Pride in Action campaign seeks involvement of all alumni, friends

FIVE PILLARS
ONE GOAL
The Wittliff Collections were founded in 1986 with a commitment to collect, preserve and share the literary and photographic treasures of our region. We celebrate their Silver Anniversary by telling you 25 things about them.
Five Pillars. One Goal.

“Citizen-maker” continues to describe Texas State University’s mission to prepare citizens for the future. Five pillars describe how the money raised in the Pride in Action campaign affects students and faculty alike. Find out how to be a part of this amazing initiative.

Each of the five pillars has a story that is woven through the history of the university.
We launched what we call the “public phase” of our Pride in Action campaign in October in spectacular style. Some photographs from the event are on page 38. At the event, we announced our campaign goal of $110 million.

The public phase follows a “silent” phase, which began in 2006. During the past five years, we have been making friends, working closely with donors and raising money. We also identified the five “pillars” of the campaign, the spotlights for our fundraising: Academic Excellence, which focuses on scholarships and faculty support; Athletics; the Performing Arts Center; the Library, and Alumni, which focuses on widespread participation from our former students and friends of the university.

Private fundraising is particularly important in the current fiscal climate. The most recent state budget resulted in a cut of $17 million a year to Texas State. That’s a lot of money. It’s enough money to fund 174 new faculty members. But the university is doing well in spite of the cuts. We are growing in enrollment, research, and prestige. And we have one of the highest graduation rates among the 35 public universities in the state. We use our resources extremely well and have demonstrated that we are effective stewards.

In this public phase, it’s now your turn. Many of you have been working with us in the silent phase and have already joined the parade. Thank you! We now invite everyone who loves this university to be part of the campaign. Help us shape the future of Texas State.

Denise D. Trauth
This year The Wittliff Collections at Texas State’s Alkek Library are celebrating the Silver Anniversary of their ongoing commitment to collecting, preserving, and sharing the literary and photographic treasures inspired by our region’s “spirit of place.” To mark this 25-year milestone, here are 25 things to know about The Wittliff Collections and the exhibitions, events, research opportunities, and many other ways they instruct, illuminate, and inspire the university community and the public.

Discover even more at thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu.
A world-class photography collection is housed here. The Wittliff Collections are internationally recognized as having one of the most significant holdings of modern and contemporary Mexican photography in the United States. Also among the more than 18,000 prints are works by some of the Southwest’s greatest photographers.

The symbol of The Wittliff Collections is a keystone. After J. Frank Dobie’s death, his wife, Bertha, gave Bill Wittliff a keystone carved with a large star, which Dobie saved from one of the arches of the old Bee County Courthouse and kept at his Paisano Ranch for many years. It is now set into the stucco of the original exhibition room.

The collections celebrate the “spirit of place.” The Wittliff is the only major institution devoted to collecting, preserving, and sharing our region’s literature, music, film, and the photography of the Southwest and Mexico.

The late governor Ann Richards spoke at the 1991 dedication of the original public rooms for the Southwestern Writers Collection. “We in the Southwest are bound to what the Spanish language calls querencia,” Richards said, “a place of such deep meaning and strong fealty that neither time nor distance can separate us from it.”

The J. Frank Dobie Archive started it all. Twenty-five years ago, Bill and Sally Wittliff began The Wittliff Collections by founding the Southwestern Writers Collection at Texas State with the first of many gifts: papers, photographs, and personal items from author and Texas folklorist J. Frank Dobie.

Founders Bill and Sally Wittliff live and work in Austin. An accomplished lawyer, Sally serves on the Development Foundation Board of Trustees for Texas State and is a member of the Texas Cultural Trust. Bill is an award-winning book designer, editor and publisher, film producer, screenwriter, and photographer.

Mujer ángel / Angel Woman © 1991, is one of Graciela Iturbide’s iconic images.
The Wittliff Collections are home to one of only a handful of rare copies (fewer than 20 in the world) of the 456-year-old edition of La relación y comentarios by Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca. Published in 1555, it is considered the first written account of travel through the Southwest.

Everyone can help The Wittliff Collections grow. Because there is no admission charge, every donation plays an important role in keeping the “spirit of place” alive at the Wittliff.

The staff offers expert research assistance. Students, scholars and the general public are all welcome to access both the literary and the photographic archives in the contemplative reading room.

That's John Graves in the foyer. Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist Patrick Oliphant — also an accomplished sculptor — designed this larger-than-life bronze statue. Author of the Texas classic Goodbye to a River, Graves is one of the state’s most revered writers, and his major archives are housed here.

The Wittliff’s award-winning semi-annual newsletter, The Keystone, is free.

Peek at the creative process of Pulitzer Prize winners. The Wittliff houses papers that illuminate the writing and revision techniques of three Pulitzer Prize-winning authors: Sam Shepard, Larry McMurtry and Cormac McCarthy.
The Wittliff loves Willie. Willie Nelson materials preserved at the Wittliff include more than 2,000 LPs, 45s, cassette tapes, CDs, and DVDs — perhaps the largest public collection of Nelson recordings anywhere — all of which can be listened to in the Wittliff’s reading room.

Live music! Although located in Texas State’s Alkek Library, The Wittliff Collections are not shy about rocking the house with live music. Antone’s house band, Carolyn Wonderland, Shelly King, Jesse Sublett, Jimmy LaFave, Santiago Jiménez Jr., and the Austin Lounge Lizards are just a few of the acts that have played at the Wittliff.

Shop from not one, but two award-winning book series. Originating from the Southwestern Writers Collection and the Southwestern & Mexican Photography Collection, the Wittliff series books (and an exclusive canvas tote) make wonderful gifts for holidays, birthdays, or any special occasion.

The Wittliff offers Encino Press books for sale. Want a book signed by the only writer nominated for a unique “Triple Crown” of American letters: a National Book Award, a Broadway Tony, and a television Emmy? Written and signed by Larry L. King, the Wittliff sells That Terrible Night Santa Got Lost in the Woods, illustrated by Pulitzer Prize-winner Patrick Oliphant, and other books published by the Encino Press.

Go inside the Waco incident. The Wittliff holds two major research collections related to the still-controversial 1993 incident at the Mount Carmel Center outside Waco: the Dick J. Reavis Papers and the Lee Hancock Collection.

So far the holdings include 878 screenplays of critically acclaimed films, from On the Waterfront to The Hurt Locker, with more added every year. These screenplays are part of the 20,093 (and counting) non-circulating cataloged items that supplement the Wittliff’s primary author and photographer archives.

Find out what Boomhauer is really saying in those King of the Hill reruns. The complete scripts for all 14 seasons and other interesting materials documenting Fox Television’s Emmy Award-winning show are at the Wittliff and available for study — or a laugh or two.

Songs by Willie Nelson, Waco, Texas is a songbook made by the aspiring singer-songwriter around 1943.
It takes a lot of tape to make a miniseries.
More than 77 hours were shot for editing into the six-and-a-half hour CBS saga based on Larry McMurtry’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Lonesome Dove*, and all of the original tapes are preserved at the Wittliff. Also here is the entire production archive — hats, boots, principal costumes and sketches, props, set drawings, script drafts, director’s notes, and more — on permanent display.

The *Texas Monthly* archive is here.
This important collection documents how our state’s premier magazine dedicated to popular and political culture is created and published. Materials go back to the first issue, which hit newsstands in 1973.

In addition to researchers and the public, the Wittliff welcomes students and classes.
Last year, more than 2,100 students of all ages visited the exhibitions, attended an event, or came with a class for inspiration or instruction in some aspect of the literary archives or photography.
The 240-member Bobcat Marching Band burst onto Jim Wacker Field on Oct. 15 in eye-catching new uniforms that say “Texas State” in no uncertain terms.

“We thought the old uniforms were too generic,” says band director Caroline Beatty. “We want everyone to know we are from Texas State when they see us.”

She says the uniforms were designed with two considerations in mind. “A college band is about spirit and tradition, so we wanted to capture that. But our marching style is contemporary, so we wanted that reflected, too. I think we have a good combination.”

The band has been a part of Texas State tradition since the first group of 22 students performed at a football game against San Marcos Baptist Academy in 1919. The band got its first uniforms in 1928, in spite of Dean of Women Mary Brogdon’s objection to women in pants.
New provost

What if you take a big gamble, choose not to follow advice from an admired and trusted academic mentor, and end up in your dream job anyway? —by MARK HENDRICKS

Well, if you’re Eugene “Gene” Bourgeois, new provost and vice president for academic affairs at Texas State, you look back on that moment and smile.

In 1990, Bourgeois had accepted an assistant professorship in the Department of History at then-Southwest Texas State University. He discussed the job with Sir Geoffrey Elton, a professor and world-renowned historian at Cambridge University, where Bourgeois had earned his Ph.D.

“He told me I would be relegating myself to a provincial backwater. I was really afraid he might be right,” says Bourgeois. “If he were alive today, though, I believe — in fact I feel certain — that he would admit he was wrong.”

Instead of a “provincial backwater,” Bourgeois found his new university to be “a pleasant surprise.”

And in the Department of History, “I found a community of dedicated historians actively researching and publishing in their respective areas. There was an emphasis on undergraduate education and scholarly and creative activity,” he says. Bourgeois also appreciated the personalized academic attention devoted to students that permeated the university, which he said was very visible in the streams of students visiting faculty members who held office hours with their doors open.

Bourgeois, 52, became provost in July, replacing Perry Moore, who took a position with the Texas State University System office in Austin. In addition to his Cambridge doctorate in English history, Bourgeois also holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in history from Louisiana State University. He taught at the University of Kent in England and at Southern University and McNeese State before coming to Texas State.

