

hillviews

Sustainability in Action



TEXAS
STATE[®]
UNIVERSITY
SAN MARCOS

The rising STAR of Texas



The Common Experience is Texas State’s year-long initiative designed to cultivate a common intellectual conversation across campus, to enhance student participation in the intellectual life of the campus and to foster a sense of community across the university and extended community. The Common Experience theme for 2010-11 was “Sustainability: Science, Policy and Opportunity.” But the theme of sustainability stretches far beyond the Common Experience, reaching to every corner of the university.

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COVER STORY 6

Texas State University’s sustainable focus is shared across campus and throughout the surrounding community. From fashion shows, art exhibitions and poetry workshops to lecturers, philosophy dialogues and documentaries, the entire campus has embraced the rewards of sustainability.

Texas State University—San Marcos

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Letter from the President



Our Common Experience theme for the 2010-11 academic year was “Sustainability,” and it turned out to be one of the best yet. In this issue of *Hillviews*, we will give you a sample of how we used this theme.

We started our Common Experience in 2004 as a way of providing a common topic for our freshmen to discuss in their University Seminar classes, the one-hour class required of all freshmen. The plan was to give them all a common text at summer orientation, so they could read it and be ready to discuss it when they got to campus and for other experiences throughout the year building on that theme.

Several faculty members in upper-level classes wanted to participate too, and the community became interested. The year’s experience also included invited speakers, campus-wide dialogues, art exhibits, performing arts events and talks at the public library. Such a phenomenon might not be surprising at a small liberal arts college but at a major public university? It has been a delightfully uncommon experience.

This year’s theme was especially appropriate as our global culture begins to embrace the idea of saving our planet’s resources. It’s a topic that affects all of us and will not stop with the end of the academic year. Our students were incredibly clever and engaged the entire year. As I watched them develop conservation plans and tackle new ways of facing these challenges, I was reassured that the future is in good hands.



Denise M. Trauth

Campus Happenings

Texas State among top Fulbright producers

The Fulbright Award, a competitive international education exchange program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and Bureau of Educational Affairs, named Texas State one of the top U.S. Fulbright Scholar-producing institutions for 2010-11.

The university currently has two Fulbright Scholars, Roseann Mandziuk of Communication Studies serving in Poland and Daris Hale of the School of Music working in Tanzania. Texas State has produced 16 Fulbright Scholars since 2000, including at least one every year since 2005.

“Our success rate for applicants is roughly 99 percent,” says Texas State Fulbright Representative Steven Wilson. “We’re really successful partly because the faculty is so good and because we have very enthusiastic applicants.”

Wilson, an English professor and three-time Fulbright winner, adds, “It’s not only the faculty, it’s the support system here at Texas State. It’s a commitment by the university. A Fulbright is a very prestigious award, and it reflects well on our school.”



Daris Hale



Roseann Mandziuk

Sandhya Rao, professor of journalism and mass communication and assistant dean of the Graduate College, served in India on a 2008 Fulbright. She describes the experience as a wonderful opportunity. “I think bringing an international perspective to our students here is very enriching.”

RECENT FULBRIGHT WINNERS

2010-2011

Daris Hale, *music*
Roseann Mandziuk, *communication studies*

2009-2010

Erina Duganne, *art and design*

2008-2009

Nathan Pino, *sociology*
Ruth Taylor, *marketing*

2007-2008

Ann Brooks, *counseling, leadership, adult education and school psychology*
Vincent Luizzi, *philosophy*
Sandhya Rao, *mass communication*

2006-2007

B.J. Friedman, *family and consumer sciences*

2005-2006

William H. DeSoto, *political science*
Priscilla Vance Leder, *English*
Michael McBride, *mass communication*
Ruth Taylor, *marketing*

2003-2004

Steve Wilson, *English*

2002-2003

Roger Colombik, *art and design*

2001-2002

Steve Wilson, *English*

STUDENTS PILE UP AWARDS

Texas State students garnered a number of awards this spring, among them several national recognitions. For instance:

The Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team claimed the 2011 SIFE national title in May, earning the right to represent the United States at the SIFE World Cup in Malaysia in October. The team emerged from a field of regional champions representing 3,500 students from 162 colleges and universities at the SIFE USA National Exposition in Minneapolis.

Georgia Young was named the national student champion in theatre criticism at the American College Theatre Festival in Washington, D.C., in April. She was one of five Texas State students who advanced to the national competition in six categories. At the regional contest among 50 universities in March, Texas State came away with 18 of the 50 awards.

The speech team won first place in one national tournament this spring, and two senior debaters finished second in another. The Elton Abernathy Forensics Society, the university's competitive speech team, won the President's III Division at the National Forensics Association's national tournament in April at Illinois State University. Debaters Luis Baez and Laura Driver placed second at the Pi Kappa Delta National Debate Tournament held in March in Portland, Ore.

SACS REAFFIRMS TEXAS STATE

The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the regional body that accredits degree-granting higher education institutions in 11 Southern states and Latin America, has reaffirmed its accreditation of Texas State.

The endorsement completes a process begun in September 2007 that involved hundreds of people across campus. Faculty and staff conducted exhaustive self-audits and compiled them into a report that was submitted to groups of peer reviewers from other universities.

"The SACS process allows us to look at everything we do with fresh eyes," says President Denise Trauth. "It is incredibly valuable and makes us a better university for having done it."

As part of the accreditation, the university was required to submit a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) detailing new actions for institutional improvement with special attention to student learning. The Texas State QEP calls for the development of the Personalized Academic and Career Exploration (PACE) Center, a one-stop advising, mentoring and counseling center for freshmen scheduled to open in spring 2013.

UNIVERSITY NAMES FOUR NEW DEANS, PROVOST

Four colleges will have new deans when the fall 2011 semester opens, and the university will have a new provost.

Michael Hennessy, chair of the Department of English since 2005, will become dean of the College of Liberal Arts as Ann Marie Ellis, who has been dean for the last decade, retires.

Stan Carpenter, who has served as interim dean since Rosalinda Barrera took a position with the U.S. Department of Education in 2010, will become dean of the College of Education.

Timothy Mottet, chair of communications at the University of Texas-Pan American and a Texas State faculty member from 1998 to 2007, will become dean of Fine Arts and Communication when Richard Cheatham, dean since 1985, returns to full-time teaching.

And Daniel Brown, dean of the University College at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, will become dean of Texas State's University College and director of the new Personalized Academic and Career Exploration (PACE) Center. Former University College Dean Ron Brown is now assistant vice president for academic services.

Eugene Bourgeois, a history faculty member since 1990 and associate provost since 2006, will become provost and vice president for academic affairs in July when Provost Perry Moore assumes the position of vice chancellor for academic affairs with The Texas State University System.



