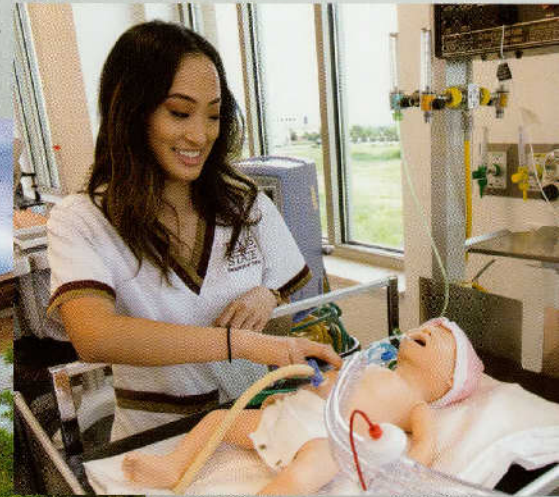
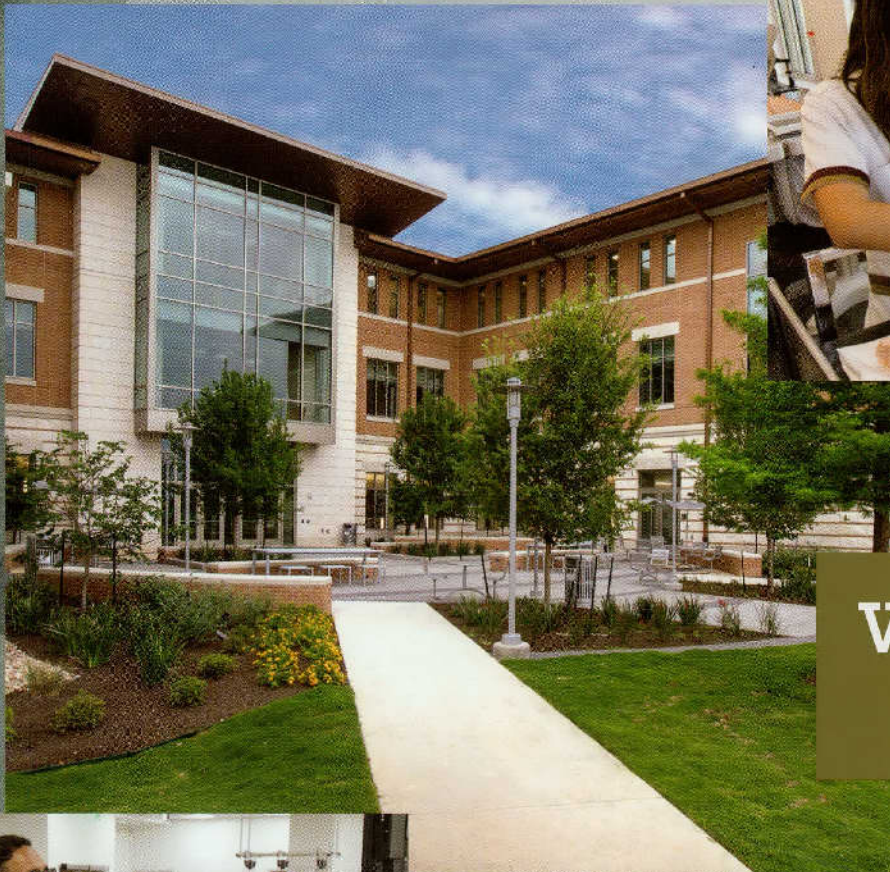


hillviews



WILLOW HALL



Expanding the healthcare future of Texas

TEXAS
STATE
UNIVERSITY

The rising STAR of Texas

hillviews

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No. 2, 2018



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COVER STORY

Willow Hall

The newest building to serve the College of Health Professions on the Round Rock Campus has more than 100,000 square feet, some 500 students, and more than 70 faculty members.

ABOUT: *Hillviews* is produced three times a year by the University Advancement division. We'd love to hear from you. Send us your comments about the articles in this issue, or send story suggestions. Email Hillviews@txstate.edu; fax to (512) 245-3817; or mail to *Hillviews*, Texas State University, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666-4613. Find the latest and past issues of *Hillviews* online at hillviews.txstate.edu

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Texas State University

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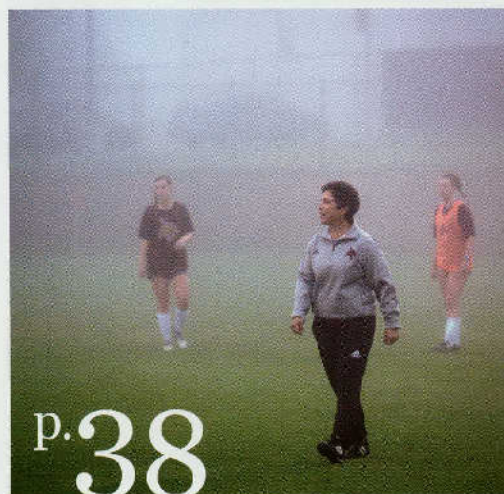
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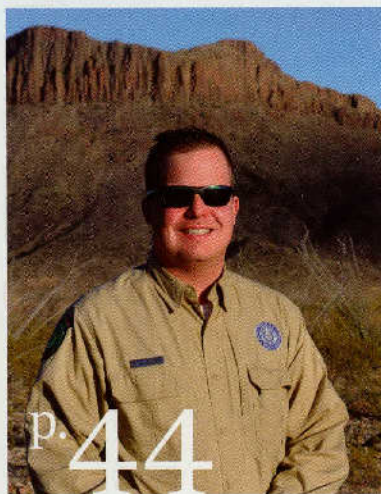
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From KTSW to building
a national branding
campaign.

(from the president's desk)



Dear Friends,

The healthcare industry is growing rapidly and over the next decade millions of new healthcare jobs will be created nationwide. At Texas State University, the College of Health Professions is preparing to meet the workforce demands of tomorrow with a state-of-the-art new facility, expanded academic programs, and highly skilled graduates trained to provide quality patient care.

In spring 2018, we dedicated our newest building at the Round Rock Campus, Willow Hall, where students in the departments of Communication Disorders, Physical Therapy, and Respiratory Care will learn how to help people live healthier lives. This is the latest step in our planned migration of the College of Health Professions to the Round Rock Campus. By consolidating the health professions programs on one campus located in the healthcare nexus of the state, Texas State will provide a similar educational experience found at dedicated medical schools and health science campuses around the country.

This issue of *Hillviews* explores the high-tech spaces in Willow Hall and how the new facility represents our commitment to become the standard of excellence in patient healthcare delivery. This issue also takes us far beyond the clinics and labs of our health professions departments and into the wilderness, where our faculty have gained national recognition for conducting archaeological surveys scouring vast terrain for ancient cultural artifacts.

These pages also give us a preview of the vibrant Texas Music Collection at The Wittliff Collections, featuring one-of-a-kind exhibits from Texas music legends, and take us into the workplaces and board rooms of our graduates who have achieved success as entrepreneurs, public relations professionals, performers, manufacturing executives, and beyond.

I hope you enjoy this issue and take great pride in our students, faculty, staff, and alumni – and the many innovative ways Texas State continues to reach for higher levels of excellence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise M. Trauth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise M. Trauth



Pedal power

Texas State faculty, alumnus join forces on high school mountain biking team with physical fitness and research in mind

By Ashley Festa

Dr. Kent Griffin has found a way for high school students to participate in a solo sport and yet feel more connected than ever before. It's a connectivity that's drawing students to the sport of mountain biking at San Marcos High School.

"Most of the kids on the team are not from athletic backgrounds," says Griffin, associate professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance, and head coach of the team. "Some have participated in after-school athletics, but most have never experienced relatedness like that. They've never been connected."



“SOME KIDS WERE HAVING TROUBLE FINISHING A THREE-MILE RIDE ON THE ROAD AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON, BUT AT THE END OF THE SEASON, IT’S NO PROBLEM. WHEN THEY SEE THE GAINS THEY’VE MADE, THEY FEEL MORE COMPETENT AND IN CONTROL OF THAT [SUCCESS].”

— DR. KENT GRIFFIN

The mountain biking program is through the National Interscholastic Cycling Association, which focuses on the mind, body, and character of each student-athlete. In addition to developing students’ biking skills, the organization also encourages coaches to foster a sense of family and togetherness on the team. Griffin’s team, in four years of existence, has done exactly that.

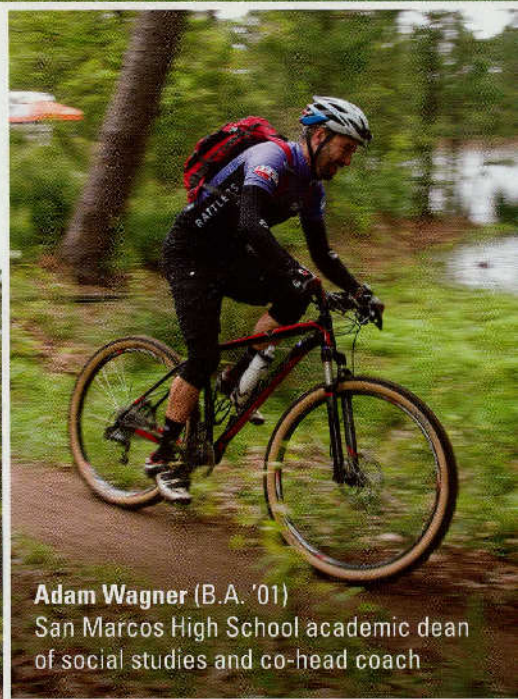
“When we ask, ‘What did you like about riding?’ in focus groups and interviews,” Griffin says, “we almost always hear, ‘It feels like my second family, like brothers and sisters.’”

Such interviews contribute to Griffin’s research on changing the motivational behaviors of the bikers by meeting three needs, as described in self-determination theory. These needs are: that sense of relatedness, a sense of autonomy, and a sense of competence. He said that students are having all three of those needs met on the team.

“We identify kids who are at risk emotionally, behaviorally, academically, socioeconomically, maybe have demonstrated anti-social behavior,” he says. “Many reasons these kids come to us is the excitement of mountain biking, a newer sport. They don’t feel like they have the skills to play other sports, but here’s a new activity and there’s been no physical education class that someone tells them they aren’t good enough to play this.” The first thing Griffin does is have the students practice riding on a curb or hill to ensure they feel competent right away.



Dr. Kent Griffin
head coach of San Marcos High School
mountain biking team



Adam Wagner (B.A. '01)
San Marcos High School academic dean
of social studies and co-head coach





Another draw is that all the equipment is provided. About 90 percent of the team classifies as low socioeconomic status, and expensive sports may not be options for them. When he started the team, Griffin pieced together parts taken from bikes abandoned at the university. Now, with the students' fundraising efforts as well as \$30,000 in grants, the team has acquired about a dozen quality bikes.

The students also learn responsibility through fundraising for the team—including selling gift cards for Mochas and Javas, a local sponsor. The business then donates half the value of the gift cards back to the team.

Another aspect of Griffin's research is whether the students' physical fitness improved over the course of the season. Griffin evaluates the athletes' strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, body composition, and cardiovascular fitness. He says students showed significant improvement.

"Some kids were having trouble finishing a three-mile ride on the road at the beginning of the season," Griffin says, "but at the end of the season, it's no problem. When they see the gains they've made, they feel more competent and in control of that [success]."

One of Griffin's research papers is currently under review for publication in the *Journal of Teaching and Physical Education*, and he's in the process of writing a second paper. He plans to eventually go to other schools across the nation to collect more data to find out whether other teams are experiencing the same successes.

His own team's achievements can be credited in part to the university's partnership with San Marcos High School's Adam Wagner (B.A. '01), the academic dean of social studies and co-head coach with Griffin. Wagner says the two coaches share a similar philosophy of physical education: finding ways to get young people to continue their physical fitness for the rest of their lives.

"When kids leave our program, when they get in their 30s and 40s, they can still do the sport," Wagner says.

While the students are on the team, the coaches make sure each one experiences encouragement and support. For some, it even keeps them in school. One student, Wagner recalls, was struggling academically and on the verge of dropping out.

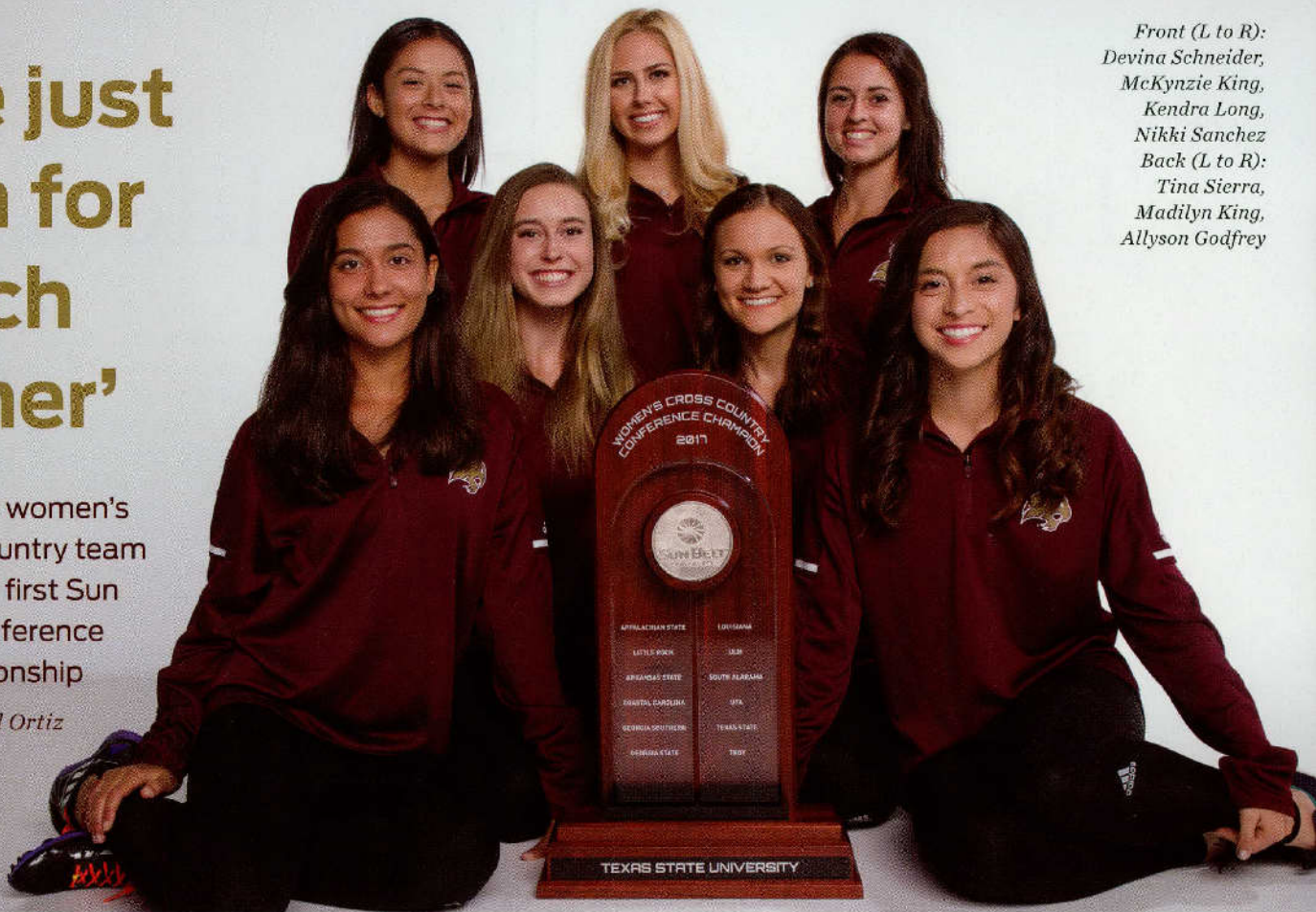
Karly Schlievert, a junior studio art major at Texas State, says she joined the mountain biking team the same year it started at the high school. She says it changed her entire outlook on school. "I was really depressed and not enjoying myself at school," says Schlievert, who still bikes for pleasure. "The mountain biking team changed that for me. I was excited to get up and ride my bike to school and practice at the end of the day. It was fun, challenging, and I loved the community and family feel of it."