From his 10th-floor corner office in the J.C. Kellam Building, Bourgeois can survey the campus, see buildings that were not there a few years ago, and see others, such as the Undergraduate Academic Center and the new Performing Arts Center, that are in various stages of progress. Just beyond his line of sight, a new residence hall complex and football stadium expansion are under way. Signs of continued progress are everywhere. Still, Bourgeois cannot help seeing all this with the perspective of a historian.

“You don’t think about becoming a provost when you’re sitting in an archive reading the writings of Queen Elizabeth.”

continued on next page

“...
where we were, where we are now and where we are going, it is quite remarkable,” he says. “But it's even more so when you realize we really are only getting started. My college at Cambridge — Clare College — was founded in 1326, yet it continues to move forward. Texas State is young in comparison and has a bright future.”

Bourgeois said he will continue to elevate Texas State’s academic profile through leadership and effective management. “My efforts will focus on continuing the enhancement of Texas State's position in the state of Texas and its competitive advantages in terms of recruiting outstanding students and providing them with a first-rate education,” he says.

Bourgeois wants to promote the university’s position in economic development and commercialization. He has asked deans and academic associate vice presidents to pay particular attention to recognizing and valuing service, the internationalization of the Texas State campus, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) initiatives, efforts related to research and external funding associated with the university’s Hispanic Serving Institution status, and leadership development in academic units.

Bourgeois describes the position of provost as “the managing partner of the academic enterprise” of the university. As such, it will fall among his responsibilities to recruit the best students and faculty members to the university. To do that, he says, the university must offer degree programs that are “relevant, appropriate, and feasible.”

“In new programming, we have added the Ingram School of Engineering, including the electrical engineering baccalaureate degree, and I suspect we’ll see proposals for more engineering programs such as civil, computer or mechanical emerge from the next round of strategic planning. We have also recently introduced nursing and concrete industry management for undergraduates,” he says.

Getting to know
Gene Bourgeois

Education: B.A. and M.A. in history, Louisiana State University; Ph.D., history, Cambridge University

Research area: The English religious Reformation and governmental contexts

Family: Wife Lynne Bourgeois, who works in the Federal Relations Office, Research Division, University of Texas at Austin; son René, 19, Texas State student; daughter Simone, 13

In his spare time: He cooks and is an avid college football fan.

First impression of campus: “The openness of the faculty to student interaction. Faculty posting office hours outside their doors — and actually keeping them for undergrads with their doors open! Imagine that!”

Aspiration for Texas State: “That Texas State will further solidify its position among the premier public universities in the state of Texas by attracting, retaining, and graduating outstanding students, providing high-quality academic programs and research with relevance, advancing the pursuit of knowledge and artistic and creative expression, and embodying a strong sense of engaged community.”

Recent graduate programs include master's degrees in communication design and athletic training and doctoral degrees in criminal justice, mathematics education, physical therapy, developmental education, and materials science, engineering, and commercialization.

Bourgeois has a diverse record of service and accomplishment at Texas State. He was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 1995 and promoted to professor in 2004. He has taught a variety of English history courses at the graduate and advanced undergraduate levels. His publications include books and articles on 16th-century English history.

He founded and directed the Texas State in England Study Abroad Program during the period from 1992 to 2000, and served as founding faculty coordinator for the Texas State Residential Colleges. He directed the Texas State Honors Program from 1996 to 2000, and, from 2000 to 2004, he served as chair of the Department of History. Bourgeois served as associate vice president for academic affairs in 2005 and as associate provost since 2006, managing budget and personnel operations for the Division of Academic Affairs.

His teaching and professional honors include the 1996 Texas State Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching; nominations for the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching U.S. Professors of the Year Award; the Texas Academic Advising Network’s 2009 Academic Advising Administrator Award; and the 2010-11 Texas State University International Studies Program Administrator of the Year Award.

His qualifications to be provost at Texas State are solid, and he is comfortable in and happy with his new position. Still, in his younger days, the possibility of becoming the provost of a major university was not a part of his career equation.

“I got my Ph.D., and I wanted to research 16th-century English history and then maybe teach. You don’t think about becoming a provost when you’re sitting in an archive reading the writings of Queen Elizabeth,” he says.

And when you’re sitting in an archive at Cambridge, you are probably not thinking of being provost at Texas State either. Today, though, he thinks about it all the time.

“I am so embedded at this place. I feel like I am Texas State. I am deeply, deeply loyal to Texas State,” he says.
An international effort to reduce global carbon emissions by improving Panama’s rainforest is getting help from a political science professor at Texas State.

Under a grant from the Packard Foundation, attorney and mediator Walter Wright is teaching Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) techniques to three Panamanian groups that hope to cooperate in the future to preserve and restore Panama’s rainforests. The three groups include the indigenous peoples of the rainforests; colonos, recent migrants to the rainforests, some of whom cut down the forests for farming, ranching, and lumbering activities; and Panamanian government officials.

If the three groups can agree on a plan to preserve and restore the forests, Wright said, Panama can qualify to join the global REDD program (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation of forests), which the United Nations, the World Bank, and other international institutions strongly support.

The REDD plan proposes to pay developing countries for sustainable forest management by assessing a financial value for the carbon stored in trees and issuing “carbon credits” for the countries’ restoration and preservation activities. Through good forest management, developing countries such as Panama can simultaneously reduce carbon emissions and realize a profit by earning carbon credits. The countries can then sell the carbon credits to carbon-emitting companies around the world.

Wright has conducted numerous mediations for governments in the U.S., Latin America, and China. In 2010, he and several colleagues conducted ADR workshops with each of the three Panamanian groups claiming interests in the rainforest. In the workshops, the groups learned the principles of interest-based conflict resolution, which include looking not only at self-interest but also at the interests of all involved parties. Wright and his colleagues asked each group to identify common interests and conflicts among themselves, as well as the commonalities and conflicts they perceived they would have with the other parties. They also led each group in a facilitated dialogue about the challenges each group perceived it would encounter in developing a REDD program.

“The leaders of the indigenous groups are skeptical about whether REDD will be beneficial to them,” Wright says, “because they may be unable to earn significant carbon credits under REDD. The REDD program rewards ‘avoided deforestation,’ a concept for which they have not received a satisfactory explanation. The indigenous people have generally been good stewards of the rainforests, so if you don’t know who owns the land, it’s difficult to know who can earn and sell the carbon credits.”
they may not be able to prove ‘avoided deforestation.’ They are also concerned that REDD could effectively prohibit them from practicing their traditional methods of subsistence farming.

“The indigenous groups and the migrants also question whether the government can be trusted to distribute equitably the profits from the sale of credits,” Wright continued to say. “However, they are interested in participating in ADR processes with the government because they recognize the potential benefits for everyone,” he says.

Panama is an ideal candidate to earn carbon credits, and it could make considerable money selling them, Wright explains. “But sometimes it’s hard to determine who owns the land in Panama,” he says. “If you don’t know who owns the land, it’s difficult to know who can earn and sell the carbon credits. The Panamanian government has set aside land for the indigenous groups (comarcas and territorios colectivos) without clearly defining the boundaries.” As a further complication, he says, colonos can use a type of homesteading law that allows them to become owners of land after occupying it for a certain amount of time. “When the homesteading activities occur in areas the indigenous peoples consider part of their comarcas or territorios colectivos, disputes arise. Those disputes complicate the development of a comprehensive REDD plan in Panama.

“Each group accuses the other of encroaching on its land, but neither group is able to conclusively prove ownership,” Wright says. “Often the members of each group have limited resources, so formal dispute-resolution processes like litigation do not work for them.”

The government also has concerns about how to administer the REDD program, he adds. The indigenous people and colonos are looking to government officials to enforce and clarify existing laws, implement processes to survey land and issue good titles to it, and provide resources to develop a REDD plan. Because the issues involved are sensitive, the government is open to ADR processes that could help all parties reach consensus.

“These are the negotiations that need to take place, and the government seems very interested in participating in facilitated dialogues with the indigenous groups and the colonos,” Wright says.

“The colonos have also shown interest in working with the government and the indigenous groups, but because they are more dispersed and less organized than the other groups, it will be more difficult to include them in the process,” Wright says. “We hope to return to Panama to facilitate a dialogue among the three groups as they attempt to develop a forest management plan that will qualify them to participate in REDD.”

Wright’s work in Panama is under the auspices of CERCA (Centro de Resolución de Conflictos en las Américas y el Caribe). His colleagues at CERCA who conducted the trainings and dialogues with him are Al Amado, Clara Gómez, David López, and Frank Evans. CERCA received Packard Foundation funding through the Environmental Leadership Training Initiative sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and Yale University, which in turn received its funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, a major supporter of forest-based initiatives to reduce carbon emissions.

“We hope to return to Panama as they attempt to develop a forest management plan that will qualify them to participate in REDD.”
A program designed to produce doctoral-level scientists who will contribute to the research and development of materials to be used in the next generation of electronics, medicines, plastics, sensors and renewable energy begins at Texas State in spring 2012.

The new Ph.D. in materials science, engineering, and commercialization in the College of Science and Engineering is aimed at bolstering the economy of Texas and the United States. The curriculum will combine commercialization with materials science and engineering to develop scientists who have an understanding of intellectual property law, business planning and competency in transforming innovations from the laboratory to commercial production.

“This program couples commercialization with science and engineering, exemplifying Texas State’s focus on applied research and industrial outreach,” said Texas State Provost Eugene Bourgeois. “Graduates will be tomorrow’s scientific innovators and entrepreneurs.”

Some of the research and commercialization undertaken in the new degree program will take place at the university’s STAR (Science, Technology and Advanced Research) Park, currently under construction at the intersection of McCarty Lane and Hunter Road in San Marcos. That new facility will serve as a technology accelerator for startup and early stage businesses and will provide university and STAR tenants access to secure wet labs, clean rooms and office space. It is scheduled to open in fall 2012.

