase the number of students completing certificates and degrees in allied health and nursing from 10,500 in 2000 to 26,100 by 2015.

The average age of registered nurses has climbed steadily in recent years, according to American Nurses Association statistics. One-third of registered nurses in the U.S. are older than 50.

Texas schools turned away 4,200 qualified applicants to college nursing programs in the 2003-04 academic year, according to the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.
**We know from fossil evidence from Africa and other continents that the earliest hominins evolved in Africa 5 million years ago.**

Nestled in the heart of South Africa—between dongas, precious artifacts and sites dating back 165,000 years—is the key to understanding the exodus of the early modern human species, modern Homo sapiens, from its home in Africa. A team of students and faculty archaeologists from Texas State traveled to the site of Erfkroon in South Africa, in search of artifacts dating to the period of the last migration.

This study breaks ground in the quest to gain further understanding of the physical, environmental and behavioral changes that catalyzed the dispersal of modern humans. Britt Bousman, associate professor of anthropology and director of the university’s Center for Archaeological Studies, and graduate students Holly Meier and Eric Oskansen spent hours under the sun digging, scraping, dusting and analyzing in order to help bridge the gap in our understanding of humankind’s origins.

“We know from fossil evidence from Africa and other continents that the earliest hominins evolved in Africa 5 million years ago,” said Bousman. “The genetic and fossil evidence also tells us that our current species evolved in Africa and replaced all the fossil hominins in other areas.”

It is not known why our direct ancestors left their home in Africa or how they managed to survive after other hominin species died out in Europe and Asia. Why were modern humans so successful in replacing the fossil hominins that lived in Europe and Asia? We might be years away from answering this question; however, we are getting closer.

The Texas State team worked in conjunction with James Brink, head of the Florisbad Quaternary Research Department of the Natural Museum of South Africa, and a crew of veteran archaeologists with 25 years of experience. Their intense search yielded fertile results in finding fossils and artifacts dating to the time period of the most recent migration.

“Genetic and fossil evidence shows that possibly as early as 200,000 years ago significant physical changes in the species occurred, but we don’t see behavioral evidence for this change until some 50- to 70,000 years ago,” said Bousman. “We’re out there trying to find raw evidence from this time period.”

The excavation took place in three sites in South Africa, including a Middle Stone Age site in which the team found fossils of extinct animals and other artifacts. Among the prized findings of this site were lion’s teeth, rare in archaeology sites, and the lower leg bone of an extinct buffalo dating back 165,000 years.

“We looked at the 60,000- to 100,000-year period when we think modern Homo sapiens started altering its behavior and migrating out of Africa,” said Oskansen.

The Texas State team also excavated an antelope kill site at Baden-Baden dating back 500 years, the only one of this type discovered in the area. Another invaluable excavation took place at Cornelia, an Early Stone Age site that dates back 1 million years, The Texas State team assisted James Brink there by collecting samples for paleomagnetic dating.

Meier and Oskansen reminisced about the time spent in South Africa, from digging meticulously to find a 165,000-year-old fossil, to halting all work at exactly 10 each morning for tea and peanut butter sandwiches, in order to honor local South African customs. They worked with talented African archaeologists in order to include the once-marginalized local point of view and avoid the Euro-centric scholarship that once dominated the field.

As far as the results of the dig, Bousman, Meier and Oskansen agree on one thing: There is enough evidence for them to go back. “Like any initiating project, it’s important to know that the information to continue is there. We know we can go back, find more. It’s just a matter of time and depth,” said Meier. “We found the right deposits, we know where to look. It was a great success.”

The path of this excavation will lead to a broader study that will track down modern Homo sapiens’ replacement all over the world. In the meantime, Bousman is preparing a proposal to return to South Africa and continue to break ground, in the literal and metaphorical sense, and contribute to the relentless quest to complete the gargantuan puzzle of the origins of humankind.

*Maria Gonzalez is a graduate assistant in the University News Service.*
Africa, Europe and Asia come to mind when we think of archaeologists excavating in search of inklings to decipher our ancestors‘ way of life. Texas State left its print in two archaeology projects last summer, one at prehistoric mounds in Georgia and the other one at San Marcos‘ Aquarena Center.

During the summer, a long way from South Africa and closer to home, Britt Bousman and a group of his Texas State students searched the sediments in what is now the Aquarena Center in San Marcos for flint arrowheads and other artifacts. The site pertained to the Calf Creek era and is named for the Calf Creek Indians, a group of nomadic people who traveled through Central Texas with the bison herds 6,000 years ago. The premise of the excavation is to find out more about drought patterns in the region and how Native Americans coped with harsh conditions.

The results of this excavation are the topic of anthropology graduate student Deidra Aery’s M.A. thesis.

From the prehistoric Calf Creek era in Central Texas, the team moved forward in time and space to Georgia and the historic period of the Creek Nation civilization dating back to 1350 C.E. A team of archaeologists from the University of South Carolina, the University of Texas at Austin and Texas State worked at Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Site. Together they mapped the enigmatic mounds in an effort to understand this mysterious civilization that thrived in splendor for 500 years and of whom we have a limited amount of information.

Kent Reilly, Texas State archaeologist, compared the Creek Nation civilization to the well-known advanced achievements of the Aztec civilization in the valley of Mexico, both of whom thrived during the same period. —Maria R. Gonzalez

Aquarena and Georgia: Excavating close to home
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Texas State is now known as the rising star of Texas. Our journey to the stars has been a long one, over 100 years and counting. Along the way, there have been many “stars” whose life and work have shown brightly on our campus and beyond. Certainly the first true star of national prominence on our faculty was Empress Young Zedler, who died in May at the age of 98. She leaves to us an incredible legacy of professional accomplishments characterized by a true passion for her research and her teaching.

Empress Zedler came to campus in 1948 to set up a speech clinic. She became only the second female member of the faculty to hold a Ph.D. in 1953 (Rhetta Murphy was the first in 1938). Zedler was also certified as both a psychologist and a speech pathologist. Her research focused on two topics—the diagnosis and treatment of dyslexia and non-verbal children who have the capacity to acquire speech but do not as a result of brain difference.

Today, such fields of study are well known, but they began with one of our own faculty, on this campus, many years ago.

Zedler authored a ground-breaking textbook, *Listening for Speech Sounds* (Doubleday & Co., 1955), which quickly became a widely used textbook in the field of reading and speech correction. There is no doubt that countless students, scholars and parents have used this book, and Zedler’s innovative methods, to improve the lives of children in Texas and beyond.

Southwest Texas State Teachers College established one of the first departments of special education in Texas in 1946, and...
During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Dr. Zedler began to realize that there was a critical connection between the oral language children were to develop by age 3 and their future success as efficient readers.

Empress Zedler became its chair in 1964. She held that post until she stepped down in 1977 to devote more time to teaching and to her work in the Speech, Hearing and Language Clinic. Zedler retired from the university in 1981.

Zedler became known as a pioneer in her field, and the university became the premier place to study speech/learning disorders and to have children treated in the clinic. In 1958 she was invited to appear on the Today Show to discuss her innovative work with children who had failed to develop language skills. She even demonstrated her therapy techniques with two children from the campus clinic. The parents of those two children drove from San Antonio twice each week to have their children treated by Zedler and her graduate students. One of the treasures in our University Archives is the teleprompter roll from that 1958 television appearance, on which we can read some of what was said on nationwide television that morning.

Another example of her cutting-edge scholarship is related by a former student, Carolyn McCall, who is now on the curriculum and instruction faculty at Texas State:

“During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Dr. Zedler began to realize that there was a critical connection between the oral language children were to develop by age 3 and their future success as efficient readers. Dr. Zedler immersed herself in all the new information being published regarding the emerging language research. As she read, she meshed that information with the keen observations she was making every time she tested a child whose language was late to develop and who had not yet begun to read. She taught her students that there was a strong connection between children’s ability to develop and use language and their future ability to learn to read. At that time, there were no MRIs or CT scans to firmly document that the part of the brain used for language development was different in the poor reader and the good reader. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the use of functional MRIs [fMRI] came into practice by neuroscientists. It is amazing that every piece of information taught by Dr. Zedler in the early 1970s was clearly documented by fMRIs and the work of Dr. Elise Temple in 2003!”

Empress Zedler was not only a fine scholar, but also a dedicated teacher. The needs of her students always came first. If they needed assistance, she never hesitated to seek out those who were in a position to get what was needed; in 1965 she even made a phone call to the home of President Garland Flowers at midnight! The story of that phone call is probably best told in Zedler’s own words, which she related in an oral history interview in 1986:

“[Dr. Flowers] called me Dr. Zedler when he was pleased with me (he was very proud of anyone on his staff with a Ph.D., much less a woman), and he called me Mrs. Zedler when he was displeased with me. When I called at 12 midnight to ask him [about finding some funding to help students], he said, “Mrs. Zedler, do you know what time it is???” The next morning, Dr. Flowers did, indeed, help Zedler get what she needed. When the subject of a retirement party was mentioned in 1981, Zedler gave her consent only on the condition that the event be used to raise scholarship money. The Empress Zedler Scholarship exists today and serves as a tangible reminder of her extraordinary dedication to students.

Empress Zedler’s greatest legacy is, no doubt, the impact she had upon countless students, parents and children. She changed the lives of thousands of people through not only her scholastic endeavors, but also through her genuine care and concern for every student and child who came through her clinic. The stories of those individuals are deeply personal. One parent of a dyslexic child graciously shared his story here:

“I have great respect and an enormous sense of personal gratitude for Dr. Zedler. I worked on campus and saw Dr. Zedler’s work for years. During that time, she helped identify one of my children as dyslexic. Dr. Zedler accepted my child into her research program, which was a one-on-one effort, a graduate student spending time with the child, showing her techniques to overcome the effects of dyslexia and to instill a positive attitude. I am proud to say that, thanks to Dr. Zedler and my child’s own tenacious dedication, my daughter successfully completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees.”

All of us who are a part of the Texas State family owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Empress Zedler. Thank you, Dr. Zedler. 🌟
A decade ago, at the end of my introductory essay to
the first edition of this book, I wrote, “As Tejanos
rediscover their contributions to Texas history, as
they overcome the barriers that separate Texan and
Tejano, Juan Seguín has again returned to serve as
intermediary between the two.” Writing in a new century
and taking note of the quickly changing ethnic, social, political
and economic landscape of Texas, I would like to amend that
conclusion. It is not only Tejanos who have been on a journey of
rediscovery, so too have Anglo Texans.

Juan Seguín is not just a hero for Texans of Mexican descent. All Texans now recognize his unique contribution to Texas history. In complex, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural societies such as Texas, there is a need for historical figures representative of that diversity. Men and women of public prominence serve as role models for youth and as positive examples of nation building, state building, and community building. Often, these eminent individuals are challengers of the status quo, rebukers of intolerance, defenders of rights, and as such are controversial in their own times—vili-
fied, persecuted, and stigmatized. In time, however, their vision and contributions come to be recognized
and their history begins to be reconsidered. A recent manifestation of this changing understanding can be found in the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum’s choice of Seguín as the narrative voice for the short video

Jesús E. de la Teja, chair of the History Department and incoming president of the Texas State Historical Association, organized a conference on Tejano Leadership in Mexican and Revolutionary Texas as part of the Latino Presence celebration in the fall. He asked 12 scholars to join him in making presentations on different, often overlooked, Tejano heroes of the era. He is editor of a book with a similar title set for publication in 2008.

The subject of de la Teja’s own research is Juan N. Seguín, and he continues to work on a full biography of that controversial historical figure. De la Teja is editor of A Revolution Remembered: The Memoirs and Selected Correspondence of Juan N. Seguín. The following is from his introduction to the second edition of that book.
Juan Seguín, born in San Antonio in 1806, served in several political positions before beginning his military career in 1835. He was commissioned as a captain by Stephen F. Austin and fought with the revolutionary army. He entered the Alamo with other Texian defenders when Santa Anna’s army arrived but was sent out as a courier through Mexican lines with a plea for reinforcements. Commended by Sam Houston for his actions at the Battle of San Jacinto, Seguín returned to San Antonio to accept the Mexican surrender of the city. He later collected the remains of the Alamo dead and conducted the military funeral service for them. He served in the Senate of the Republic of Texas and as mayor of San Antonio and Bexar County constable. He retired to Nuevo Laredo and died there in 1890. His remains were returned to Texas in 1974 and buried at Seguin, the town named in his honor.

From Jesús F. de la Teja’s biography of Seguín in The Handbook of Texas Online

What Texian leader could not be accused of the same? Seguín’s accomplishments, both as a civil and military leader, especially in the context of an increasingly hostile ethnic environment, would not allow him to sink into anonymity, however.

Unlike many of his fellow Tejano political and military associates, with the prominent exception of José Antonio Navarro,
Seguin left enough of a record to make him more than a name on a roster or plaque. Not only his memoirs but a considerable amount of correspondence provide ample evidence of Seguin’s life work to grant him a preeminent place among the founders of independent Texas.

That much of this recognition has accrued to Juan Seguin in the last few years should not be surprising. First, the rise of Chicano history some three decades ago brought attention to the neglected role of Mexican Americans in Texas history. Second, there is the changing face of Texas. Mexican Texans increasingly demand public recognition of their contribution to the building of modern Texas, and Seguin has been chosen as one of the primary vehicles of that recognition.

Changes in Texas society in the last twenty years require that we bring new sensibilities to our understanding of that past. After all, the last generation of the twentieth century produced Tejano members of the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Court of Appeals, a Tejano state attorney general, and, in 2002, the first electoral campaign in which a Tejano has been the Democratic party candidate for governor. Tejanos have not only served in local and statewide office but have gone to Washington, D.C., to serve at the cabinet level in the executive branch. Mexican Americans have also served as mayors of major Texas cities and have made important contributions to the social and cultural life of the state. Tex-Mex food and Tejano music are the cross-over expressions of the state’s new cultural reality, one in which Tejanos have as great a stake as the Anglo Texan majority.

The growing diversity of the United States as a whole means that the place of Mexican Americans in the nation’s history is also drawing more attention, and Juan Seguin has become an important ambassador of early Tejanos as a whole.