Clockwise, top left: Michael Hennessy, Stan Carpenter, Timothy Mottet, Eugene Bourgeois, Daniel Brown



SHARED
SUSTAINABILITY

**COMMON EXPERIENCE LINKS
STUDENTS & COMMUNITY**

Nicole Fisher (front) and Lauren Merluzzi are members of the McCoy College Net Impact Student Organization, one student group that embraced the university's 2010-11 Common Experience theme of sustainability.

When Texas State's FashionNation Club held its annual runway show in November, more than 100 community members packed into a small tavern on the San Marcos town square for a look at cutting-edge sustainable fashion.

Using only recycled materials — mostly discarded, out-of-date clothing — students assembled an edgy array of items, from concert T-shirts transformed into lace-up tops to a fitted denim jacket adorned with a feathered tail. Each was a reminder that what might have ended up in a landfill can take on an alternate use.

“The students brought out people who would not normally attend a fashion event and made them think about how their buying decisions are tied to sustainability and the health of our environment,” says Gwendolyn Hustvedt, assistant professor of textiles and fashion merchandising.

Understanding the link between what we wear and its impact on the planet was just one facet of “Sustainability: Science, Policy and Opportunity,” the theme of the 2010-11 Common Experience, a multidisciplinary dialogue shared across campus and the surrounding community.

The Common Experience engages students, faculty, staff and the community in exploration of a common book, discussing related themes in classes and sharing the experience through a series of speakers, events and fine arts performances. The text is required reading for freshmen.

This year's book — *No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who*



Top: Gwendolyn Hustvedt, assistant professor of textiles and fashion merchandising, infuses sustainable concepts into her classroom instruction. As a result, Texas State's FashionNation Club used discarded, out-of-date clothing to create new looks during its November fashion show (as shown in bottom three photos).

Attempts To Save the Planet and the Discoveries He Makes about Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process — documents the year that author Colin Beavan and his family minimized their environmental impact by swearing off plastic, electricity, autos and non-organic food while living in New York City. Achieving real progress on sustainability requires more than understanding environmental challenges, Hustvedt explains. Human beings also must learn to address those concerns in ways that are economically and socially sustainable. Ultimately, she adds, that requires an approach that spans almost every academic discipline — including fashion.

As part of this year's Common Experience, Hustvedt presented information on renewable textiles and sweatshops alongside biologists and sociologists for a variety of seminars and panels. She also found a wider audience on campus for her own research, which examines the marketing of locally produced fiber products, animal-friendly wool products and social-responsibility labeling.

"It allowed me to talk to and interact with people I may not otherwise have had a chance to meet," she says. "It also allowed me to start conversations with people without having to jump through that extra hoop of 'So, how does this pertain to my discipline?'"

Senior Erika Tapia, one of the organizers of FashionNation's sustainable runway show, says her event got a publicity boost through its connection to the Common Experience. The group's goal was to encourage members of the Texas State community to talk, think and — most importantly — act.



Colin Beavan's book served as required reading for all freshmen as part of the Common Experience, an annual dialogue shared across campus and the surrounding community.

“Sustainability is an issue that affects every aspect of our life, our health, our reality, our sense of community and our well-being.”

“The whole show was meant to inspire people,” Tapia says. “We wanted to show people that just because something is old, there’s no reason to throw it out.”

Geography Professor Rich Earl, co-chair of the 2010-11 Common Experience, believes sustainability is a topic that should touch every university department.

“Sustainability isn’t just a narrow field of study,” he says. “It’s really about improving our quality of life. It’s an examination of how we should live now so we don’t jeopardize our future.”

He incorporated *No Impact Man* into his environmental management course as one of the texts.

UNITING A CAMPUS

The university launched the Common Experience initiative in 2004 to cultivate a shared intellectual conversation across the campus each academic year. The initial theme was “Hatred” based on Elie Wiesel’s *Night*. It was followed by themes of “Courage,” “Protest and Dissent,” “The Water Planet,”



Texas State celebrates Earth Day every year to give multiple student groups, the university community and San Marcos residents the opportunity to celebrate environmentally friendly practices.



A.J. Perez and Erica Jane Meier help turn Texas State's food waste into nutrient-rich "Bobcat Blend" on university property near Centerpoint Road.

Bobcat Blend

Agriculture students conduct groundbreaking research

Since fall 2009, Horticulture Professor Tina Cade and a handful of graduate students have been involved in some down-and-dirty research. They've collected and composted tons of food waste from campus cafeterias and invasive plant species in the San Marcos River.

Not only does the work keep garbage out of landfills and remove potentially disruptive water hyacinths from the river ecosystem, it also produces the nutrient-rich "Bobcat Blend," which university grounds staff members spread on campus horticulture gardens.

"I think it raises students' awareness that sustainability

requires a life change," Cade says. "This project is not something you can do for just a day or two. You have to be into it for the long haul."

As part of that commitment, students collect waste daily and maintain a five-acre composting site on campus.

Cade presented information on their project during the sustainability-themed Philosophy Dialogue Series and again at 2011's Education and Community Leadership Conference, an event held in February that provided practicing and aspiring school and community leaders an opportunity for professional growth.

"... it raises students' awareness that sustainability requires a life change."



Through efforts of horticulture students backed by funds from the Environmental Services Committee and private donations, a terraced garden has been built around the Agriculture Building on Texas State's campus. The designers of the rainwater collection system predict it will harvest at least 7,500 gallons of water with only 15,000 square feet of collection space.

“Civic Responsibility and the Legacy of LBJ” and “The Whole Mind: Crossing Boundaries of Discipline.”

“Sustainability is an issue that affects every aspect of our life, our health, our reality, our sense of community and our well-being,” explains Diann McCabe, associate director of the University Honors Program and one of three co-chairs of the Common Experience. “We’re reminded of that on a daily basis because we’re on a campus with a pristine river running through it.”

Almost 3,000 people attended Beavan’s lecture in Strahan Coliseum in September, providing students with an even deeper understanding of the themes of his book. Other speakers during the year included Penn State scientist Brett Yarnal, who examined local communities’ impact on climate change; Nobel Laureate Harold Kroto, who talked about using technology to our benefit or detriment; and Jarid Manos, founder of the Great Plains Restoration Council, whose topic was protection of wild

nature as a matter of public health. Janisse Ray talked about the background of her book *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, and Canadian animal rights activist Paul Watson discussed marine conservation. Musicians, actors and dancers from Juilliard joined performers from Texas State in March for a performance called “Sustaining the Moment: Reflections of Nature and Art.”