Griffin says that's exactly what he intended when he and Wagner started the program. "That's what kids are getting, and that's what draws them to the league," he says. "It's not about winning and losing or competing." 🌟

'We just ran for each other'

How the women's cross country team got their first Sun Belt Conference Championship

By Edmond Ortiz



Front (L to R):
Devina Schneider,
McKynzie King,
Kendra Long,
Nikki Sanchez
Back (L to R):
Tina Sierra,
Madilyn King,
Allyson Godfrey

Entering the Sun Belt Conference (SBC) championships last fall, the Texas State women's cross country team had high expectations, but this did not include dominating the field en route to winning the program's first conference title since 1994.

"It was something a little unexpected," says junior Devina Schneider. "We were all hoping to get a top five (finish). Then during the race, our coach was saying, 'You all are in third! We can get top three!'"

That was all the motivation that Schneider and her teammates needed. The squad collected 53 points at the conference event in October 2017 in Boone, North Carolina, outlasting host college Appalachian State by 27 points.

Totaling a time of 1:30:32, Texas State's tally was the biggest point margin between the first- and second-place Sun Belt programs since 2010. Five women runners placed in the top 30 and two others finished 45th and 63rd. Schneider finished fourth with a personal best time of 17:55.9. Freshman McKynzie King recorded her career-best time of 17:57.4, right behind Schneider.

Schneider and King are the first Texas State runners to receive first-team all-SBC honors since the school joined the SBC. Kendra Long and Nikki Sanchez received second-team all-conference honors. Long placed eighth with a time of 18:00.3, while Sanchez finished 10th with a time of 18:01.6. Madilyn King placed 26th, recording her own career-best time of 18:36.2.

Finishing his third season as cross country/track and field director, Jody Stewart said winning the conference crown shows the overall program is on the right track toward long-term success. "It's everything we've been talking about since we got here — continually building up the entire program," he says. "Historically, we've been a great sprints/jumps school, and now it's about

rebuilding the distance program."

Schneider says she felt the team had a better sense of camaraderie and cohesiveness last season. Stewart stresses pack running, where the athletes run together as a cohesive group.

"We simulated that for a race and then we ended up doing really well at conference," Schneider says. "We just ran for each other."

Stewart praises his assistants, particularly second-year coach Alex Muntefering, who specializes in distance. "We've talked about the vision from the start: What do we have to do to achieve our overall goal?" says Stewart. "He (Muntefering) worked daily on putting it together."

King says it is fun being part of a collegiate program that is succeeding and growing up together. "The team we have now is so great. It's evolved over time," she says. "Everyone has stuck together through it all." Preparing for the fall season, King has been practicing to compete in steeplechase, a 3,000-meter race that involves hurdles and a water jump. She says she has no specific personal goals in mind but wants to do her best to help the entire program reach its objectives.

"The whole team is pretty goal-oriented," King adds. "I've blown all of my personal records out of the water. For next year, I just want to do the same thing: set some more personal records and do well."

Sanchez, the team's lone senior is graduating, while Schneider and Erin Williams will become the only seniors on the fall 2018 squad. This cross country team is accumulating experience and confidence.

"The women's team is going to get stronger with this next recruiting class," Stewart says. "They're only going to get better." 🍀

The stories of his life

Dr. Paul Gowens retires from Texas State after 38 years

By Mark Wangrin

Dr. Paul Gowens sits in his easy chair in the spacious living room of his home in far South Austin, telling stories. Self-effacing and easygoing, the 75-year-old economics professor and former dean of the College of Business Administration had claimed earlier that he didn't think his story was very interesting. He's spent the last two hours proving himself wrong.

There are stories about his parents, Ray and Inez Gowens, who were chagrined that their local school board in Arkansas named a 22-year-old former local basketball star to the superintendent's job. They realized, Gowens says, "If our boys were going to have a chance, we have to get out of here." They moved their four sons to the Texas Coast.

There are tales about how hard work pays off, such as one about how Ron and Joe Fuedo, the Corpus Christi grocery magnates, rewarded Gowens' hard work by paying for his freshman year of education at Del Mar College.

There is one about how a high school age Gowens lobbied the athletic director at Corpus Christi Flour Bluff ISD to let him start a cross country team, and how that team of non-runners ended up winning a state championship.

"He's a great storyteller," says Tracy Shoemake, Texas State associate athletic director. "It's fun to listen and learn and soak it all in."

There are other stories, too, about hard work and serendipity; his "hillbilly" accent; his two high school teachers who fought a fatal gun duel over who won the Civil War; and his skill as a typist ("100 words a minute," he says proudly). There are stories of his family: how when he returned as coach and teacher at Flour Bluff High School, his future wife Pat's ability to step in as a basketball scorekeeper helped convince him she was a keeper; of his sons Ryan and Geoff and their families; and of what he and Pat plan to do in retirement.

"I hope I didn't ramble on too much," he finally says, modest to the core.

As he tells those stories, he's surrounded by photos of his wife, kids, grandkids, and other family members. There is a neat stack of magazines — *Sports Illustrated* and *The Economist* — on the coffee table.

"That's an odd pairing," he concedes, "but appropriate."

Those two passions defined his career. Gowens earned an Honorable Mention All-State as a senior point guard in high school, and had a brief stint as a savvy, but not

particularly physically gifted, college basketball player.

In high school he also was drawn to math and his college advisor at Baylor, where he earned baccalaureate and master's degrees, suggested an economics major. "I asked, 'What is economics?'" Gowens recalls. "It's about money," the advisor said. So I said, "That's good enough for me."

He got his Ph.D. at the University of Mississippi and came to Texas State as an economics professor, becoming chair of the Department of Finance and Economics (1980-84), and later dean of the College of Business Administration (1984-99).

His coaching background, love of sports, encyclopedic memory, and innate ability to defuse tense situations and put people at ease made him the obvious choice to become the university's first National Collegiate Athletic Association Faculty Representative in 1999.

Gowens has seen Texas State change names and ambitions and move from small college status in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics to NCAA Division I. He's interviewed prospective coaches and helped the athletic department negotiate the rapidly changing world of revenue, expenses, rule changes, and increasing emphasis on academics.

His retirement will give him more time with family. There are two more grandchildren due this summer. He will be reading more John Grisham novels, and there is a train trip across Canada to plan, along with other globetrotting with Pat.

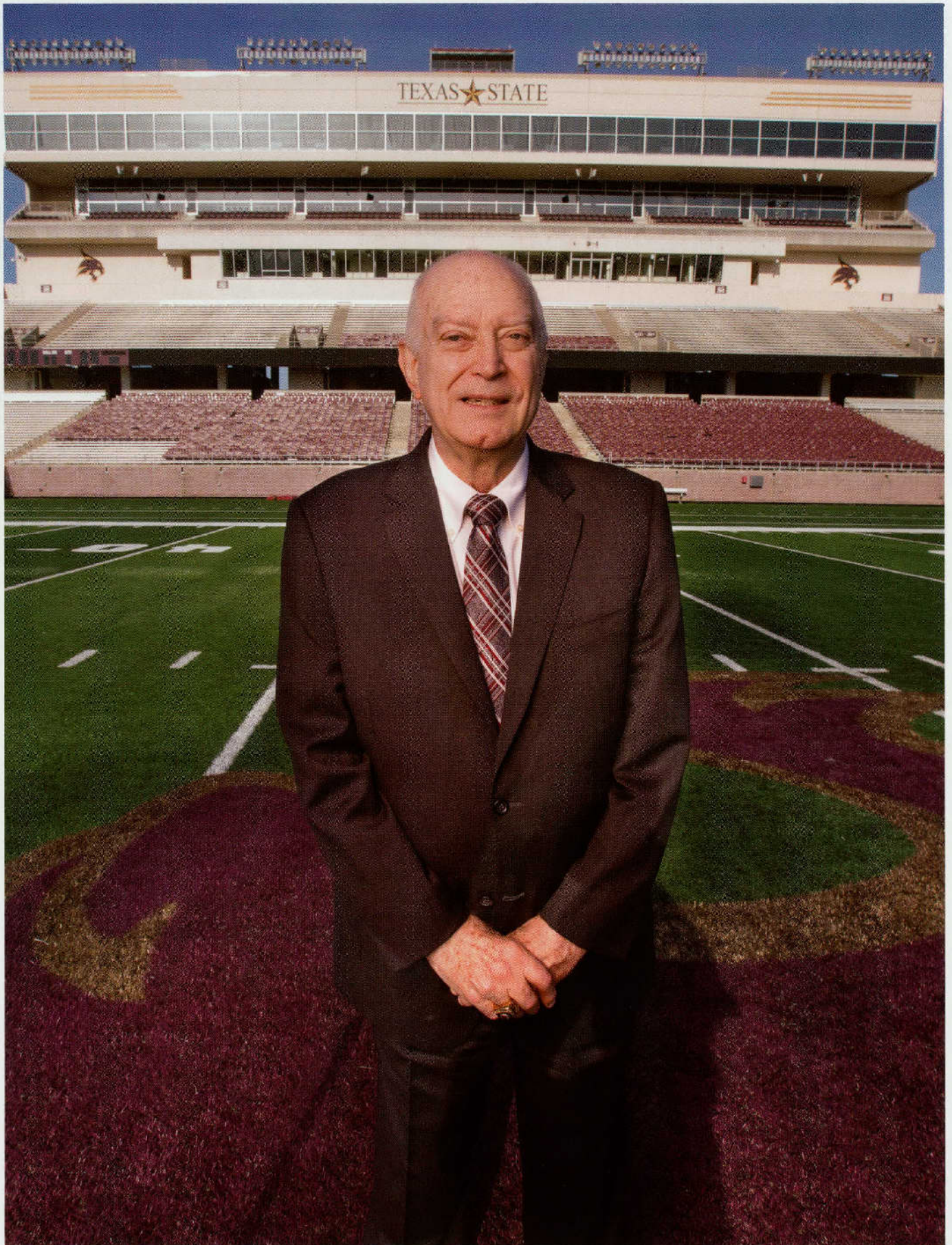
"I haven't not had a job since I was 14 years old," he muses.

Texas State honored Gowens, already the namesake of an endowed scholarship in the McCoy College of Business Administration, by naming a facility adjacent to Bobcat Stadium the Paul and Pat Gowens Family Pavilion.

While Gowens takes on retirement, the Texas State faculty will miss the man Dr. Denise Smart, who followed him as dean of the McCoy College of Business, says "epitomizes a servant leader." In 2011, Gowens won the McCoy College Advisory Board Teaching Excellence Award, given to the professor who undergraduate business school students said had the most significant effect on their educational experience.

"Students knew that he cared about how much they learned and many said he was the best professor they had had at Texas State," Smart adds. "They also mentioned that he had lots of energy — he's known to fill up multiple whiteboards during a class period — a real passion for teaching, was very smart, and a great mentor and motivator."

Those students could probably tell some stories, too. ☺





Isela Rios Guzman, a spring 2017 graduate, teaches fourth-grade bilingual students in San Marcos CISD. She shares stories about her university education experiences with her class.

First-class preparation

Education majors embedded in area schools get field experience needed for success in the classroom

By Tracy Hobson Lehmann

When Emily Lindsey introduced herself as a student teacher to her seventh-grade writing classes, she did something few adults might: She showed photos of herself as a young teen. She also told students about her experience moving schools when she was their age. Sharing her personal stories, she says, helps connect with students — a lesson Lindsey learned during field block experience.

Field block courses are required in the Texas State University Educator Preparation Program in the two semesters before student teaching. The university is among a handful that pioneered field blocks to enrich the classroom observation hours required by the Texas Education Agency.

“As a classroom teacher, it’s important to get to know students from the get-go,” says Lindsey, who wrapped up her bachelor’s degree in education in spring 2018 with student teaching at Dean Leaman Junior High School in Fulshear, southwest of Houston. “They will open up and start to do the

work because you’ve sat down with them and acknowledged their struggles.”

The program embeds professors and aspiring teachers at schools in and around San Marcos for two days a week throughout a semester. Professors instruct the university’s students and provide feedback as the future educators observe classrooms, lead practice lessons, and get a taste of school culture. The block courses are a hallmark of Texas State’s educator preparation, the largest university-based teacher-certification preparation program in the state. As many as half of the university’s 2,000 education majors participate annually.

“One of the frustrations [teachers] have when they get into the workforce is that it doesn’t look the same as the way they were taught,” says Dr. Jodi Patrick Holschuh, professor and chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. “This lets them see a lot of different ways to do things that may not be the way they were taught in class.”

The systematic approach helps budding teachers transition from college classrooms—where they learn ideals—to the real world. “A teacher makes about a million decisions every day—more than that, probably,” says Dr. Patrice Werner, associate dean for Teacher Education and Academic Affairs. “The only way you can get better is by practicing.”

Werner and Dr. Leslie Huling, professor of curriculum and instruction, developed the field block experience concept in 1992 with a \$1 million grant from the Texas Education Agency. They collaborated with San Marcos schools to design and implement a program that infuses theory with practice.

“We didn’t want to just teach our classes on campus and then send our students out to the schools,” Werner says. “We wanted to have both the teaching and the experience together, and we wanted the professors to be there with the students while the experience was happening. They can help their students process what they are seeing and learning.”

After grant funding ended in 1996, the university picked up the reins and now places teachers in more than 20 schools in surrounding districts. The program has expanded to include separate block classes for aspiring elementary, middle, and high school teachers and for those pursuing special education, English as a second language, and bilingual certification. Depending on the student’s plan, field block experience comprises up to 12 semester hours. Coordinators emphasize placements in Title I schools, defined by the TEA as campuses having at least 40 percent of students below the poverty level.

At one Lockhart elementary school, coordinators added an extra reading and writing class at the end of the school day so that the Bobcat teachers-in-training were able to offer free after-school tutoring. That’s a win-win.

“It’s helping our students because they’re getting field experience and credit hours, and it’s helping the school give something the students really need,” Holschuh says.

Being prepared to teach gives Bobcats an advantage in landing jobs, and it contributes to them staying in the field longer. About 82 percent of Texas State trained teachers remain in the teaching field for at least five years, according to 2017 data, compared to 76 percent statewide.

“Principals and superintendents are always telling us, ‘Please send us more Texas State student teachers because we want to have a crack at hiring them,’” Werner says.

Isela Rios Guzman, a spring 2017 graduate, reflects fondly on her field block experience. Like Lindsey, Guzman shares personal stories with her fourth-grade bilingual students at Mendez Elementary in San Marcos. She tells them about the demands of field block homework that pushed her to tears and explains that assignments are meant to challenge, not punish them.

When a last-minute switch at her first professional teaching job threw her a curve—teaching fourth-grade bilingual students rather than first-grade dual language students—she took it in stride.

“I was nervous, but I didn’t feel unprepared because I had amazing professors along the way that helped me in my college career,” she says. ✨

“A teacher makes about a million decisions every day,”


says Dr. Patrice Werner,
associate dean for Teacher

Education and Academic Affairs.

“The only way you can get
better is by practicing.”



Dr. Mary Esther Huerta (right) observes education major Jaqueline Ramirez Turk during her field block experience in the classroom.

A man in a dark suit and glasses stands in a lush, sun-dappled forest. He is positioned in the lower center of the frame, looking towards the camera. The forest is dense with green foliage and large trees, with sunlight filtering through the canopy. A large tree trunk is visible on the right side of the image.