The degree is Texas State’s 10th Ph.D. and 12th doctoral program. Other Ph.D.s are in environmental geography, geographic education, geographic information systems, aquatic resources, mathematics education, developmental education, criminal justice, school improvement, and adult, professional and community education. The university also offers an Ed.D. degree in developmental education and a doctor of physical therapy degree.

“Graduates will be tomorrow’s scientific innovators and entrepreneurs.”
ONE GOAL
“CITIZEN-MAKER”

That’s what the school in San Marcos called itself in the beginning.

The phrase continues to describe Texas State University’s mission more than a century later. To fulfill this mission of preparing citizens for today and tomorrow, the university has identified five immediate challenges and has launched the Pride in Action campaign to help meet them. In the next few pages we will describe these five “pillars.” We will introduce you to some of the real men and women whose lives are woven into these pillars, whose lives — along with countless others — will be touched by the campaign. And we will tell you how you can be a part of this amazing initiative.
Diving into the past

by Mary-Love Bigony

Fritz Hanselmann joined the faculty last year in an unusual capacity — as chief underwater archaeologist. He came to study an ancient site.

From prehistoric humans who lived and hunted around these pristine waters to 20th-century families who vacationed at the Aquarena Springs Resort, people have flocked to San Marcos Springs for millennia.

Experts say people have occupied the area around the springs during every known period of human habitation in Central Texas. Early travelers described the largest of the 200 springs as fountains, gushing water into the air. A mid-19th-century account described San Marcos Springs as “a mountain torrent of pur’est water, narrow and deep.”

In 1845, Gen. Edward Burleson, Texas Revolution veteran and former vice president of the Republic of Texas, acquired the property around the headwaters of the springs to build a gristmill. He constructed a dam across the river and the resulting body of water, known today as Spring Lake, overflowed the springs.

Burleson’s dam had an unexpected consequence: Spring Lake sealed thousands of artifacts in a protected environment. More than a century and a half later, those artifacts remain protected. Since 1994, Spring Lake and the surrounding land have been under the stewardship of Texas State.

“Because this site is under water, organic artifacts such as wood, baskets, leather — all kinds of organic artifacts that would break down and deteriorate at a terrestrial site — have a greater chance of being preserved,” Hanselmann says.

Hanselmann works under a partnership between Texas State’s Center for Archaeological Studies and its River Systems Institute. Andrew Sansom, executive director of the institute, sees applications for Hanselmann’s research at Texas State in a broader context than just Spring Lake.

“I think that we have opened up a whole new and robust dimension of cultural resources as they relate to rivers,” Sansom says. “We’re looking at the potential of archaeology sites in rivers in other parts of the world, as well.”
Marketing grad’s path from grief to Google paved by diligence, creativity

by Billi London-Gray

Business sense is a genetic inheritance for Cress Terrell. Learning from his father, who worked in real estate, Terrell says he grew up being coached to seize good business opportunities.

“I knew that I wanted to go into business my whole life,” he says, “ever since I was a little boy selling golf balls on the side of the road.”

But his path to a business career was, in his words, “a little untraditional,” with side trips involving a quest to cure cancer, an internship with Disney and the heartbreak of losing his father.

Yet Terrell’s steps — as unlikely as they’ve been — have helped him discover his passions, hone his skills and develop a vision for his future, earning him the 2011 American Marketing Association (AMA) Student Marketer of the Year award. And a job with Google.

Two roads diverged...

Straight out of high school, Terrell enrolled at Brookhaven College, outside Dallas. But during his freshman year, the course of his life took a severe turn: His father was diagnosed with cancer.

Terrell switched his major from marketing to radiology, “because I wanted to cure cancer and help out my dad,” he says. But after one semester of radiology classes, he left school.

During a two-year hiatus, he interned at Disney World in Orlando and “fell in love with marketing,” eventually re-enrolling at Brookhaven to complete his core classes. That’s when he decided to transfer to the McCoy College of Business Administration at Texas State.

“There’s something about Texas State. It’s like a hidden secret,” Terrell says. “I knew I was going to get into something really good here.”

I took the one less traveled by...

Just three weeks into his first semester, Terrell’s father succumbed to cancer. Terrell missed two weeks of classes but came back to find strong support in his new university community.

“It was a very tough time for me,” he recalls. “But with the help of the Student Affairs Office, my professors and my friends, I was able to transition back into school and end the semester on the dean’s list.”

Terrell became more and more involved in the campus community, joining the Texas State chapter of AMA, a 45,000-member professional marketing society with nearly 400 student chapters nationwide.

He threw himself into his studies and activities, presenting at the AMA International Collegiate Conference and winning the Gary V. Woods Marketing Scholarship. He made such an impression that he was asked to serve as Texas State’s AMA president later that year.

“I knew before I came to Texas State that I wanted to start a business,” he says. “[Leading AMA] wasn’t really the business that I thought I was going to start, but people said that I really did run a business.”

And that has made all the difference.

As AMA president, Terrell got a taste of the work of a CEO — his long-term career ambition. During his senior year, he led AMA’s 140 students to host 42 professional development sessions.

“I KNEW I WAS GOING TO GET INTO SOMETHING REALLY GOOD HERE.”
events and organize fundraising activities that netted $30,000 in revenue.

His senior year, he won 13 individual and group awards, including the AMA Gold Chapter award — making Texas State AMA second in the nation. He also worked with the Austin AMA professional chapter, where he handled social media marketing. Shortly before his graduation in May, he was named AMA Student Marketer of the Year, an honor annually bestowed on only one of AMA’s 9,500 student members.

Amid that busy schedule, Terrell developed two mobile apps and a web business. He carried on with those works after graduation — founding Buy It Online, which creates e-commerce sites — as he took on his next challenge: deciding which job to accept.

With offers from companies and recruiters across the nation, he landed one of his top choices, in marketing for Google.

“I think that Internet marketing is the future of marketing,” Terrell says, “and I love it.”

As a marketing specialist for Google Places in San Antonio, Terrell is stoked about his career, working at the forefront of Internet marketing in an ever-evolving business landscape.

“Life is moving fast, and I am loving every minute of it!” he says.
Washington García is an acclaimed pianist who has performed in prestigious venues all over the world. But the thing he finds most rewarding is teaching in Texas State’s School of Music and working with children from across the globe at Texas State’s International Piano Festival, which he created in 2010.

The Quito, Ecuador, native performed in public for the first time when he was 7. “I remember it clearly because it was a benefit concert for disabled children in a small town in Ecuador,” he says. “It felt quite wonderful to take part in something that I knew was...
making a difference. And for the first time, there was a hint for me of my purpose in life.”

A turning point for García came at age 15, when he had his debut with the national symphony of Ecuador. “That was when I knew that I wanted to be a pianist, knew I wanted to come to the U.S., knew I wanted to be a professor,” he says.

When he was 18, García was one of two students chosen from 33 countries by the Kennedy Center to receive a $25,000 grant from the Fellowship of the Americas Program. This led to invitations to play at the Kennedy Center, the Organization of American States, the World Bank, the Inter-American Bank, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. In the years that followed, he performed in venues around the world.

García completed his master’s degree at 20 and his doctorate at 25, both from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, and taught there for three years following his graduation. While he was still a student, one of the Peabody faculty invited him to attend a piano festival in Plano.

“That was my first experience with Texas,” he says. “Ever since I left Ecuador, I always had a desire to live in a region that was closer to my cultural background.”

When he later had the opportunity to choose between Texas and Arizona, he chose Texas. “I’m so glad I did,” he says.

Texas State is glad he did, too.

“Washington García is an exceptional musical artist,” says Thomas Clark, director of the School of Music. “His playing is powerful and elegant. He brings back to Texas State a vital international perspective for our students. He has also shown great enterprise in establishing our successful International Piano Festival.”

Having attended numerous piano festivals himself, García wanted to create one for Texas State. One outstanding feature of the festival is the opportunity for students to interact with faculty from top conservatories in the United States, as well as Texas State faculty.

“The festival creates opportunities for some of the most talented students in the world. And for a student to be able to come here and be with us for the festival opens up doors they have never dreamed of,” he says.

García finds tremendous satisfaction in teaching. “When a student tells me, ‘You’ve inspired me,’ it really brings tears to my eyes because this is my purpose,” he says. “My purpose in life is to create opportunities.”

García is looking forward to Texas State’s new Performing Arts Center, scheduled to open in 2014.

“The new Performing Arts Center is a crucial part of the developing art community here,” he says. “Every major city of the world has a cultural signature, and that means a performing arts center or a cultural hall. Our Performing Arts Center will be a gate for us to expand culturally.”
Luera combines creative skills for a career helping his community

by Billi London-Gray

“SOMEONE TOLD ME LONG AGO, IT’S NOT about where you start, but where you finish,” says Texas State mass communication junior Gabriel Luera.

Since graduating from high school, the San Antonio native hasn’t missed a step in his life’s journey. When asked about his ambitions, he matter-of-factly replies, “Career goals? I’ve kinda already started on that,” and lists his current occupations: father, husband, promoter, musician, and — thanks to his studies at Texas State — playwright.

While raising his two children, he’s put out seven hip-hop albums, completed his associate’s degree at San Antonio College, founded a marketing firm, and started a career as a serious, emerging playwright. Incredibly, his numerous achievements have not distracted him as he presses forward to complete his bachelor’s degree at Texas State.

“I’m determined to see that through,” he says.

Luera has turned that determination into a force for change. Through his involvement with his community, he noticed how nonprofits all over struggle to get their message out to the public. “That’s where CommunicateSA comes in. We want to be the communications resource to help spread the word about their events, fundraisers and presentations.”