The year included philosophy dialogues, art exhibitions, panel discussions, poetry workshops and films, as well as a



Texas State's sustainable initiatives span the campus, including Pack It Up and Pass It On, an end-of-the-year recycling program that allows students to donate unwanted items to needy families; a comprehensive campuswide recycling program; distribution of aluminum water bottles; and the Living Library.

monthly farmers market on the Quad. One highlight of the fall semester was No Impact Week in September, which focused on a different aspect of sustainability every day — trash on Monday, followed by transportation, food, energy, water and stewardship, ending on Sunday with the spirituality of sustainability.

Other campus events tied to the sustainability theme included the distribution of 1,000 reusable water bottles in the Quad, the installation of a solar-powered cell phone recharging station and a screening of “Fuel,”

an award-winning documentary that examines the United States’ addiction to fossil fuels. The university’s community-wide Earth Day celebration at Aquarena Center on April 30 served as the theme’s finale.

This year’s Common Experience led some instructors to rethink their teaching approaches so that they can make a bigger impact.

During his classes, Senior Engineering Technology Lecturer Vivek Sharma frequently presents data showing that current construction trends, combined

with an exploding population, will soon outstrip the world’s natural resources. By focusing on hard facts, Sharma hoped to sidestep political controversy. However, he noticed that some students remained unconvinced and dismissed the numbers as scaremongering.

After participating in a faculty seminar preparing for this year’s Common Experience, Sharma had an epiphany: The same data has a bigger impact if students are first made to understand humans’ responsibility for maintaining the environment around them.



A solar charging station, which charges laptops, cellphones and electric bicycles with a carbon-free energy source, is displayed between the Mitte and Supple buildings in the fall.

Sustainability and human rights

Catherine Hawkins, professor in the School of Social Work, teaches sustainability as a human rights issue.

She asks students to close their eyes and imagine their home — what it looks like, who lives there. As they open their eyes, she asks, “Does it look like this?” and she holds a picture of the Earth.

Sustainability is the ability to meet current needs without jeopardizing future needs, she says. “Our global activity began to exceed the carrying capacity of the planet back in the 1980s. If population and consumption trends continue, by the mid-2030s we will need the equivalent of two Earths to support us. Even more alarming, if everyone lived the lifestyle of the average American, we would need five planets! The lifestyle of one of us affects all of us.”

“If population and consumption trends continue, by the mid-2030s we will need the equivalent of two Earths to support us.”

So she asks her students to consider the connection of sustainability, human rights and environmental justice, which she defines as the right of all people to live in a clean, healthful and safe environment. “Our only hope of a sustainable future must include a commitment to human rights and environmental justice.”

Hawkins points to instances of environmental injustice: A child dies every five seconds from starvation; twice as many people are trapped in slavery now

than were in slavery in 1800; one-sixth of the population does not have access to safe drinking water. “The world’s poorest and most vulnerable people — disproportionately children — typically inhabit the most degraded and often toxic environments. They have no control over resources or decisions that affect their lives. We cannot sustain a world that concentrates wealth in a minority of individuals while the rest of the world lives in varying degrees of poverty and ongoing violations of basic human rights.”



However, the United Nations reports that progress is being made in many areas, she says, even as it is worsening in others.

“I want our students to know these connections that threaten and sustain the Earth,” Hawkins says. “How can we care for the Earth, our home, without caring for the people with whom we share it?”

Editor’s note: An expanded version of Hawkins’ perspective can be found in her October 2010 article in the journal Critical Social Work, Volume 11, No. 3 <http://www.uwindsor.ca/criticalsocialwork/>.

Maroon and gold go green

Texas State offers sustainability graduate degree

Protecting the environment requires a blend of scientific examination, political action and attitudinal change.

With that understanding, Texas State began offering a pair of new degrees that allow students to draw knowledge from multiple disciplines as they study humans' efforts to minimize their environmental impact.

With last fall's introduction of interdisciplinary studies master of arts and master of science degrees with an emphasis on sustainability, students can tailor their studies to suit their individual goals. Whichever degree track they choose, candidates must take a total of 39 hours in at least four departments across at least three colleges.

"Texas State really is at the forefront with this

program," says Paula Williamson, associate dean of the Graduate College. "There aren't that many sustainability degrees being offered in Texas or even nationwide. And we're also giving our students flexibility to incorporate courses that make the most sense for their individual goals."

So far, eight students are enrolled in the program, which, Williamson says, is exceptional for such a new graduate-level offering. Several students learned of the new degrees through the 2010-11 Common Experience.

"Sustainability is a hot topic right now," Williamson says. "Students are looking ahead and seeing opportunities for jobs and research in this area."



The Recycle Now, Electronic Waste Collection Event allows faculty, staff, students and the community to bring TVs, computers, laptops, cell phones, fax machines, CD / DVD players and other electronics to be recycled in a safe and secure manner.

The deindustrial revolution

Professor analyzes impact of environment on economy

It could be called the deindustrial revolution — the movement of the American economy from “making” to “doing.” And, as in any revolution, there are casualties. Those casualties are the subject of research being conducted by Chad Smith, assistant professor of sociology.

As the American economy moves away from production and toward service, more of the country’s manufacturing facilities are closing, leaving fewer jobs for undereducated members of society. That, according to Smith, leads to environmental inequality.

“Various types of toxic and production facilities are disproportionately located in poor and minority communities,” he says. “We’re no longer in an industrialized economy where people can graduate from high school and get a good job, albeit a difficult one, working in a factory or steel mill.”

Smith is trying to determine if poverty in America is caused by traditional discrimination or by economic changes that are the result of the country’s decline in manufacturing jobs.

“I compared Portland, Ore., with Detroit. I expected to find the loss of manufacturing jobs to have an impact in Detroit because it’s an industrial city. But I didn’t expect it

to have much of an effect in Portland, where the economy is not traditionally based on manufacturing,” Smith explains.

To a certain extent, the study results surprised Smith who found that Portland neighborhoods where production facilities were located were as likely to experience poverty as similar neighborhoods in Detroit.

“That tells me that a significant portion of poverty is caused by the loss of manufacturing jobs and also that one of the legacies of this deindustrialization process is that toxic facilities and their waste are left behind,” Smith says. “The lack of educational and job opportunities available in these neighborhoods creates walls around these folks, and they are unable to escape. They are trapped in poverty and surrounded by the toxic remains of a disappearing economy.”

The outcome of that conflict? Smith has mixed opinions.

“I’m pessimistic we’re not doing the things we need to do to address the problems, but I’m optimistic the next generation will. Having young people involved, along with a growing focus on education and sustainability, indicates important changes. Awareness of the problem is the first step toward fixing it. I think we’re making that first step.”