DR. TODD AHLMAN, INCRT
head and director of the Center for
Archaeological Studies at Texas State

DIGGING THROUGH HISTORY

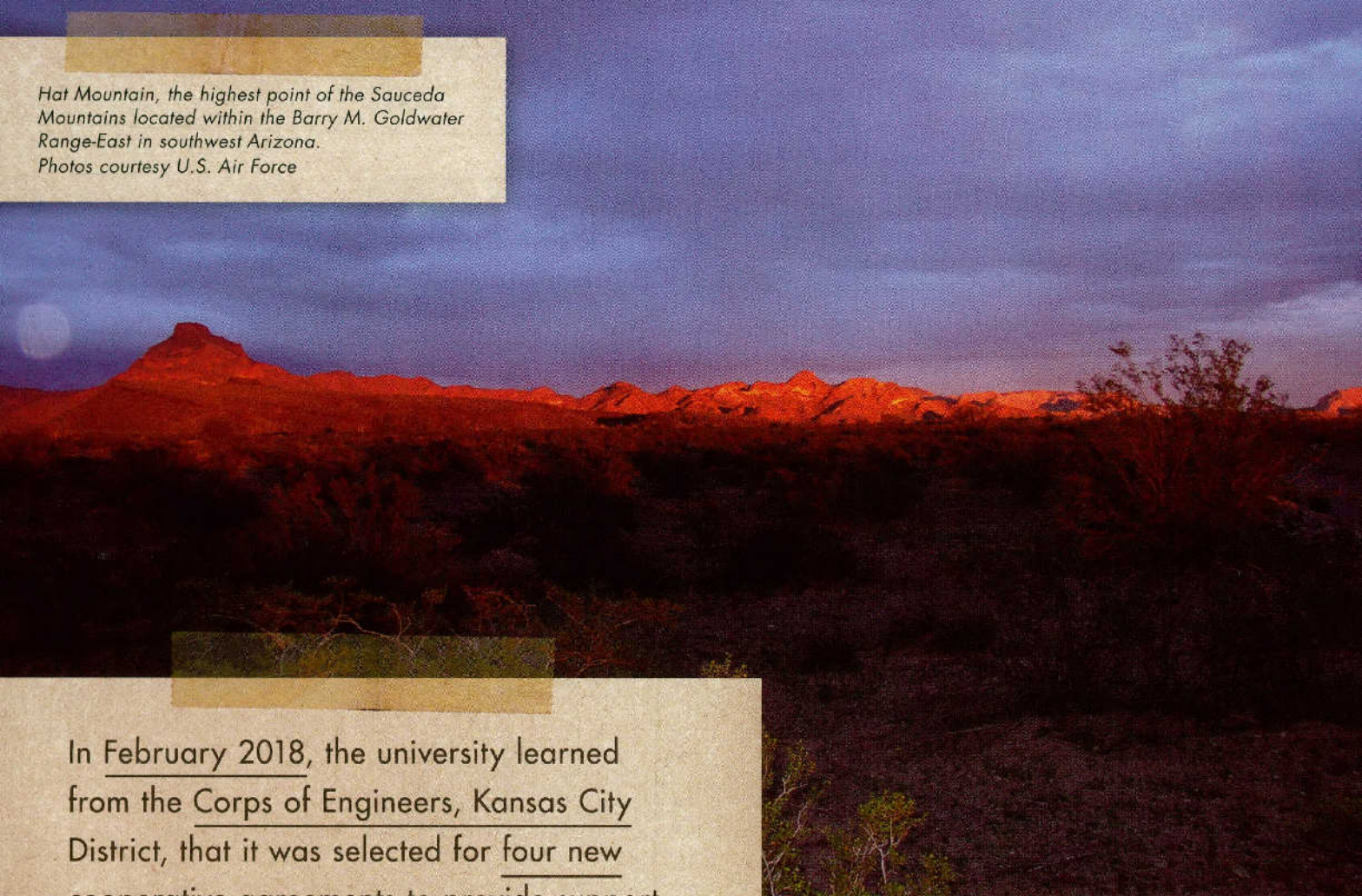
Texas State partners with Air Force to survey archaeological sites from ancient artifacts to Cold War relics

By Michael Agresta

The U.S. Air Force is so focused on winning the future, from developing high-tech weapons to strategizing defenses against 21st-century threats, that it's easy to forget that the service branch also has a responsibility to the past. Specifically, through the National Historic Preservation Act, the Air Force is obliged to identify and, in some cases, preserve historic structures and sites on the grounds of its military installations—many of them massive, sprawling properties in sparsely-populated Western states.

The Air Force does not normally employ archaeologists and conservation specialists, so, to give the aviation experts a break from shovels and paperwork, last year Texas State University entered into a \$1.6 million agreement to perform cultural resource surveys and support at Air Force installations in eight states. The agreement, made between the Integrated Natural and Cultural Resources Team (INCRT) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), is part of a larger, potentially \$45 million five-year cooperative agreement acquired in 2016 by Dr. Todd Ahlman, INCRT head and director of the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State.


"This is meaningful work both for the military and for people who are interested in cultural resources work and historic preservation," Ahlman says, "and it allows students to get real-world training, so hopefully they can find a job more quickly or be more efficient in the jobs they get when they graduate."



Hat Mountain, the highest point of the Saucedo Mountains located within the Barry M. Goldwater Range-East in southwest Arizona.

Photos courtesy U.S. Air Force

In February 2018, the university learned from the Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, that it was selected for four new cooperative agreements to provide support positions at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. This project is expected to total \$4.6 million over the next five years.



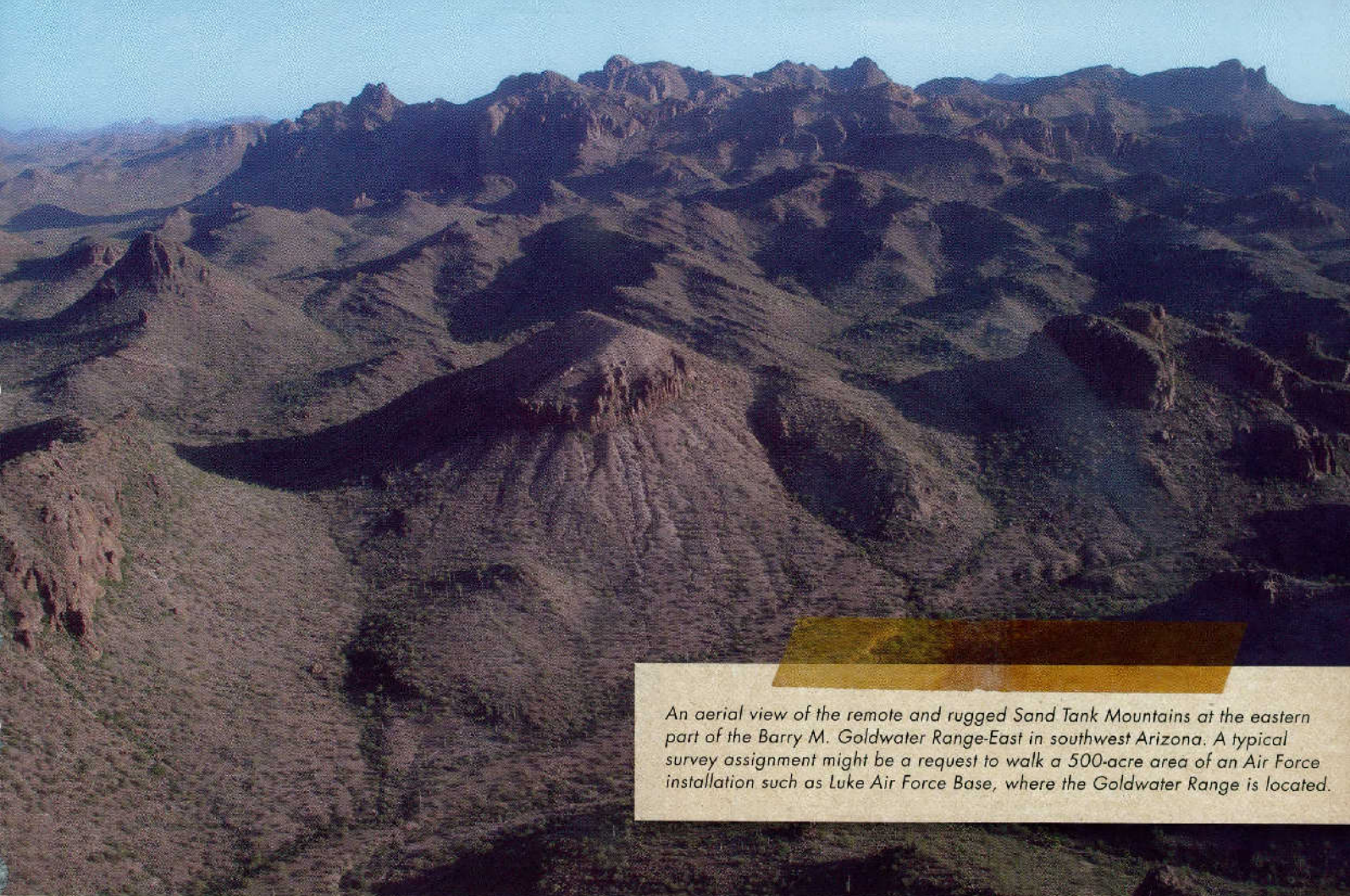
A typical survey assignment, Ahlman says, might be a request to walk a 500-acre area of an Air Force installation and look for archaeological sites. INCRT faculty, staff, and students may perform limited excavations, but their primary task for now is more often to create a research design based on expertise concerning how people lived in history and prehistory. In the field, INCRT often plans and performs its research in partnership with private-sector companies that contribute local knowledge.

In some cases, INCRT is also involved in forging partnerships with Native American tribes, the Air Force, and Corps of Engineers. INCRT's role is to foster discussion with local tribes who may have cultural heritage sites on Air Force installations and to prepare agreement documents to move the process

forward. "Including Native Americans more and more with what we do archaeologically is very important — both to get their viewpoints of what they want to learn and to be able to ask them what some of the things we find mean. That helps us with our interpretation of the past," Ahlman says.

Ahlman speaks in broad strokes about the regions and installations where Texas State is partnering. "We really try to keep archaeological sites private, especially locations, so looters don't try to get to them," he says. For example, the Utah Test and Training Range, near the Great Salt Lake, lies in a region that is a treasure trove of Native American history. "It was a highly utilized area prehistorically," he says. "It's hard to say what tribes were there, but we know there's stuff there that ranges back at least 12,000 years."

Much of INCRT's work, however, has to do with history that is far more recent. Many Air Force installations were first constructed in the mid-20th century and have just recently become old enough to fall under the purview of the National Historic



An aerial view of the remote and rugged Sand Tank Mountains at the eastern part of the Barry M. Goldwater Range-East in southwest Arizona. A typical survey assignment might be a request to walk a 500-acre area of an Air Force installation such as Luke Air Force Base, where the Goldwater Range is located.

Preservation Act. They represent a time period that will no doubt be of great interest to students of U.S. military history. “Our partners are looking at buildings that were mostly built during the Cold War era,” Ahlman says. “They represent this massive buildup of Air Force facilities across the nation.”

For example, INCRT is performing an architectural survey at Clear Air Force Station, just north of Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska. That installation was built in 1958, to help spot Soviet intercontinental and submarine-launched ballistic missiles headed toward the continental United States. INCRT is also contracting at the Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, home of the North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) Command from 1968-2006. “We’re not looking at any of the NORAD structures or the famous bunker, but it’s still pretty cool that we have crews going to the place where NORAD was centered,” Ahlman says.

In February 2018, the university learned from the Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, that it was selected for four new cooperative agreements to provide support positions at Fort Leonard Wood in

Missouri. This project is expected to total \$4.6 million over the next five years.

The INCRT’s work goes far beyond archaeology; it involves 67 resource specialists from nine units at Texas State, including the Departments of Biology and Geography, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, the Center for Geospatial Intelligence and Investigation, the Institute for Government Innovation, the Center for Archaeological Studies, the Forensic Anthropology Center, and the Center for Public History. The combination of all those separate areas of excellence adds up to an institution that has earned the trust and partnership of the most powerful military in the history of the world.

“For our center and other centers across the university, we’re being recognized for the research strengths that we have, and for the ability we have to research as well as perform compliance work around the country,” Ahlman says. “It shows that our faculty and staff have a wide range of research backgrounds that can support an agreement such as this.” 🌟



MAKING THE MOVE

Health Professions looks forward to collaboration, growth in Round Rock

By Hannah Hepfer





H

healthcare employment is growing across the country. In Texas, among the fastest growing states — it's booming.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that employment of healthcare occupations will grow 18 percent through the year 2026, adding some 2.3 million new jobs across the nation. In a 2017 report on growth occupations, the Texas Workforce Commission projected healthcare and social assistance employment growing to approximately 1.8 million new jobs over the next seven years. Among the 11 industries included in the report, the strongest, with a 32.2 percent increase, was healthcare and social assistance.

Continued on page 19



Building Facts

WILLOW HALL

- **Programmer:**
Facility Programming
and Consulting
- **Architect:**
Barnes, Gromatzky, Kosarek
- **Contractor CM@R:**
HCBeck, Ltd.
- **Construction Start:**
September 2016
- **Construction Completion:**
Spring 2018
- **Full occupancy:**
Summer 2018



Willow Hall has a total project cost of

\$67.5 million

at a total size of

108,065

gross square feet

Texas State University is out in front of the trend, offering three in-demand programs — Communication Disorders, Physical Therapy, and Respiratory Care — in the College of Health Professions. Prospects for graduates are promising, with the bureau estimating that 25,400 speech-language pathologist jobs, 60,000 physical therapist jobs, and 30,000 respiratory care therapist jobs will open up by 2026.

The move for these three programs to the Round Rock Campus began in the spring. Joining St. David's School of Nursing, these programs bring associated community clinics: the Physical Therapy and Speech-Language-Hearing Clinics and the Texas State Sleep Center. The programs are the first to use instructional space in the new four-story Willow Hall, the third building on the Round Rock Campus.

Dr. Ruth Welborn, dean of the College of Health Professions, says the impetus for the move came from a need for more physical space as well as opportunities for partnerships with the numerous healthcare facilities in the area. "We're excited to have four programs that have a focus on clinical practice together in one location," she says.

The move furthers the development of a professional healthcare campus setting that's focused on preparing qualified health professionals while offering an environment that's also conducive to faculty research and community service. Moving these three programs is the first phase of the university's plan to relocate the entire College of Health Professions to Round Rock. Until a fourth dedicated building is completed, the other four Health Professions departments — Clinical Laboratory Science, Health Administration, Health Information Management, and Radiation Therapy — will remain on the San Marcos Campus.

Dr. Barbara Sanders, department chair of Physical Therapy, believes the new building provides critical upgrades. "We were in the [San Marcos] location for 25 years and far outgrew the resources," she says. "We weren't keeping up with the technological advances."

Willow Hall has more than 100,000 square feet of space. About 500 students and 70 to 80 faculty members were relocated to the Round Rock Campus. For bachelor's degree programs, all upper level (junior and senior) courses will take place at Round Rock as will graduate-level courses. Lower-level degree courses will continue to be completed at the San Marcos Campus.

Dr. Valarie Fleming, department chair of Communication Disorders, says the program's clinic has doubled in size and faculty members now have individual research spaces, which previously were shared. "We're able to serve the community at a greater capacity and have more of a variety of clinic interactions," she says. Communication Disorders will complete the move to Round Rock in the fall.

Round Rock residents can access the Physical Therapy Clinic and the Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, which are open to the community as they were in San Marcos. The Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic will continue to maintain a presence in San Marcos one day a week.

Fleming hopes the move will bridge the San Marcos Campus culture with Round Rock's. "We know we have a lot to offer the community," she says. "The university has strong traditions, and we'll be the ones to bring them here."

Because the region is rich with healthcare organizations — notably Seton Williamson Medical Center, and Baylor Scott and White Medical Center, and St. David's Round Rock Medical Center — students have convenient locations to complete their clinical education and find employment after graduation.