Additionally, CommunicateSA is a valuable resource for San Antonio students. By employing local students and graduates at the start of their careers, CommunicateSA helps young workers gain experience to compete for jobs in the communication industry. Luera’s community involvement also extends to the arts and music culture of Central Texas. For the past 10 years, he’s been a member of the hip-hop group ASTEX, which will release its eighth album in fall 2011. Earlier this year, he was involved with a community panel discussion and workshop on graffiti in San Antonio’s South Side.

“It attracted city councilmen, SAPD, aides from the state representative’s office and local graffiti artists,” he says. “All shared their opinions on the issue and what should be done to encourage kids to keep doing art while respecting private property.”

Beyond his community-centered activities, transferring to Texas State was the realization of a life goal for Luera. “I’ve always wanted to come to Texas State,” he says. “I loved my transition here. It was almost seamless. Everyone was helpful.”

After enrolling at Texas State in 2009, Luera decided to take advantage of the unique opportunities to get involved with the university and work one-on-one with faculty members. In addition to his mass communication studies, he decided to earn a minor in theatre.

“Being involved in theatre here is definitely its own reward. The environment is ripe for exploration,” he says. “I didn’t start writing plays until I took Jim Price’s playwriting class in the fall of 2009. He encouraged me to keep with it, and crazy things have happened ever since.”

On the wings of that encouragement, Luera applied and was selected for the 2010 Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive in Washington, D.C. In the short year since then, he’s seen his work produced on stages throughout Central Texas. In fall 2010 alone, three of his works were performed on campus and around the area.

“My career as a playwright has been sort of a mini whirlwind. I just hope that continues,” he says. “Jim Price has been my mentor, my teacher and my hero ever since my arrival here. It’s refreshing to know there are still educators who genuinely care for their students.”

In pursuit of developing his playwriting skills, Luera seeks training beyond the classroom as well. In summer 2011, he attended both a dramaturgy workshop at the Kennedy Center and the Dramatists Guild of America’s National Conference in New York, where composer and Broadway VIP Carol Hall personally asked Luera to send her his work.

“I was floored, but greatly honored,” Luera said. “Being from Texas and in theatre, it doesn’t get better than Carol Hall talking you up.”

He’s currently working on three scripts that he plans to enter into festival competitions in the next year. His focus this fall is to be involved in more productions and work closely with directors — he even plans to audition for the first time to round out his stage experience — as he finishes his degree.

“Once I get started on something I run with it,” Luera says. “The only way to get the most out of Texas State is to get involved. I’m proud to be here right now. Go Bobcats!”
If someone was destined to a life on the stage, that person is Alexandra Zeto. How else to explain her as a 6-year-old, sitting in rapt attention, drinking in a dazzling production of the hit musical *Les Misérables* with her parents? Most children at that age would opt for *Blue’s Clues Live*.

“Before I could even talk, they put *Madame Butterfly* on the TV, and I was completely mesmerized by it,” the sophomore musical theatre major explains. “Growing up, they would often play the *Phantom of the Opera* soundtrack. Things were always playing in the house, and I just loved it. It was second nature to me.”

The aspiring actress brought that second nature to San Marcos, choosing Texas State over such prestigious schools as the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati. In fact, her picture is included on the cover of a guide by Los Angeles audition coach Mary Anna Dennard called “I Got In: The Ultimate College Audition Guide for Acting and Musical Theatre.”

Zeto is in a Cincinnati Conservatory T-shirt, along with eight other students wearing shirts from schools such as New York University, Michigan, Carnegie Mellon — and Dakota Smith from Texas State.

Zeto confessed she hadn’t even considered Texas State at first, changing her mind only after talking with Kaitlin Hopkins of the musical theatre faculty. “I was looking at other schools, but I couldn’t make a decision,” Zeto says. “I felt if I wasn’t at Texas State, I’d be missing out on something, which was basically a gut feeling. I went with it, and I’m so glad I did.”

That decision has paid off immensely for Zeto. Her first semester found her cast as a featured ensemble role in *All Shook Up*, and her second semester landed her the coveted role of
Kate in Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party*. That kind of prominence is unheard of for most freshmen, but Zeto's talent was validated when she was later honored with the Shirley Jones Rising Soprano Scholarship.

After such an impressive debut, Zeto's biggest concern these days is avoiding the dreaded sophomore slump.

“We have a lot of really, really talented freshmen coming in — that alone is going to keep me on my toes and keep me in the practice rooms working,” she says. “Maybe I'll get to do some assistant directing. I don’t know. I feel like every year is going to bring new opportunities and I’m excited to see what ends up happening.”
ONE GOAL

Each of the five pillars has a history that goes back to the first days of the school. Through the years, their stories have been woven into the larger story of Texas State University. The Pride in Action campaign selected each of the pillars for its vital role in our story.
Five Pillars. One Goal.
ATHLETICS  Like the performing arts, sports have always been a vital part of the campus. From the school's founding, the girls’ basketball teams with their long skirts and petticoats were as much a part of the athletics scene as the football boys in their leather helmets. The Gypsies, the Sprites, the Topsies, and the Normalites all eventually became the Bobcats, producing national champion teams and stellar individual athletes. Bobcats are champions on and off the field and court. They know that success is more than winning and losing; it is celebrating the effort required to overcome challenges on and off the playing field and in life beyond the university. Our student-athletes have a well-deserved reputation for dedication to academics, with one of the highest graduation success rates in the state.

Now our teams are poised to take on a new athletics challenge — a move to the Western Athletic Conference, the WAC, in 2012. That move will advance the university’s football program to the highest levels of collegiate competition, the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision. Moving to the WAC presents many opportunities for Texas State — greater visibility, increased media attention, more fans, and stiffer competition. Along with those come challenges such as distance travel, scholarship support, and new facilities. This campaign pillar will combine with other resources to form the investment to move athletics to the next level of competition, a move that will have a lasting impact on the university as a whole.

Boone raises the bar for track and field
by Rick Poulter

After being named the ninth track and field head coach in Texas State history, Dana Boone has high expectations for what she wants to see from the Bobcats and the Texas State track and field program in the upcoming 2012 competition season.

“I’m looking forward to the challenges of becoming a first-time head coach,” Boone says. “Obviously, we’ve got to raise the bar on the level of expectations for the program. My goal is definitely to have more than one person represent Texas State at the NCAA Championships. Those who put in the hard work and have the ability to do it will make it.”

Last spring, Boone coached NCAA 100-meter champion Candyce McGrone, four other NCAA All-America First Team and six NCAA All-America Second Team student-athletes as the associate women’s head coach at Oklahoma. That earned her Midwest Region Assistant Coach of the Year honors from the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association for the second time. She also was named a Midwest Region Men’s Sprints and Hurdles Assistant Coach of the Year in 2007. Her 2007 award distinguished Boone as the lone woman that year to win a Coach of the Year honor with a men’s team.

A native of Springfield, Va., Boone was a six-time All-American at the University of Virginia 1988-91 and still holds three school records in the indoor and outdoor long jump and the outdoor triple jump.

She served as an assistant coach at Oklahoma 2005-07 before being promoted to the associate women’s head coach position. She coached the sprints, hurdles, and relays with the Sooners. She comes to Texas State with 20 years of experience as an assistant and associate head coach.

“I think it’s a great location and a great school,” Boone says. “The fact that the university was building a brand-new track just made all those things that much better. Texas is a phenomenal state for recruiting. The opportunity to be a head coach, of course, made it the perfect fit for me.”

Boone also sees joining the Western Athletic Conference in 2012 as a positive move for the Bobcats. “It’s great to move to a bigger conference with more national recognition,” she says. “It will present us with new challenges.”
Sibley postpones pros to finish academic run

by Steve Appelhans

It took Tyler Sibley longer than most highly recruited high school baseball players to decide where he wanted to attend college. Oklahoma State held numerous Sibley family ties and made him an offer. But when he eventually chose Texas State during his senior year at Frisco High, he knew he made the right decision.

“It has felt like home for me ever since I got here,” Sibley says. “I came on a visit and saw the campus, met with Coach Ty (Harrington), heard about the business school with everything the McCoys have done, and knew it would be a great fit for me.”

And a great fit it has been.

Since his arrival three years ago, Sibley, an accounting major with a near-perfect grade point average, has performed admirably both on the diamond and in the classroom, collecting awards for his accomplishments in both arenas.

Most recently, Sibley was honored as a CoSIDA Academic All-American, becoming only the third Texas State baseball player to receive the honor. He also received the Southland Conference Baseball Student-Athlete of the Year award, which is given to the top student-athlete from each sport who achieves distinction in academics, athletics, and community and campus service.

The Bobcat leadoff hitter was also named to the All-Southland Conference First Team and Southland Conference All-Tournament Team during his record-setting junior season. That season he posted a Texas State record 30-game hitting streak, the third longest in the nation for the season. He also became the school leader in career runs scored (183). He had a .340 batting average, six home runs, 12 doubles, three triples, 62 runs scored, 37 RBIs, and 20 stolen bases from his second base position.

“The awards are especially nice on the academic side because I take a lot of pride in academics,” Sibley says. “It’s not always easy to continuously focus on the academic side of it, so awards like these keep me hungry to succeed.”

Sibley turned down a draft to the St. Louis Cardinals to finish his senior year with the Bobcats. He acknowledges the role the university has played in his success. “What Texas State has done for me cannot be overstated,” Sibley says.
Don Fry Jr. is passionate about athletics because he’s passionate about his alma mater. “Texas State is a top-tier institution, and top-tier institutions have great athletics programs and great donor bases,” he says. “We can’t think of ourselves as being ‘small ball’ anymore.”