“What I finally understood was that the human factor must be part of the discussion,” Sharma says. “You cannot make the students fully understand just based on the data. There needs to be a sense of ownership. If they have a sense of ownership of the air, the land and the water, then they’ll take care of it. They will understand that how we build has a huge impact on the environment.”

Senior Lecturer Janet Hale in the Department of Finance and Economics says this year’s Common Experience has allowed her to tie in classroom lectures with speakers and events addressing the real-world challenges and rewards of sustainability in the business world.

During the spring semester, her department sponsored Business Leadership Week, which included speakers from

corporations, including the Coca-Cola Company, that have been recognized for green business practices. And last fall, McCoy College Net Impact, a student group Hale sponsors, hosted Energy Day, an event that included area business leaders talking about the tough decisions they made to curb energy consumption.

“Students left Energy Day understanding the business impact of those

Environmental eating

On-campus dining is earth friendly

Sustainability is evident in almost every phase of campus life at Texas State. Right down to the food.

Chartwells, operator of the university's five on-campus dining facilities, made it company policy to minimize its environmental impact. Waste reduction and environmental sustainability are key parts of Chartwells' business strategies, said Leslie Bulkley, resident district manager. All of Texas State's food service sites compost their leftovers, use takeout containers made of renewable materials and no longer use trays to reduce water waste associated with clean up.

The Project Clean Plate program encourages diners to control their own portions with weekly charts showing how much diners have slashed food

waste. Adding a charitable tie-in to the company's sustainable practices, if students meet a year-end target of food saved, Chartwells at Texas State will donate an equivalent amount of food to the Hays County Food Bank.

Beyond cutting waste, Chartwells emphasizes buying locally and provides only cage-free eggs and antibiotic-free pork and chicken. All seafood served on campus is certified as ocean-friendly by the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program.

"Our business practices reinforce the ideas that students are learning as part of the Common Experience," Bulkley said. "Chartwells is at the forefront when it comes to sustainability."



Texas State Dining by Chartwells is committed to fostering and promoting sustainable business principles, including no longer using trays to reduce water waste associated with clean up.

decisions and the complexities of the energy industry,” Hale says. “They left understanding the kind of choices they will be making someday.”

INSPIRING STUDENT ACTION

“The walls that we traditionally think of as surrounding the classroom are coming down,” Social Work Professor Catherine Hawkins explains. “The Common Experience gets our students talking about important issues outside of their classes. They’re connecting across cam-

pus, across disciplines and, we hope, with the natural environment around them.”

Hustvedt, the fashion merchandising instructor, is eager to break down those walls by incorporating the same sustainability issues she discusses in lectures into students’ hands-on experiences.

In the spring semester, she organized a student contest to decorate recycled bags donated by J.C. Penney. A panel of faculty and fashion professionals awarded cash prizes to students with the best designs. She’s also charged Texas State’s

chapter of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, a group she advises, to recycle 25 of the school’s old vinyl banners into messenger and grocery bags to sell on campus.

“Some of our Common Experiences end up taking on a life of their own. They continue to have an impact even after the year is finished,” Hustvedt says. “I think sustainability will be one of those. We’ve made real progress in starting conversations on this campus.”



Alumni reunions coming soon

Golden Bobcat Reunion

Sept. 30-Oct. 2

Classes of 1961 and prior

- Campus tours and activities
- Reunion breakfast
- Celebration of 50th anniversary of the Class of '61
- Football game and more

Homecoming

Oct. 28-30

- Distinguished Alumni Awards
- Tailgate party
- Football game

Young Alumni Reunion – “Bobcat Bash”

Oct. 29

Special young alumni get-together during Homecoming weekend for Classes 2006-11



TEXAS STATE
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www.txstatealumni.org

SOLAR POWERED



Student group makes eco-difference

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

A group of civic-minded “overachievers,” a five-pound fuzzball and a horse are all having an impact on Texas State’s carbon footprint.

Since fall 2010, all incoming freshmen have been shown a seven-minute video called “Wear the Sun: A Look at Solar Drying” (find it through Bobcat Tube on the Texas State home page).

The video was produced by Bobcat Net Impact, Texas State’s chapter of Net Impact Central, a network of more than 20,000 new-generation leaders committed to using the power of business to improve the world. It explains some surprising differences between using a clothes dryer and an old-fashioned clothesline.

The video’s main point is that every time an electric clothes dryer is used, it creates a 4.4-pound carbon footprint in the atmosphere. Three loads a week contributes about 686 pounds a year at a cost of approximately \$441. The video also emphasizes the wear and tear that dryers inflict on clothes — damage avoided by solar drying.

The seeds of the project were planted in August 2009 when Janet Hale asked students in her University Honors business law class if they wanted to add sustainability to the course work, combining two classes into one.

“They’re exceptional. They’re motivated and focused on the campus and the community,” Hale says of her students.

Nicole Fisher, one of the students appearing in the video, explains the class’ reaction. “If you ask a group of honors



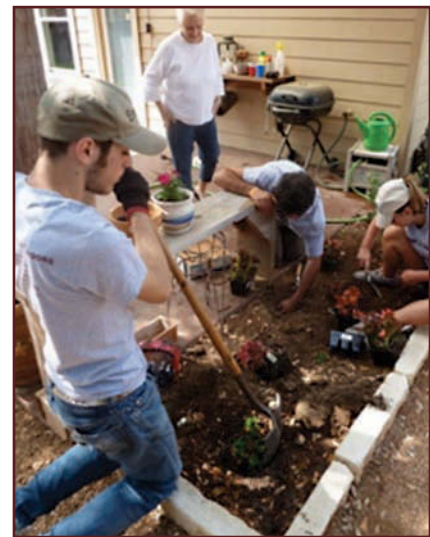
Charles Watkins, Lauren Merluzzi, Ani Aroian, Nicole Fisher, Jacob Treigle, Jesse Foley and Josh Leedom are part of Texas State’s Net Impact group.

students if they want to overachieve, they’ll say yes.”

With funding from a Texas State Environmental Committee grant, Bobcat Net Impact produced the video and installed clothes drying racks in three residence halls as part of a pilot program.

Since then, the campaign has won a second place national Force for Change Award from Net Impact. The video, which features students batting around a fuzzball made of dryer lint and a horse on Norco Ranch outside of San Marcos, has also been shown to prospective Texas State students in Mexico and to the San Marcos Green Living Exposition each spring.

Hale knows the group will remain passionate about sustainability issues on campus and off. “What we would really like to see is drying racks in each of the dorm rooms. We want students to realize the impact they have.”