Continued on page 20



Respiratory Care

TEACHING LABS

- Basic Instruction Lab: 40 students
- Advanced Instruction Lab: 40 students
- Special Procedures Lab: 40 students
- Lab Storage and Prep (5)
- Faculty Research Lab

SLEEP CENTER

- Patient Prep Room
- Adult Sleep Rooms (2)
- Pediatric Sleep Rooms (2)
- Faculty Research Lab
- Common Clinic Areas

SIMULATION LAB

- CDIS/PT/RC Simulation Lab
- Simulation Lab Control Room



Communication Disorders (CDIS)

SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING CLINIC

- Group Therapy Rooms (5)
- Cognitive Therapy Room
- Individual Therapy Rooms (16)

RESEARCH AREAS

- Language Lab
- Therapy Room
- Cognitive Communications Lab
- Faculty Research Labs (2)
- Kinematic Data Collection Lab
- Kinematic Data Analysis Lab
- Data Analysis Room

“There are hospitals and outpatient clinics up and down the street,” says Dr. Gregg Marshall, department chair of Respiratory Care.

Sanders says she looks forward to establishing deeper connections with the surrounding institutions. “We have a history of developing great partnerships with our clinical community and look forward to establishing more of these relationships in the Round Rock area.”

Health administrators in the region applaud the move to expand health programming at the Round Rock Campus.

“I think bringing all of those healthcare tracks to one area will really be important as we look at that interprofessional type of education that needs to happen — so that education and training is not in silos,” says Gail Acuña, division assistant vice president of clinical education at St. David’s Institute of Learning. “It’s not just PT being with PT or nursing being with nursing. Gaining the efficiencies of what these disciplines have to offer is going to be huge.”

Jay Fox, president of Baylor Scott & White – Austin/Round Rock Region, echoes the sentiment of the move coming at a good time for the university and the region. “As this community and surrounding areas continue to grow, it becomes increasingly important to have a local talent pool of qualified healthcare professionals,” Fox says.

Marshall also notes the potential for partnerships with local colleges. “Texas A&M College of Medicine is out our back door and Austin Community College has a campus nearby with about 10,000 students,” he says. “So there’s some possible collaboration with them that we’re looking forward to.”

The move also allows Health Professions’ students the chance to practice their requisite skills while interacting with each other. “We anticipate a lot of collaboration among the faculty and students as they participate in interprofessional activities in

teams,” says Welborn.

“Respiratory care students can work with [high fidelity] mannequins in the nursing simulation lab that are in respiratory distress, along with nursing supervision,” she offers as an example. “Then, they can follow up with rehab services for physical therapy, and if there are individuals who’ve had a stroke or have compromised speaking, then they can engage the communication disorders students.”

It’s a welcome joint effort for nursing students who have been taking classes at the Round Rock Campus since 2010 and have had to role play other professions when learning various skills, like how to assist a patient with crutch walking or how to move them properly in beds. “What better way to have them learn these things than to have them work with [physical therapy] students themselves?” asks Dr. Marla Erbin-Roesemann, director of St. David’s School of Nursing. “That’s what they do best.” 🌟



New degrees and research enhance School of Nursing

The St. David’s School of Nursing has introduced new nursing degrees at the Round Rock Campus. A master’s degree in nursing with a major in leadership and administration in nursing (M.S.N.-L.A.N.) launched in the spring. A part-time Master of Science in nursing with a major in family nurse practitioner (M.S.N. to F.N.P.) was introduced this fall.



The M.S.N. to F.N.P. is a hybrid program that combines online classes with 660 clinical hours. In addition, students are required to be on campus two weekends each semester. Dr. Marla Erbin-Roesemann, director and professor of nursing, says the M.S.N. to F.N.P. is a robust program with more than 80 students enrolled in the full- and part-time programs for fall 2018.

“There is a great demand for the family nurse practitioner across the country. On every corner you see these pop-up clinics, free-standing emergency rooms, and health centers. They all employ family nurse practitioners,” Erbin - Roesemann says.

The M.S.N.-L.A.N. degree positions students to obtain mid and upper nurse executive and administrative roles in a variety of healthcare institutions.

Innovative research led by Texas State faculty in the St. David’s School of Nursing is contributing new knowledge to the field. Here are just a few examples of research projects in the School of Nursing and the faculty investigators:

- “Early Identification of Potentially Violent Patients in Acute Care Hospitals” – Son Chae Kim, Ph.D., R.N.
- “Promoting the Cardiovascular Health of Mexican-American Women in South Texas” – Viola Benavente, Ph.D., R.N.
- “Cervical cancer screening behaviors among Asian Indians in the U.S.” – R. Jillapalli, M.S.N., R.N.
- “Translational Research Strengthening Evidence-based Practice” – Barbara G. Covington, Ph.D., R.N.; Son Chae Kim, Ph.D., R.N.; Pamela Willson Ph.D., APRN, F.N.P.-BC, CNE, FAANP.
- “Exploring the Efficacy of Referral Letters in Type 2 Diabetes Screening Program in Texas” – Star Mitchell, Ph.D., R.N.; Melinda Hester, D.N.P., R.N.

Physical Therapy

- PT Treatment Room
- Exam Rooms (4)
- Wound Care Clinic
- Robotic Arm Clinic
- Student Charting Room
- Teaching Labs: 48 students (2)
- Gross Anatomy Lab Suite
- Instructional Lab (20 Tanks + 1 Instructor Station)
- Texas State Instructional Lab (12 Tanks + 1 Instructor Station)
- Anatomy Learning Center (Dry Specimen): 24 students
- 12 student Dissection Tanks, 1 Instructor Tank

An activist and advocate

Felicia Miller has challenged her skills in healthcare industry



“I had at least three different careers and several jobs that I was able to be successful at, based on the education that I received at Texas State.”

— Felicia Miller

Advocating for others comes naturally in **Felicia Miller’s** family. Her mother was a longtime member of the NAACP; her great-grandmother marched for women’s suffrage and once hosted U.S. Supreme Court justice and civil rights advocate Thurgood Marshall in her home.

Miller, a Texas State graduate who has campaigned for LGBT rights, marriage equality, and HIV funds, is also known for her many years of professional advocacy in the healthcare industry, where she has more than 25 years of leadership experience.

“My mom once said, ‘You know, I always thought you would be an activist for women’s rights and for poor people, but I never dreamed you would be an advocate for people in general,’” Miller says. “I learned from my family that education and activism really do change people.”

Miller earned two bachelor’s degrees — in healthcare administration in 1988 and the other in health information management in 1989 — and then went to work managing medical records and cancer research statistics.

Several years later, she noticed disparities among her firm’s employees who wanted to further their careers. “I went to the vice president of human resources and said, ‘People that look like me — female and minority — they’re not getting promotions here, and that’s not in alignment with our mission.’ He challenged me and said, ‘What are you doing about it?’”

It was a question that launched Miller into human resources. She built a career center and supervised it for the system’s eight hospitals, managing the transfer processes and learning the jobs of every employee at the facilities. After the first year, the company’s internal promotion rate increased by 20 percent. Miller spent the next 10 years of her career as a regional human resources leader.

Miller, 54, has continued her activism in the community, chairing the American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Advocacy Committee and lobbying legislators on the impacts of laws and regulatory issues at the national and state levels.

She hasn’t been forgotten at her alma mater, where she received the Allen Herkimer Distinguished Alumni Award in 2017. At the ceremony, Miller encouraged a group of graduates to be open to challenges and opportunities. “I had at least three different careers and several jobs that I was able to be successful at, based on the education that I received at Texas State,” she says. “Based on my successful outcomes people offered me opportunities in other jobs for which I had indirect experience and transferable skills. They knew that I pursued mastery of that body of knowledge and that led to more success.”

— Natalie Chandler

More than just words

A speech-language pathologist’s training takes her in unexpected directions



When **Rachel Wynn** first worked as a speech-language pathologist (SLP), she often heard her clients’ well-meaning relatives decline her services. “Mom doesn’t need a speech pathologist; she talks just fine,” an elderly patient’s daughter would explain, unaware that SLPs did far more than speech therapy. Wynn titled her first professional blog “Talks Just Fine” as a nod to the variety of ways SLPs help patients.

Today, Wynn (M.S. ’11) has discovered even more applications for her training. She’s coached families on how to interact with relatives with dementia, helped therapists across fields share resources, confronted ethical challenges in her profession, and applied her skills to designing software.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in English education at Indiana University, Wynn worked

in college admissions. While she enjoyed helping students, Wynn changed her career course when she entered graduate school in Communication Disorders at Texas State.

After graduation, to escape the Texas heat, Wynn moved to Boulder, Colorado, and worked for several years as a SLP at a skilled nursing facility with elderly patients who had cognitive, language, or swallowing impairments. Part of her job involved helping families modify the patient’s environment to make tasks easier. She also taught families to communicate with relatives whose personalities were altered by dementia. To help with this work, Wynn drew on an experience she’d had with her own grandparents who lived in a nursing home. On either grandparent’s birthday, Wynn’s family would bring the couple Dairy Queen ice cream sundaes.

Physical therapy online

Rob Vining uses technology to serve clients

One day while playing high school baseball, **Rob Vining** (B.A. '00, M.S.P.T. '04) pulled his quad. He went to see a physical therapist in town, not expecting much — his coaches told him he'd probably be out four to six weeks.

"The guy fixed my leg in two visits," Vining recalls. "When that happened, I was like, 'I want to do what you just did. How can I do that?'"

Vining shadowed the physical therapist for a few months, writing things down as the therapist treated patients. When Vining saw that everyone was recovering as quickly as he had, he knew the physical therapist's work on his quad wasn't just a fluke. "That's what set off a little bell in my head," says Vining. "That's what I wanted to do — I wanted to help people feel better, fast."

When Vining began looking at colleges, he found that Texas State University had the two things he wanted: a football program (where he played as a walk-on until his junior year) and a physical therapy program. He received his bachelor's degree in exercise and sports science in 2000 and went on to complete his master's in physical therapy, graduating in 2004.

Vining has long had an intense interest in technology. When he got a computer in 1997, as the internet was just starting to become big, he realized there were all these new opportunities that he could explore that were online. Perhaps before there was even a word for it, Vining saw telehealth — using telecommunications technology to see patients

remotely — as the future of physical therapy.

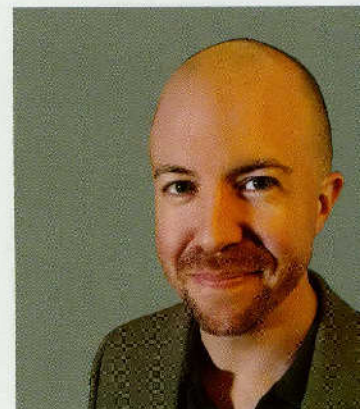
When Vining asked two professors if they thought he would be able to treat a patient on Skype in 10 years, they laughed. Vining wasn't deterred. After graduation, he started an online clinic called Direct PT. The online clinic was operational for a decade, but about four years ago Vining began thinking about software he could create to help other physical therapists treat patients virtually. "Telehealth is appealing because of its convenience factor," says Vining.

At the same time, Vining was working on his software, a friend had also started a software company. The two teamed up to create a podcast, PT Tech Talk, discussing therapy-related technology. The show has now been running for over two years. While he makes his home in Austin, Vining has the ability to help people all over the country.

"It's really niche," says Vining. "When physical therapists find our show, they're like, 'Finally somebody's talking about this.'"

Vining believes that if physical therapists are willing to use technology, the profession is going to grow. "Doctors only have a few minutes to talk to people. We have an hour," Vining says. "We can do an excellent job of helping people if we take advantage of the technology that we have available to us."

— Kelley Freund



"We can do an excellent job of helping people if we take advantage of the technology that we have available to us."

— Rob Vining

"When we discovered that it brought them so much joy — and that they had no idea what day it was — they started having birthdays more frequently," she says. In that spirit, she encouraged families to incorporate the patient's past interests into visits.

In 2013, she started a blog about older adult speech therapy, called "Gray Matter Therapy" (graymattertherapy.com). That forum evolved to tackle ethical and financial issues such as some healthcare facilities' tendency to base patient care decisions on business, rather than patient need.

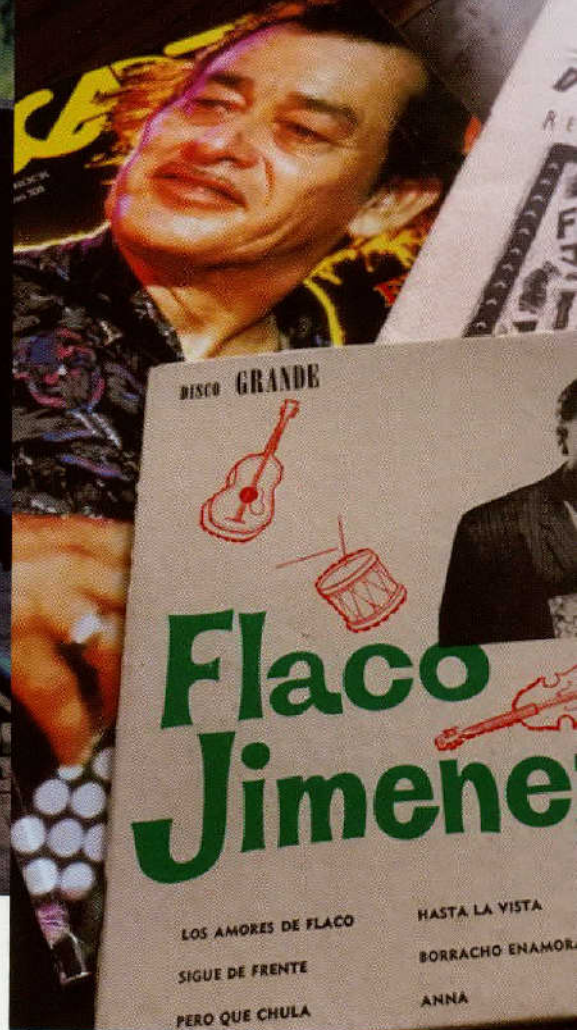
Wynn spearheaded a letter-writing campaign to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association that resulted in the group laying out what decisions the therapists should make for the patients. Wynn also served on the board of Colorado HealthOP, a nonprofit whose goal is to provide its members affordable, quality healthcare.

Three years ago, Wynn switched directions again

— this time to Boulder's flourishing tech industry, where her SLP training has been surprisingly relevant. As a cognitive therapist, she studied how people approach and complete daily tasks. Those skills helped her work as a user experience designer, where she anticipated how people would accomplish software-related tasks such as entering data or shopping online. In her current job as a product manager for a software company, she prioritizes product improvements and sets realistic goals — just as she did when assessing patients.

— Robyn Ross

Wynn worked for several years as a speech-language pathologist at a skilled nursing facility with elderly patients who had cognitive, language, or swallowing impairments. Part of her job involved helping families modify the patient's environment to make tasks easier.



A TREASURE TROVE OF SONG



TEXAS MUSIC COLLECTION LIVES AT THE WITTLIFF

BY HECTOR SALDAÑA

In October 2017, I became the first curator of the newly founded Texas Music Collection at The Wittliff Collections, the renowned research center and archives on the seventh floor of the Albert B. Alkek Library at Texas State University. It's an awesome joy — and responsibility — to advocate for Texas music, musicians, and fans. The Wittliff Collections, established by Austin screenwriter and photographer Dr. Bill Wittliff and

*kin back on my fast son
So it's been a pretty story
it now I find it gets to
to separate fact from the
People mention places
I've never been an elf
would not be rid of that
I'll be right with*



his wife, Dr. Sally Wittliff, is most famous for its Southwestern Writers Collection, Southwestern & Mexican Photography Collection and, of course, the Lonesome Dove Collection. I've come to learn that music has always lived at The Wittliff.