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**Latino Presence 1906-2006**

1906 was the year that the first known Hispanic student, Maria Elena Zamora (later O’Shea), enrolled at Southwest Texas State Normal College. Zamora had begun teaching at age 15 at a rancho in Hidalgo County and came to San Marcos for a teaching certificate. She would go from here into a career as a teacher-principal (one of her students was J. Frank Dobie), prosperous businesswoman, translator, author and recorder of the Texas-Mexican story. She was involved in politics, Catholic Church activities, the Dallas Woman’s Forum and the Latin American League.

It is Zamora’s legacy that the Latino Presence honored. One of Texas State’s goals is to become a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) within the next few years. And we’re making progress.

To become known as an HSI, 25 percent of a university’s undergraduate student enrollment must be Hispanic, and half of those students must be first-generation college or lower income. This fall Texas State enrolled 5,671 Hispanic students, the largest number ever. That represents 21 percent of student enrollment, but 23 percent of new students. Even more important, the university is retaining these students. Compared to the 10 largest Texas public universities, Texas State ranks third in retention and graduation of both African-American and Hispanic students.

One proven way to attract minority students is to attract minority faculty. Texas State currently has 70 Hispanic and 24 African-American full-time faculty, and here, too, there is progress. Since September 2004, 42 percent of all new tenure-track faculty hires have been ethnic minorities. In the fall of 2002, we had 94 minority faculty, and this fall we have 140. This fall alone, we were joined by 47 new tenure-track faculty, 46 percent of whom are of an ethnic minority. Nineteen percent are African-American; 13 percent are Hispanic.

Texas’ changing demographics make a strong case for increased Hispanic enrollment. Already a “minority majority” state, Texas’ Hispanic population is forecast to increase dramatically. Currently 35 percent of the state is Hispanic, but by 2020 the Anglo and Hispanic populations will be about equal and by 2040 more than half of all Texans will be Hispanic.

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The Tejano Leadership in Mexican and Revolutionary Texas conference organized by Jesus de la Teja was part of Texas State’s celebration of 100 years of Latino Presence during 2006. The observance was centered around Hispanic Heritage Month, which began with an exhibition in the Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern and Mexican Photography in September, ended with a Fiesta de Cien Anos in October, and included art shows, films, lecturers, music, salsa dance lessons, a playwrights conference and the Tomas Rivera Mexican-American Children’s Book Award presentation.
Heard on campus

What Zoot Suit is about is the criminalization of people who look brown.
—Luis Valdez
author of Zoot Suit, the year’s Common Experience text, in talk to students Sept. 20

George Bush bites the inside of his mouth when he’s nervous. It’s his secret way of keeping his anxiety under control.
—Peter Collett
British TV personality and author of The Body Language of Politics, in talk to students Oct. 23

Our words reflect lingering concepts of racism...The use of the word ‘crusade’ in the aftermath of 9/11 or the swaggering attitude of ‘Bring ‘em on!’ or referring to those who are exercising their legitimate international right to resist foreign occupation as ‘dead-enders,’ as ‘terrorists’ is provocative. Why would you antagonize your ally or be offputting to someone who shares as much with us as the vast majority of the Arab people?
—John Duke Anthony
president of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations, speaking at the Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference in November, which drew more than 800 students and faculty from around the world

I can remember my mother saying: Never let wrinkles set up housekeeping in your soul.
—Olga Samples Davis
author and motivational speaker, at Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference Nov. 3

That’s the only difference in us—the exterior. We have the same blood, same organisms, we’ve got the same heart.
—John Carlos
track star who displayed the Black Power salute in the 1968 Olympics, in Sept. 14 talk on Common Experience theme of the year, protest and dissent

We’re in for a world of disorder for a long, long time because we don’t know how to use peace.
—Edward James Olmos
actor and activist, speaking in connection with the Common Experience Oct. 2

As a member of the Board of Regents, I say thank you to the student body of Texas State University for this unique gift. And as a member of the student body of Texas State University, I say ‘you’re welcome.’
—Frank Bartley
student member of the Texas State University Board of Regents, at unveiling of the statue of Lyndon Johnson, a gift from students, on Sept. 14

From left, President Denise Trauth, Luci Johnson, Kylie Morris, Lyndon Nugent and Frank Bartley.
The role of the military and how it works has fascinated Patricia Shields for a long time. In 2001, that fascination led the Texas State political science professor to become the first woman to edit the journal *Armed Forces & Society*, the leading interdisciplinary publication examining the military establishment and civil-military relations in countries around the world.

Her interest in military and civilian societies began in 1970 when, as a freshman at the University of Maryland, she witnessed significant campus unrest related to the ongoing war in Vietnam. National Guard troops patrolled her campus with rifles, and while she didn’t blame the military as many protesters did, the nation’s war policy confused her. So, in an effort to contribute to a broader understanding of the Vietnam era, she wrote her dissertation at Ohio State University on the equity of the military recruitment process, sections of which were published in *Armed Forces & Society* and the *Journal of Military and Political Sociology*.

“She’s quite a thrill to edit the journal in which I published my dissertation,” Shields said. *Armed Forces & Society* is read by scholars and military personnel worldwide. Shields said she is committed to producing objective research on military institutions and to leading thoughtful discussion about the definition and role of the armed forces in theory and policy. The journal is not associated with any ideological, political or strategic orientation, and Shields says she tries “to keep in mind that readers include junior officers around the world who have been identified as the future leaders in the command structure. Scholars at the Marshall Center in Germany have told me that the young Eastern European officers who train there are always xeroxing *AF&S* articles. My hope is to maximize the journal’s influence on the future leaders of the world’s militaries.”

Seven months after Shields began editing *Armed Forces & Society*, the nation’s international security environment changed radically on Sept. 11, 2001, and the journal’s content has reflected the nature of that change. Shields recently produced a special issue devoted to casualties of war. Scholars have also contributed to a spirited debate about the factors that influence the cohesion of combat units, arguing whether, for example, combat training, “swift trust” or social bonding is more responsible for a combat unit’s motivation and effectiveness.

The journal also publishes broadly on the American military, focusing since 2001 on topics such as ethnicity and the coping of military spouses, why youth enlist, obesity and fitness in the U.S. military, service members’ mental health, deployed troops’ demand for the sexual services of trafficked women, poetry at West Point, and women in the military.

The international, interdisciplinary nature of the journal means that the subject matter remains diverse, Shields explained. Society’s understanding of the role of the military has changed dramatically since the end of the Cold War, and these changes have influenced both how militaries are organized and the security environment around the world.

Society’s understanding of the role of the military has changed dramatically since the end of the Cold War. These changes have influenced both how militaries are organized and the security environment around the world.

Discussion on the military & society
by Ann Friou
around the world. Recent international topics have included the theory of civil-military relations in emerging democracies, the impact of the European Union on civil-military relations in Turkey and Greece, Dutch peace support missions, postmodern militaries, Kenya's coup prevention strategies, combat readiness in the Russian military, biodiversity and the military in Botswana, and the Israeli reserve force. Upcoming issues will feature articles on India's nuclear doctrine and the command structure, North Korea and the Republic of Korea-U.S. security alliance, and changes in America's perceptions of its professional military leaders. Shields will also devote a special issue to veterans and veterans' issues.

Looking ahead, Shields says that the war on terrorism will continue to have profound effects on the field of civil-military relations. Recent shortfalls in Army recruiting goals, as well as the extensive use of contractors in a war zone, will probably influence discourse about how militaries are organized and financed, she said, wondering, “Is conscription on the horizon?”

Other changes such as the increasing use of international peacekeeping forces in conflicts across the globe and the use of armed forces in law enforcement and domestic actions will influence the field over the next few years, she continued, adding, “Basic assumptions about warfare, the role of the nation-state, civil-military relations, and the definition of an armed force are changing. The field is evolving so fast that it is a challenge to keep up with the changes.”

Armed Forces & Society can be viewed online at http://afs.sagepub.com.

Compiled by College of Liberal Arts writer Ann Friou from conversations with Shields and from interviews appearing in Bridging the Gap, the newsletter of the Section for Women in Public Administration, a working group of the American Society for Public Administration; and Incites (http://www.in-cites.com/journals/ArmedForcesSociety.html).
In a relatively quiet section of Baghdad, where hostilities do not typically run high, Capt. James Alexander Funkhouser Jr., 35, was escorting a CBS news team through the unstable city.

His assignment was to protect those reporting on the war’s progress, and it was during this particular trip that they became the story. A roadside bomb detonated, and after the dust settled and the smoke cleared, the gruesome aftermath became apparent.

Funkhouser, a 1999 business management graduate at Texas State, was killed alongside three others: two CBS news crew members, Paul Douglas and James Brolan, and an Iraqi interpreter known as Sam. Seven others were injured, one of whom was Kimberly Dozier, a news correspondent left in critical condition.

Funkhouser, who went by Alex, left behind a wife, Jennifer ’99, as well as two daughters, Kaitlyn, 4, and Allison, 2. While his death caused both sadness and pain among family members and friends, it is also met with an equal amount of resiliency. “I’m happy he died doing what he wanted to do,” said Jennifer Funkhouser, who now lives in New Braunfels. “My husband believed in what they were doing.”

Their six-year marriage was cut short on Memorial Day, a holiday when most people are either grilling in their backyards or floating down a river. It seems both sad and ironic that his death came on a day when the nation remembers its fallen soldiers. And it certainly became one day Jennifer would never forget.

She was returning home from visiting relatives in Corpus Christi when two officers appeared at her doorstep, one of them already red in the face and teary-eyed. No more than a few words were said before she realized what had happened. The possibility of Alex’s never coming home had been discussed several times.

“I knew what we were getting into at the time,” said Jennifer. “We had six years to discuss ifs, ands or buts.” Though the two were forced to separate prematurely, Jennifer is content that the years they shared are evidence of a full and happy life. During his time at Texas State, where the two met, Alex left a lasting impression.

According to her, Alex had a favorite quote he lived by, reflecting his belief that there are never any guarantees about the future. Though it is only four words long, it encompasses a legacy that will carry on through those who knew him best.

“Live in the now,” he used to say.

Robert Kidwell was an intern with the University News Service during the summer.
People would gravitate toward him. He had a real upbeat attitude and a great smile. He would find humor in things.

From Iraq:
Gifted soldier emitted goodness

from the University Star

Before returning home for the holidays, Spc. Yari Mokri planned to give his shoes to an Iraqi soldier who played soccer with him barefoot—an act that family and friends say embodied Mokri’s compassion and positive attitude toward life.

Mokri, 2005 criminal justice graduate, never had the chance to make that gift.

On Dec. 6, Mokri, 26, and four other U.S. soldiers were killed when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle in Hawijah, Iraq, about 175 miles north of Baghdad. Mokri was assigned to the Army’s 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. He was deployed to Iraq in September and was scheduled to return Dec. 23.

One of Mokri’s best friends from his hometown in Pflugerville, Byron Norwood, was killed in Iraq two years ago. The families of Mokri and Norwood are friends.

“We are planning to send a pair of shoes to that soldier on behalf of Yari,” his mother, Donna Mokri, said. She said Yari had a sense of humor that he maintained throughout his life. “People would gravitate toward him. He had a real upbeat attitude and a great smile. He would find humor in things,” she said.

Mokri was a young man of many interests. He conversed in German and Farsi. He had a gift for music, playing guitar, trumpet, keyboard and drums. He was a cookie baker, a passionate soccer player since he was 4 years old, an impersonator of Saturday Night Live characters. And shortly before his deployment to Iraq, he became a husband—he and his wife Andrea were married in a private ceremony, planning to celebrate with the family and friends when he got back.

Mokri enlisted in the Army’s counterintelligence division a month after his graduation from Texas State in May 2005. Mokri felt that military experience would help him with his goal, a career in law enforcement. He talked about working with the Austin Police Department, where he served an internship in the homicide department.

“I made him get his hands dirty,” said Richard Faithful, Austin police detective. “It was like having an extra partner out there, but he’s doing it for free.”

On the first day of his internship, Mokri’s car was towed. The incident became the subject of good-natured ridicule of Mokri. “He was so focused on being on time and making a good impression that he didn’t see the no-parking signs,” Faithful said.

Over the next five years, Faithful said he and Yari developed a friendship that allowed them to “talk on other levels” about life issues, including Mokri’s enlistment into the military. They emailed while Yari was in Iraq, Faithful said, but did not talk much about the war. Mokri preferred to tell his friend about his love for the kids in the Iraqi communities.

“Yari was one of these guys that just emitted goodness,” he said. ⭐️
The *Rocky Horror Show* hit the Texas State stage in November with 10 sold-out performances. Writer Jayme Blaschke talked with cast and director Jay Jennings as rehearsals proceeded.

Jay Jennings stands center stage, brow furrowed in thought. Twenty *Rocky Horror Show* cast members mill about, eager to learn the choreography of the big “Floorshow” sequence, but inspiration comes only in fits and starts. It doesn’t help that the players are learning their marks without benefit of a set—the elaborate grand staircase and anthropomorphic tree, not to mention the video projection system that will dazzle audiences come opening night, have yet to be put together.
“Okay folks, let’s block this thing,” Jennings says, having worked out the troublesome sequence in his mind. “Let’s take up the fanfare right before Frank-N-Furter sings.”

The students who make up the cast amble into position, checking their marks. They’re enthusiastic but uncertain. The Rocky Horror Show is, after all, the most ambitious production most of them have ever been involved in. They run through the fanfare twice, three times before Jennings calls for a break. The flow is still rough, but not so much as it was during the first run-through.

“It’s turned out to be huge. I go from being really, really excited to the other end of the spectrum when I think about all the elements that have to come together,” Jennings observes. “As you can see tonight, sometimes it works really well, and sometimes it doesn’t.”

It may come as a surprise to some that The Rocky Horror Show fits nicely into theatrical strategy. In order to give students the opportunity to audition for and see a wide variety of plays during their four years at Texas State, the Department of Theatre and Dance maintains a set genre rotation: The seasons alternate between big and small musicals, a period comedy and contemporary drama followed by a period drama and a contemporary comedy in alternate years. Every other year features a Shakespearean play, alternating with the American Theatre College Festival. Despite its bawdy reputation, Rocky Horror undeniably qualifies as a “big musical,” and as soon as it was announced, interest spiked across campus.