Net Impact’s Hayden Ivey, Jesse Foley and Sunny Tompkins participate in Bobcat Build, volunteering at Barbara Jordan’s (standing in back) house in San Marcos.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Green governing

Garcia wants to make Texas a better place

H.S. “Buddy” Garcia knew about politics from an early age but didn’t realize he was likely to make a career of it until he arrived at Texas State. Growing up in Brownsville, Garcia says his parents were patriotic but kept their political views inside the family. “There was a lot of love and arguing about important issues in our house when I was a kid. From that came a desire to restore sanity to the process of government.”

As one of the three appointed members of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and chair from September 2007 to September 2009, Garcia is getting his chance to restore not only the political process but the Texas habitat as well.

Garcia, whose term as commissioner will expire in August, first developed his passion for public service while earning his political science degree. That passion was set in stone during a stint as a messenger for the House sergeant at arms in the Texas Legislature.

After graduating in 1990, Garcia immediately stepped into political life as a legislative aide to Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. (D-Brownsville), then moved to Lt. Gov. Rick Perry’s office. When Perry was elected governor, Garcia went with him, serving as the state chief executive’s liaison to the Texas Senate.

As a trusted advisor to Perry, Garcia soon found himself named by the

governor to the position of Texas deputy secretary of state, a job he says was probably the most enjoyable he’s ever had.

In 2007, Perry asked Garcia to rise to an even greater challenge as commissioner of the TCEQ. In addition to his duties as commissioner, Garcia also serves on the Governor’s Competitiveness Council, Coastal Coordination Council, the Border Security Council, Texas Coastal Land Advisory Board and the Gulf of Mexico Program Policy Review Board. Garcia serves as co-chair for the upcoming binational environmental program called Border 2012, a collaborative effort between the United States and Mexico to improve the environment and protect the health of people living along the border.

Garcia recalls many faculty and staff members who influenced him while he was at Texas State, particularly Bill Stouffer, professor of political science, with his classes in local and state

government and Ann Marie Ellis, now dean of liberal arts. As a psychology minor, Garcia also fondly remembers his classes with Shirley Ogletree.

Jaime Chahin, dean of applied arts, has known Garcia since his youth in Brownsville. Chahin says Garcia learned the responsibility of public service from a young age and blossomed because of his interpersonal skills and attitude. “He was a pretty disciplined and inquisitive young person, and he’s politically astute.”

Garcia says government needs people who have the faith and perseverance to build consensus over time. “It’s amazing what can be accomplished when you don’t worry about who gets the credit. It has been a wonderful opportunity as a multi-generational Texan to serve.”

After 20 years in public service, Garcia has begun to consider what his next step will be when his term expires. He jokes that “fishing guide” sounds like a dream job if he could support his family that way.

Whatever he does, Garcia wants it to be something that contributes to the good of his state.

“You contribute where you can and hope you leave the state a better place,” he says.



WRITING ABOUT WRONGS

PROFESSOR'S BOOK BRIDGES ENVIRONMENTAL GAP

Picturing a Venn diagram, with environmental issues in one circle and politics in the other, the middle section — where the two circles intersect — would show a relatively small overlap between the two fields.

Texas State Political Science Professor Dianne Rahm lives in that overlap,

straddling the divide between public policy and the environment. Her latest book, *Climate Change Policy in the United States: The Science, the Politics and the Prospects for Change*, serves to bridge the gap between the two sides.

The book, published last year, is the professor's seventh and the fourth to span the political-environmental divide.

In previous publications, Rahm has taken on topics like globalization and its effects on the environment, sustainable energy and toxic waste. In addition, she has tackled countless issues in dozens of articles, book chapters, book reviews, journals, reports, grants and conference papers.

In *Climate Change Policy*, Rahm takes a look at the ever-changing national public policies on climate. The book begins with an overview of climate change (what causes it, who discovered it and how it came to the forefront of public attention), followed by national and international reaction. It ends with a few ideas of how humanity can respond to the changing environment through mitigation, alleviating the impact of change before it occurs, and adaptation, adjusting to changes after they've already happened.

Along the way the book takes a few detours through morals, ethics, religion and other elements that influence the way climate change is perceived. This portion of



the book takes a look at the people Rahm calls “climate deniers,” a common phrase for those who either doubt the climate is changing or question the impact humans have on the change.

“There is a small community of skeptics — people who, for one reason or another, disagree. The real skeptics say the climate’s not changing, but most people would disagree with that.”

The book’s publication could not be more timely. The state of Texas is currently locked in a bitter legal battle with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding whether the agency can require states to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Texas is the only state in the nation without a permitting program in place (or at least a plan to have one in the near future) to self-regulate the release of gases like carbon dioxide. Texas is also the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the nation. In fact, if Texas were a country, it would be the seventh or eighth worst greenhouse gas offender on the planet, above industrial powerhouses like Japan and Germany.

Rahm says despite the so-called climate deniers, the world is already feeling the impact of climate change.

“There’s scientific uncertainty about how quickly it’s going to occur, but we’ll feel it,” Rahm says. “We’re already feeling it in Texas, and we’re feeling it worldwide. It’s going to be an important issue during the next 50 years.”

“Solving the climate crisis will involve adopting many new technologies and changing many old behaviors.”

Rahm’s book ends with a look to the future, a glimpse at possible solutions to the already-here problem.

“No one solution is a magic bullet,” she says in the book. “Solving the climate crisis will involve adopting many new technologies and changing many old behaviors.” But despite the lack of panacea, the book provides little suggestions that can add up to big changes. And from her vantage point between the worlds of environmental and political sciences, Rahm is perfectly situated to see the impact these changes can make.



TYPES OF GREENHOUSE GASES

Carbon dioxide (CO₂)

Carbon dioxide enters the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas and coal), solid waste, trees and wood products, and also as a result of other chemical reactions. Carbon dioxide is also removed from the atmosphere (or “sequestered”) when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle.

Methane (CH₄)

Methane is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and by the decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills.

Nitrous oxide (N₂O)

Nitrous oxide is emitted during agricultural and industrial activities, as well as during combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste.

Fluorinated gases

Hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride are synthetic, powerful greenhouse gases that are emitted from a variety of industrial processes. Fluorinated gases are sometimes used as substitutes for ozone-depleting substances. These gases are typically emitted in smaller quantities, but because they are potent greenhouse gases, they are sometimes referred to as high global warming potential gases (high GWP gases).

Water vapor

Water vapor is the dominant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere, accounting for at least 90 percent of the Earth’s natural greenhouse effect. Rising global temperatures may act to increase water vapor in the atmosphere.