One of its most impressive jewels is a weathered, hand-illustrated songbook by Willie Nelson on display that dates to when the aspiring musician was about 11 years old. Its cover page is simple – and direct: “Songs by Willie Nelson: Waco, Texas.” Drawn in pencil, “Waco” and “Texas” look to be part of a whipped lariat; the small “n” in the word “songs” is in the outline of a pony. Its index (with its neat Roman numerals), song titles and lyrics are equally revealing. Such titles as “Faded Love and Wasted Dreams,” “Hangover Blues” and “I Guess I was Born to be Blue,” show the roots and creativity of the beloved and legendary redheaded stranger.

The songbook is but one example of the holdings of the new Texas Music Collection, and it barely scratches the surface when it comes to Nelson. Bill Wittliff, whose friendship and history with Nelson dates to decades ago riding on the tour bus with the country singer and directing him in the movie “Red Headed Stranger,” acquired handwritten lyrics, including “On the Road Again,” as well as unpublished material. Scribbled on hotel stationery, tour itineraries, and napkins, they offer insight into the creative process. When the Grammy-winning TexManiacs visited and performed last year at The Wittliff, the musicians were blown away when they saw the Nelson collection.

In January, The Wittliff Collections acquired rare early recordings of Jerry Jeff Walker, including a coffeehouse performance in New Orleans in 1964 and a 1965 recording of early songs for a songbook. They are the earliest known Jerry Jeff Walker recordings.

The newly acquired audio material has been digitized and will soon be available for researchers. Additionally, a handful of rare tapes in the Walker collection covering the crucial period 1966-1967 are currently being restored. The goal of the Walker exhibit is to show how the mercurial singer-songwriter represents the universal youthful dreams of adventure, self-discovery, and reinvention, as well as showing why he should be ranked with the likes of contemporaries Bob Dylan and Joni Mitchell.



A recent exhibit – “Viva Jerry Jeff: The Origins and Wild Times of a Texas Icon” sheds new light on this small-town kid named Ronald Clyde Crosby from upstate New York. He was a high school basketball star who went AWOL from the Army National Guard in 1963, worked under an alias as a street singer named Jerry Ferris, joined an acid-rock band and wrote the timeless “Mr. Bojangles” – and became the guiding light of Austin’s progressive country and redneck rock movement.

Walker, who made a major donation of lyrics and custom handmade Charlie Dunn cowboy boots in 1991, donated his entire archive in 2017. The collection is made up of master tapes, photographs, handwritten lyrics, memorabilia, manuscripts, and rare artifacts.

But The Wittliff Collections – which functions as a research center, museum, gallery space, exhibit space, lecture hall, music venue, collections and library, and which is being expanded to take up the entire seventh floor of the building in the next few years – is more than outlaw country.

The Wittliff works closely with Texas State University’s Center for Texas Music History to celebrate and preserve the amazing breadth of Texas music. For example, a recent exhibit and panel, “Legends of Tejano: Highlights from the Ramón Hernández Archives,” made the case that the pioneers of Tejano, conjunto, and norteño music deserve the same serious study, respect and preservation as the works of Nelson, Walker, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Ray Benson’s *Asleep at the Wheel*.

Dig deep into The Wittliff’s music collection and one finds the handwritten



All images courtesy of The Wittliff Collections. Top left: Jerry Jeff Walker in 1965, photo by Anne Edwards; top center: Flaco Jimenez records from Legends of Tejano exhibit; middle center: Jerry Jeff Walker’s handwritten lyrics; bottom center: Jerry Jeff Walker’s recorder; top right: Willie Nelson songbook; middle right: Jerry Jeff Walker and his wife and business manager Susan Walker circa 1974, photo by Jim McGuire.

scores of silent film era musician and composer Cenobio Hernandez and author Joe Nick Patoski’s collection of Selena and Doug Sahm materials.

My desire as Texas music curator is to celebrate all Texas music and expand the definition of what that means in the 21st century. Major acquisitions are on the horizon, as well as some surprises, as the Texas Music Collection rolls out. 🌟



In the 1950s the Fighting Stallions statue was displayed on a base designed by Wimberley artist Buck Winn. The statue was moved from its original location between Taylor-Murphy and Evans some 20 to 25 yards away to its current location on the west end of the Quad when campus improvements were made in the 1980s.

THE FIGHTING STALLIONS

Sculptor Anna Vaughn Hyatt Huntington
created the university's symbol of freedom

By Margaret A. Vavarek and Dan K. Utley

Long a symbol of freedom, the ornate statuary group formally called "Fighting Stallions" has served as a dramatic backdrop for countless social rallies, political protests, and anti-war demonstrations since it was installed on the Texas State campus during an era of uncertain peace in the early 1950s. Its history reflects diverse contexts that include foundational education, women artists, philanthropy, city planning, and a family's enduring sense of place. It is the artistic expression of renowned sculptor Anna Vaughn Hyatt Huntington (1876-1973), whose monumental works grace grand cultural landscapes in places such as New York City, Seville, Buenos Aires, Edinburgh, and San Francisco. It also uniquely



Statue with original base, constructed 1950s,
 photograph circa 1962



Statue with current base, constructed 1980s,
 photograph circa 2018

defines the mission of the artist's public sculpture collection at her Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina, where the original serves as the entryway centerpiece.

Born and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Anna Hyatt lived in a family environment grounded in academics, artistic exploration, and an appreciation for nature. Her father, Alpheus Hyatt II, was a noted paleontologist and zoologist associated with the area's prominent universities, as well as the Boston Society of Natural History. Her mother, Audelia Beebe Hyatt, was an artist, and Anna's older sister, Harriet, established her own worthy credentials in sculpture and art education. Although Anna studied and worked with renowned artists of her time, including Mount Rushmore designer Gutzon Borglum, she credited her sister as the greatest

influence on her art, which remained largely self-taught and observational.

Given her background, it is not surprising that Anna Hyatt developed an early passion for art, particularly the dynamic sculptural portrayals of animals. As an influential animalier, part of a celebrated group of like-minded French and U.S. artists around the turn of the 20th century, she imbued her work with stylistic references to naturalism, neoclassicism, and the Beaux Arts. Retaining a strong commitment to long-held artistic traditions, she persevered in prominence even when modernism seemed to prevail.

In 1923, Anna Hyatt married New Yorker Archer M. Huntington, who had commissioned her to design the prestigious Mitre Medal for the Hispanic Society of America he founded. Archer was the

wealthy stepson of railroad and shipping magnate Collis Potter Huntington. His mother, and Collis's second wife, was Virginia-born Arabella Yarrington Huntington, who instilled in her son an appreciation for the arts she actively supported throughout her life and which led to the acclaimed Huntington Library in California. A scholar, humanitarian, and philanthropist, Archer had a great fondness for Central Texas, having enjoyed extended visits with his Yarrington family members on a ranch near San Marcos during his formative years.

Anna and Archer Huntington made their primary home at their Stannerigg (stone ridge) Farm estate in Connecticut. By the 1930s, they also began developing an estate along coastal South Carolina, where they established Brookgreen Gardens as a

means of celebrating and providing public access to the American sculptural arts. Their philanthropy in the field of public art soon spread far afield, and in 1951, they decided to donate a replica of Anna's sculpture, "Fighting Stallions," to Texas State, then known as Southwest Texas State Teachers College. Archer had fond memories of time in the area and Anna believed that Texas would be an ideal place for a monument to wild horses.

College president Dr. J. Garland Flowers proudly accepted the Huntingtons' generous donation, noting it would "give accent to the aesthetic aspects of our program which we are so anxious to emphasize." Flowers immediately set about the task of raising funds and technical assistance for a suitable base that would adequately showcase the monument and reflect the natural history of the San

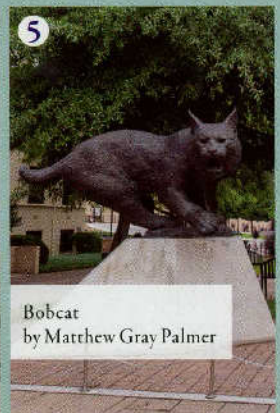
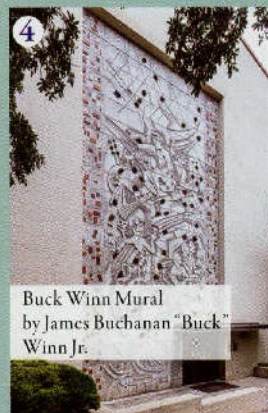
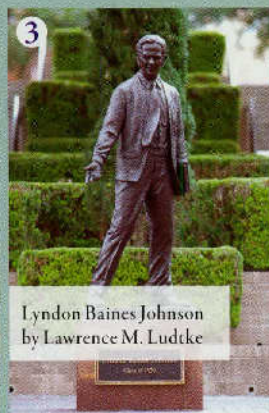
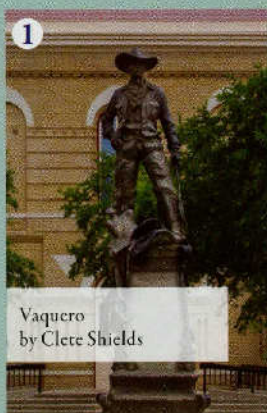
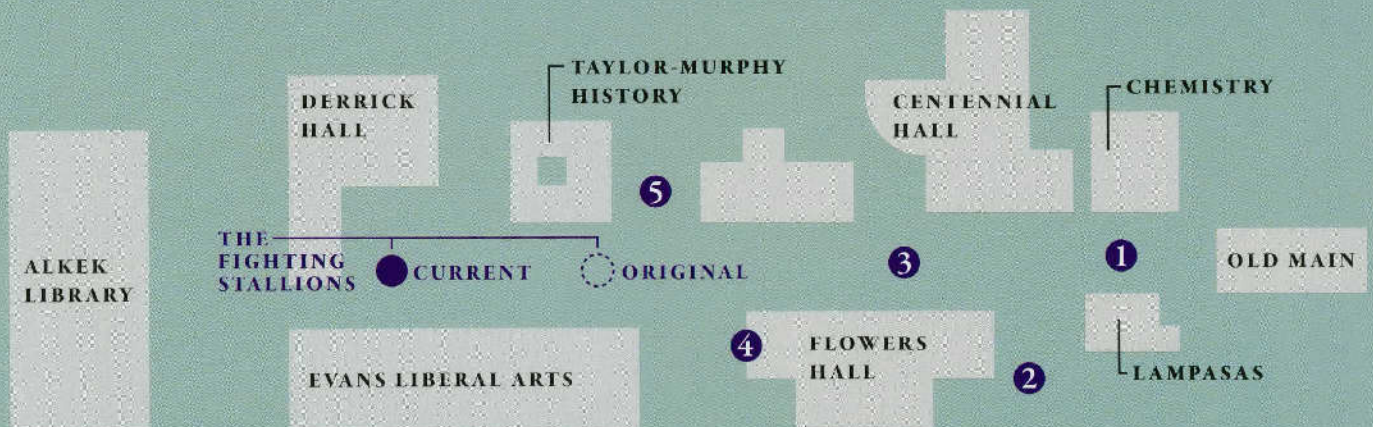
Marcos area. To that end, he worked with alumnus and Archer Huntington nephew John T. Yarrington, as well as school and city officials, to find and landscape a suitable site. He relied heavily on the design of Wimberley resident James Buchanan "Buck" Winn Jr., a noted regionalist artist. The advisory committee selected a site between Evans Auditorium and the Fine Arts Building (now Taylor-Murphy).

In his rustic landscaping, Winn utilized massive ashlar-cut gray granite stones acquired from the ruins of the old Texas Military Institute campus in Llano, Texas, symbolizing a solid historical foundation of education. He accented with native grasses, yuccas, junipers, and boulders that added to the innate "wildness" of the piece. Although the pieces of the monument arrived in San Marcos in October 1951, ongoing fundraising and base construction

work caused the school to delay the formal dedication until the following year. In his dedicatory address on Oct. 18, 1952, President Flowers noted the new monument served as a reminder that "the discovery of the beautiful may be as rewarding and enriching as our search for goodness and wisdom." Although continued growth and redesign resulted in the sculpture's relocation and dismantling of the original base in the early 1980s, it remains, as Buck Winn observed, a work of art to be "cherished forever, a thing of beauty." 🍷

Margaret A. Vavarek is a librarian in the research and outreach department of the Alkek Library. Dan K. Utley is an adjunct professor in the Department of History and the chief historian for the Center for Texas Public History.

A SELECTION OF PUBLIC ART ON THE TEXAS STATE CAMPUS

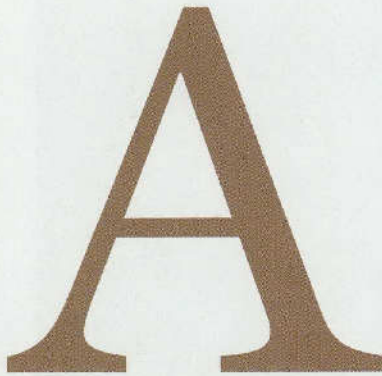


Passion shines on the dance field



Madeline
Deskin suits
up with the
Strutters
following
cancer battle

By Anastasia Cisneros-Lunsford



Although her personal journey to Texas State University was unconventional and arduous at times, Madeline Deskin followed her passion for dance straight to the Texas State Strutters.

In middle school, Deskin played softball one year, ran track, and played alto saxophone. She fell into dance her sophomore year of high school by default. While looking for a fine arts credit and knowing she could not draw, paint, or do anything artistic, she decided to sign up for dance class. “I used to dance around as a little girl and do cartwheels,” Deskin recalls. “I was very excited to try it, and I liked it. I tried out for the Bastrop Honeybears, the drill team, and was on it for two years. I have never been able to stop moving.” But she did stop — for nearly two years.

During her first semester at Kilgore College, then 18-year-old Deskin began to feel ill. She noticed her lymph nodes were swollen. With five rounds of antibiotics, the swelling did not subside.

In April 2016, Deskin was diagnosed with stage 3 Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a blood cancer. She experienced many delays before treatment could begin, causing it to progress to stage 4. “I grew up a lot during this experience,” Deskin says. “I went to 50-plus doctor visits just to figure out what was wrong with me. I had to do things for myself. I had to be my own advocate.”

Her father, William Deskin, was living in New Jersey at the time, and her mother, Keri Garrison, was in Bastrop, five hours away.

As her health declined, she had to quit school and focus on healing. She started six months of chemotherapy on Aug. 1, 2016. Deskin remembers the doctors stressing the urgency to begin treatments immediately, otherwise she might not make it to Christmas.

By this time, William Deskin had relocated to Houston — arriving ahead of schedule to help care for his daughter.

“My father was definitely my rock through it all,” Deskin says. Midway through her treatments, doctors declared her cancer-free.

Deskin suffered some side effects from chemotherapy. The port that was placed in her upper chest damaged some nerves. She also experienced lung damage from one of the drugs. “I would sleep 18 hours a day during treatment, and it still didn’t feel like enough.”

She says the healing period after chemo was challenging. “I just beat cancer, and I was just sitting there, waiting for something to happen.”

Deskin says she looked to the Strutters for her next transition, not only to challenge and distract herself but to get to San Marcos as soon as possible. “I spent so much time alone reflecting during chemo,” she says. “I was desperate to make connections and friends. Even though I knew that (becoming a Strutter) meant working especially hard, it was well worth it.”

Although she did not have any formal dance lessons, Deskin practiced by watching YouTube videos. In 2017, she successfully auditioned for the Strutters.

At Texas State, she has felt some fatigue because of the damage to her lungs. During her first week, she found herself having to take breaks while walking through campus to class and tackling the hills.

Now a sophomore fashion merchandising major, Deskin is grateful to Tammy Fife, Texas State Strutters director, for giving her an opportunity to be a Strutter. “I owe a giant thank you to Mrs. Fife for giving me the opportunity to be here,” Deskin says. “She has been so kind and understanding toward me. I’m very honored to be a part of the Texas



State Strutters, and even more, to have a heart-of-gold director.”

Fife is impressed with Deskin’s determination to succeed. “Madeline is extremely hard working and talented,” she says. “I have been inspired by her story and her ‘don’t-feel-sorry-for-me-attitude.’ She told me that her experience has made her a better person. She is a beautiful Strutter and role model, not only for Strutters and cancer survivors, but for everyone.”