“There were some raised eyebrows,” said John Fleming, chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance. “Jay’s been wanting to do the show for a number of years, and he’s always been worried about the reaction to it because it’s guys in fishnets, not women in fishnets.

“We know that it’s geared for a younger audience, but at the same time there are a lot of people in their 40s and 50s who are saying ‘Hey! That’s what I did in high school and college!’” he said. “The students are excited. Next year we may do something more traditional, but right now there’s a lot of buzz.”

Buzz is exactly what Fleming hopes to build up around the theatre complex, particularly when it comes to the musical theatre program, which has been moribund for the past half decade or so. The addition of new faculty is a priority, but Fleming’s confident that the renewed interest has the program on the right track.

For Micah Sudduth, senior from Palestine, the main challenge isn’t so much filling big shoes as it is balancing on six-inch heels. Sudduth snagged the showcase role of Frank-N-Furter originated by Tim Curry on the London stage and reprised in the later film version. Curry’s over-the-top performance launched an enduring career for the actor, but also cast a very long shadow.

“This was the role I really wanted. It launched Tim Curry’s career—Curry sold it like no other,” says a shirtless Sudduth as he takes a break from working with musical director Gordon Jones on a problematic vocal in the song “Wild and Untamed Thing.” He’s determined to make the role his own, but it’s hard to picture the unassuming student transformed into Frank-N-Furter via corset, garters and fishnet stockings. “I think a lot of the Frank-N-Furters in the past have been strictly about having a good time with the role. I think there’s a lot more character depth to Frank-N-Furter than has been explored, though.

“It’s a fun, interactive audience-participation show, but there’re so many more layers to Frank than I think most people realize.”

Sudduth need look no further for understanding of his dilemma than co-
Part of what you’re doing at a university is giving students the opportunity to tackle challenging works. When we pick a season, our primary concern is our students’ education.
Staging a well-known play is always challenging since the director has to juggle familiarity with freshness. *Rocky Horror*, though, brings a third factor to that equation: audience participation. Over the course of three decades, the film version has become a midnight movie legend because of the clever, crude and often arcane catcalls and commentary thrown at the screen by the audience. Very often these same audience members are decked out in costumes and makeup as one of the characters from the show and participate from their seats in dance numbers. Accommodating those interactions without disrupting the live performance became a real challenge for the production.

“I actually wasn’t familiar with *Rocky Horror* until this summer, so the stage is all I know, really,” Franz says. “We have rehearsals where they call out the audience participation lines, and I’m like, ‘What? That’s one of them? My mom’s going to die!’”

“We are encouraging limited responses. We’ll have the responses we are using printed in the program,” explains Jennings. Cleverly, the ushers also sell “participation kits” to the audience members, complete with silly props such as wads of toilet paper, party hats and crepe paper to be brought out at certain points in the play. The Narrator, played by the sly, smoking-jacket-clad Michael Amendola, sophomore from San Antonio, threatens to steal the show as he walks the audience through their lines, hilariously castigating them when they miss a cue. That’s a notable departure from the well-known film version, but Jennings doesn’t expect longtime fans to be disappointed by the liberties taken. “A lot of it is exactly the same, but we’ve added a number of things that are quite different. I’ve added a real time machine—instead of just talking about the Time Warp, we are playing with a time machine.”

That creativity extends to the music as well. Incorporating a live band into the production has allowed for flexibility and experimentation, and some of Gordon Jones’ arrangements of the time-worn tunes are pretty bold. That suits Kelley Harmon—who plays the wheelchair-bound Dr. Scott—just fine. “I just come in and sing my song, ‘Eddie’s Teddy,’ and kind of mesmerize the audience a little bit,” says Harmon, junior from Winnie. “Gordon Jones has taken a different approach to the song. We’re bringing a more gospel feel to it, a real down-home, soulful, Southern Baptist gospel approach. It’s something nobody’s ever seen before—he reorchestrated the whole thing. It’s not going to sound like any other production.”

Jennings is no stranger to challenging theatre productions. He started his career in professional musical theatre in 1960 in New York and did national tours of *My Fair Lady* and *West Side Story*. For all that, staging *Rocky Horror* has long been an ambition of his, ever since he put together a review of the songs at the Paramount Theatre in Austin in 1980. While the production itself borders on overwhelming at times, the highest hurdles Jennings finds himself jumping are more logistical than anything else.

“One of our biggest problems is actually getting to work on the stage,” he says with resignation. “Like this week, we can only be on stage two nights—two nights out of the whole week. The small Studio Theatre is next door to the main stage, and they have
performances running all week. Any sound we make on the main stage carries through, so we can’t rehearse in here while they are performing.

“The other thing we’re dealing with is that it’s very difficult to build one set while another is on the stage, because we really have no space to do that,” Jennings says. “In an ideal world, our set for Rocky Horror would be finished, and we could rehearse on it—but we’ll only get to rehearse on the finished set twice before we open.”

Facilities are obviously a big issue. It’s not unlike the impact athletics facilities have on recruiting. There’s that aspect of it,” Fleming said. “I’ve shown students around, and you never want to hear them say, ‘Well, my high school’s better than that.’

“The tough part is that a lot of community colleges have had new facilities built in the last five years or so. We’re competing against that.”

The prospect of a new Performing Arts Center, incorporating a theatre and recital hall, gives Fleming hope for the future, but that doesn’t mean the department is sitting on its laurels now. Major renovations have already begun on the current Theatre Center to bring it into the 21st century. Classrooms and office space are getting significant upgrades, with attention eventually extending to the performance spaces—the lighting and rigging on the main stage date from the center’s opening, Fleming pointed out, and are 35 years out of date. These spaces will be needed even with the new Performing Arts Center.

“A state-of-the-art facility would enhance our students’ education. We could make sure we stay on the cutting edge and keep up with all the advances in theatre technology,” Fleming said. “We do want it to be a nice place for the public to come to. We are still heavily dependent on students in terms of our audience makeup, and we would like to get more of the general public in to see our shows. We’re proud of the work we do, and we’d like to have a bigger audience for it and a nice facility.”

A secondary benefit of new and renovated performance space is the ability to host state or regional rounds of the American College Theatre Festival. On average, a regional round features eight schools from five different states, and the proposed new facilities would give Texas State the capacity and flexibility to showcase such a variety of performances.

Jennings claps his hands, calling the actors back to position. They’re picking up in the middle of the Floorshow sequence, a complexly choreographed segment with all of the performers interacting. Most are armed with flowing, aquamarine scarves, but several pairs have 30-foot-long shrouds of gossamer fabric that stretch the length of the stage.

“Oh, that is good!” announces a delighted Jennings. “Ladies and gentlemen, I think we have a winner.”
Transformation

At first glance, Micah Sudduth doesn’t look like an alien lunatic bent on testing the limits of hedonistic excess, but then again, that’s why it’s called acting. The senior theatre major from Palestine undergoes a startling metamorphosis beginning more than an hour before showtime, applying much of the gaudy facial makeup and over-the-top false eyelashes himself before help arrives to buckle him into Frank-N-Furter’s signature corset. Once Sudduth struts onto the grand staircase to the opening chords of “Sweet Transvestite,” the transformation is complete.
Six new Distinguished Alumni were added to the wall of honorees already there in the Student Center during Homecoming festivities. They join 135 other outstanding graduates stretching back to the first, Lyndon Johnson in 1959. Here is a glimpse of why they were chosen.

by Robert Kidwell ’06

Keeping researchers safe

For James S. Bogard, Texas State was the natural choice. His father had enrolled here to work on his master’s in education when James was young, and James often accompanied him to campus.

It was a time when the school was making a transition from being a teachers college to a university with a broader scope. These were the years that represented growth for the school, and Bogard was right in the middle of it before he earned his chemistry degree in 1970. He took up residence at Arnold and Jackson Hall, participating in a number of social activities, including membership in two fraternities.

“The science faculty was excellent,” he says, speaking from his research laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tenn. “I got really good background in chemistry, math and physics, and those are the bases for all science.”

Bogard has since put that foundation to good use—he joined the famed Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1979 after earning his doctorate in chemistry at the University of Texas at Austin and completing post-doctoral work at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois. That’s the same Oak Ridge National Laboratory founded as part of the Manhattan Project during World War II. The facility developed the world’s first plutonium, but it now functions as a multipurpose research laboratory.

Currently, Bogard is president of the American Academy of Health Physics, which provides certification for health physicists and allows them to maintain their professional skills through training and recertification. He also serves as chairman of the Health Physics Society, but science remains his passion.

He headed the laboratory’s Radiation Monitoring Department for several years before becoming a program leader in the Life Sciences Division. In general, he says his job is to make the work environment of researchers around the world safer.

“What I do is measure and characterize radiation so that it can be dealt with safely,” he said. “I have a great job, and they give me lots of toys!”

One particular project from his days as a graduate student stands out as broadening his interest in chemistry and introducing him to radiation science, Bogard says. The effects of radiation were used to determine the age of a horse tooth, he explains, and after a battery of tests and procedures, he determined that the tiny remain dated back as far as 500,000 years. That revelation left a lasting impression: In addition to his responsibilities at Oak Ridge, Bogard currently serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee, where he teaches the science of determining the age of archaeological artifacts.
For the last few decades, what most people would consider a life of high adventure has been just an average day at the office for Dale Bulkley.

Bulkley, 1981 criminal justice graduate, founded Prevention Dimension International in 2003 to train private security details in the prevention of kidnappings and techniques in negotiating with criminals when someone is abducted.

Kidnappings are a daily occurrence worldwide. While kidnappings occasionally happen in the United States, many places in the world are hotspots for abductions. The Texas border with Mexico is one such location, where drug wars are causing increased instability. Another example is Iraq, where as many as 20 kidnappings occur daily.

“If you have a private company coming into a hotspot, then they’re a target,” says Bulkley, “because the perception is you have lots of money.”

Perception and reality don’t always agree. Occasionally individuals of modest means are kidnapped and held for an overblown ransom. That is why it takes experienced men and women to alleviate the situation, Bulkley says.

“Our success rate is high for getting people back,” says Bulkley after returning home to New Braunfels from negotiations in Tijuana. “Our company has negotiated 700 cases, and there has been only one death.”

One of the first things he points out is that most kidnappings in trouble areas can be prevented. It is just a matter of keeping a low profile, varying routines and thinking like a criminal—all of which Bulkley teaches to clients.

His experience with kidnapping goes way back. While growing up in Uruguay, where his parents worked as missionaries, he became fluent in Spanish and grew accustomed to the native culture. At the age of 10, he became a victim of an attempted kidnapping from his home. His father, who fought back to free his son, suffered two gunshot wounds to the leg but was successful in keeping his son. The incident proved to be a resonant one.

After earning his bachelor’s degree, Bulkley served in the Air Force until 1995. His area of expertise focused on anti-terrorism, and he spent time in several countries in the Mediterranean region (where he oversaw security for all Air Force installations) as well as Kenya, Latin America and the Middle East. Upon leaving the military, Bulkley began directing his personal experience and skills in criminal justice and anti-terrorism toward a career in hostage protection and kidnapping prevention. It’s a line of work he finds particularly satisfying, knowing that his efforts save lives.

“Don’t focus on the problem; find the solution” is a phrase Bulkley is fond of quoting, and coming from him, it is no idle platitude—it is a mission statement.

Kidnap prevention his specialty
Hermann Chinery-Hesse’s favorite saying is an African proverb he first heard many years ago: “No matter how far the stream goes, it never forgets its source.”

Following that sage wisdom, Chinery-Hesse returned to his native Ghana to do business after graduating from Texas State with a degree in industrial technology.

That was in 1988, when many of his colleagues insisted there was no business market in West Africa. Fast forward almost 20 years: Chinery-Hesse’s theSOFTtribe Ltd., a company that specializes in developing computer software, is the country’s leading technology firm with a growing international profile.

“I essentially set out to prove to skeptical friends what I had always believed in,” says Chinery-Hesse, who makes his home in the Ghanian city of Accra, “that Ghana was a land of opportunity waiting for entrepreneurs with innovative business ideas.”

That’s not to say the journey to this point was not without its share of travel and hard work. After being born in Ireland, Chinery-Hesse was raised in Ghana, where he attended grade school and grew up immersed in West African culture. He later moved to the United States to attend high school in Austin and later college at Texas State. The environment at Texas State proved inspiring for Chinery-Hesse, who split his time between playing table tennis and attending classes.

“The influence of the professors, the practical nature of my chosen courses and lectures from different people in the industry—that had a tremendous impact on me,” said Chinery-Hesse.

After his return to West Africa, he began working for the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority Computerization Project, while also developing what would become his company, theSOFTtribe. Starting from humble beginnings—just a computer in his bedroom—theSOFTtribe has quickly grown into a vast operation with dozens of employees and a reach that extends well beyond Ghana’s borders.

“I really can’t say I was surprised, though I was definitely thrilled about it,” says Chinery-Hesse about his company’s success. “I always knew it was possible and simply focused on it.”

His vision has led him to places where his colleagues couldn’t imagine a decade ago. TheSOFTtribe has recently established a relationship with Microsoft in which the companies will partner and work hand-in-hand to both develop software and market it to locations all around the world.

“The future looks very bright indeed,” says Chinery-Hesse. “We see ourselves having a global reach beyond Africa 10 years from now.”

Not bad for a Bobcat once dubbed “The African Bill Gates” by the BBC, whose personal stream once flowed through the Texas State campus on the way to greater things.
For a young man accustomed to laboring in the parched West Texas oil fields outside of Midland, the teachers college that would eventually grow into Texas State University was a revelation.

“What attracted me,” says Jerry Fields, 1969 business management graduate, “was the fact that I had come from a place with no water to a place that had the most beautiful water in the world.”

Until he set foot on campus, all he’d known was dusty terrain and oil rigs, so the San Marcos River was a refreshing change of scenery. He soon developed leadership skills that would serve him well as a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and junior class president. He accomplished this in spite of a broken back he suffered one summer in the oilfield, forcing him to sit out several semesters. After his recovery, he commuted to classes while holding down a job in San Antonio to finance his education.

“Since childhood, the most important situation had been having enough money,” says Fields from his Houston office. “I visualized being in business for myself.”

Fields married Linda Gregg, 1966 graduate, and following graduation began working for L.B. Foster Co. until starting J.D. Fields Inc. in 1985. Since opening his first office in Houston, Fields’ company has rapidly grown into an international firm specializing in steel products, accessories and other services.