This attitude is one of the driving forces behind the Leadership Council, a 15-20 member group created by the Department of Athletics in 2010 to capture the energy of younger fans for the Bobcat Club. “The leadership council members are all under 40, but the majority of us are under 30,” says Fry.

The idea is paying off. According to Fry, the first year of the Council resulted in a 61 percent increase in membership and a 70 percent increase in donations. “And that was before the WAC announcement and Dennis Franchione,” he says, referring to the move to the Western Athletic Conference set for 2012 and the appointment of Franchione as head football coach. “We are talking to alumni who have not been contacted in a while.”

After graduating with a business management degree in 2005, Fry is now a real estate developer in Austin.
I ALUMNI

As early as 1907-08, editors of the Pedagog were paying tribute to “those who came before us.” Alumni have played a critical role in the university’s growth, reputation, and influence since the first graduate became the first alumnus. The continuing involvement of alumni and other friends of Texas State is the foundation of Bobcat Pride.

The focus of the Alumni Pillar of the Pride in Action campaign is participation in the life of the university. The goal is to get alumni and friends reconnected with the campus so that they can spread the good news of Texas State’s successes and progress. Communication is vital to involvement. We encourage participation in social media avenues such as Twitter and Facebook, and an e-mail address on file will assure that you receive periodic reports on campus happenings.

Membership in the Alumni Association establishes a line of communication and connection between alumni and your alma mater. Plus, it’s a great way to showcase your Bobcat Pride. The association also supports regional and special-interest chapters, student scholarships, faculty awards, reunions, and alumni events both on and off campus.

Parents and families of students can get involved through the Family Association. If your interest is sports, join the Bobcat Club; if it’s music, theatre, and dance, join the Friends of Fine Arts and Communication. Donations can be made to any department or program, or simply to the university’s greatest need.

The collective power of support from all alumni, family, and friends is not only a pillar of support but also a foundation for future success and growth.

Med student looks forward to giving back
by Jayme Blaschke

Stephen Gates, honor student from Schertz, graduated in May with a degree in biochemistry. “That makes me one of the newest alumni,” he says. “That word still sounds pretty cool.”

Gates came to Texas State on a prestigious President’s Laureate Scholarship that provides up to $25,000 a year for four years. While he was on campus, he was active in Student Foundation, the Honors Student Association, the Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Society and Medical Explorers. Now he’s a first-year medical student at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He plans to specialize in orthopedics and says his dream job would be team physician for a pro sports team while doing pro bono work on the side.

Wherever he winds up, Gates is eager to give back to his alma mater. “When people think of giving back, one of the first things they think about is opening a wallet and writing a check,” he says. “With my medical school expenses, I won’t be able to do that for a while. But there are a lot of other ways to give back with time and involvement.

“Down the road, once I get into my career, I look forward to helping the university in another way. It’s in everybody’s capacity to love this university.”

She loves energy of student alumni chapter
by Jordan Gass-Pooré

One of the first things Jessica Saenz did when she got to campus as a student was to join the Student Alumni Chapter. She says she was immediately attracted to the “energy” of the organization. The senior sociology major from San Antonio is now president of the chapter. As president, Saenz presides over some 100 members. The group works to enhance relationships between students and alumni by promoting university traditions. Saenz is aware that pride and traditions bolster student retention rates.

The chapter hosts annual spring Trade Up Days on the Quad. Students bring T-shirts from other colleges or universities and trade them for a free Texas State T-shirt. Saenz said the Student Chapter distributes hundreds of Texas State shirts within 30 minutes at Trade Up Days.

Saenz says the Student Alumni Chapter has allowed her the opportunity to meet friends from all walks of life. “They make you proud to be a Bobcat by showing how much they love being one,” she says.
Lucy Burleson presided over the school’s first library, a few shelves of books in Old Main. “Librarian” was not her full-time job; she was also the school’s secretary and taught English. Her successors would eventually move the library to a portion of Lueders Hall, then to Flowers Hall (the first “stand-alone” library), then to J.C. Kellogg and finally to today’s Alkek Library.

Lucy Burleson would not recognize the 21st century library. The Alkek Library is a new kind of laboratory — a central place on campus where students and faculty teach, learn, collaborate, and create, a place for social interaction and quiet reflection. It is a technology-rich gateway to information. Libraries like the Alkek are making the transition from a storehouse for books to an inviting place where those needing information can seek guidance in finding it and growth in discovering it.

Texas State’s library also houses the prestigious Wittliff Collections with such holdings as the Lonesome Dove archives, the papers of J. Frank Dobie and Cormac McCarthy (see page 7) and a growing Archives collection.

The Library Pillar addresses the Alkek’s need for space. Construction of a collection repository for a significant portion of the library’s general collection, as well as special collections and archives, is essential. The repository will allow us to repurpose current library space, transforming it into a technology-intensive facility to create a learning commons.

Curator sees library as student’s best friend

by Jayme Blaschke

Over the span of 25 years, Steve Davis has watched the evolution of the Alkek Library from a ringside seat. The curator with The Wittliff Collections earned both his undergraduate and master’s degrees from Texas State, seeing first-hand the critical role libraries play.

“The library is like your best friend in many ways. It’s always there for you. It’s open up to 20 hours a day,” Davis says. “Students can come in and have a safe place to study. We have all these resources that help students with their schoolwork. There’s a great element of service that comes along...
With the library, in addition to being the commons where students come together.

With the library planning a top-to-bottom renovation, serious thought is going into how student use of the facilities has changed. The private study carrels, which were once so important, are giving way to repurposed space that better accommodates the group-study sessions current students prefer. Digital media is an expanding area for the library as well.

“We’re not the avatars out there breaking in the new technology, but we’re early adopters of stuff that’s been proven to work,” Davis says. “The library’s done a number of quality surveys and students seem very happy with the services provided here. I think that record speaks for itself.”

The Wittliff Collections have grown by leaps and bounds, adding the Cormac McCarthy archives to a collection that already boasts Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Sam Shepard, John Graves, and Katherine Anne Porter, not to mention the Lonesome Dove and Texas Monthly archives.

Davis, too, is part of the collections. Described by the Austin American-Statesman as “one of Texas’ leading scholars of our indigenous culture,” Davis conducted major research to write J. Frank Dobie: A Liberated Mind, a biography of the state’s most famous folklorist. As the author of Texas Literary Outlaws: Six Writers in the Sixties and Beyond, he made use of untapped Wittliff archives of Bud Shrake, Larry L. King, and others to weave a fascinating portrait of writers who came of age during a period of rapid social change. He is editor of Land of the Permanent Wave: An Edwin “Bud” Shrake Reader and co-editor of Lone Star Sleuths: Mystery-Detective Fiction in Texas, both in the Wittliff’s Southwestern Writers Collection Book Series, for which he serves as series editor. As a curator at The Wittliff Collections, Davis has developed and mounted more than 30 exhibitions from the permanent holdings. He has brought the archives to the public through dozens of talks and presentations — at the library and across as well as outside the state — and authored numerous articles and reviews. In 2009, Davis was inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters.

“The collections have really put us on the map nationally and internationally. The use of the archives has increased substantially over the years, which is really nice to see,” Davis says. “We collect this stuff because we’re trying to preserve it, but also to share it with people.

“As The Wittliff Collections have grown, the library has grown. The library’s 20 years old now, and the student population’s probably increased 50 percent in that time,” he says. “We’re running out of room. Many campuses have more than one library building, but Texas State, with more than 34,000 students, still has only one library facility. It really is time for that next stage in our growth.”
Books essential part of art major’s education

by Mary-Love Bigony

Daniel Bernard Gray is a 21st-century college student who visits the library on a regular basis. This might seem unlikely at a time when the Internet is at everyone’s fingertips every minute of the day, but the senior studio art major says the library is an important part of his education at Texas State.

Gray says Tommy Fitzpatrick, assistant professor in the School of Art and Design, talks about Texas State’s Alkek Library a lot. “He tells students, ‘You’ve got to check out their section of oversize art books,’” Gray says.

The first time Gray did so, he was hooked. “It’s a really big section. Tons of artists,” he says. And he points out that online research can’t match the oversize volumes. “You can find just about every artist’s work online,” he says, “but you’re not necessarily finding good images. You don’t know if the color’s right. But if you go to a book — oversize art books that are crazy expensive, that you couldn’t afford to buy — it’s just amazing. And Texas State’s library has hundreds and hundreds of them.”

The son of an immigrant and a first-generation college student, Gray’s diligent study habits have earned him a number of impressive scholarships at Texas State: the McGehee Endowed Scholarship and Turner Endowed Scholarship, as well as the Presidential Upper-Level Scholarship.

He describes his art as something that looks ancient, like it could have been pulled from the ground. “Things that are really old tend to evoke an emotional response in us as humans,” he says. “It might be a feeling of reverence or a meditative calm or just a connection to our past. I want my paintings to elicit this same response. And in order to do this, they need to look real, not like something that a person made. I want people to look at them and say, ‘Where did this come from?’ That’s what I’m trying to do.”

Gray also pores over the text in the oversize art books. “Part of being an artist is knowing how to talk about your work, how to explain it to the layman as well as the collector,” he says. “That’s essential.”

The main reason he haunts the library, though, is to study the true-to-life images in the huge books. “Some artists do have a good amount of work online,” he says. “But you’re always sorting through repeats of the same image; some are good quality and some are not. But then you look at a couple of the big books and you see stuff you’ve never seen.

“As much as there is online, there’s way more in the library.”
A spectacular start

President Denise Trauth launched the public phase of the Pride in Action campaign in grand style Oct. 14 — and announced the goal of $110 million.