Deskin missed only two performances with the Strutters in fall 2017, but feels blessed to be on the field and to be given a second chance. “Being around a lot of girls who just love to dance, who just want to show everybody what they can do is beautiful because not a lot of people get to feel that way,” she says. ✨



By the numbers

Bobcat Build, April 7, 2018

Bobcat Build was started 16 years ago as a way to say “thank you” to the community. Now a Texas State tradition, it serves as the largest service project on campus and the second largest one-day community service project in the state of Texas.

16

years Bobcat Build has been operating for Texas State community

295

organizations signed up

330+

projects in 2018

3,200

students participating

Source: Office of Student Involvement

Kat Kalbitz goes to India to fit hundreds of children with hearing aids

Texas State junior **Kathryn “Kat” Kalbitz** has always had a passion for service. So it should come as no surprise that she would jump at the opportunity to travel to India to fit hearing aids for children.

As a mass communication major and philanthropy chair for her sorority, Delta Zeta, Kalbitz communicated regularly with the Starkey Hearing Foundation and Delta Zeta Nationals to ensure her chapter was raising enough money and donating the funds to the proper affiliates. In September 2017, Kalbitz reached out to the foundation to learn more about volunteer opportunities. She was astonished to learn that members of Delta Zeta’s National Board were traveling with the organization in the fall for a week-long volunteer project to New Delhi and

Tuticorin, India.

“I started crying when I found out because I was so distraught at the idea of raising thousands of dollars in such a short time,” says Kalbitz. To her surprise — and delight — she learned the national sorority and the foundation would cover all the trip’s expenses.

While in India, Kalbitz spent two days working out of a school auditorium in New Delhi and three days in a wedding chapel in Tuticorin. With no prior experience of fitting hearing aids, Kalbitz received a crash course with an experienced volunteer before assisting the children on site. By her third day, Kalbitz was fitting hearing aids on her own for hundreds of children.

— Sarah Juenke

Viva Fiesta!

Texas State University Alumni Association jumped into San Antonio’s 2018 Fiesta with the introduction of their first-ever Fiesta medal. This year marks the 126th anniversary of the 11-day citywide party.

The limited-edition medal celebrates iconic images of Texas State, featuring Old Main, the San Marcos River, and the school flower — the Texas wildflower gaillardia, which is sometimes referred to as an “Indian blanket” or “Mexican blanket.”

Alumni held a medal release party March 23 in San Antonio, and two events during April — Careers in the City, April 3 at Pearl Studio; and the Alumni Golf Tournament, April 16 at the Club at Sonterra.



REUNION



Texas State Athletics hosted a reunion on Feb. 24 in San Marcos to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the 2007-2008 Bobcat Women's Basketball Southland Conference Championship. Court photo (from left): Coach Suzanne Fox, Assistant Coach Holly Sartor Long and family, Mallory Williams, Marie Moser, Kim Cessna Hurtado and family, Brittany Wilson Hollman and family. Also present at the event, but not in the picture, Joyce Ekworomadu.

Dever: 'The only place to go was up'

Tyson Dever, author of *Trauma Is a Team Sport: How to Turn Tragedy Into Goal-Crushing Motivation* (Amazon, 2018), spoke to students on March 29 at the Alkek Teaching Theatre as part of UDrive and Healthy Cats.

Dever, who graduated from Texas State in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in exercise and sports science, shared his story about the accident that left him paralyzed in 2005.

With the help of the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services and the Office of Disability Services, Dever was able to return to driving and successfully transition back into campus life.

Today he lives in Austin where he hunts, fishes, and shares his message as a motivational speaker. He travels to Texas public schools in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation. "I can't change what happened to me, my back was against the wall, the only place to go was up; and from that point on I have tried to just make the best of my situation," Dever says.

— Eliseo Ceja

Online

tysondever.com



Summit examines U.S.-Mexico relations, election

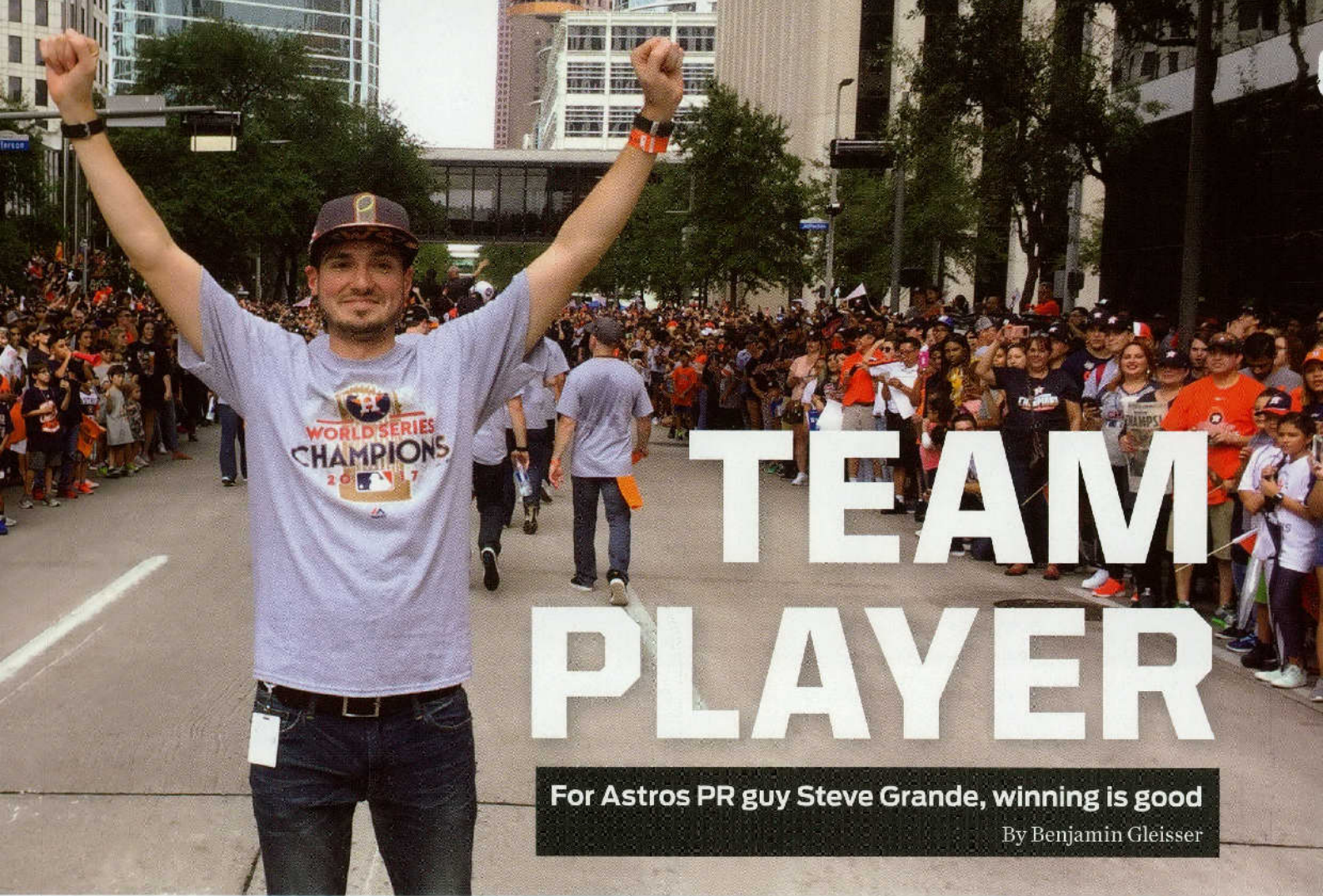
Texas State University hosted a U.S.-Mexico Summit on April 5 focusing on Mexico's 2018 elections including panel discussions on the potential impact on the future of our neighboring nations.

It was an opportunity to learn more about the political atmosphere in Mexico and featured scholars, Mexican officials and journalists. Topics discussed at the Wittliff Gallery included the war on drugs, human rights violations, and Mexico's historic reforms.

"Here at Texas State University we hold our relationships with Mexico in high esteem and have great respect for our partners there and for the Mexican people," said Texas State University President Denise M. Trauth.

A panel consisting of Dr. Guillermo Trejo, Fellow, Kellogg Institute for International Studies and Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Notre Dame University; Dr. Reynaldo Ortega, professor, Center for International Studies, Colegio de Mexico; and Dr. César Martínez addressed "The Election: Political Parties and Independent Candidates."

The second panel — "The Issues Facing Mexican Voters and Their Impact on U.S.-Mexico Relations" — touched on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and U.S. perceptions of Mexico. Speakers included Dr. Gustavo Vega Cánovas, Secretary General, Colegio de Mexico; and Raúl Rodríguez Barocio, associate vice president for International Affairs, Tecnológico de Monterrey.



TEAM PLAYER

For Astros PR guy Steve Grande, winning is good

By Benjamin Gleisser

It was Nov. 2, 2017. The geysers of champagne had been sprayed around the visiting team locker room at Dodger Stadium, and most of the celebrating Houston Astros players had left for the hotel. Steve Grande (B.S. '06), senior manager of communications for the team, held the Commissioner's Trophy and fully realized, "My team just won the World Series!"

"Oh, man, I was so nervous during Game 7," Grande says, relaxing in his Houston office at Minute Maid Park. "In the fourth inning we were ahead of the Los Angeles Dodgers, but it was still hard to watch." Houston won 5-1 to clinch its first World Series Championship.

"Then in the clubhouse, champagne was going everywhere, but I was concentrating on my job, lining players up for local and national TV interviews," he adds. "Later, when three or four players were in the locker room, one guy handed me the trophy and at that moment, it hit me. There's a picture of me smiling so big. I had a minute with the World Series trophy all to myself. It wasn't like I did anything to earn it, but it still was important to me."

While he isn't on the field chasing fly balls to center or throwing strikes to opposing batters, Grande's behind-the-scenes efforts are dedicated to the Astros' popular standing in baseball. He is a part



of a four-person team in communications. In addition to his media relations duties, he also helps arrange player visits in the community and is the media coordinator for Shriners Hospital for Children charity events. The Astros Foundation partners with Shriners Hospital for events such as the College Classic held in March at Minute Maid Park.

Grande graduated from Texas State with a major in public relations and mass communication and a minor in business administration. He split the 2007 baseball season as an intern between two teams before landing a fulltime job in 2008 as public relations manager with the Astros.

When he joined the team, they were suffering through some dismal years, including three 100+ loss seasons from 2011-13. It is during those difficult times, Grande notes, when a public relations official really has to step up his game.

"Boy, it was tough," Grande says. "When people got down on us, I'd just tell them we're going young, making major investments in developing minor league players, and better times are ahead. I pushed that so hard. I remember a friend of mine once said to me, 'How can you defend this product going on the field?' I'd read comments on Twitter and in social media that really hurt my heart."

Grande sighs, then smiles. "Now, I finally feel vindicated."

Though it was a challenge to convince fans to keep the faith, Grande credits his public relations classes at Texas State with helping him formulate positive strategies. In fact, the university was where he found his first job break. "I had no clue what I wanted to do, and no idea sports PR existed in college," he says. "I was walking through the Quad one day and saw a job posting for a media relations internship with San Antonio Spurs. I thought, 'Oh my God, that's a dream job! I want that internship!'"

His professors helped him polish his résumé and though Grande didn't get the job, he persisted. Prior to interning in baseball, he landed internships with two PR companies.

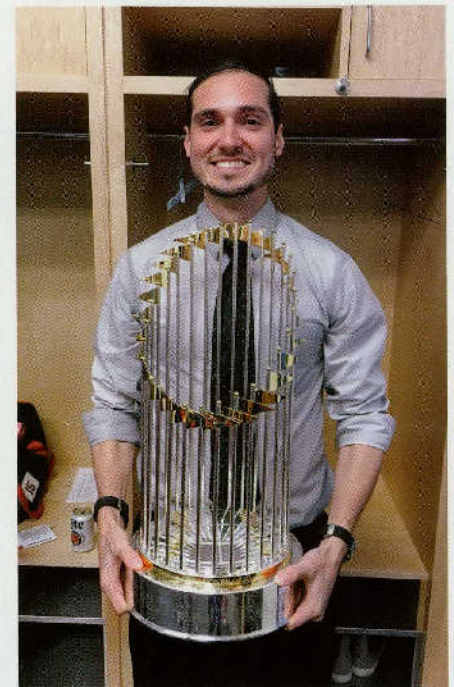
The World Series victory is especially sweet to Grande, who grew up in Houston. However, the Astros weren't always his favorite team. "My dad was a big Minnesota Twins fan, and I remember watching the

Twins on TV with him," he says. "I was 5 years old at the time. My grandparents sent a box of Twins caps and Twins towels, and I fell in love with baseball."

He switched allegiances when he began playing second base and outfield in Little League. His hero was Craig Biggio, the Astros' second baseman and future Hall of Famer. Every summer Grande went with his dad to games at the Astrodome. The team left the park in 1999. "I was at the last game played at the Dome, and I remember walking out of there thinking, 'What's next?'"

Grande and his wife, Ginny, are parents to James — born in April. One thing he is looking forward to is sharing his love of baseball with his son, like the signed baseball from former Astros pitcher and Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan. "I'm not one for keepsakes," Grande says. "But when my son gets older, I'd like to give him that and hear him say, 'Wow! You have Nolan Ryan's autograph!'"

Grande credits his public relations classes at Texas State with helping him formulate positive PR strategies. In fact, the university was where he found his first job break.





Ahead of the pack

Ali Ijaz founded a successful business and competed in an international competition for entrepreneurs — and that was before he earned an M.B.A.

By Arthur Cavazos

Even before he hit his 30th birthday this summer, Ali Ijaz could securely be branded a success. He works in a global marketing role for 3M, he received a major company award, and recently tied the knot with his Bobcat fiancée.

An overview of his years at Texas State University would cast him as a bit of an overachiever. While earning an undergraduate degree in finance and marketing, Ijaz started Row, a digital marketing company. The company employs current students and Texas State graduates.

Ijaz, who earned his M.B.A. in 2014, cultivated Row to the point where it was acquired by a larger company in October 2017. He took on a leadership role in Enactus, an international business organization based on the concept of entrepreneurial action. During his term as president, the team won the 2014 national championship over 500 other universities. The Texas State team went on to represent the United States at the Enactus World Cup in Beijing, China.

His business acumen and accomplishments may seem like the norm in today's fast-paced, technology-powered work environment — but it takes a special person to see tomorrow's challenges while still immersed in weekly college activities. Texas State definitely put Ijaz on a life path to continued success.

What Ijaz says he really liked about the university is what many before him have said. "You get to work at what you are learning," he explains, fondly recalling his mentorship experiences. His biggest influence was Vicki West, the Sam Walton Fellow in Free Enterprise. "She was a true mentor in the best academic tradition of higher education," Ijaz says. "When I enrolled in the business school I knew right away that there was a lot of energy driving the school to excellence."

Growing up in Plano, school was a journey he enjoyed, perhaps because he was so good at it. Ijaz says he was not that different from other high school graduates, and the fact that "some of my friends were going to Texas State" played into his decision-making process.

He credits the hands-on learning approach of some professors and a hefty



Ijaz's biggest influence was Vicki West, the Sam Walton Fellow in Free Enterprise. "She was a true mentor in the best academic tradition of higher education. ... When I enrolled in the business school I knew right away that there was a lot of energy driving the school to excellence."

dose of real-world career field experience, with making him a more engaged student.

Perhaps the best example of his vision at work is Job Help, which he started in 2011. The Enactus project focused on helping the unemployed and the underemployed of Central Texas. Over the course of several years, it has included partners such as the City of Austin, the Mayor's Office, Caritas of Austin, Workforce Centers, Goodwill Industries, and the office of U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith. Over the course of the project, a combined 2,000 people were enrolled and re-trained at Workforce Centers and other facilities. One part of the project worked to get homeless veterans off the street, into housing, and assist them in becoming self-reliant by helping to find employment.