In 1990, INC. Magazine named J.D. Fields Inc. one of the fastest growing companies in the U.S. Since then, his firm has become a family business, employing both his son, Jay, and son-in-law, Patrick Burk. Currently, the business generates $250 million annually, but Fields expects it to grow to become a billion-dollar corporation within the next 10 years.

“Very quickly we expanded across the United States,” Fields says. “But after a few years we realized that there was a lot of opportunity in going international.”

Despite the demands a rapidly growing company put upon him, Fields has made it a point to capitalize on his success and give back. After an employee died of cancer, Fields channeled the majority of his philanthropic energies into the American Cancer Society and was named the 2003 Pacesetter of the Year by the Cancer League.

“I’d never had any involvement with cancer, but several years ago a person I was very fond of died of cancer at a young age,” Fields says. “I realized that it took some people to get involved. I said to myself that if I’m going to do something, I should finally step up to the plate.”

He and Linda also stepped up to the plate by establishing a chair in the McCoy College of Business Administration (see page 8).
Ever since the second grade, Jody Hughes Hodges of Aledo knew she wanted to teach. Little did she know that not only would she teach, but she would also change the way science is taught both by her colleagues and in the state of Texas.

“I practice 100 percent hands-on teaching,” says the 1982 elementary education graduate, whose 20-year career in education has inspired thousands of middle school students. “When I began, not too many were doing that.”

Now the practice has found its way into classrooms all around the state, but Hodges can be considered a pioneer. Not only does she use hands-on lectures to teach her students, she operates a living museum filled with animal and plant specimens. Her classroom—which at times looks more like a jungle filled with spiders and reptiles—is open to all, no matter their age or grade level.

Her students go on field trips organized by Hodges, but these are not the standard trips to the zoo or museum that most remember from middle school days. Rather, these field trips take students to exotic destinations. What better way to learn biology than to go whale-watching in Nova Scotia, explore the rainforests of Costa Rica or see first-hand evolution’s handiwork in the Galapagos Islands?

“I just returned from Honduras,” says Hodges. “We went to the Mayan ruins and took a Zip Line tour of the rain forest canopy. We also went snorkeling.”

Already Hodges has next year’s trip planned for Alaska. While the 49th state is uncharted territory for her, this isn’t the first time she’s blazed new trails. It was in graduate school where, after doing a lot of field work, she decided to start teaching things differently. She found she had a knack for elementary science, and when she moved to Fort Worth, she had her first opportunity to put her inspiration into practice.

In the years following those early days, Hodges has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the Disney American Teacher Award, the Excellence in Science Teaching Award from the American Association of Physics Teachers and an honorable mention for USA Today’s All-USA Teacher Team. She has been recognized with both cash and trophies, but nothing is more rewarding than the chance to change a student’s life, Hodges says. With her style of teaching comes classrooms full of students who will never look at the living world in quite the same light again.

Appropriately enough, the one-time Texas State student is now the one from whom students and faculty have something new to learn.
Charlotte Tate was named applied health science dean at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1999 and served as interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs 2000-2002, and she credits the push she received while attending Texas State for putting her on that path.

Tate received her master’s in education with a specialty in exercise physiology from Texas State in 1972, but it was the happenstance of a friend’s financial need that led to her attending graduate school in the first place.

“My friend was going to Texas State and needed someone to share expenses,” explains Tate from her office at UI-Chicago. “I ended up studying the effects of exercise on adolescent girls, which had never been done at that point.”

The work she did at Texas State prepared her for the challenges she would face in her career, Tate says, but it was one professor in particular who raised the bar for her. Throughout her education, Tate had done well but had never felt academically challenged. In one of her first graduate classes, Tate encountered Professor Henrietta Avent and came to a startling realization: “I sat there and thought that I can’t get around this woman.”

Tate and Avent soon developed a mentor-student relationship, in which Tate was pushed to work and think harder. In the end, her master’s thesis was incredibly thick—larger even than her later Ph.D. thesis—and filled with data that would eventually see publication in various journals. Tate developed a specialty in muscle biology, and her work dealt specifically with how the heart muscle reacts to various degrees of exercise.

That work led her to Baylor, where she became a tenured professor of experimental medicine. After more than a decade of teaching, she left for the University of Houston to pursue what would be her first leadership position, vice provost, which directly led to UI-Chicago. During her time in Chicago, Tate has taken what was already one of the top Research One universities and more than doubled its research portfolio.

“I provide the very best environment possible for the faculty to be both professors and researchers,” she says.

Her success has not come without a price, Tate says. She has sacrificed time, energy and years of service to reach her full potential. Approaching retirement age, Tate admits there is one career goal remaining that she has yet to accomplish.

“I’ve thought a lot about what it would be like to be a university president,” Tate says. “And the only place where it’s worth being president is at Texas State.”

Robert Kidwell interned in the University News Service and graduated in August.

I provide the environment for faculty to be both professors and researchers.
50 years ago  Eleanor Roosevelt came to campus in 1957 to talk about communism to a packed crowd in Evans Auditorium. The former first lady said that educating our citizens is the best weapon against communism and that “superior Soviet encouragements of education may hold the seeds of democracy’s destruction.” She pointed out that while Russian youth are educated to the student’s utmost ability, we allow many talented young people to miss out on an education altogether in this country. Throughout the speech, she insisted that in the fight against communism “more belief in the people and in democracy is our greatest hope. You don’t put a stop to communism by a single act.”

25 years ago  The university’s seventh president, Robert Hardesty, was inaugurated in 1982 in a ceremony that featured Lady Bird Johnson as speaker. Held in the new Strahan Coliseum, the ceremony was planned by a steering committee headed by Ralph Harrell, dean of the School of Creative Arts, and W. E. Norris Jr., dean of the university; alumni representatives on the committee were Yancy Yarbrough and Walter Richter. Board of Regents Chair Robert Baldwin III of Austin installed the new president. Hardesty, who had been a speechwriter for President Lyndon Johnson, served as president until 1988.

75 years ago  The Depression was taking its toll on enrollment as 869 students registered in 1932 (down from a fall high of 1,304 in 1927). At least three campus improvements greeted those students, however: a shiny silver coat of paint on the roof of Old Main, a new $41,000 gymnasiun building to replace one destroyed by fire in 1930, and a new football field. Evans Field was on the site of the current coliseum parking lot, and the Bobcats played there until Bobcat Stadium was finished in 1981.
100 years ago  The first formal athletic teams at Southwest Texas State Normal School were women’s teams, and for the first decade of the college’s history, women’s teams outnumbered men’s. The 1907 Pedagogue shows photographs of three men’s sports teams and four women’s teams. The men fielded baseball, football and basketball (the Titans), while the women had four basketball teams (the Gypsies, Topsies, Nymphs and Sprites). ★

The women’s basketball team and the men’s baseball team from the 1907 Pedagogue. The women’s teams in the yearbook have names (this women’s team is the Gypsies) but the basketball team is the only men’s team with a name (Titans). The Gypsies list Jessie Sayers, who taught math and wrote the school’s alma mater, as an honorary member.
Early last year, *New York Times* book review editor Sam Tanenhaus sent out a short letter to a couple of hundred prominent writers, critics, editors and other literary stalwarts, politely asking them to identify “the single best work of American fiction published in the last 25 years.”

Twenty-two works were selected by the experts, and results were published in the Times. Two of the 22 were written by Texas State’s Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte Endowed Chair holders in the Creative Writing program—Denis Johnson, for *Jesus’ Son*, and Tim O’Brien, for *The Things They Carried*—a fact that no doubt further elevated the national reputation of the Texas State program. The same publication had already hailed the program housed in Flowers Hall as “a program that might rival the famed Iowa Writers Workshop.”

Johnson holds the Mitte Chair in Creative Writing this academic year. O’Brien has held it in past years and teaches writing workshops for the program in other years.

Both were drawn to the Texas State program’s focus on student and faculty support of one another that has been fostered by director Tom Grimes. Grimes, former business executive turned author, has tried to nurture a support system for what is often a tumultuous journey for writers.

“You’ll get rejected over and over and over,” he says. “Writing is a test of character, not just talent.” He believes that the ultimate benefit a writing program can give its students is a few friends who will be the best readers, editors and companions they will have for the rest of their writing career.

It’s not a question of teaching creativity, it’s helping people remember that they are naturally creative and allowing them to be.

— Denis Johnson
Therefore, much emphasis is placed on student interaction with one another and with creative writing faculty. Almost every week after a writing workshop, students gather on the deck of the River Pub and Grill overlooking the newly remodeled play waves on the San Marcos River. One night in October, I joined them. Here in this tranquil place, I saw young writers relax with Johnson and Grimes and listened to them discuss their ambitions, their stresses and fears, their self doubts. Johnson told stories about his experiences teaching at Iowa and Columbia.

I asked Johnson if a writing program can really teach people how to be creative. “Believe it or not, I think you can teach creativity,” he said. “You give students permission to take more risks and make more mistakes. A child can make a story up on the spot, then as we get older we’re just as creative, but more reserved inside. It’s not a question of teaching creativity, it’s helping people remember that they are naturally creative and allowing them to be.”

A good program must also teach discipline and craft, but in the end success depends on the individual. “To succeed as a writer requires discipline, tenacity, love of language, love of story, attention to writerly issues such as pace and rhythm and drama,” O’Brien says. “Some of this we soak up as we live our lives. Some of it we soak up through our reading.

“In a writing program, we address these things very specifically, raising them above the intuitive, raising them to the level of formal consciousness. In other words, we endeavor to talk about matters that would probably not get addressed if a student were working alone. I can say from experience that I would’ve saved myself a great deal of grief, and countless rewrites, if I’d gone through a program like ours early on in my life.”

Marc Speir is a graduate assistant in the University News Service.

**Writing faculty**

Denis Johnson and Tim O’Brien are only two of the outstanding faculty teaching in the Creative Writing Program. Take a look at some of the others:

**Cyrus Cassells**

*The Mud Actor*

National Poetry Series Prize

*Soul Make a Path Through Shouting*

One of Publisher’s Weekly’s Best Books of 1994, William Carlos Williams Award

*Beautiful Signor*

Lambda Literary Award

Peter I.B. Lavan Younger Poet Award from American Academy of Poets

**Dagoberto Gilb**

*Gritos*

National Book Critics Circle Award nominee

Best American Essays 1997, 1999

*The Last Known Residence of Mickey Acuña*

*New York Times* Notable Book

*The Magic of Blood*

Texas Institute of Letters’ Jesse Jones Award for best book of fiction 1994

**Tom Grimes**

*A Stone of the Heart*

*New York Times* Notable Book

*Barnes & Noble Discover Award 1999*

*City of God*

WILL@epicqqwest.com  BookSense 

“Pick” for July 2003

**Roger Jones**

Academy of American Poets Prize 1984

*Are We There Yet?*

*Strata*

**Holdens of Mitte Chair in Creative Writing**

**Denis Johnson (2006–07)**

*Jesus’ Son*

*Train Dreams*

*The Name of the World*

*Fiskadoro*

*Already Dead: A California Gothic*

*Soul of a Whore*

*The Incognito Lounge*

**Tim O’Brien (every other year since 1999)**

*The Things They Carried*

Pulitzer Prize finalist

*Going After Cacciato*

National Book Award

*In the Lake of the Woods*

Best Novel, *Time* magazine 1994

*If I Die in a Combat Zone*

*Tomcat in Love*

**Barry Hannah (2004–05)**

*High Lonesome*

Pulitzer Prize nominee

Poems in various journals, including *Texas Review, Poet Lore, Southern Poetry Review* and *Hawaii Review*

**Debra Monroe**

*The Source of Trouble*

Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction 1990

*Newfangled*

Borders Bookstores’ New Frontiers selection 1998

*A Wild, Cold State*

Best 10 Books selection in *Elle* 1995

**Kathleen Peirce**

*Mercy*

Associated Writing Programs Award in Poetry

*The Oval Hour*

Iowa Poetry Prize 1998, Finalist for 1999

*Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, Williams Carlos Williams Award

*The Ardors*

Divided Touch, Divided Color

**Steve Wilson**

*The Singapore Express or Faith in the Knowing Hand of the Scientist*

Works in *American Diaspora: Poetry of Displacement, Like Thunder: Poets Respond to Violence in America and Sierra Songs and Descants*

Fullbright Fellowship 1994, 2002

**Leslie Marmon Silko (2000–01)**

*Ceremony*

In *The Garden of the Dunes*

*Greed*

*Premier Woman: Poems*
Texas State’s faculty and its academic centers publish hundreds of books, journal articles, papers on research, monographs and other pieces every year. Here’s a sampling of some that looked particularly interesting:

A Revolution in Eating: How the Quest for Food Shaped America
James McWilliams
Assistant Professor, History
McWilliams explores the regional origins of early American farming and eating habits, illuminating the many ways in which Native Americans, African-Americans and poor farmers fundamentally shaped the way Americans not only ate, but also thought about politics.
(Columbia University Press)

The San Marcos: A River’s Story
James Kimmel
Professor, Geography
Kimmel takes readers on a journey from the river’s headwater springs to its junction with the Guadalupe River, with the affectionate and knowledgeable voice of one whose own life has been closely linked to the river. His words and beautiful photography by Jerry Touchstone Kimmel capture the imagination and provide valuable information about the river and its crucial role in the ecological health of Texas.
(Texas A&M University Press, sponsored by the River Systems Institute at Texas State)

Rock and Roll: Its History and Stylistic Development
Joseph Stuessy
Director, School of Music
Now in its fifth edition, Rock and Roll by Stuessy and coauthor Scott Lipscomb from the University of Texas at San Antonio continues to be the top-selling rock history textbook in the United States. Specifically geared to the non-music major, it covers the history of rock music from its roots to its most recent trends, providing thorough historical detail and social context for the various rock styles presented.
(Prentice Hall)

Myth, Magic, and Farce
Sandra Mayo
Director, Multicultural and Gender Studies
Mayo, an associate professor of theatre, presents this anthology of four plays by Sterling Houston, an innovative and award-winning African-American playwright from San Antonio who is known for his biting social commentary combined with eye-popping theatricality. The four plays represent Houston’s full range of themes and styles, from Texas history to African mythology, from farce to domestic drama.
(University of North Texas Press)

The Politics of Education in the New South: Women and Reform in Georgia 1890-1930
Rebecca Montgomery
Assistant Professor, History
Montgomery provides the first complete picture of women’s role in expanding the democratic promise of education in the postbellum South. She shows how women’s efforts to reform public education had the broader effect of reshaping private and public social relations.
(Louisiana State University Press)

Silent Racism: How Well-Meaning White People Perpetuate the Racial Divide
Barbara Trepagnier
Associate Professor, Sociology
Trepagnier persuasively demonstrates that racism performed by whites that most people regard as “not racist” is instrumental in the production of institutional racism. Based on her finding that all whites harbor some racist thoughts and feelings, she argues that heightened race awareness is more important in changing racial inequality than judging whether individuals are racist and offers a fresh approach for thinking and teaching about racism.
(Paradigm Publishers)

A Quiet Divide
Roger Colombik
Professor, Art and Design
Fulbright Scholar, sculptor and poet Colombik traveled to the West Bank, Eastern Europe and the Balkans to photograph and listen to ordinary people in order to put a human face onto worldwide violence. The duotone photographs, poems and journal notes cover tumultuous years of social change in those regions from 1993 to 2001. The divide refers to the psychological partitions imposed on individuals and society by the physical partitions of war, poverty and neglect and the author’s personal search for traces of our humanity that remain hidden within these communities.
(Plain View Press)
A Pernicious Sort of Woman: Quasi-Religious Women and Canon Lawyers in the Later Middle Ages
Elizabeth Makowski
Professor, History

Makowski examines the writings of canon lawyers in the late Middle Ages as they come to terms with women who were not, strictly speaking, religious, but who were popularly thought of as such. She also looks at the women affected and how they justified their unauthorized way of life, defending themselves against accusations of unorthodoxy and even heresy.