Source: EPA, *ecoEnquirer*

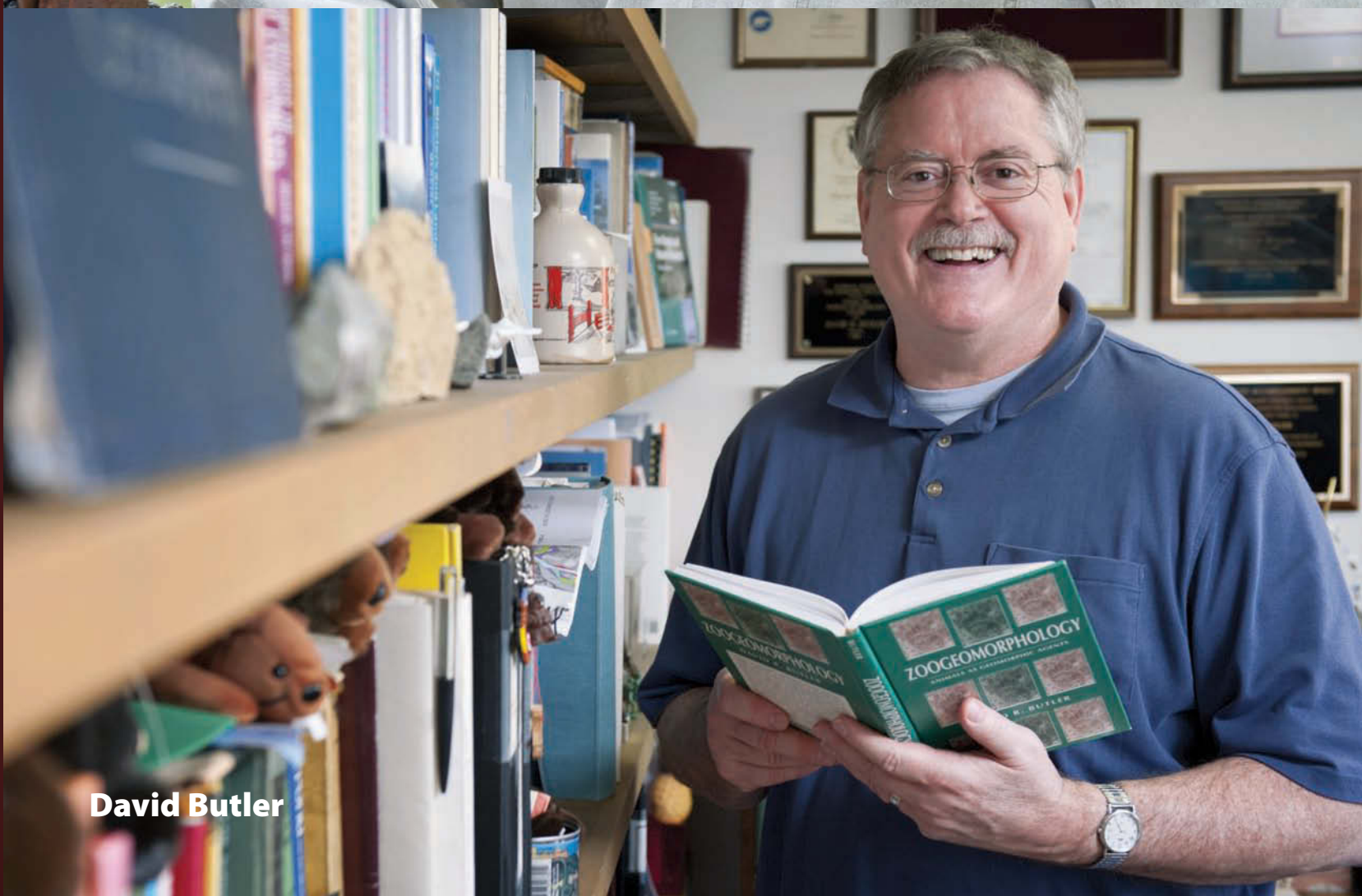
SYSTEM'S BEST

Butler and Baccus named Regents' Professors

Two Texas State professors have joined the ranks of Regents' Professors of The Texas State University System, an honor only 13 others have received. Biology Professor John Baccus and Geography Professor David Butler are the fifth and sixth Texas State professors to receive the accolade since it was established in 2007 by the Board of Regents, which oversees the eight-institution system. Regents' Professors hold the title as long as they teach in the system.



John Baccus



David Butler

David Butler

The study of geography wasn't the only thing that lured David Butler from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill to Texas in 1997. He loved the shape of the land itself. The Nebraska native felt hemmed in by trees while teaching in the Southeast and prefers the openness of the Texas terrain.

"Nebraskans and Texans have many similarities in their worldview, and we both like football," Butler explains.

As a geomorphologist, land is his specialty. Butler and his graduate students research landforms and landform processes. He has conducted research on the effects of animals, avalanches, glaciers, fires, snow, floods and environmental change on mountain areas, particularly the Rocky Mountains. He has also written about policy and management issues in sustaining mountain landscapes.

Currently Butler, who earned his doctorate at the University of Kansas, is studying the effect of trampling by large herd animals on pastureland and the impact of beaver ponds on their surroundings. He is also collaborating with Swiss tree ring experts on projects in Yellowstone National Park and Switzerland.

"Dr. Butler is one of the top geographers in the areas of geomorphology and biogeomorphology, which is why I came to Texas State to work on my Ph.D.," says second-year doctoral student Melanie Stine. "I am also interested in mountain

environments, and I plan to complete my dissertation on Glacier National Park largely because of his influence and his extensive research in Glacier."

"I get a lot of satisfaction out of working with our graduate students," Butler says. "And I still have a lot of research projects I'm working on."

Butler's prolific research and skills in the classroom have earned him designation as a University Distinguished Professor and winner of the National Council for Geographic Education Distinguished Teacher Achievement Award.



Recent teaching honors and awards

- Texas State University System Regents' Professor Award, 2010.
- University Distinguished Professor Award, 2010.
- Alpha Chi National College Honor Society Favorite Professor Award, 2010.
- Scholarly / Creative Activity Golden Apple Award, multiple times and most recently in 2008.
- Department of Geography Graduate Forum Outstanding Professor Award, 2008.
- Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarly / Creative Activities, 2007.
- Distinguished Scholar Award, James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research, 2007.
- Presidential Seminar Award, 2006.
- Distinguished Career Award, Mountain Geography Special Group, Association of American Geographers, 2006.



David Butler examines annual growth rings of a conifer tree affected by snow avalanches for signature patterns and specific growth responses indicating that the tree was damaged in a specific year.

John Baccus

Since he was hired to start the wildlife biology program at Texas State in 1975, John Baccus has directed its growth into one of the largest specialty majors inside the Department of Biology with 198 undergraduates and 45 graduate students.

More than 35 years later, Baccus says, “It’s been rewarding to start a program and see it grow far beyond what I thought it would be.”