The floor of Strahan Coliseum was transformed into an elegant dinner setting with a stage capable of hosting the Texas Music Revue. Revue hosts Laura Lane and Richard Cheatham led the audience through a taste of Texas music that showcased representatives of almost every performing ensemble at the university.

As the president bid good night, she had one more gift for the audience. The marching band in its new uniforms (see page 10), the Strutters, cheerleaders and Boko had silently slipped into the bleachers and erupted with the Fight Song.

The campaign continues as we work toward our goal.
1 Mariachi Nueva Generacion and folklorico dancers were among the performers in the Texas Music Revue.

2 Current Texas State University System Chancellor Brian McCall and former Chancellor Charles Matthews visit before dinner. Matthews and his wife Julia underwrote the Texas Music Revue that was the entertainment for the evening.

3 President Trauth is accompanied on stage by some of the university’s Heroes, donors of $1 million or more. During the evening, the president announced new gifts of $2 million from Patti Harrison, left; $2 million from Gloria and Bruce Ingram, right; $1.2 million from Jerry and Linda Fields; and $1.5 million from the estate of James and B. Raye Gowens, in honor of Pat and Paul Gowens, center.

4 Elected officials attending included, from left, State Rep. Jason Isaac and his wife Carrie; State Rep. Donna Howard; and State Sen. Jeff Wentworth. State Rep. Larry Gonzales and San Marcos Mayor Daniel Guerrero were also there.

5 Provost Gene Bourgeois talks with Karl Benson, commissioner of the Western Athletic Conference.
Only your involvement will make the campaign a success. Come back to an event, make a gift, reconnect.

THE NEW TEXAS STATE: ACCELERATED EXCELLENCE
Distinguished ranks

The university honored five new Distinguished Alumni at Homecoming in October. With these newest honorees, Texas State has now presented its most prestigious award to 169 graduates since the first was given to Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson in 1959.

The diversity of those 169 honorees illustrates the breadth of Texas State’s curriculum and the depth of instruction. Graduates have taken their diplomas from here to excel in almost all professions — business, science, industry, entertainment, government, the military, law enforcement, literature, the clergy, healthcare, education, and sports.

Some of them have names that you know: country superstar George Strait ’79, actors Powers Boothe ’70 and Chelcie Ross ’64, syndicated columnist Ponce “Heloise” Cruse Evans ’74, Coach Milton Jowers ’35, and university president John Garland Flowers ’13. You know others by what they did: Esther Broome ’43 put the care labels in your clothing; Charles Farmer ’63 designed stealth aircraft; Charles Austin ’91 won the Olympic gold medal in high jump; Charles Barsotti ’55 draws cartoons for The New Yorker. All are among the best at what they do.

Jeff Foster ’09

When Jeff Foster left Texas State to play for the NBA, he promised his mother he would return to finish his education. But it wasn’t until after he had children that he realized how important it was that he fulfill that promise.

“I had always anticipated doing it, but I was always busy playing basketball,” says Foster, who is in his 12th season as an NBA player for the Indiana Pacers. “When I finished in 2009, my kids were in the stands watching me walk across the stage. They are always talking about it, and I am hopeful that will be something that carries them through their education and the rest of their lives.”

Foster was a two-time All-Southland Conference player who helped the Bobcats win the 1999 SLC championship, along with the 1997 SLC Tournament. As a senior, he ranked third nationally in rebounding with an 11.3 average and averaged 14.2 points per game.

He was drafted by Golden State in the 1999 NBA Draft, but was traded to Indiana the same night. He helped Indiana reach the NBA Finals in 1999-2000 and 2004-05, and the Eastern Conference Finals in 2003-04.

He returned to Texas State in 2009 to receive his bachelor’s degree in applied arts and sciences.
Karen Chisum ’72 & ’78

A name synonymous with volleyball at Texas State, Karen Chisum entered her 32nd season as the Bobcats’ head coach and ranked sixth among active NCAA Division I coaches with 716 career victories when the 2011 season started. She is one of only 19 Division I volleyball coaches to record 700 wins. In addition to her success on the court, she also serves as an assistant athletics director.

Chisum assumed her head coaching duties in 1980 and has led the Bobcats to seven NCAA Tournament berths, six conference championships and seven conference tournament titles during her tenure. She was chosen Southland Conference Coach of the Year in 1991, 2000, and 2003. Chisum also was named the Gulf Star Conference Coach of the Year in 1986.

During her coaching career at Texas State, Chisum has produced three Conference Players of the Year, three Newcomers of the Year, 80 All-Conference players, 58 Conference All-Academic Team members, and 34 SLC All-Tournament selections, including six tournament MVPs. She also coached a Capitol One CoSIDA Academic All-America Third-Team selection and three Academic All-District players.

Chisum was a standout tennis and softball player at Texas State and has the distinction of being the first female to be inducted into the “T” Association Hall of Honor, the highest honor a Bobcat student-athlete can receive. She earned her bachelor’s degree in 1972 and master’s degree in 1978 at Texas State.

Connie “C.R.” Arnold ’60 & ’62

Connie “C.R.” Arnold has been hailed as the “father of the Texas saltwater sport fishing restocking program” and is one of the most respected marine biologists in the nation. He founded the Fisheries and Mariculture Laboratory at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas and developed it into a world-class center for research on the captive spawning of marine fishes. For his contributions in the field, he received the Texas Aquaculture Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Arnold earned a bachelor of science degree with a major in biology in 1960 and a master’s degree in the same field in 1962 from Texas State. After receiving his doctorate in chemical oceanography from Texas A&M, Arnold went to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

At the UT Marine Science Institute, where he worked for more than 20 years, he was the first holder of the Perry R. Bass Chair in Fisheries and Mariculture. Under his direction, his laboratory became the first to spawn redfish and speckled sea trout in captivity. He laid the foundation for one of the most successful stock-enhancement programs in the history of fisheries management.
Michael Bowman ’78

Michael Bowman planned to pursue a career in the mental health field, but a job with a steel fabricator convinced him that his passion lay in manufacturing. Thirty years later, he is president of Houston-based Hunt and Hunt Ltd., a leading manufacturer of tools for the oil and gas industry. In that capacity, he works with oil service companies throughout the world. Hunt and Hunt is one of the world’s largest manufacturers of perforating guns, special tools that prepare wells for production.

Bowman received a bachelor of applied arts and sciences degree in 1978. While on campus as a student, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and paid his tuition by working at the San Marcos Treatment Center, provider of mental health evaluation and treatment for adolescents.

An avid sports fan, Bowman has been actively involved with Texas State athletics for the last several years. He is a director of the Texas State Development Foundation, a member of the Athletics Pillar of the Pride in Action campaign, and helps student-athletes with the Bowman Family Endowment. He and his wife Dianne ’78 are Strutter Gallery stakeholders and lifetime members of the Texas State Alumni Association.

Tom Kowalski ’78

As president and CEO for the last 16 years, Tom Kowalski has built Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute (THBI) in Austin into the leading advocate of biomedical science, biotechnology, agriculture, and medical device innovation in the state and one of the leading voices of that industry in the nation.

Kowalski received a bachelor of arts degree with a major in political science in 1978. He remembers visiting San Marcos with his family. “I fell in love with the campus at a very early age,” Kowalski said. “I always knew that I wanted to come to school here.” While a student, he was president of the Associated Student Government and active in Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He met Susie, his wife of 34 years, on campus, and they married his senior year. The Kowalskis now have a son, Thomas, and daughter, Heather, who is married to Adam Bossen.


Kowalski has remained active at Texas State. He serves on the McCoy College of Business Administration Advisory Board and is a frequent guest speaker. He is immediate past chair of Texas State’s Development Foundation and is a member of the President’s Council.
From time to time, Glen Cleckler, 87, still visits his dear friend Harlon Block. He stands respectfully beside his gravesite. He may speak to him quietly, with a trace of a smile on his face, about the perils of growing old.

But, for the most part, Cleckler uses these visits to remember. And on this sweltering summer afternoon on the campus of the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, it is no different. Cleckler looks down upon his old friend’s resting place and remembers. The memories come easily, perhaps because they comprise a story that is so impossible to forget.

The two were best friends in high school in the Rio Grande Valley town of Weslaco. They were young, handsome, athletic, and popular—teammates on a conference champion Weslaco High football team. Both seemed destined to play college ball. Cleckler, in fact, had a scholarship offer to Howard Payne.

But one afternoon in the fall of their senior year of high school (1942-43), Block had a mischievous idea. It was an idea that would tip the first domino and start a sequence of events with consequences both tragic and heroic. It would also eventually solidify a friendship that still lives, more than six decades after Block’s death.

“Harlon suggested that we skip school that afternoon and go to a movie,” says Cleckler. Cleckler was not keen on the idea at first. He had been hoping for perfect attendance that year. But Block was persistent, so Cleckler, Block, and a third friend and teammate, Carl Sims, piled into Block’s pickup and took off for the theater.

The Weslaco theater was out of the question because the manager there was a big fan of the local football team and would certainly recognize the three truants. They eventually ended up 18 miles away at a theater in Harlingen. After the show, it occurred to Cleckler that they would need an excuse for missing school that afternoon, or they would face the principal’s dreaded paddle.

“The next morning, they were confronted by the principal, A.C. Murphy, who had his paddle at the ready. “I said, ‘Don’t you want to see why we were out of school?’” says Cleckler. He showed the principal the recruiting materials and presented him with a filled-out Marine Corps application.

“He said, ‘I have misjudged you boys. When do you join?’ We told him we would join as soon as we could, and we escaped the paddle,” Cleckler says.