(Catholic University of America Press)

Hecho en Tejas
Dagoberto Gilb, editor
Professor, English

This anthology of almost 100 Texas Mexican authors is not only a literary showcase but also a cultural and historical narrative both for those familiar with Texas Mexicans and for outsiders. It is a mosaic portrait of the community, the land and its history, its people's sorrows and joys, anger and humor and pride. It is the 14th book in the Southwestern Writers Collection Book Series, and the collection is hosting an exhibit focused on authors from Hecho through May 15.

(University of New Mexico Press)

Scout, the Christmas Dog
Andrew Sansom
Executive Director, River Systems Institute

Selected by Borders and Barnes & Noble as a featured holiday title, Scout tells the story of an aging black lab who gets lost during a hunting trip. When his owner cannot find him, a gloom falls over the approaching holiday. Then a freak snowstorm, a distant phone call and a friend's lucky timing bring an unexpected reminder of the magic of Christmas.

(Texas A&M University Press)

More Than Peace and Cypress
Cyrus Cassells
Associate Professor, English

After the death of his father, the poet Cassells returned to Italy, France and Spain—countries that nurtured him as a young writer—to investigate the sources of his inspiration. Throughout the book, Cassells expands the elegy to contain elements of the ecstatic, the erotic and even the comic, while emphasizing the power of surprise and renewal.

(Copper Canyon Press)

Ethical Dilemmas and Decisions in Criminal Justice
Joycelyn Pollock
Professor, Criminal Justice

Pollock presents a balance between philosophical principles and issues-based practical application that covers all three segments of the criminal justice system -- police, courts and corrections. In this fifth edition of the book, she explores such current and challenging topics as police response to Katrina, racial profiling, racial disparities in drug sentencing and homeland security.

(Thomson Wadsworth Publishing)

A Concise Public-Speaking Handbook
Steven Beebe
Chair, Communication Studies
and Susan Beebe
Lecturer, English

Adapted from the authors' top-selling public speaking text, this handbook provides a unique, audience-centered approach in a user-friendly reference format, allowing users to access information quickly and easily. It brings theory and practice together in an understandable and applicable manner, emphasizing the importance of analyzing and considering the audience at every point along the way.

(Allyn & Bacon Publishers)

New Deal Days: The CCC at Mesa Verde
Ronald Brown
Dean, University College

As it did on public lands throughout the United States, from 1933 until the program was dissolved in 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps worked in Mesa Verde National Park. In that decade, the young men of the CCC fought a major forest fire, renovated park accommodations for visitors and staff, created a small but visually exciting museum, improved year-round access to the park, removed insect-ravaged deadwood, and landscaped the park headquarters area. This is their story.

(Durango Small Press)
He says he’s always been a Bobcat at heart—from the time he walked onto Billy Miller’s team in the late ‘70s until Jan. 22, when he was named the Bobcats’ 15th head football coach.

Brad Wright ‘81 has been a member of Texas State’s coaching staff for the past three seasons. He was lured away from a successful high school coaching career to become the Bobcats’ assistant head coach, running backs coach and special teams coordinator when David Bailiff was named Texas State’s head coach in 2004. Wright fills the vacancy left when Bailiff went to Rice University as head coach.

The 47-year-old Pearsall native has played a significant role in the resurgence of Texas State’s football program. He helped build the momentum that took the Bobcats to their first-ever Southland Conference championship and a semifinals berth in 2005.

Wright’s coaching career started as a student assistant coach for Jim Wacker’s 1981 NCAA Division II national championship team. After a stint as a graduate assistant at Louisiana-Lafayette and moves up the ladder in the Texas high school coaching ranks, Wright returned to San Marcos.

He has been a part of a program that has taken off on the field, at the turnstiles and in the community. In addition to the 2005 playoff run, Texas State finished strong last fall, winning four of its last six games, including a 28-21 road win at Sam Houston that knocked the conference rival out of contention for a league title. Texas State set attendance records for the second straight year in 2006, averaging 12,886 fans a game.

At the news conference naming Wright, President Denise Trauth said, “When we gathered last week to start our search for a new head coach, we knew we wanted someone who would continue building on our momentum. We wanted someone who knew how to recruit and coach as well as communicate with fans and faculty and players. We wanted someone who could win while putting his players’ academic success first. As we listed the attributes our new coach should have, we realized he was already here.”

Wright has served as an offensive position coach for a unit that has led the Southland Conference in total offense the past two seasons. In 2005, his corps of running backs played a major role in the Bobcats’ being ranked 11th in total offense, 15th in rushing yards and eighth in scoring among all NCAA Championship Subdivision teams.

“I am a Bobcat,” Wright said at the press conference announcing his appointment. “I couldn’t imagine coaching any place else. “We are going to graduate student-athletes here. We are going to continue to emphasize being out in the community. You are going to continue to see our student-athletes at schools, at charity events. We are going to try to do everything we can to give more back to you than you give to us,” he said.
Bobcats excel on, off field

Five Bobcats were named to ESPN The Magazine’s Academic All-District VI University Division Football Team this fall—more players from Texas State than any other university in the whole country.

Twenty-four players are chosen for each of the eight district teams on the basis of their performance in the classroom as well as on the field. They come from NCAA Division I teams—both subdivisions. District VI includes Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

The five Bobcats were Walter Musgrove (defensive back, graduate, 3.33 GPA), Chase Wasson (wide receiver, junior, 3.32), Blake Burton (fullback, sophomore, 3.34), Buck Koalenz (center, senior, 3.38) and Nate Langford (defensive end, junior, 3.34).

Close to Texas State’s five selections were Harvard in District I and Ohio State in District IV, with four each. In District VI, Texas Tech had three, with the remainder being divided among 14 other schools.

If Harvard plays its cards right, it could become known as the Texas State of the Ivy League. ✭

Stellar in academics and on the field are, from left, Bobcats Nate Langford, Blake Burton, Buck Koalenz, Chase Wasson and Walter Musgrove.
Musgrove’s “lucky break” was a real lifesaver

by Mark Hendricks

It was the fourth quarter of the final football game of the regular season of 2005, and cornerback Walter Musgrove leaped to break up a pass intended for a Sam Houston State receiver.

He fell to the ground and landed awkwardly on his left shoulder. The impact snapped his collarbone.

And it saved his life.

Musgrove did not know at that moment that his life had changed, he just knew he was hurt. He stayed in the game for a couple of more plays before he realized he had to come out. The diagnosis of a fractured collarbone meant he was finished for the rest of that game and for the exciting NCAA playoff run that awaited the Bobcats.

Musgrove did what all good teammates do in a situation like that. He supported his team from the sideline, urged them on. He was there for them, even if he could not be on the field with them. But it still hurt.

“I was devastated. I’d just come off a season where I was first-team all-conference. I felt like I’d worked so hard to get there, and not being able to participate (in the playoffs) was really tough,” he said.

And a simple question kept nagging him.

“I kept asking myself, ‘Why did this have to happen to me?’”

The answer came during the winter holiday break when a routine follow-up X-ray on his broken collarbone revealed an abnormality. A PET scan was ordered, and then a biopsy. The diagnosis was Hodgkin’s disease.

Hodgkin’s disease is a cancer of the lymphatic system. Detected early, what used to be a devastating diagnosis is now a highly treatable disease with the potential for full recovery.

Musgrove was lucky because his had been a relatively early detection.

Months of chemotherapy followed. The treatments weakened him, but as soon as possible after every treatment, he was back in the gym, pushing his body to fight the disease and to prepare for his return to the field and his final season at Bobcat Stadium.

When the season opener came Sept. 2 against Tarleton State, Musgrove was in the starting lineup at cornerback. By season’s end, he led the Southland Conference in interceptions and was named the conference’s Student Athlete of the Year.

A young man of faith, Musgrove now thinks back on that play from 2005’s Sam Houston game. What was once a painful memory now brings a smile to his face.

“The Lord works in mysterious ways,” he said.

Musgrove’s position coach, Jason Washington, said the team counts on his leadership skills as well as his playing skills.
“He’s the kind of leader you can count on for others to look up to when things are good or when they may be bad. He is just a phenomenal person,” said Washington.

Musgrove is a star on the field and in the classroom. In addition to being named First Team All-Southland Conference last season, he was also selected to ESPN The Magazine’s Academic All-District VI Team and was named preseason All-America honorable mention by The Sports Network. He has served internships with the Texas Office of the Comptroller (where he was named Outstanding Intern for the Year) and at GSD&M, one of the nation’s premier advertising firms. He graduated in May, receiving a bachelor’s degree in English with a minor in Spanish. He took graduate courses in the fall and plans to attend law school.

“Like any other athlete who plays college football, I would love the opportunity to play at the next level. But if that doesn’t work out, I am going to have another plan,” he said.
How does one say “thank you” for a debt that cannot be repaid?

That is a question James Ortiz faces every day. But perhaps, just perhaps, he has the question wrong.

Does he owe us a debt for helping him through his darkest hour? Or do we owe him a debt for teaching us about courage, uncommon strength and, ultimately, team spirit?

Last June 5, Ortiz was riding his bicycle to class when he was involved in a horrific collision with a garbage truck. His lower right leg was crushed, and doctors were forced to amputate below the knee.

For anyone, this would be a devastating, life-altering injury. But for Ortiz, it was even more than that, because James Ortiz was born to run. A Bobcat track star, he holds the school record in the 1,500 meters.

At the time of the accident, he was in training during a red-shirt season, hoping to qualify for the NCAA Track Tournament in his final year of eligibility.

In an instant, his life changed. Instead of training for what could have been the shining season of his track career, he found himself wondering if he would ever run again.

“Immediately afterward, I was so upset. It was the lowest point of my life. I felt like I was dead,” Ortiz said. “I just felt like I was dead.”

Ortiz is considered a consummate team player, so what he would say to one of his coaches the day after the accident was seen as a sign of true despair.

“Give my scholarship to someone else,” Ortiz told his coach. “I have let down my team.”

Ortiz went through several surgeries as doctors tried to save as much of his leg as they could. He lost count of the number of operations.

“Probably somewhere between five and 10. I know I was in and out of that (operating) room a lot,” he said.

And people were in and out of Ortiz’s hospital room a lot, too. Family, friends, teammates and coaches all visited and began to lift his spirits. Word of his accident circulated through campus. News of his situation was carried in newspapers around Central Texas.

And Bobcat Nation rallied around one of its fallen heroes.

“There are too many people out there who believe in me, and I’m not going to let them, my school or my team down.”

I’m a Bobcat, not a quitter

by Mark Hendricks
I received hundreds, and I read every single one of them. Many of them more than once.”

Those cards and letters began to change Ortiz’s attitude toward his recovery.

“People were telling me that I could come back, that I shouldn’t let this get the best of me,” he said.

Ortiz found inspiration from another Bobcat athlete. Football star Walter Musgrove was waging a courageous battle himself last summer. Musgrove had been diagnosed with Hodgkin’s disease after the 2005 football season. He had spent months undergoing chemotherapy. He returned to the start of the season to assume his position as a starter in the Bobcat defensive backfield.

“Walter was a real inspiration for me. And so was (then head football) Coach (David) Bailiff. What he told his team is true. We live for each other,” said Ortiz.

During the 2005 football season, Bailiff’s football team wore military-style dog tags bearing the inscription, “We live for each other.” It was the team’s rallying cry to the most successful Bobcat football season in years.

Ortiz began to work out in his hospital room. Inspired by the love and encouragement he had received from so many people—many of them complete strangers—Ortiz took the “We live for each other” motto to heart. He would run again. For them.

His workouts were surreptitious at first, unapproved by his medical team. He curled jugs of Gatorade. He left his bed to do squats on his good leg. This put pressure on his wound and caused bleeding.

“I’d be sure to wipe the blood off the floor so the nurses wouldn’t see it and be mad at me,” he said.

In early July, Ortiz was released from the hospital. He began working out at the End Zone Complex at Bobcat Stadium. He’d had many opportunities to thank family, friends, teammates and coaches for all their support while he was in the hospital.

But how would he thank all those he did not know personally—those who wrote the hundreds of cards and letters, those who offered thoughts and prayers, the hundreds upon hundreds who showed up at a barbecue fundraiser at the stadium to offset the medical bills of both Ortiz and Musgrove?

On July 23, Ortiz sat down and wrote a letter. He posted it on an internet message board.