Baccus specializes in the study of white-winged doves and white-tailed deer. During his academic career he has also researched bobwhites, prairie dogs, vireos, mourning doves, wild turkeys, bats, rats, toads, coyotes, wood-partridge, golden-cheeked warblers and chiggers. He has named five new species and has more than 150 publications.

Michael Small, now a postdoctoral research associate at Texas State, met Baccus while still a student. Baccus was his research advisor while Small was completing his Ph.D. and taught him more than biology.

“Early on in our working relationship my father died suddenly in Arizona. John, knowing my closeness to my father, immediately sent me on my way despite pressing responsibilities on our mutual project. Two days after I arrived in Arizona so did a laptop computer, compliments of Dr. Baccus. We were able to keep in touch and continued to work together for the next three months. Our project was a success.

“Of all the things I have learned from him, the most important and enduring has not been limited to the biological sciences. What he provided me every day were life lessons that have shaped me in ways he can never imagine. He has taught me priorities.”

Baccus is a University Distinguished Professor and has given the Presidential Seminar.



Recent teaching honors and awards

- Texas State University System Regents’ Professor Award, 2010.
- University Distinguished Professor Award, 2010.
- Stanford Who’s Who, 2010.
- Nominee for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Service, 2010.
- Nominee for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2009.
- Outstanding Scientific Publication, Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, 2008.
- Distinguished Alumnus, College of Science and Mathematics, Midwestern State University, 2004.
- Robert B. Packard Distinguished Educator, 2002.
- Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan Inc. Outstanding Technical Paper Award, 2001.
- Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society Outstanding Educator, 1999.



John Baccus looks at the seed head of croton, an important food for wildlife. It is important to look at seed heads to determine the amount of seed that will be produced as food for birds and other wildlife species.

A job well done

Workforce Recruitment Program streamlines hiring process



Tina Schultz, Texas State's director of Disability Services, speaks with Margaret Worthington and Sonja Bell about career options following graduation.

When Tina Schultz finished graduate school in 1980, equipped with a master's in education and counseling from California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo, she went to a federal office in San Francisco and began applying for jobs with the government. She filled out the necessary paperwork and went through the federal government's lengthy screening process and then began to wait.

And wait. And wait.

Months went by without a job. A year and still nothing. After 14 months of unemployment, Schultz had interviewed

for only two government positions, one of which was completely unrelated to her background and education.

Schultz has a physical disability. Prior to each interview — and prior to every interview she's ever had — she informed her potential employer of the specific accommodations she would need to be successful in the position. Schultz did not receive either job.

Compare Cristina Wheeler, 2008 Texas State alumna who had five job offers — two full-time and three internships — before her management degree was even in hand. Wheeler is legally blind and, like Schultz, requires very specific job accommodations.

Both Wheeler and Schultz are equally intelligent, capable and qualified. They both applied for jobs with the federal government and both required on-the-job accommodations. Why, then, did it take Schultz more than a year to find her first job while Wheeler had several opportunities before she had even graduated?

The difference is a federal government initiative known as the Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP), designed to match college students with disabilities and recent graduates with federal job openings and internships.

The WRP, established in 1976, was still in its infancy when Schultz applied for positions in 1980. It arrived at Texas State 11 years ago when Curt Schafer, director of Career Services, arranged for a campus recruiter to visit the university, a visit that has been repeated annually since the program began.

Through the WRP, federal applicants apply and interview only once to be considered for hundreds of job openings and internships around the world. If they are accepted into the program, their names go into a database that is made available to government and private sector agencies.

Students on the list may receive one phone call or five, like Wheeler, but the streamlined screening and interview approach simplifies the process for both employee and employer.

According to Career Services Recruiting Coordinator Liz Buchta, the WRP visits 200 or more universities each year and interviews approximately 2,100 applicants.

While only around 500 individuals are accepted into the program annually, all 20 Texas State students who were interviewed in fall 2010 have been accommodated. In fact, every Texas State student who has applied to the WRP during the last three recruiting sessions has been accepted. Recruiters have been so consistently impressed with the degree of preparation that the WRP has increased its San Marcos visits from one day a year to two and doubled the number of Texas State students who have the opportunity to interview.

Three years ago, Greg Hill, Career Services' assistant director of counseling, started pre-interview prep sessions for applicants to practice potential interview

questions and "get the nerves out." Students began to be accepted into the program in record numbers at around the same time.

"Many college students, regardless of their situation, may not have gone through a formal interview process," Hill explains. "Whenever we sit down with someone, we're trying to instill a little confidence so it's not so unnerving."

Wheeler currently works in recruitment with a focus on disability and outreach for the Farm Credit Administration in Washington, D.C. In that position she has the opportunity to work with the WRP from the other side, as an employer.

"There's no way of explaining how wonderful it is," she says. "There are more opportunities for success for every student who interviews with the WRP. It fits perfectly with government agencies."

Schultz eventually went to work for the University of California-Davis and is now Texas State's director of Disability Services. Seeing students like Wheeler and others succeed gives her a great deal of pride. And while her own days of struggling with unemployment are behind her, she has been given the opportunity to save a few students from the same hardships she faced. For Schultz, it's personal.

"I know how hard it is, and I know how frustrating it can be to go through that process over and over without being able to secure a position and be independent," she says. "All our students want is to be a contributing member of society and be independent. Whatever we can do to help them achieve that is important to all of us."



Tina Schultz provides regular advice and counseling as part of Texas State's Office of Disability Services team and a champion for the Workforce Recruitment Program.



BALL'S IN HER COURT

Antoine named head women's basketball coach

Zena Antoine grew up thinking she wanted to be an engineer, like her father — until her first coaching job. She had returned home to Houston after graduating from Colorado State with a degree in physical science and minors in geology and statistics. After an internship in engineering ended, she took a job as a substitute teacher and was asked to coach basketball. She loved it.

Then she got a call from her boyfriend Ronald Antoine, who had recently taken a graduate assistant football coaching post at Ohio University. A job for a graduate assistant in women's basketball was open at the university. She was immediately interested. She nailed the job interview and enrolled in the graduate program in athletics administration.

Zenarae Pieters Antoine had grown up surrounded by sports. Her father, who had come to the U.S. from British Guyana for three degrees from the Colorado School of Mines, and her Chinese mother, who came from Malaysia for a degree in nursing at Marymount College in Kansas, had both excelled in track and field events in college. As the family moved to different locations, including Saudi Arabia for four years, Antoine and her two siblings were exposed to multiple cultures and customs, but sports was one thing they took with them from place to place.

A supportive basketball coach at Taylor High School in Katy cultivated Antoine's interest in pursuing the game at the collegiate level. "I've been blessed to play and assist under the guidance of several influential coaches," she says. "They made my transition from player to head coach flow smoothly."