Well, Cleckler, Block, and Sims figured their enlistment would come later that spring after graduation, but about three days later, Murphy came back with a better idea. He had made arrangements for the three to take their exams and graduate early. Eventually, five other fellow seniors and football teammates joined them, and a special early graduation ceremony was held in January for the eight future Marines.

Cleckler was chosen to speak on behalf of the group at the graduation assembly and, to this day, he remembers that one-sentence speech word-for-word.

“I said, ‘Wherever we go, whatever we do, we will always remember you in this place today,’” says Cleckler.

They left for Marine Corps basic training in San Diego shortly thereafter. Following boot camp, Cleckler, Block, and the others went their separate ways, assigned to separate Marine Corps units in different parts of the Pacific theater in World War II.

U.S. Naval operations during the Pacific campaign were highly complex. There were construction projects, security details, and battles to be fought in scores of locations with names that most of the young Marines and seamen had never heard of—places like Tarawa, Kwajalein, Saipan, Guam, Tinian, and Peleliu. For the most part, rank-and-file Marines did not know exactly where they were going until they got there.

In late 1944 and early 1945, Cleckler was on a troop transport harbored in Honolulu, where he and other Marines awaited their next departure for whatever destination lay...
in store. One evening he boarded a transport barge to go ashore for a night of liberty. On the way to shore, he felt a tap on his shoulder. He turned and came face-to-face with his old friend, Harlon Block.

“Imagine, being out there in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and running into my old friend! That was quite a surprise,” says Cleckler.

Block’s unit was on a troop transport harbored adjacent to Cleckler’s ship and both had been granted liberty that evening, which led to the chance encounter on the barge. They spent the evening ashore talking about old times, catching up, and speculating about where they might go next.

On the way back to their ships that evening, Block removed a ring he was wearing and handed it to Cleckler. It was a gold Marine Corps ring he had bought after completing Marine paratrooper training. He gave it to Cleckler.

“He told me to give it to his mother when I got home. He said he wasn’t coming back. I told him to go jump in the lake, but he wouldn’t have any of that. Some guys just got that feeling. So I took the ring,” says Cleckler.

They shipped out soon after. At the time, they did not know their destination, but they surmised they would be going to the same place, and they were.

**Iwo Jima**

The Battle of Iwo Jima involved some of the fiercest fighting of the war. American commanders had estimated that the island could be captured in three days. It took 36. During those 36 days, 6,800 American servicemen — the vast majority Marines — were killed. More than 20,000 Japanese soldiers died in the battle.

On the fourth day of the battle, the Marines secured the high point of the island, Mount Suribachi. Although the fight was far from over, that event provided one of the most iconic moments of World War II, when photographer Joe Rosenthal snapped the Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of five Marines and one Navy corpsman raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi.

The Marine at the base of the flagpole, pushing the pole into the ground, is Harlon Block. Eight days after the flag-raising, Block was killed by mortar fire.

Cleckler survived Iwo Jima. He was rotated back to the United States and assigned to a military police unit at the Corpus Christi Naval Base. He paid a visit to Block’s mother and tried to give her Harlon’s ring, but she did not want it.

“She told me I should keep it — that I’d been his best friend. So I did,” says Cleckler.

Cleckler expected to be recalled to the Pacific theater, probably for what most thought was the upcoming invasion of Japan. But the Japanese surrendered before he shipped out.

Cleckler served out the remainder of his enlistment stateside and then went looking for a college. That football scholarship offer to Howard Payne was no longer on the table, thanks to time and coaching changes. He eventually decided on Southwest Texas State Teachers College, now Texas State. He joined the Bobcat football team, became a starting center and linebacker and was highly regarded as an all-around athlete.

Cleckler graduated from Texas State in 1950. He returned to the Rio Grande Valley to Harlingen, where he served more than three decades as a coach, teacher, principal, and family man. His wife, JoAnn Smith Cleckler is a 1952 Texas State alumna. They still reside in Harlingen.

Their home is near the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, home to the largest existing statue depicting the raising of the flag on Mount Suribachi. It is, in fact, the original working model prepared by the sculptor Felix de Weldon that was used to cast the monument that stands at Arlington National Cemetery.

At the base of the statue is an inscription bearing the words of Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz, who said of the Marines on Iwo Jima, “Uncommon valor was a common virtue.”

A few feet from the statue is the gravesite of Harlon Block. Originally interred at Weslaco, his body was moved to the academy in Harlingen in 1995 during the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the battle.

And Block’s ring? Until last spring, Cleckler wore it every day. Through his years as a Bobcat, through his career as an educator, through his life as a husband and father. But last year, in a ceremony beside the monument and the gravesite, Cleckler donated the ring to the Marine Military Academy. It is on display at the academy’s museum.

On this day, Cleckler stands beside Block’s grave. He has borrowed the ring from its display case. He turns it over and over in his hand, feeling the memories it never fails to produce.

“You know, I wanted to keep it, but I felt this was better,” he says, looking at the monument to his friend and his comrades in arms.

“It belongs here.”
2010

Poet Colin Pope ’11, Saranac Lake, N.Y., is the first recipient of the L.D. Clark Fellowship at Texas State. He will be writer-in-residence at the Clark house in Smithville through August 2012.

Jeremy Fikac, Atlanta Braves; his 12th MLB season with the San Diego Padres in 2010.

Gilbert Elorreaga ’06, freelance reporter for the CBS affiliate in Los Angeles, received the Tracy Miller Merit Award from the Alliance for Women in Media in Southern California for her contributions to the broadcasting industry.

2000

1 Paul Goldschmidt, who was drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks after his junior year in 2009, was called up to the majors in midseason. He played the majority of the season for Arizona’s Double-A affiliate, the Mobile Bay Bears, and was named the USA Today Minor League Player of the Year. In the 2011 playoff, he hit a grand slam and tied a franchise postseason record with five RBIs. The first baseman is the first student in Southland Conference history to be named both the Baseball Student-Athlete of the Year and the Player of the Year. He plans to return to finish his degree.

Paul is the fifth player from Texas State to make it to the big leagues, joining pitchers Scott Linebrink ’99, who played his 12th MLB season with the Atlanta Braves; Jeremy Pikac ’00, Wimberley, who played 2001-04 with the San Diego Padres, Oakland A’s, and Montreal Expos; William Brunson ’92, New Braunfels, who played for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Detroit Tigers in the late 1990s; and the late Joe Vance ’30, Devine, who played for the New York Yankees and the Chicago White Sox in the 1930s.

José Silvan-Cardenas ’09, Mexico City, has won the J. Warren Nystrom Award given by the Association of American Geographers for the most outstanding dissertation. This is the third time a Texas State graduate has won the award in the last seven years. José is now an associate professor at the Mexican National Center for Geography and Geographic Information Science and Geomatics.

Maira García ’07 & ’09, Austin, is now the social media editor for the Austin American-Statesman.

Threats, the first novel of Amelia Gray ’07, Austin, will be published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux in February 2012.

Warren Grannis ’07, Kyle, fulfilled one of his life’s goals by racing the Bonneville World of Speed Race in Utah in September. In his day job, Warren is a database manager and graduate student at Texas State.

Rita Garcia ’06, freelance reporter for the CBS affiliate in Los Angeles, received the Tracy Miller Merit Award from the Alliance for Women in Media in Southern California for her contributions to the broadcasting industry.

Bharati Naik ’05, Jackson Heights, N.Y., works for CNN and has done reporting in Europe and India, as well as the U.S.

Adrian Ruiz ’05, San Antonio, is one of three candidates admitted to the doctoral jazz program at the University of Texas at Austin this fall.

Nynia Hensley Brown ’04 & ’06, Boerne, oversees the 16-acre Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area in northern Kendall County for Texas Parks and Wildlife. The site is popular for bat viewing May through October.

Edris Montalvo Jr. ’03, ’05 & ’10, Lawton, Okla., had his geography dissertation selected as the second-place winner for the National Council for Geographic Education’s 2011 Salvatore J. Natoli Dissertation Award. This is the third time his dissertation has been honored nationally. He is an assistant professor of geography at Cameron University.

Gilbert Elorreaga ’03, Josh Levy ’04, Matthew “Sweet Lou” Holmes ’06 and Rodolfo “Kino” Esparza ’06 are members of the Austin-based rock band Grupo Fantasma that won a 2011 Grammy for Best Latin Rock, Alternative or Urban Album for El Existential. The nine-piece ensemble also recorded the theme song for ESPN’s weeknight show, “Baseball Tonight.” Production manager for the group is Brendan Burke ’06. And alumnus Eugene Centeno ’09, San Marcos, has toured with the band in the past. Grupo will perform on campus March 31.

Leonel Peña ’02, Bowie, Md., is the first and only Hispanic to conduct in the U.S. Army Bands Program. He has recently been promoted to major.

The Sports Page by Larry Herold ’00, Dallas, set in the Dallas Cowboys’ 1966 training camp, will play at Stage West in Fort Worth Feb. 9-March 18, 2012. Larry, a former sports writer, won Stage West’s 2010 Texas Playwriting Contest for the comedy.

Jesse Heiman ’00, Studio City, Calif., is one of those faces you see in the background of TV shows and movies. The Hypervocal blog named him “the most important background actor of our generation.” He has appeared in 40 shows, including The Social Network, Curb Your Enthusiasm, Glee, My Name Is Earl, Catch Me If You Can and George Lopez.
After 14 years, Ronald Johnson and his class ring are back together. “It’s even more beautiful than I remembered!” he says of the ring he lost six months after he graduated in May 1997.

“It was too big for me. It kept sliding around my finger. Now that I’ve gained some weight, it fits perfectly! But I have to believe that it fits so snugly for another reason: I am back where I belong, as a professor at the school I love so much.”