Ortiz’s message read in part:

“I just wanted to thank everyone for all the letters, thoughts, prayers and support that everyone has given me. The Bobcat community and the city of San Marcos have really come together to help me out. I love it and appreciate it so very much…

“I’m going to run again. I’m a Bobcat, not a quitter. I have one year of eligibility left, and I’m going to try my hardest to use it. I love my school. It’s going to be hard and a long shot, but it’s worth a try. I’m not going to let this accident get the best of me. There are too many people out there who believe in me, and I’m not going to let them, my school or my team down. My team packed the hospital and spent forever with me in there keeping me company. Go Bobcats!”

During his recovery, Ortiz had several telephone conversations with Danny Andrews, a paralympic record holder in middle-distance running events. Andrews offered his encouragement and seemed to help rekindle Ortiz’s competitive spirit.

“People were telling me that I could come back, that I shouldn’t let this get the best of me,” said Ortiz.

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“I’m going to run again. I’m a Bobcat, not a quitter. I have one year of eligibility left, and I’m going to try my hardest to use it. I love my school. It’s going to be hard and a long shot, but it’s worth a try. I’m not going to let this accident get the best of me. There are too many people out there who believe in me, and I’m not going to let them, my school or my team down. My team packed the hospital and spent forever with me in there keeping me company. Go Bobcats!”

During his recovery, Ortiz had several telephone conversations with Danny Andrews, a paralympic record holder in middle-distance running events. Andrews offered his encouragement and seemed to help rekindle Ortiz’s competitive spirit.

“People were telling me that I could come back, that I shouldn’t let this get the best of me,” said Ortiz.

In early July, Ortiz was released from the hospital. He began working out at the End Zone Complex at Bobcat Stadium. He’d had many opportunities to thank family, friends, teammates and coaches for all their support while he was in the hospital.

But how would he thank all those he did not know personally—those who wrote the hundreds of cards and letters, those who offered thoughts and prayers, the hundreds upon hundreds who showed up at a barbecue fundraiser at the stadium to offset the medical bills of both Ortiz and Musgrove?

On July 23, Ortiz sat down and wrote a letter. He posted it on an internet message board.

Ortiz’s message read in part:

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“I’m going to run again. I’m a Bobcat, not a quitter. I have one year of eligibility left, and I’m going to try my hardest to use it. I love my school. It’s going to be hard and a long shot, but it’s worth a try. I’m not going to let this accident get the best of me. There are too many people out there who believe in me, and I’m not going to let them, my school or my team down. My team packed the hospital and spent forever with me in there keeping me company. Go Bobcats!”

During his recovery, Ortiz had several telephone conversations with Danny Andrews, a paralympic record holder in middle-distance running events. Andrews offered his encouragement and seemed to help rekindle Ortiz’s competitive spirit.

“I’d like to thank him,” Ortiz said of Andrews, “but I also want him to know I’m coming for him.”

His workouts and his physical therapy continued through the summer and into the fall. Ortiz was fitted with a prosthesis and began to learn to use it properly. A diehard fan of Bobcat athletics, Ortiz and his friends returned to Bobcat Stadium to cheer on the football team.

“I’ve always loved football, especially Bobcat football. I always wanted to play football, but what can I say? I weigh a buck-thirty and I’m five-foot-seven!”

Ortiz was making progress when he re-injured himself in a fall. It delayed what was to have been a milestone in his recovery.

“Coach Bailiff had asked me to serve as honorary captain for the (Oct. 7) Stephen F. Austin game. I told him I wanted to do that but not until I could walk out to midfield on my own,” he said.

Ortiz’s honorary captaincy was put on hold until Homecoming, Oct. 21 against Southeastern Louisiana. The day before the game in the End Zone Complex overlooking Jim Wacker Field, he confided, “I’m really excited, but also a little scared about being out there on the field tomorrow in front of all those people with all those really big guys.”

On Saturday, it comes time for the captains to enter the stadium and take the field for the coin toss. Ortiz emerges from the End Zone Complex surrounded by his Bobcat brethren who do, in fact, look really big. He walks on crutches to the sideline, but when it is time to walk to midfield, he sets the crutches aside and walks on his own. There is not so much as a trace

Putting the X in Texas State at a game before his injury is James Ortiz, a die-hard supporter of Bobcat teams.
is thoughts about a career included medicine, the armed forces, even preaching, but once marketing grabbed him, it didn’t let go.

Ray Robbins ’68 is a natural at marketing. He is co-founder of Mannatech, a nutritional products supplier that was judged No. 6 on BusinessWeek’s list of the 100 hottest growth small businesses for 2005 and No. 5 on Forbes’ list of the 200 best small companies in 2006.

Small? The company has $450 million in sales this year, 400 fulltime employees headquartered in Coppell (near Dallas) and another 500,000 Mannatech associates around the world. That doesn’t sound small to most of us, nor would it have sounded small to a young man working his way through Southwest Texas State College in the late ’60s.

Robbins got into marketing and sales early. After graduating from John Marshall High in San Antonio, he paid his way through two years at San Antonio College by managing eight coffee shops. When he came to San Marcos, he went to work at Bridges, a popular restaurant near campus. “I convinced Mr. Bridges to let fraternities and sororities use the restaurant at night,” Robbins remembers. “We’d set up live bands, and I’d emcee. That’s when I started talking in front of people, and I loved it.”

Even so, he still thought he wanted to be a doctor and was majoring in biology and chemistry to pursue that career. After graduation, while waiting to get into medical school, he got drafted and was soon off to the Army’s Officer Candidate School and flight training. In the early ’70s, that meant duty in Vietnam.

“I served one tour in 1971-72 as a helicopter pilot in an air cavalry unit. “That duty taught me how not to make a mountain out of a molehill and how to survive in chaos,” he says. And negative effects? The usually jovial Robbins becomes pensive and answers, “I’m told I get very reflective at times. The middle of the Wall [the Vietnam monument in Washington] has many names of young men I know.”

One good thing the Army did for Robbins was introduce him to his wife of 36 years, Dianna. They met while Ray was stationed in Ft. Polk, La., and she was getting her master’s at Northwestern State. “Those degrees in psychology have held her in good stead dealing with me,” he laughs.

After six years in the military, Robbins went to work for L’eggs and says he learned most of what he knows about management and distribution from the pantyhose manufacturer. He also became intrigued with the earliest videogames and sold the first 46 Pac Man machines with his Amusement Vending Co.

He was doing quite well with Robbins Enterprise Inc. in Grand Prairie in 1993 and was serving as president of the school board when a friend, Sam Caster, called with an idea. “He had found a good product,” Robbins says of the nutritional supplements, “but I knew it would take a good soapboxer to tell it.” He joined Caster, and Mannatech was born, named after the daily food provided by God for the Israelites wandering in the desert in the Bible story.

Robbins believes in the benefits of his product. “At first the medical and academic communities threw harpoons at us,” he says, “but three years ago the AMA took a stand that supplements are necessary and CMEs [continuing medical education units] about our lead science are now sanctioned. The idea of a balanced diet is a myth. The pioneering started 50 years ago with Linus Pauling and Vitamin C. He went through harpoons, too. “Most health maladies are growing by leaps and bounds. What are we doing wrong? Primarily, it’s bad lifestyle, including poor nutrition. In essence, we are doing ourselves a great health disservice.”

Robbins says he could retire and keep busy enjoying life in Coppell with his wife, three children and five grandchildren, but “I know I need to do this.” He describes his work like a religious mission, and he travels the world like a missionary. “Our work will have huge ramifications for world health, you wait and see.”

“Most health maladies are growing by leaps and bounds. What are we doing wrong?”

Manna in the desert
by T.Cay Rowe

Hillviews
You might think it’s a long way from Wonder World tour guide to construction company CEO, but according to Ron Mostyn ’62, it’s really not.

Mostyn paid his way through college by working at the San Marcos tourist attraction that his father had bought and that his brother Buddy still owns. “It was great experience,” Mostyn remembered as he sat in his Houston office recently. “I hired and fired, did marketing and scheduling, big responsibility for a young guy. The main thing I took from it was a respect for employees and the value they bring to a company.”

When he graduated from San Marcos High and came to Southwest Texas State College, Mostyn did not intend to go into business. He was a chemistry major. “Until I took quantitative analysis,” he says. “That’s when I realized I was no chemist.” He switched to business and was hooked. It was in Hal Pickle’s class that he learned, whatever the problem, good management should see it coming.

That philosophy has proved to be true in his own career, as he has faced problems ranging from economic downturns to government regulations. He and a partner founded Construction Supervisors Inc. in 1969. “The real strength of this company is the people who work here. We have only 25 permanent employees, yet we did about $90 million in receipts last year. That’s not big by some scales, but considering we did $30,000 our first year, we’ve come a long way.”

The company builds warehouses, shopping centers, nursing and retirement homes and more than 1,000 multifamily housing units a year. It has constructed 100 major Walmart/Sam’s in the last 20 years.

Mostyn and the company came to a crossroad 15 years ago when his business partner retired. “When he did, I assessed my biggest risks, and the biggest was losing the people who had brought me to the dance,” he says. “I went back to the training I got under Dr. Pickle, and I came up with a plan.” To show his own faith in the company and to keep his employees, he gave seven key people a portion of stock. The portion increased each year to the point that now he and the seven each own 12.5 percent of the company.

“We each have our strengths and what we love to do. My favorite part is closing the deal. I love figuring out what clients want and how to deliver it to them better and cheaper than anyone else.”

Sitting in Mostyn’s office, you realize right away that he’s not all-work-and-no-play. Shelves and walls are covered with books and pictures of wild animals. He and his wife Estelle own 300 acres near Weimar, where they breed a hardier white-tail deer than you find in the Hill Country. They then stock their 2,300-acre ranch in Maverick County with the deer.

Mostyn knew Estelle, or Pug as he calls her, and a former Texas State student herself, was someone special when they met 15 years ago. She was in commercial real estate in Houston, and they wound up “talking business way into the night,” he says. “She wasn’t afraid of a guy who wears ball caps and Red Wings.” He took her on a hunting trip soon after and “I think I created a monster. Next thing I know Pug’s got me in Alaska—she’s climbing a mountain and killing a mountain goat at 400 yards.”

Ask Ron Mostyn the secret of his success, and he’ll tell you it’s his faith. He believes that God has blessed him with family (Pug, daughter and son-in-law Casey and Brian Michalsky, two grandchildren and another on the way, close brothers Buddy and Jon), with business (“I almost went broke three times but didn’t”) and with great co-workers. “It’s no secret, really. Jesus has always been there, carrying me through—still is.”

“I love figuring out what clients want and how to deliver it to them better and cheaper than anyone else.”

He remembers who brought him to the dance

by T.Cay Rowe

“I love figuring out what clients want and how to deliver it to them better and cheaper than anyone else.”
McAllen sophomore is first Mitte Laureate

by Jayme Blaschke

In making the jump from McAllen High School to the 27,000-strong student body of Texas State, Anna Kennedy never expected to be anything more than a little fish in a big pond. The size and the numbers seemed so overwhelming that she never expected to develop an intimate connection with the campus community. That’s why the moment she knew she had become a Bobcat for life stands out so strongly for her.

“It was during the playoffs in 2005, when we did so well in football,” Kennedy said. “Coming from McAllen—my school wasn’t that big—I didn’t think I’d ever get that big a sense of community here. But up there in the stands, knowing that everyone was feeling the same emotions I was... I really felt the community.

“I feel now that I can talk to anyone I meet on campus even if I don’t know them,” she said. “I’ve started thinking, ‘This is my school’ rather than ‘I go to school here.’”

Kennedy was named the inaugural Mitte Laureate at Texas State by the Roy F. and Joann Cole Mitte Foundation in 2006. The Mitte Laureate Scholars Program, the university’s newest and most prestigious scholarship, will award four undergraduate academic scholarships annually worth as much as $25,000 a year or $100,000 over the course of an undergraduate student’s four-year degree program.

Scholarship funds will pay for tuition and fees, room and board, books, study abroad, internships and other education-related travel. Students selected for the program are also eligible for other resources, including a personal faculty mentor, first choice of residence halls, office space in the Mitte Honors Program office suite, advanced class registration and membership in the Texas State Student Foundation.

Kennedy graduated in the top 5 percent of her high school class in 2005. To win the Mitte Laureate Scholarship, she also had to have an SAT/ACT score of 1300/30 and an unweighted high school grade point average of 3.5. She also impressed the selection committee with her involvement in high school and community activities.

Now a sophomore majoring in political science, Kennedy is weighing different career paths—considering the prospects of law school against her longtime love for journalism. As far back as junior high school, she’d aspired to become a sports reporter, but lately she’s given serious thought to becoming a family law attorney, specializing in children’s rights and abuse cases.

Kennedy counts her decision to come to Texas State one of the best choices she’s made, and she admits one aspect of the campus caught her completely off guard.

“I wasn’t an outdoors person in high school. Not at all,” she admits. “I did swimming for PE so I wouldn’t have to run around outdoors! Recently we had a Mitte retreat out at University Camp [on the Blanco River near Wimberley]. I really, really liked it. I didn’t realize before I came here all the outdoorsy stuff there is to do. Now that I’ve found all these things, I enjoy them.”

Find out more about the Mitte Laureate Scholarship: http://finaid.txstate.edu/scholarships/fresh/fs.shtml
Understanding a sense of place

We all have a place, to coin a phrase, “where everyone knows your name.” A place where you belong. I earned a degree in geography from Texas State, and that’s a big part of what they teach in the program—a sense of place. It’s hard for me to define and put into words, but you know and understand it when you feel it. There is not always a sense of place at other universities. You go there, leave with a degree and have some fun along the way. But at Texas State you leave with so much more.

One of the major goals for your Alumni Association is to build an Alumni Center that reflects our pride. We have a historically rich house that was great in our beginnings, but it doesn’t continue to serve our needs now. On Texas State’s Master Plan (www.TxState.edu/masterplan) you’ll see the proposed Alumni Center’s “footprint” at the corner of Charles Austin and Aquarena Drive. At our new location we will have the distinction of being the gateway to the campus. It needs to convey the sense of place we’ve all shared.