"Many of the individuals that went through Job Help found a job. The project is still going on. Between the time I started the project and graduated, over

1,200 individuals had found employment through the help of this project. We also had relationships with key employers to bridge the gap between employers and the unemployed," Ijaz says.

At 3M, Ijaz was recently named global product marketing manager and is responsible for the P&L results of the Global Electrical OEM Tapes business. He is also responsible for developing and executing strategies and operational plans for the business. He earned a global marketing award for demonstrating excellence in planning and executing exceptional marketing programs.

Ijaz capped off 2017 when he wed Kayla Krantman-Mynier. She will be graduating in August with her M.B.A. from Texas State. The couple now reside in Austin with their goldendoodle Harry, and two cats, Franklin and Eleanor.





KICK IT INTO HIGH GEAR

Kat Conner ready for challenges in 2018

by Benjamin Gleisser

The Texas State Women's Soccer team ended the 2017 season at the top of its game, with an impressive 10-6-1 record, and a trip to the Sun Belt Conference (SBC) quarterfinals. Under the leadership of Head Coach Kat Conner, who this fall will enter her 20th season as founder, the team is poised for greater heights in the 2018 season.

**"I HOPE WHAT THEY DO ON
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TO THEIR DREAMS."**

— KAT CONNER

Preseason training is just weeks away but is merely an extension of the requisite Bobcat soccer mentality. "In our minds," explains Conner, "physical and mental preparation is ongoing. The success of the 2018 fall season depends upon the foundation we build in the offseason. The players have trained all spring, and the expectation is that they will return for preseason in August fit and ready to train even harder."

Although the team's focus has shifted to this fall's 2018 competition season, Conner does pause to acknowledge and celebrate the team's accomplishments, as well as the momentous awards earned by several individual players in 2017.

Seniors Chandler Cooney, Kassi Hormuth, and Rachel Grout were named to the United Soccer Coaches All-Region South Team. Grout also was selected to the College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-America Division I women's soccer third team. Hormuth earned the title of SBC Offensive Player of the Year, and was selected for the SBC First Team along with Cooney, Grout, Heather Martin, and Kaylee Davis. Davis was chosen SBC Newcomer of the Year.

Conner herself was named 2017 SBC Coach of the Year, the third time in her 19 years at Texas State. She also was named Southland Coach of the Year in 2008 and 2009.

Reflecting on her accolade, Conner explains, "Peer recognition is, of course, an honor. However, any good coach knows that success is linked directly to the efforts and dedication of staff and players. No question,

my coaches and players work hard, uphold standards of excellence, and are very good at what they do."

Though the team is losing a number of talented graduating seniors, the coach remains confident that the returning athletes will have a strong impact. "We've got a solid nucleus of players waiting in the wings, highly competitive," she says. "They're all determined to go to the next level, and they believe in our style of play: 'Work hard, be scrappy, and get after 'em.'"

Without question, Conner does her part to inspire her field warriors. After each match, as the team unwinds in the locker room, she rewards the match's top performers with giant dollar bills from the Dollar Store.

"I announce, 'Here's your big money,'" Conner says with a laugh. "We put the dollar bills on their lockers. There is a sense of pride, and some competitiveness, too. If you want that big money, you have to earn it. The true competitors do earn it."

A soccer standout at Pacific Lutheran University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in 1992, Conner says she coaches the same way she played. "I considered myself one of the hardest workers, and my goal was to get out there, be aggressive, and make things happen. I try to get my team to see themselves that same way. I want them to be standout competitors, driven, accountable for their performance.

"These are not only soccer skills but life skills. I hope what they do on the field will translate into their lives and teach them to be leaders. Many of my players have big dreams. They're studying to be therapists,



engineers, doctors, and I want them to be committed and dedicated to their dreams.”

Meeting challenges is nothing new to Conner, who is facing her toughest test yet. Diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2015, she has built a great support team and, thankfully, she’s winning the fight. Currently in remission, Conner takes a low-grade chemotherapy medication orally.

“My players have been so supportive,” she says. “They are a constant reminder that giving up is never an option. They’ve been awesome and so inspirational for me.”

Carrying this sense of inspiration and hope even further, Conner founded Goals2Cure, an organization promoting ovarian cancer awareness and raising money to assist women fighting the disease. The soccer team collected pledges for each goal scored last season, with donations benefiting the Texas Oncology Foundation to help ovarian cancer patients with treatment bills. The final donation amount exceeded \$4,500.

Conner got the idea for Goals2Cure after seeing the diversity of ovarian cancer patients receiving treatment at Texas Oncology. “I realized some women out there couldn’t afford to get treatments, and I wanted to find a way to help them,” she says. Conner credits her players and assistant coaches with supporting the success of Goals2Cure. “They went all in with me. They believed in me, and they have made a difference in the lives of other women battling this cancer.”

Assistant coach Lauren Frazier says working with Conner has been inspiring. “I’ve grown a lot since working with her,” says Frazier, who played for Conner in 2010-11, joining the coaching staff in 2012. “Her mission is to teach people to live by a set of values.”

Senior forward and 2017 team captain Hormuth says Conner has taught the team “to be helpful in any way we possibly could. ‘Make a teammate look good’ is our motto; and off the field, if you see somebody struggling, take initiative and help them. Coach has taught us that if you can do anything to make somebody’s life a little easier, do it.”

WARNING SIGNS OF OVARIAN CANCER

Ovarian cancer is particularly aggressive and symptoms are very difficult to detect. As a result, cancer often is in its advanced stages before symptoms manifest. Further complicating detection, ovarian cancer symptoms also present themselves in a way that suggests different conditions, such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome. Not only that, there currently are no known methods for early detection of ovarian cancer, including Pap smears. Unfortunately, when ovarian cancer is finally diagnosed, it often has already spread to other parts of the body, making treatment a challenge.

Not that any of this matters to Coach Conner. “This is not a battle I fight alone. I have an exceptional team of doctors, and the love and support of my family, friends, and players. They never let me forget it.” Conner stresses, “Advocate for your healthcare. Get regular checkups, don’t take no for an answer when you know something’s wrong. Be proactive and aggressive. It’s your body, and you have to take care of it.”

If any of the following symptoms present themselves, consult your physician:

- Abdominal swelling and bloating
- A lump that can be felt in the pelvis or abdomen
- Bleeding from the vagina that isn’t normal
- Loss of appetite or feeling full quickly when eating
- Persistent indigestion
- Constipation and other changes in bowel movements
- Urgent or frequent urination
- Lower back pain that radiates to the pelvic area
- Extreme fatigue



ADVOCATE FOR YOUR HEALTHCARE. GET REGULAR CHECKUPS, DON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER WHEN YOU KNOW SOMETHING'S WRONG. BE PROACTIVE AND AGGRESSIVE. IT'S YOUR BODY, AND YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF IT."

Home on the Stage

Ben Adams brings pizzazz to Orlando church productions

By Brian Hudgins

A short-term plan gave Ben Adams (B.F.A. '88) a place to flourish in Florida and the opportunity to use his full toolbox of skills acquired as a Texas State student in theatre and dance. Little did he know it would turn out to be a career path for the long haul.

Today, Adams is the director of visual arts and set design for St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Orlando.

"We graduated and moved to Orlando to work at Universal and Disney as kind of the first step of our career journey," Adams says. He was joined on this journey by his wife, Stephanie Zerbel Adams (B.S. '88), who earned her degree in music education.

But before choosing Florida, the pair took off on a 10-month theatre company tour. It proved to be valuable, featuring a production team of four actors. "It was a great practical application of recent theatrical education," Adams says. "We were able to see the United States and grow as performers and people."

The tour solidified the couple's relationship and career direction. "We thought that we would move on to Los Angeles or New York afterward to work a couple of years, but we have found Orlando to be home," Adams says. He got a part-time job at a CBS-TV affiliate, and she started at Universal Studios Florida. Both also worked at Disney World, but the majority of their job opportunities came through Universal.

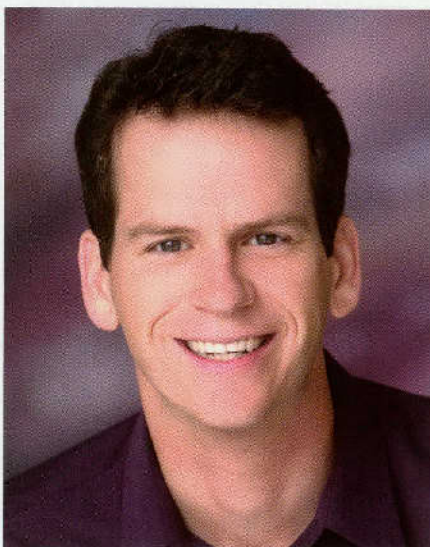
As a performer at Universal for 15 years, Adams played Elwood Blues in "The Blues Brothers Show." Later, as director for Universal's "Halloween Horror Nights," he made the transition from performer to director.

In 1995, the Adamses began attending St. Luke's and served as volunteers for its productions. By 2007, Ben Adams was named the church's director of visual arts and set design. St. Luke's staged "Driving Miss Daisy" at the start of 2018 and "Peter and the Star Catcher" in the spring. Other shows at St. Luke's have included "Hairspray," "Big River," and "Beauty and the Beast."

The off-stage supervisory role Adams



Ben Adams (left) portrays Elwood Blues at Universal Studios.



developed during the last decade has given him a chance to use the full complement of skills he learned at Texas State. Being able to pull from lessons in a mid-1980s stagecraft class is one, while two semesters of sewing gave Adams necessary costume skills. There are also the verbal cues from former professors. "There are many times I think, 'What would Dr. Hannon do?'" he says of Dr. Dan Hannon, the distinguished professor emeritus of theatre who died in 2015. From a performance standpoint,

Adams says he has often drawn upon the originality and creativity he saw in Dr. Charles Pascoe. The former director of children's theatre for Texas State, Pascoe died in 2010.

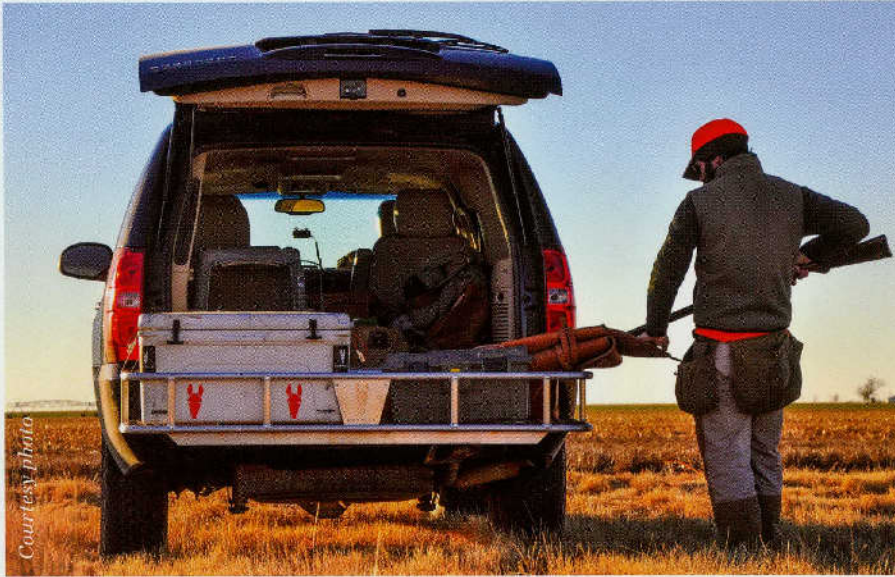
Adams says meeting Stephanie at the university and having the opportunity to perform with her in professional and community theatre stands out as a career highlight. The couple has a son, Asher, who is a professional photographer and is also active in music and local theatre. "We raised our son in the theatre," Adams says. "He did his homework while sitting in the aisles."

St. Luke's also has a 21-year history as one of the founding and leading community partners behind Shepherd's Hope, a faith-based nonprofit that helps provide healthcare access for uninsured and underinsured residents in Central Florida. Producing videos for Shepherd's Hope is a way for Adams to share his skills. "It's a way for performers and actors to be philanthropic and give to a great cause," he says.

The most rewarding part of the process, Adams says, is to work on a show and see volunteers meet for the first time. Painting or building a set piece allows people to start new friendships that often continue after a show is closed. "When I leave for the day, that's what brings me the most joy," he says.

Kansas Sartin

A love of adventure leads Bobcat to create outdoor gear carrier



Kansas Sartin invented and markets the PAKMULE, a gear carrier for vehicles.

By Bryan Kirk

There's just something about the lure of nature and the outdoors that inspires longing in the soul of some individuals, and it seems that Kansas Sartin (B.S. '03) has felt the tug of the wide open spaces for much of his life.

For Sartin, who was raised by a single mom, it was a lifestyle that wasn't introduced until he was a teenager. "I always wanted to be outdoorsy," Sartin says. "I just never had access to it until high school and college. A good friend's father sort of became my mentor. He was a big sportsman, and I just cloned everything he did."

That relationship got Sartin interested in the outdoors, livestock, and hunting. He learned as much as he could from his mentor, Charlie, before venturing out on his own. Later, his experiences at Texas State would fuel his passion for the outdoors. Sartin says he was enamored with the surrounding rural landscape at San Marcos. He worked on a ranch nearby and was able to readily explore the more rural and agricultural landscape, which he says "wouldn't have been possible at other Texas colleges."

Sartin says he was like a lot of students when he first arrived at Texas State. He started out as a general studies major and experienced a variety of coursework as he



contemplated his focus. After graduating with a degree in geography and a minor in biology, he followed a different path when he was recruited to work in the building industry. Today, he serves as executive vice president of architectural solutions for McCoy-Rockford, a Texas-based company that provides products and services for commercial interior spaces.

In 2016 he established PAKMULE, a business that he owns and operates with his wife, Frankie. Sartin developed

PAKMULE, which is an aluminum frame that attaches to trailer hitches and can be used to carry large coolers, hunting gear or wild game, while still allowing the outdoor enthusiast to have access to the back gate of their SUV or pickup truck.

It was a welding class at Texas State that would lead to a job building equipment for agriculture out of steel and other metals. That experience would eventually help Sartin in his construction career and the business venture.

At one point he had decided on wildlife biology as a major with the idea of becoming a park ranger, or work in wildlife conservation after graduation. "I was thinking I'd be at Texas Parks & Wildlife Department or Ducks Unlimited," he recalls. While these careers didn't turn out to be in Sartin's future, his interest in the outdoors did land him positions on the board of the Coastal Conservation Association. In his spare time, he is also a calf scramble committeeman for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. For those who don't know rodeo, the calf scramble involves youngsters in 4-H or similar agricultural organizations who try to win a calf by catching it and placing it in a designated area.

"You often hear that about 75 percent of the people aren't employed in the area of their studies, and although that is true right now for me, the classes I took and my studies [at Texas State] were all fueled by my passion," he says. "It's something I am still pursuing, whether it's a side passion or a full-time job, I will always be able to use the skills and knowledge I gleaned from those classes."

On the PAKMULE webpage, Sartin lists his title as head adventurer. "It just wasn't appropriate to put owner or president. I'm not puffed up like that," he says. "This [business] is about adventure and encouraging people to work hard, get out of town — and have fun in the outdoors."

So far, people love the product, Sartin says. "People are thanking me for creating this product, which is crazy because I am thanking them for buying it and supporting us," he says.



Photo courtesy: Nathanael Gold

MAN IN THE WILDERNESS

Nathanael Gold oversees Big Bend Ranch State Park and he likes everything about it.

By TJ Garcia

“Involved in a search and rescue and unavailable. Will catch up when things are resolved.”

That is Nathanael “Nate” Gold’s automatic reply email.

That is his normal.

This is what happens when you’re a superintendent of the Big Bend Ranch State Park — 400 square miles of isolated, mountainous Chihuahuan Desert in Far West Texas. It’s a brutal, but beautiful land so far away from everything that the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) calls it the other side of nowhere.