Johnson, now an assistant professor in the Department of History, is the first in his family to attend college. He was wearing the ring the day he proposed to his wife Colette on the balcony of the Balcones Apartments on Fredericksburg Street. The couple took an engagement picture with his class ring and her new engagement ring.

Johnson lost the ring while he was a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (he earned an M.A. there and later a master of divinity at Boston University and a Ph.D. at Purdue). A woman found the ring on the escalators at the Dupont Circle Metro station in Washington, D.C., put it safely away and forgot about it. She came across it one day and turned it in to Today’s Cargo, a jewelry store in Alexandria, Va. The people there tracked down Johnson and returned the ring to him.

“This ring has stories to tell,” Johnson says. “And it looks damn good on my finger!”
It’s a great day to be a Bobcat – especially in Basrah, Iraq. Pooling their Texas State spirit this summer in the 36th Infantry Division of the Texas National Guard were, from left, Maj. Luis Delgado ’97, Capt. Jimmy Horst ’97, Brig. Gen. William “Len” Smith ’87, Bret Hartman ’03, and Lt. Col. Darrell Dement ’88. Bret is a Department of Defense civilian federal employee supporting the unit and is now in Afghanistan.

program director for the Nature Conservancy, that after five years with the same organization in Texas and seven with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Todd Votteler ’00, Austin, is executive director emeritus of the trust.

Lynda Lopez ’81, Edinburg, is currently director of special projects in the Office of the President at the University of Texas-Pan American.

Jenifer Glenn ’80, Plano, operates her own special event planning company, Tenant Link Inc./Let’s Party!

1970
John Sharp ’76, College Station, has recently been named chancellor of Texas A&M. The former state representative, state senator, Railroad Commission chair and state comptroller received a 2011 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from the College of Liberal Arts. He is the president of the American Psychological Association headquartered in Washington, D.C.

1960
David Parsons ’69, Conroe, who has taught creative writing at Lone Star College-Montgomery for 20 years, is the new poet laureate of Texas. His third book, Feathering Deep, was released in July.

Melba Vasquez ’72, Austin, psychologist and executive director of Vasquez & Associates Mental Health Services, has received a 2011 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from the College of Liberal Arts. She is the president of the American Psychological Association headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Kelly Frels ’66, Houston, managing partner of the international Bracewell & Giuliani law firm, received a 2011 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from the College of Liberal Arts. He was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the Alumni Association in 1978.
Business is in her blood

by Mary-Love Bigony

Nina Vaca-Humrichouse is a born entrepreneur. Her family emigrated from their native Quito, Ecuador, to California when she was a small child, and her parents each ran their own small businesses. She and her siblings worked in the family businesses.

“I came from a long line of entrepreneurs,” Vaca-Humrichouse says, “so taking matters into my own hands, and knowing the risk and perseverance that it takes to run a company, was natural to me.”

Today Vaca-Humrichouse, class of 1994, heads Pinnacle Technical Resources in Dallas, a company she founded that provides IT consulting in the United States and Canada.

“Pinnacle Technical Resources is an award-winning, $200-million staffing, payrolling, and vendor management services provider to the Fortune 500 with more than 4,000 employees and 2,000 in-network vendors,” she says. “We were ranked by Staffing Industry Analysts as the third-fastest-growing staffing firm in 2011, and we are the only staffing firm to have been ranked among the Top 10 fastest-growing firms for seven consecutive years. Our client list includes industry leaders such as AT&T, Bank of America, Belo, BMW North America, Energy Future Holdings, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Hewlett-Packard, PepsiCo, Merck, Shell, Verizon, and many others.”

Vaca-Humrichouse entered the high tech field as a result of recruiting on the Texas State campus. “I had the opportunity to land my first job in the technology arena, and that paved the way for my future entrepreneurial venture,” she says. “I started my career in New York in the high tech industry and followed that with a successful business development position in another IT firm prior to starting Pinnacle. So when I wanted to start my own firm, the IT industry was the natural choice.”

Pinnacle is one of the largest diversity-owned IT staffing companies nationwide, one of the largest woman-owned firms in the United States, and one of the fastest-growing firms nationwide.

Vaca-Humrichouse is committed to helping students succeed. Texas State established a scholarship in her honor that she funds each year. “This is very meaningful to me — to help others attain a solid education in an institution that played such an important role in my life,” she says.

Also, as chair of “Stars on the Rise,” she helped raise a record $650,000-plus in financial aid for college-bound Hispanics. “My firm and I have also been actively involved in the Dallas mayor’s Back to School program and Sen. Royce West’s Emmett J. Conrad Leadership Program, where Pinnacle hires and mentors summer interns from disadvantaged backgrounds,” she says. “In 2007 and again this year, Pinnacle collaborated with the World Affairs Council and the U.S. State Department to employ women from the Middle East as part of a program designed to give them western business skills and experiences.”

Vaca-Humrichouse balances her demanding career with an active family life. She and husband Jim Humrichouse are the parents of four children.

She has received dozens of awards, including Texas State Distinguished Alumna, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Latino Leaders 101 Most Influential Leaders, and Dallas Can! Mother of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award.

But she says her most significant award comes from Pinnacle itself. “The personal gratification that I have received as a result of our associates honoring me with their talent and hard work far outweighs any other award,” she says.

“Of course, the Mother of the Year award is a close second!”

“This is very meaningful to me — to help others attain a solid education in an institution that played such an important role in my life.”
More Bobcats than ever
Campus keeps growing. Here are the numbers:

34,113 Students
Texas State recorded another record enrollment this fall.

5th / 36th
The university is now the fifth largest in Texas and the 36th largest public university in the nation.

4.7%
Enrollment has increased 4.7 percent over last fall’s record enrollment.

4,471
Number of new freshmen on campus in August; 92 percent of them live on campus.

3,833
Transfer Students
Twenty-seven percent of the student body is now Hispanic, up from 25 percent last fall, and African-American students are now 7 percent of enrollment, up from 6 percent.

27,249
Applications for freshman or transfer admission, a 12 percent increase over last year.

The graduation rate of Texas State students continues to put the university among the TOP FIVE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THE STATE.

Restoration at Spring Lake
Spring Lake is returning to its more natural state, thanks to a project launched in September that partners the university with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

In coming months, workers will remove the towers that supported the old theme park sky rides, the submarine theater, the old restaurant, the gift shop, and the parking lot.

“We will be careful to protect the endangered species, as well as the rich archaeological sites that pepper this area,” President Denise Trauth said at the launch of the project. “And we will continue to acknowledge and research the entire history of this most wonderful place – including and perhaps especially the period when Aquarena Springs delighted everyone as a wildly successful theme park.”

Spring Lake was formed in 1849, when Edward Burleson dammed the headwaters of the San Marcos River to power a mill. More than 200 springs bubble up from the Edwards Aquifer to fill the lake. A hotel was built on the lake in 1928 and soon after that, glass-bottom boats were introduced. The popular Aquarena Springs amusement park opened on the site in 1951.

Texas State acquired the 90 acres around the lake in 1994 with the vision of preserving it for educational purposes. Today it is the largest aquatic nature center in the country, visited by more than 100,000 people a year.
National Champions

Texas State’s Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) chapter became national champions at the 2011 SIFE USA National Exposition held in Minneapolis in May. The team won the title over a field of regional champion teams representing 3,500 students from 162 colleges and universities.

As national champions, the students represented the United States at the 2011 SIFE World Cup in October in Malaysia. They placed in the upper tier among the 39 teams in the contest won by a team from Germany.

In the national contest, the Texas State team finished ahead of teams from Drury and Syracuse universities, and the universities of Nebraska, Florida, Arizona and Chicago.

“One of the most rewarding parts of the competition is to get an opportunity to test the quality of our free enterprise projects against some of the best university programs in the country,” said Texas State SIFE President Meghan Bergman. “Our team members work hundreds of hours for an entire year for this one shining moment of pride.”

Ben Campbell and Brett Georgulis were the Texas State SIFE presentation team co-captains, and presentation team members were Ben Campbell, Brett Georgulis, David Standefer, Lauren Roig, Sarah Connelly and Amy Parker. Vicki West is the faculty sponsor.

In addition to the competition in Minneapolis, Texas State SIFE students had the opportunity to interview for jobs and internships with Fortune 500 companies. Many former students are employed throughout the country as a result of their involvement with the SIFE organization.

SIFE is an international non-profit organization founded in 1975 with programs on more than 1,500 college and university campuses in 39 countries.

Two new doctorates

A Ph.D. and an Ed.D. in developmental education became the 10th and 11th doctoral programs at Texas State this fall. “We require a workforce with higher education attainment, but at the same time we are seeing smaller numbers of high school graduates who are prepared to do college work,” says Provost Gene Bourgeois. “We believe these new doctoral programs can help bridge that gap.”

The new Ph.D. is the first of its kind in the nation, and the Ed.D. will be the second.

Texas State’s doctoral programs are growing in enrollment every year. This fall, 403 students were enrolled, a 4-percent increase over last fall.
Big Blue: The blue and purple building dominating the middle of campus will soon become the Undergraduate Academic Center, housing three departments and freshman support services. Other major campus construction sites are the North Campus Housing Complex near the LBJ Student Center, the Performing Arts Center on University Drive across from the Theatre Building, and the North Side Complex at Bobcat Stadium. The UAC, the housing complex and the stadium end zone will all be open by fall 2012.
We’re headed for the most exciting time in our athletic history at Texas State, joining the Western Athletic Conference and moving up to the Football Bowl Subdivision.

You can be a part of it by joining the Bobcat Club. Becoming a donor provides scholarship support for our 400 student-athletes and will assist Texas State Athletics as we jump into the national spotlight.

SUPPORT THE BOBCAT CLUB TODAY!

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