Another goal for the Association is to communicate with former students for updates on the activities and accomplishments of our university. I encourage you to get involved with your local chapter. We bring speakers to lunches to talk about exciting programs and research. Dr. Gary Beall talked about developing ballistic polymer shields for military helicopters in the Center for Nanotechnology. Dr. Holland Toles gave financial advice worth thousands of dollars to a roomful of alumni for the price of a lunch! Dr. Marla McGhee talked about new initiatives in teaching and the impact on our children’s education. Dean Richard Cheatham talked about world travel. Dr. Glen Rydl, retired horticulture professor, answered many questions about landscaping and plants.

We have a whole university of topics to share! Let us know what you’re interested in, and we’ll work on featuring your ideas at a local event.

As proud alumni, we’ve accomplished great things in the past. Great things to come cannot happen, without the contributions of our alumni. Your support is needed, and I’m asking you to get involved at the level where you are comfortable. Get invested in your association, participate in your local chapter and find out what’s going on. You’ll be amazed at the pride you will feel in this place we’ve called home.

See you soon,
Justin Edmondson
Alumni Association President

Chapter Events

Go to www.TxStateAlumni.org for a complete calendar of chapter events.

San Marcos events held on the second Thursday of the month.

Albert Gonzalez, O.C. Haley, Phyllis Walther, Johanna Haley and Sue Cole visit a San Marcos mixer.

San Marcos area alumni scooted their boots at a local dance hall.

www.txstate.edu
Golden Grads at Homecoming

The Class of 1956 was honored during breakfast at Homecoming. All returning alumni received a golden medallion commemorating their 50-year anniversary.

African-American Reunion

The African-American Chapter of the association hosted a reunion in September in conjunction with the African-American Student Leadership Conference. One of the activities was an alumni panel discussion for the students, with panelists, from left, Rudy Barnes, LaRoy Fiest, Shanitra Ernest, Martha Tatum and Earl Mosely Jr. Plans are under way for another reunion in 2007.

The Student Chapter of the association hosted “Trading Up Day” again. The group handed out Texas State shirts to anyone who traded in a shirt from another university. As in the past, the focus was on pride in Texas State and supporting Bobcat traditions.

Judy Allen, above, Texas State faculty member and Alumni Association board member, talked to the Student Chapter about keeping their priorities well grounded.

Austin

The Austin Chapter hosted a family bowling night for area alumni.

Faculty member Holland Toles, left, talked to alumni about financial planning and the financial planning certificate program at Texas State.
Alumni Association Gala Feb. 17

The Texas State Alumni Association Scholarship Gala 2007 was celebrated Feb. 17 in the LBJ Student Center Ballroom.

Awarding $100,000 dollars a year in scholarships is quite a big deal—not only to the students who are grateful to receive the aid, but also to the outstanding alumni and Alumni Association supporters who make it possible. Every year the association honors both at this grand gala event, bringing scholarship recipients and their generous supporters together for an evening of face-to-face thanks.

Along with gourmet food and elegant entertainment, the association recognized its 2007 alumni scholarship recipients and other award recipients. Award recipients for 2007 are:

Alumni Achievement
Joseph Lamont Brown ’84
Robert Cartwright ’96
Trish Gallaher Glenn ’79
Richard Pettitt ’67
Lesley Spencer Pyle ’90
Jack Coil Wright ’43

Key of Excellence
Robert Cotner ’72

Alumni Star
Carl and Lunelle Anderson
Ralph Davis ’68

Teaching Award of Honor
Steven Wilson

Walter Richter Humanitarian Award
Andrea Powell ’99

Each Alumni Scholar was introduced, and guests had the opportunity to visit with them and see the impact of their support.

Kevin Gilley has joined the Alumni Relations Department as associate director, succeeding Melinda Braun, who became the development officer for the colleges of Health Professions and Science. Gilley began working at the university in 1993 with the school’s food service company. In 1999 he became director of special projects. He has served on and chaired numerous university committees. Gilley is active in the community, currently serving on the board of Leadership San Marcos; he is a past president of both the American Cancer Society and the Heritage Association. He will be active in outreach initiatives, chapter activities and fundraising and can be contacted at k.gilley@txstate.edu.

San Antonio events held on the first Thursday of the month.

San Antonio alumni watch the Bobcats take on Nicholls State on TV.

The San Antonio Chapter gathered for lunch at Azuca to hear a talk by Glen Rydl, retired faculty member.

Bobcats in Kentucky

The Bobcats played the University of Kentucky in September. An enthusiastic group of area alumni enjoyed meeting President Denise Trauth and her husband, John Huffman. A downpour during the reception did not dampen alumni pride!
**Upcoming events**

**Strutters with Spurs**
The Strutters will perform for the San Antonio Spurs on April 18. A reception prior to the game will be held for all interested alumni. This gathering gets bigger every year. Mark the date on your calendar, and plan to see alumni, friends, a great game and an exciting performance by the Strutters.

**Golf Tournament**
The seventh annual Alumni Association Golf Tournament will tee off Saturday, April 21, with benefits going to Texas State Scholarships for area high school graduates. Sponsored by the Greater San Marcos Area Chapter, all alumni are invited to participate. Get your team together, and join in the rivalry.

Various levels for sponsorships are available, secure yours soon. For more information, visit [www.TxStateAlumni.org](http://www.TxStateAlumni.org). Contact Kevin Gilley at k.gilley@txstate.edu if you are in the San Marcos area and would like to assist in planning for this event.

**Houston**

Houston events held on the third Thursday of the month.

Houston alumni gather all around the city for their mixers, like these groups at Joe’s Crab Shack and Sam’s Boat.
Above: Washington, D.C., area alumni got together as Las Tapas Restaurant in Alexandria, Va., in February and heard about what’s happening back in San Marcos from Alumni Affairs director and associate director Dorothy Evans and Kevin Gilley. The group gets together regularly — whenever the Bobcat spirit moves them!

Right: Boston area alumni braved terrible weather in February to meet for the first time – one couple traveling for five hours from Vermont to join in. The group had dinner at the Charles Hotel in Cambridge.

The Laredo Chapter is official. The group is concentrating on giving scholarships to Laredo students attending Texas State. Join the Alumni Association and designate the Laredo Chapter to support these scholarships.

To locate your area chapter, visit www.TxStateAlumni.org.

We are always expanding as groups of Bobcats from all over the country meet, so if there is not a chapter in your area and you would like to help get one started, please contact Kevin Gilley, associate alumni director, at k.gilley@TxState.edu.

The Strutters Always Chapter hosted a luncheon in Houston for area alumnae.

Dallas events held on the third Thursday of the month.

Doug Davalos, right, new men’s coach, got the group ready for a great basketball season.
Alumni by choice


Alumni Association Century Club


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Jennifer Jupe, Adkins.

65


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63


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Scott Childress, Houston | Jodi ’02 & ’04 and Matthew Edgar ’03, Cypress | Michelle Graham, Houston | Christopher Henderson, Corinth | Robert Reeves Jr., Irving | Melissa Ruud, Lewisville | Antonio Saldua, San Antonio | Jennifer Schmidt, Houston | Rachel Schnur, Jourdanton.

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Sonja Baggett, Windcrest | Thomas Carley, Cypress | Gregg Cernosek, Katy | Jason Hartfield ’00 & ’05, La Grange | Timothy and Jennifer Allison Marlow ’01, New Braunfels | Keith and Meredith Crouch McKenna, Plano | Eric Meyers, Corsicana | Isabel Plume, Houston | Carl Walls III, Austin | Susan Zurbriggan, San Antonio.

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Marie Miller Archer, Austin | Julie Cannaday, Arlington | Scott Daniels, Katy | L. Smith Davis, San Antonio | James Gay and Elsie Mogck ’04, Austin | Melissa Gonzalez, Harlingen | Scott Harrison, Allen | Christie Volek-Meza, Granger | Jose Montemayor, Austin, 2005 Alumni Achievement Award recipient | Roberto Trevino, Laredo, Laredo Area Chapter President.

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Melissa Lawson Del Gaudio, Austin | Dwayne Hyzak, Houston | Janice...
Spotlight on Alumni Life Members:
Natalie Wilkinson ’04 and John Dailey ’02 & ’04

by Melinda Braun

John Dailey put his foot down. He and Natalie Wilkinson were getting married Aug. 19, and that’s final. For John and Natalie, the last few years have been quite an exciting ride. That’s helped contribute to why their wedding has wound up being delayed a few times.

They both earned their M.B.A.s with honors from the McCoy College of Business Administration at Texas State. He got two undergraduate degrees here as well. For her undergraduate degree, Natalie went, well, let’s just say the maroon and gold in her closet has a little burnt orange mixed in.

They stand out as alumni who secured a life membership in the Alumni Association together—before they were married. Just thinking ahead, being prepared. Being prepared is something John feels strongly that his M.B.A. from Texas State has done for him. He’s ready and evaluating some career opportunities to find one that best fits with him.

John’s strongest memories of Texas State revolve around his “tremendous” instructors, people like Yvonne Eixmann in management, Jon Bible in business law, Christina Fulmer in philosophy. All were excellent, knowledgeable, thorough, and definitely not easy. They made courses interesting, even at night after a long commute!

John says he and Natalie were “always ripping and running” from the commuter lots up to classes in Old Main. He treasures the sense of pride he had in taking classes in Old Main. “It was fun to imagine the people who had come before you,” he said, “how it had all started in that one building and what it has grown to now.”

When he thinks of Texas State, John thinks of quality education. “It seemed like a family environment,” John said, “which was significant to me. I am an African-American, and so is Natalie, but that was never significant. We were able to compete equally, graded on our merit. My experience was a great one. I’m very proud of the fact I graduated from Texas State.”

John supported the Alumni Association as an undergrad. To him, alumni support of a university is a statement in itself. But he’s also taken advantage of opportunities presented as a benefit of membership. He’s been to the Round Rock campus groundbreaking and dedication ceremony, as well as other events. “The type of people you meet during those functions is tremendous,” he said. “At one dinner, I sat with a gentleman up for election to appellate court. I wouldn’t normally have an opportunity to meet and network with people in that kind of position.”

Texas State has brought them together and given them a foundation to build a future. In turn, they are making sure the opportunities they had continue for others through their life membership in the Alumni Association.
Matthew Clayton ’04
Albert Allen Jr. ’05
Bobcat weddings
Stephan Rye Jr., Round Rock | Lisa Schneider, Austin.

Teresa Barfield Allmond, Colleyville | Paul Goessler, Lewisville | Tracy Houston, New Braunfels | Robert Karisch, Houston | Robin Pratt, Austin | Bruce Rodgers, Fort Worth | Stephen Rye Jr., Austin


David Bidwell, Denver, Colo. | Bobbie Dicus Brown, Catonsville, Md. | Linnes Chester Jr., Abilene


Mary Riddinger and Henry Adcox Jr. ’89, San Antonio | Edwardo Andrade ’84 & ’97, Bulverde | James Barney, Arlington, Alumni Association Executive Committee | Herbert Grebe III, Meadowlakes | Lynn Gibson, Sunnyvale | LaNell Bishop Gregg, College Station | Raymond Keys III, San Antonio | Michael Morales ’84 & ’85, Edinburg | Lynette Baldwin Pierson, West Linn, Ore. | Bruce Wilson, Austin.


Henry Almaguer Jr., San Antonio, is a computer science technology instructor and a department chair for fine arts at Leal Middle School. | Dale Bulkey, New Braunfels, 2006 Distinguished Alumnus | Lillie Cundiff and Christian Cruz ’86, Garland | Cheryln Wright and Dee Ellis ’80 & ’02, Rockdale | Kelly Phillips Emery, Cleveland | Debra Hefner Furst, Bartonville | Don Green ’81 & ’90, Richmond | Mark and Diana Becker Hendricks, San Marcos | Edward Hernandez ’81 & ‘82, San Antonio | Sally Luttrell, Richardson | Mark McAnelly, Frisco | Judy Watrous Miller, Katy | Marilyn Goertz Miller, Littleton, Colo. | Ellen Cowan Mudrovich, Fort Worth | Christopher O’Connor, Bulverde | Jandis Price ’81 & ’82, Dallas | Susan Saenz-Solis ’81 & ’94, San Antonio | Dewayne Vaughan, Davidsonville, Md.

Bobcat weddings

Albert Allen Jr. ’05 and Julie Chen, Sept. 23, Austin
Matthew Clayton ’04 and Erin Wilhite ’05, July 1, Dripping Springs
John Dailey ’02 & ’04 and Natalie Wilkinson ’04, Aug. 19, San Antonio
Steven Geren ’95 and Amy Norton, July 22, Grand Haven, Mich.
Anders Tyler-Cornell Gibson and Julie Skacel ’97, May 6, Dallas
Christopher Grossman ’01 and Elizabeth Symecko ’99, Dec. 17, 2005, Houston
Christopher Henderson ’02 and Misty Meltbarger Oct. 21, 2006
Wade Koehl and Jami Jacob ’05, May 6, Brenham
Curtis Potter ’06 and Ashley Gates, Aug. 4, San Antonio
William Robert Reidler and Paula Marie Russo ’93, May 20, Houston
Tim Rogers ’04 and Melissa Morrison ’04, Feb. 25, 2006
Richard Slaughter ’05 and Emily Klug ’03 & ’05, June 3, Austin
Andrew Solomon and Kristen Erickson ’03 & ’06 May 11, Austin


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James Black, Ramona, Calif.

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Cynthia Kelly and Barron Frith ’78, Houston | Arno Novosad, Salado | Charles and Marlene Persyn ’78 Richter, San Antonio | Jill Walters, Katy | Barry Woitena, San Antonio.

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Glenn Brucks, Austin | Michael (Mike) and Debbie Cheif, Austin | Tom and Laketa Toellner ’75 | Dennis, El Campo | Dolly Lawrence Frazier, San Antonio | Elizabeth Perrenot Heinemann, Hempstead | Michael Heintze, San Marcos | James Kosub, Eldorado | Dennis McQueeney, Rohnert Park, Calif. | Gary Miller, Boerne | Susan Caffey Newsome, Del Rio | Andrew Nicholas, San Antonio | Juan Salas ’74 & ’77, San Antonio | Thomas Schendel, Kingwood | Wanda Riedel Sdao, Sugar Land | Alfred Villarreal, San Antonio | Kathleen Williams, Houston | Charles Wueste, Baytown.