Before she was named women's basketball coach at Texas State this spring, Antoine assisted at the University of Arkansas. "Zena will be greatly missed at Arkansas," says head coach Tom Collen. "But I know it's time for Zena to have her own program, and I am confident she'll do a great job."

Antoine holds high expectations for her players both on and off the court. Coach and players have daily check-ins to discuss any issues about their sport, academic or personal lives. This is her promise to each of them. "I'm asking them to give me every

ounce of energy they have for the team," she says. "In return, they've got to know I'll go to bat for them off the court."

Kelsey Krupa, a leading scorer for the Bobcats, says she admires Antoine's directness and commitment. "We're all pretty excited about having her. She has no problem telling us where we need to improve. The way we play is going to change because of it."

Antoine says she is "ecstatic" about Texas State joining the Western Athletic Conference in 2012. But she's not letting that excitement distract her from the present. For now her energy goes into inspiring a winning spirit among the players and improving the team's record in coming seasons.

COACH ZENARAE ANTOINE CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Colorado State University, player 1993-98
 - Three-year starter
 - Team reached second round NCAA Tournament
 - Ranks third all-time for CSU in offensive rebounds with 249. She had 601 total rebounds for her career.
- Ohio University, graduate assistant / assistant coach 1998-2000, 2001-03
- College of Charleston, assistant coach 2000-01
- University of Louisville, recruiting coordinator 2003-07
 - Nationally ranked recruiting classes (No. 26 for 2006, No. 25 for 2007)
- University of Arkansas, assistant coach and recruiting coordinator 2007-11
 - Razorbacks advanced to quarter finals in WNIT
 - Team finished 22-12 in 2011

PERSONAL

- Married to Ronald Antoine, wide receivers coach at South Alabama University
- Twin sons, Zavier and Zachary
- Active member Women's Basketball Coaches Association, board member Alliance of Women Coaches

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College is an entirely different ballgame for most first-year students making the transition from high school. Not so for Chandler Hall, who, though she felt a little overwhelmed managing the demands of her Texas State professors with those of her coaches and Bobcat teammates, found the support she needed at the recently renovated Athletic Academic Center (AAC).

Hall is on track to graduate next year with a degree in fashion merchandising, a successful softball career behind her and a dream of entering the business world ahead. The Houston native is a two-time Southland Conference Pitcher of the Year and the third in her family to play college sports. Her youngest sister plans to follow that tradition as well.

"The AAC staff helps me in many ways," Hall says. "They help me to stay organized with all my grades and

school work. They provide tutors so I can get help in whatever subject I may be struggling with. It is also nice to have someone to talk to if you are stressed out about something, maybe school or your sport or whatever is going on in your life."

"Texas State has the fifth highest overall graduation rate among public colleges, but our student-athlete graduation rate is even higher than that."

Led by four full-time professional staff members, a graduate assistant and university-trained tutors, the AAC works in conjunction with the assistant athletics director for compliance and the certification officer to maintain eligibility. The goal is to keep student-athletes informed about NCAA rules and policies on student-athlete progress for continuing eligibility.

It's all part of the NCAA's efforts to ensure that student-athletes are getting an education, according to Laurie Hindson, newly appointed assistant athletics director and director of the AAC. Hindson had served as student development specialist in the AAC since October 2005.

"Getting an education is the main purpose of going to college — not to play a sport — because 99 percent of our student-athletes are not going to play professional sports," Hindson says. "They need to get an education to get a career."

NCAA rules essentially require student-athletes to graduate within five years and meet NCAA benchmarks along the way. If they don't, their team loses APR (Academic Progress Report) points, which could lead to loss of scholarships or even the sport itself. That means student-athletes must complete a standard number of applicable course hours per semester with a passing grade and also maintain a minimum grade point average.

To make sure that happens, the AAC is open six days a week and provides academic advising and counseling services, new student-athlete orientation, study hall hours, tutorial support, technology resources, mentor guidance, on-the-road support and career services to prepare student-athletes for life after sports. The center is conveniently located near the freshman residence halls and a university dining hall. Academic and career advising, counseling, orientation, tutoring and mentoring are available to all Texas State students in other places.

“Some people think athletes have it so great, with all the travel they get to do, but it is difficult,” Hindson says. “For one thing, [to stay on track] it’s not as easy for them to change majors as it is for other students. Obviously, missing class is an issue, and they must get very good with time management.”

Though the AAC is all about sports and supporting the university’s 400 student-athletes, unlike many such centers around the country, at Texas State the staff reports to an academic dean, the dean of University College. Hindson says

that raises their credibility with the faculty and the NCAA.

“We’re one of top public institutions in the state in terms of graduation rates,” Hindson says. “We are right up there with UT and A&M. Texas State has the fifth highest overall graduation rate among public colleges, but our student-athlete graduation rate is even higher than that. Our athletes do a very good job. We’re very proud of them.”



Women’s tennis and softball teams receive NCAA academic recognition

The Texas State women’s tennis and softball teams received public recognition awards by the NCAA Division I Academic Performance Program for having Academic Progress Rates (APR) that rank among the top 10 percent of their respective sport.

“This success is a credit to the dedication of our student-athletes, and I want to commend Tory Plunkett and Ricci Woodard for their commitment in seeing that their teams succeed academically,” Texas State’s athletics director Larry Teis says. “I am so proud of all of our coaches and student-athletes. This year is the first time in the seven years of APR that all of our teams’ four-year averages are above 925. This puts us among the academic elite.”

The two Texas State teams are the only Southland Conference teams to be publicly recognized by the NCAA during the four-year period of 2006-07 through 2009-10.

This year, the Bobcats became the first softball team from the Southland Conference to be recognized by the NCAA Division I Academic Performance program as the Bobcats had a score of 994 to rank among the top 10 percent in their sport during the four-year period.

This is the third straight year that Texas State’s women’s tennis program earned the NCAA Public Recognition Awards as the Bobcats posted perfect scores of 1000 during the last two multi-year periods. Texas State had perfect scores for the four-year periods of 2005-06 through 2008-09 and 2006-07 through 2009-10.

The Bobcats are one of 36 women’s tennis programs nationally and joins TCU as the only teams from Texas to post perfect scores during each of the last two four-year periods.

“This success is a credit to the dedication of our student-athletes and commitment of our coaches to see that their team succeeds academically,” Teis says.

This year, the NCAA honored 909 Division I sport teams for their high multi-year APRs. The APR provides a real-time look at a team’s academic success each semester by tracking the academic progress of each student-athlete on scholarship. The APR accounts for eligibility, retention and graduation and provides a measure of each team’s academic performance.

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