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Lynn and Debra Philmon ’75 Berry, Bulverde | Julia Duenas Castro, San Antonio | William and Nevin Cunningham, San Marcos | Gary and Patti Harrison ’74 Gamble Salado | Ramiro Guzman, El Paso | Raymond Jones, Lake Jackson | Margaret Sweeney ’73 & ’76 and Dennis Dunn, San Marcos. Margaret is a 1999 Distinguished Alumna.

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Baby Bobcats

As reported to Alumni Relations between March 20 and December 31, 2006

Jillian Nicole, to Robert and Jimi Rosborough Brandon ’93, May 31, La Grange

Tristan Caleb, to Brian ’93 and Nathalie Parlevliet Carr ’93, Oct. 13, 2005, Houston

Samuel Arnold, to Michael ’01 & ’03 and Lindsey Gant Chase ’03, May 26, Houston

Addison, to Brent ’94 and Tara Debner Colesscot ’96, Oct. 27, 2005, Humble

Boyd and Ryan, to Brad and kellie Duran Cutsinger ’94, June 12, Houston

Hannah Frances, to Gary Jr. ’05 and Melissa Edenburn ’04, March 14, 2006, San Marcos

Austin Laine, to Ladd ’93 and Christy Hebert Fargo ’95, Oct. 15, 2002, Houston

Sean Laine, to Ladd ’93 and Christy Hebert Fargo ’95, June 10, 2004, Houston

McKenna Laine, to Ladd ’93 and Christy Hebert Fargo ’95, April 11, Houston

Callum Binn, to Mercie III ’97 and Kristi Jones Gordon ’96, June 28, Houston

Emma Kaitlin Wuolf, to Ben and Anne-Marie Laustsen Harcrow ’99 & ’02, Aug. 20, Ft. Bragg, N.C.

Jackson Buie, to Johnna Adams and Thomas McClain ’84, June 18, Tyler

Jackson Wyatt, to Joseph and Rhonda Aubert Meller ’04, Nov. 2, 2005, Georgetown

Kassiede Johanna-Jade, to John and Francesca Sam-Sin Nowlin ’92, May 28, Houston

Rex David, to Marty and Bethany Dornburg Raz ’95, on March 26, 2006, Paige

Raegan Daeilynn, to Ryan ’02 and Heather Nelson Rust ’03, April 21, Houston

Kenyon, to James and Brandie Kennedy Saenz ’00, Oct. 27, 2005, Houston

Claire, to Chad and Elizabeth Havens Schaeferkotter ’97 & ’99, Oct. 12, 2005, San Antonio

Meredith Capri, to Eric and Leah Bishop Steinbrink ’88 & ’92, July 6, 2005, Austin

Alejandro, to Nathan and Jeanette Tejeda de Gomez ’00, Sept. 22, Phoenix, Ariz.


Zoe Catherine to William Jr. ’96 and Denelle Dively Van Osten ’97, May 25, Fort Worth

Kingston, to Jada and Kevin Williams ’00, Nov. 30, Houston

Holland Kay, to Ty ’92 and Andrea Jones Henderson ’94, March 9, 2006, Garland

Camden Edward, to David and Mary Jenkins Higgins ’01, April 3, 2005, Hutto

Noah Peyton, to Chris ’96 and Jennifer Trevathan Hinger ’96, Feb. 8, 2006, Englewood, N.J.

Ethan Lane, to Christopher ’03 and Amanda Lane Ingle ’06, Sept. 28, Austin

Ellen Louise, to Barton ’94 and Tracy Moffet Jacques ’94, Oct. 26, 2005, Temple

McKenna, to Christopher and Susan Griffin Johnson ’97, June 21, 2005, Carrollton

Bailey Mattlynn, to Matthew and Jeni Gates Jones ’00, Sept. 12, 2005, Houston

Jessica, to James Jr. and Christine Jones Jordan ’03, Oct. 19, 2005, College Station

Carter Matthew, to Clinton ’02 and Sherri Buckler Kickendahl ’01, July 20, Victoria

Daniel Wyatt, to Maura and Thearon Landrum ’90, Sept. 13, Fort Worth

Aurora Elizabeth, to Lorenzo Jr. and Isabel Herrera Lara ’04, Dec. 30, 2005, Austin

Fisher Life, to Michael and Alyssa Dougherty Manton ’02, Nov. 24, 2005, San Antonio

Vaughn Smith, to Dripping Springs | Nancy Silder Webster, Soda Springs, Idaho.

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Lewis Borgfeld, Cibolo | Marshall McMillan, San Augustine | Marilyn Wagner and Donald Stewart ’67, Corpus Christi.


Kenneth ’60 & ’65 and Nola Alexander ’65, Hanson, Hondo | Monroe Sickenius, Floresville.

Friends we will miss

As reported to Alumni Relations between March 20 and Dec. 31, 2006.

Gene Edna Means Adams ‘40
Larry Alexander ’94
P. J. Allen ’42
Carl Anderson
Clifford Antone
Kathy Henry Atkinson
Roger Bagley ’79 & ’81
Lisa Foster Bagwell
Cenon Baltazar
Johnnie Barberee ’49
August Barcey ’49
LoLa Bauer ’36
Robert Bauer ’75
Anton Bek
Thomas Benson
Arnold Berry ’84
Orrietta Berry
Charles Bibbs ’78 & ’81
Leah Hall Bird ’70
Floyd Bony ’42
Michael Branam ’88 & ’99
Rodney Brandenberger ’05
Alma Brooks
Gloria Buckley ’74
Robert Bunker Jr. ’65
George Burkes ’65
Danny Burton ’76
Alfredo Byvington Jr. | James Calderon ’78
Don Cansler ’47
William Carter ’55 | Robin Chancellor ’66
Virginia Chappell ’64
Souejane Chen ’93
Ellen Key Clark ’46
William S. Clayton ’49
Edna Cleland ’64
James Cochran Sr. | Doris Colgin
Francis Conley ’76
Juanita Melton Cooner ’42
Mary Cottingham | James Dotson ’49
James Calderon ’78
Don Cansler ’47
William Carter ’55 | Robin Chancellor ’66
Virginia Chappell ’64
Souejane Chen ’93
Ellen Key Clark ’46
William S. Clayton ’49
Edna Cleland ’64
James Cochran Sr. | Doris Colgin
Francis Conley ’76
Juanita Melton Cooner ’42
Mary Cottingham | James Dotson ’49
Gail Doty | William Douglas ’87
Dora Dowden ’37
Bruce Dye ’76
Lyle Edge ’56 & ’58
Thomas Edwars ’75
Robert Eklund ’67
Rudy Faller ’63
Sid Gibbens ’69
Leroy Gloor Jr. ’74
Eva Goodnight
Bob Gordon ’01
Leslie Guilmains ’99
Raymond Hailey ’47
Carol-Linn Borgfeld Halperin ’91
Harry Ham
Megan Hamid ’04
David Hammann ’95
Lois Haney
Robert Hacker ’60
Elaine Harrington
Henrietta Harris
Robert Hatcher
Claude Hearn Jr. ’49 & ’50
Martin Hearne Jr. ’48
James Heffernan ’67
Jack Hoch ’49
Benny Hodges ’68
Vera Holcomb ’47 & ’61
Robert Holmes ’77
Sharon Huckleberry ’75
Donald Huff ’86
Sam Hurlbut ’67
Rosamond Towns
Johnson ’37
Sue Johnson
Ruth Nielsen Karm ’38
James Kelly ’00
Ronald Kendrick ’64
Pauline Kent ’58
Rebecca Shofner
Kirlund ’88
Jeffrey Knife ’98
Mary Knight ’65
Jesse Knox Jr. ’40
Patricia Knox
Knut Knudson ’50
Norman Kretzmeier ’34
John Kreuzdorn ’77
William Kurtz
Corinne Kuykendall
Larvin ’45
Norwin Linnertz
W. J. Lynn
Bill Maddox ’60
Madeleine Chace
James Magee
James Mahany ’71
Marjorie Manning ’86
Darroll Martin
Helen Holder Marx ’40
John Maspicunt ”91
Lana Foster Maxey ’64
Marjorie Pearson Mays ’32
Martha Rush Mauldin ’46
John McDonald ’76
Dorothy McMakin ’81
Irene Melton
Irene Contreras Mendez ’76 & ’83
Carol Longwell Menifee ’84
Rudy Mesa ’99
Rod Metzler
Minerva Miles
Hugh Miller ’82
Gerald Miller ’36
John Millington ’67
Yari Mokri ’86
Louis Moloney
Edith Moore ’75

78 hillviews

Spring 2007
Franklin Spear, Austin | Hyman Thomas, Colton, Calif.

LaVell Miller Alumbaugh ’58 & ’73, San Marcos | Patricia Anderson, El Campo | Frederick ’58 & ’63 and Dorothy Simons Baetge, New Braunfels | Eddy ’58 & ’63 and Carolylnn Gless Lankford, Taylor | Ralph Parr, Houston | Handler Smith, San Marcos.


Larry ’54 & ’58 and Carroll Stephens ’56 Coleman, Cypress.


Betty Dickens Rector, Lockhart | Earl Seay ’53 & ’69, Round Rock.

Martha Jackson and James Jackson ’62, San Marcos | Joe Pirtle ’52 & ’58, Belton | Kenneth and Elda de Clermont Ross, Austin | Dorothy Foster and Leon Ulrich, Bailleure.


John ’49 & ’53 and Irene Lewis ’54 Arkwright, Corpus Christi | Cecil Jenkins, San Antonio | Jimmy Littleton ’49, San Antonio, 1997 Distinguished Alumnus | Kathleen

Tavali Elkowitz Mullins ’53
Mary Shaw Myers ’39
William Neely ’60
Christopher Nelson
Harold Nelson
Vivian Danforth
Newcomb ’38
Fred Nibling ’41
Sandra Nichols
Martha Nipps
James Noel Jr.
Barry Norton ’69
Benny Notgrass ’71
Oliver Nowotny ’51
Christelle Dean Obanion ’37
Mary Ortiz-Moerke
Pete Owen ’57 & ’59
William Pakenham ’84
Mark Palumbo ’90
Charlie Peralez
Tollie Martin Persyn ’65
Paul Pirtle
Sarah Yeager Pool ’58
E. B. Priestly ’50
Helen Walker Raeke ’55
Robert Randall ’79
Thomas Reavis ’71
Cary A. Redman ’95
Tommy Reed

William Regan ’74
Jim Reiffert ’67
Wayne Ridgway
Joyce Bednar Riske ’51
Katherine Franklin
Robson ’50
Vivian Sledge Rodgers ’41
Anton Rohan ’82
Debbie Rose
Shelley Rutherford ’98
Margaretta Sandoval-Samilla ’93
Carla Wilkins Sanford ’88 & ’91
Jacquelyn Anders Satcher
Ayia Hammond Schbley ’64
Randolph Scheel
Evelyn Bristow
Schmeltekopf ’59
Sue Willms Schulz ’51
Gregory Scoggins ’80
H. R. Segler ’61 & ’63
Nylah Siddiqui ’05
Kenneth Sides ’56
Margaret Sloan ’77
Jennifer Smith ’92
Mildred Teas Smith ’38
Stephen Smith ’84
Laura Haynes Snow ’34

Charles Spiker ’71
John Stachowitz ’98
Ruth Stanton
Walter Staudt
Willis Steier
Gary Stokes ’81
Robert Storey Sr. ’38 & ’41
Annie Turner Storm ’48, ’50 & ’78
Bobby Tausch
Julius Technik ’49
Arleigh Templeton
Phylis Johnson Thomas ’60
Viva Thomas ’38
David Thompson ’80
Bobbie Gillis Thorp ’46 & ’70
Evelyn Sanders Tierce ’42
Frank Timmerman ’46
Amelia Torres
Glen Vancura ’82
Jane Webb Vaughan ’82
Joe Vesper ’57
Thomas Vick
Rita Vickers ’70
Julia Cedillo Villaoreal ’82
Lillian Vinyard

Frank Wagner Jr. ’46 & ’47
Carol Browning Walker ’69
Florence Beckham Walker ’40
Kramer Walker ’37
Lora Lindholm Walker ’39
George Wehner ’66 & ’87
Regina Hunger Welge ’38
Minnie Wendel ’40
Joseph Wesp
Beth Yolland
Whitenberg ’72 & ’75
B. L. Whitlock
John Whittington ’75
Marinella Baxter Wilkinson
Henry Williams ’88
William Willis Jr. ’49
Mei-Ue Sheen Winden ’79
Tommy Yates ’50
Miriam Korff York
Rocky Young Ill ’80
Charles Younts ’77
David Zamponi ’71
Empress Zedler


Carla Beilharz Parsons, Orange, Calif., recently celebrated her 80th birthday. She says her years at SWT (Texas State) are highlights of her life. She considers herself lucky that her four children and their families live near her.

Jo Wayland ’44 & ’48 and Horace Bennett ’49 & ’50, Alvin | Patsy Wadley Lee, San Antonio.

Carter and Lenora Koehler Lomax, Lake Jackson | John and Kathryn Kelly ’46 Prescott, College Station. John is a 1983 Distinguished Alumnus.

Rena Smith Deck ’38 & ’56, San Marcos | Wiltbur Hopson ’38 & ’58, San Marcos.

Mildred Roddy, Wharton.
Not your ordinary bus

Look for these buses soon along the Interstate 35 corridor.

Five buses with these new decals will make the trips to and from Austin and San Antonio, with stops in Kyle and New Braunfels. The buses stop at Bobcat Village’s parking lot and at major metropolitan bus hubs in Austin and San Antonio.

The vehicles are fully WiFi equipped, meaning that riders can use the internet on their laptops as they travel. Student can get on in Austin and finish a distance learning class by the time they get to San Marcos.

The buses are also equipped with GPS (global positioning system), which allows them to be tracked. And they are powered by environment-friendly low-emission diesel engines with a blend of ultra-low sulfur diesel and bio-diesel fuel.

Rides are also open to the general public, who pay a slightly higher fee per ride than students. More information is available at www.txstate.edu/tram. ✨
Meet the State Historian of Texas

When Governor Rick Perry appointed Texas State University Professor and Department of History Chair Dr. Frank de la Teja as the first-ever State Historian of Texas, de la Teja went from researching and teaching Texas history to making it. Renowned scholars such as Dr. de la Teja make Texas State’s faculty stellar!

A River Runs Through It