Gold, who graduated from Texas State in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in history, oversees the entire park complex, including its 30 employees and facilities. His day can be as varied as it is long. “I can begin a day by giving a tour to a school group, switch to a budget task at my desk for a few hours, attend a meeting out in the community, and then get called out to rescue a person lost in the backcountry,” says the 31-year-old.

“No two days are the same. I love the rugged nature of the Big Bend Ranch State Park complex. I also really enjoy helping people experience this magical place and putting my law enforcement and EMT skills to good use when folks need help.”

There’s no way around saying that Gold, a former Marine, has a big job.

Big Bend Ranch State Park is Texas’ largest state park and is nestled along the Rio Grande in the Big Bend region in West Texas. The park lies west of Big Bend National Park near Presidio. To further get your Texas bearings, it’s about four hours east of El Paso and about 90 minutes south of Marfa. Basically, it’s off the grid. The park’s newsletter is called *El Solitario* (The Lonely Man).

It’s prickly-desert terrain has about 240 miles of multi-use trails, dozens of natural springs, creeks, canyons, the Rio Grande, wildlife, campgrounds, ranger stations, and even a bunk house. Big Bend Ranch is designated an International Dark Sky Park, and it hosts extreme running and biking events. It’s not for the faint of heart, but that’s exactly why people visit and love the expanse so much, including Gold.

“I really like the rugged roughness of this place,” he says. “The vistas are amazing. I can go out to certain places in the park and have a view that is just incredible. I feel that when I am enjoying a view I am the first person in the world to ever see it, which I know isn’t true. But I feel like I am back in time seeing things the same

“No two days are the same. I love the rugged nature of the Big Bend Ranch State Park complex. I also really enjoy helping people experience this magical place and putting my law enforcement and EMT skills to good use when folks need help.”

— Nathanael Gold

way folks hundreds of years ago saw it.”

Before landing at Big Bend Ranch two years ago, Gold had done a myriad of things that led him to the Texas outback. The 5-foot-9, 180-pound Garland native served as a U.S. Marine sergeant while attending Texas State — doing weekend duty and going active duty in the summers. He was also a member of the university’s Student Government Senate.

Following graduation, he became the lead ranger and park police officer at Dinosaur Valley State Park near Glen Rose, where he stayed four years before pursuing a career with the National Park Service. Next, the TPWD came calling with a job as superintendent of the Wyler Aerial Tramway in the Franklin Mountains State Park in El Paso.

Two years later, he was promoted to the head job at Big Bend Ranch. By all accounts, Gold and his wife, Robyn — whom he met while both worked at Dinosaur Valley State Park — absolutely adore the place. Robyn left her TPWD job in 2012 and today works as a river guide and author. The couple live on site at Big Bend Ranch in a 2,000 square-foot, one-bedroom house that was once an art studio. It did not have a functional kitchen or closets when they moved in and its power source is from solar panels.

“We came here from El Paso, so going from a big city that has every convenience to an area that has no conveniences was a huge adjustment,” says Gold, who added he couldn’t do his job without the support of Robyn. “But we love it. It is quiet, and the views are amazing. We have the Rio Grande passing near our house and hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails right out our front door. You can’t beat that!”

Clearly, Gold likes his surroundings. He likes his new normal. He says he’d like to spend at least five years at Big Bend Ranch, but even if he did 20, “It wouldn’t be enough.”

It's all about the brand

Casey Shilling cooks up new marketing ideas for restaurant chain

By Julie Cooper

Casey Shilling's first taste of the food service industry was selling kolaches at the Little Czech Bakery in her hometown of West, Texas. Her initial forays into music were playing clarinet in school and with the West High Polka Dots.

She didn't expect either to lead to a career.

Shilling (B.A. '92) says her dream job was to be a television news reporter and anchor when she pursued a degree in mass communication and journalism at Texas State. Reporting, working at the university's radio station KTSW, interning at several local radio and television stations, and writing — is what she did for four years as a Bobcat.

While working at KTSW, first as program director and then general manager in her senior year, it was Shilling's team that coined the station's current motto: "The Other Side of Radio." KTSW went from AM to FM at about the same time.

The former clarinet player says she really got into the alternative music that KTSW is still known for. "It was all about the music," she says. Her favorites include jazz, country music standards, pop, and the occasional hip hop. Recently, she saw Sting in concert and recalls that it was his poster that once decorated her on-campus room. The mother of four teenagers in a "blended family," Shilling says she loves to stay up on what is going on in music.

Shilling's first television gig out of college was with KTEN, where she covered the news for viewers in Texas and Oklahoma. "It was exactly what I studied to do and what I wanted to do," she notes.

The KTEN job taught her to be resourceful and flexible. "A lot of the time it was me, out in the field covering a double homicide, a prison break, or a tornado.

To me it was an adventure and exciting and what I wanted my career to be," says Shilling. She worked for a few years as a reporter in Ada, Oklahoma, before being promoted to weekend anchor in Sherman, Texas. "You shoot, you report, you edit. I learned to be quick on my feet."



News reporting was an extension of Shilling's education. "I remember covering a shooting at Walmart. My footage got fed to 'Dateline.' It was tragic, but I had a duty to report what was real. It laid a foundation for my career: to ask the right questions and be compassionate," she recalls.

"It laid a foundation for my career: to ask the right questions and be compassionate," she recalls.

A few years into TV reporting, Shilling's career took a different path. Today, she is the chief marketing officer for Zoë's Kitchen, a casual Mediterranean restaurant chain based in Plano, with 250 locations nationwide.

A move to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex brought Shilling into marketing. Brand campaigns included Pepsi and Mrs. Baird's Bakery. "As a Texas girl doing work on a brand so beloved, that makes me feel like I was doing something special," she says.

Her writing skills that were honed

at the university came into play whether she was pitching a new client or telling a story in a press release. "Being able to take the feedback was a big part of the lessons I learned," she notes. She credits the constructive criticism of her creative writing professors with driving those lessons home. "It has helped me along the way, and also helps to be able to mentor others."

The Container Store, formerly a client, wanted an in-house public relations department and Shilling became vice president of marketing and public relations. "I came in to start a PR department and then did everything from overseeing training and recruiting, to social media and programs around the corporate culture," Shilling says. "I was part of the team that did the first application when we landed No. 1 on Fortune's best companies to work for."

Some 20 years later Shilling made the move from containers to food when, in 2016, she started her current job at Zoë's Kitchen. "I enjoy the brands that make you smile—people are fans of these places." She calls it the "squeal factor," or when a customer exclaims: "I LOVE Zoë's Kitchen!"

When she joined the company it had an established brand but needed more external marketing. "In the last year and a half we have been investing in digital marketing channels and trying to add value to people's lives," she says. About 100 employees work at Zoë's corporate offices, with Shilling overseeing a team of 11. There is now a new blog, mobile app, loyalty program, and company web site, all promoting eating healthy and living life to the fullest. "That is what is interesting in being a marketer — finding ways to make your brand transcend." That is something she has long known how to do.

If Shilling could give advice to students today, she says it would be to follow your passion. "Look for a company or a career that does something you really care about, has a heart and soul and core values driving the business," Shilling advises. "Do your research and do something that really moves you to get out of bed every morning."

From steel mill to executive suite

'We build America every day'

By Hannah Hepfer

Tracy Porter knows a thing or two about climbing the corporate ladder. As a teenager, he spent his summers maintaining the yard at a steel mill in Seguin where his mother worked. Next, he advanced to the melt shop, rolling mill, and fabrication department, all while putting himself through Texas State University.

He kept a busy schedule, attending school three days a week and working the other four, but his industriousness didn't go unnoticed. "They saw my work ethic," he recalls of the mill's leadership.

Porter (B.B.A. '79) now oversees that same mill — and six others — as executive vice president of CMC Operations for Commercial Metals Company (CMC), one of the country's largest steel manufacturers and metal recyclers with facilities in the United States and Europe. After graduating with a degree in accounting, he worked for a handful of other companies over the next 10 years before returning to CMC — a welcome reunion. "It just felt like home," he says of the 102-year-old company, where he's been since 1991.

Porter supervises the company's six operating vice presidents and is responsible for operational activities in the United States and Poland, including making and selling products, driving efficiency, and maintaining competitiveness. He is also involved in mergers and acquisitions.

The company culture at CMC is a primary reason he has stayed. "We try to maintain an atmosphere where everyone feels they are a part of something worthwhile and that we value their contributions.

"When you feel good about where you work, you work hard," says Porter, who is also chairman of the Steel Manufacturers Association. "You naturally want to be successful and associate with a winner."

He says the tangible and necessary qualities of steel appeal to him and that he feels a sense of patriotism knowing the efforts of CMC employees can be seen in skylines and on highways. "I like the fact that we make things. I like to say, 'We build America every day.' It's a sense of pride for myself and our employees that we can look at countless structures around the United States, including the Frost Tower in

downtown Austin, and know that our steel is in that building."

As Porter remembers his days at Texas State, he recalls his first time on campus and thinking, "It feels good here." Today he says, "It was close, affordable, and flexible in that it allowed me to both work and go to school." His son Justin (B.S. 2008), is also a Bobcat.

Emphasizing that he believes Texas State has come a long way, Porter cites the university's direction as a good one and "we want to be part of that." To that end, he and his wife, Kelly, recently created an endowed scholarship for the McCoy College of Business Administration students. "There are a lot of young people with ambition and talent that are denied opportunity because of economic reasons," he says.

CMC is also a strong supporter of the engineering technology program as it connects with their Central Texas facilities in Seguin, San Antonio, San Marcos, Austin, and Buda.

People often ask Porter for career advice and he cites treating everyone with respect as critical to his success. "I've been a people person all my life," he says. "My belief is that without people, there really isn't any business to be done," he says.

He also advises young professionals to focus on their long-term goals, but not to rush their journey. "There were times I wanted a promotion but realized later that if I'd gotten it, I would've most likely failed because I didn't have the experience or knowledge."

He encourages those who are frustrated with their progress to keep a balanced perspective as they engage in their chosen fields. "Do the job you're given with enthusiasm," he says. "Bring dignity to the work. Leadership in good companies know who is getting work done so don't get caught up in the politics."

Porter assures them that a strong work ethic and the ability to get along with people will ultimately be rewarded. "The harder I work, the luckier I get," he muses. "I think that's a little bit of life's story."



(class)notes



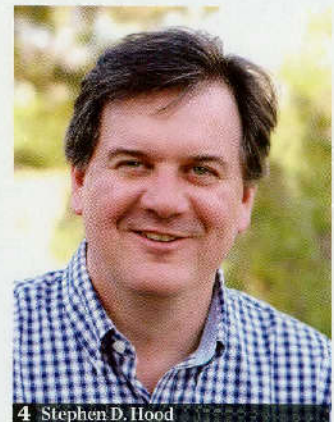
1 David Pearson



2 Kevin McCoy



3 Veronda Durden



4 Stephen D. Hood

HJ.B. Marshall '65

Pflugerville, retired after serving 42 years as first presiding judge for the city. He also served as municipal judge in Westlake for the last 28 years.

Jim Yeonopolus '68

Killeen, has been appointed to the Task Force on Academic Credit and Industry Recognition by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. Yeonopolus is the chancellor of Central Texas College.

Tom Manskey '87

Rockwall, has been named the president of the Rockwall Chamber of Commerce. He previously served as the executive director of the Palestine Economic Development Corp. and president and CEO of several chambers of commerce — including the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce from 1991-1997.

1 David Pearson '93, '02

Austin, was recently named a Regional Executive for the American Hospital Association (AHA). He is now responsible for representing the association to its member hospitals and state associations throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. For the past 11 years, he served as the president and CEO of the Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals.

2 Kevin McCoy '93

Carrollton, was promoted to assistant police chief and assumes command of the Operations Bureau of the Carrollton Police Department. McCoy is also a graduate of the Institute for Law Enforcement Administration's Command College, the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police, and the FBI National Academy.

3 Veronda Durden '95

Austin, was named president and CEO of Any Baby Can Inc., a nonprofit that provides support services to families. She was previously commissioner of the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.

4 Stephen D. Hood '95

Bartlesville, Oklahoma, is now the rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. He previously was rector of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Vestavia Hills, Alabama. He graduated from the University of the South in 2002 with a master's of divinity.

Dr. Melynda Wright '97

Dallas, has been named the first Highland Park High School 100 Centennial Celebrations Chair. She currently leads a team of 22 teachers as the chair of the mathematics department.

Clayton Gammill '97

Atlanta, has joined Alvarez & Marsal as managing director with the firm's corporate transformation services practice.

Kristin Marcum '99

Austin, was named president at Elizabeth Christian Public Relations.

Matthew Day '02

Memphis, Tennessee, has joined Fogelman Properties as senior vice president of investments. He previously worked at Steadfast Cos.

Michael Davis '04

Palestine, has been appointed the judge of the 369th Judicial District Court in Anderson, Cherokee, and Leon Counties by Gov. Greg Abbott. He is an associate at the Law Offices of Jim Parsons, president of the Anderson County Bar Association, chairman of the Palestine Zoning Board of Appeals, and a board member for the YMCA and the Palestine Meals on Wheels.

John Gormley '04

Downers Grove, Illinois, joined the Mainstreet Organization of Realtors as CEO. He was previously CEO of the St. Louis Association of Realtors.

Christie Ryan '05

Waco, was recognized by the Baylor Law School with the 2017 Advocate of the Year award for her pro bono legal services on behalf of veterans and their spouses. Ryan, who is board certified in family law, earned her Juris Doctor degree from Baylor in 2008. She works for the law firm of Dunnam & Dunnam.

5 Rita Garcia '06

Los Angeles, California, has joined KTTV as co-host of "Good Day LA." Garcia was previously morning anchor for KRIV-Fox in Houston. She was featured in spring 2016 *Hillviews*.

Megan Pope '06, '08

San Antonio, was promoted to basic speech course coordinator at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. She is a founding member of the speech program at TAMU-SA.

6 Meredith Miller '08

San Antonio, has joined the staff of Sinkin Eco Centro at San Antonio College. She was previously a program coordinator for The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State.

Send your Class Notes contributions to:
hillviews@txstate.edu



5 Rita Garcia



6 Meredith Miller



7 Diana Finlay Hendricks

Kelly Bales '09

New York City, was recently appointed digital editorial director of *Allure* magazine.

7 Diana Finlay Hendricks '11, '14

San Marcos, has written a new book, *Delbert McClinton: One of the Fortunate Few* (Texas A&M Press, 2018), about the legendary Lubbock-born blues musician. Hendricks is a regular contributor to the *Journal of Texas Music History*, Lone Star

Music, and contributed to *Pickers and Poets: The Ruthlessly Poetic Singer-Songwriters of Texas* (Texas A&M Press, 2016).

Bobby Buchanan '14

Pineville, Louisiana, is the new head softball coach at Louisiana College. He was previously pitching and hitting coach at Southern University in Baton Rouge.

Colin S. Smith '14

Hillsboro, was elected assistant vice president and loan officer at Citizens National Bank.

Craig Miracle '17

Austin, has joined the account management team for MROinsider.com serving Texas, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. A former helicopter mechanic in the U.S. Army, Miracle holds an A&P certificate and specializes in helicopter maintenance.

Shannon Luis '18

Elgin, joined Elgin ISD as assistant superintendent of Academics and School Improvement. She has been in education for 20 years, previously serving Somerset ISD and Judson ISD.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Stanley Winston Churchill (M.A. '66)

who served for 22 years as the dean of vocational and technical education at Temple College, died Dec. 31, 2017. He was born Sept. 24, 1931, to Alton and Mildred Churchill in Clinton, Oklahoma. In the 1950s, he served in the U.S. Air Force. After retiring from Temple College, Churchill worked for Workforce Solutions of Central Texas. Survivors include his wife, Jody; and two daughters, Terre Williams and Kindra Warren.

Anna Ve Stevens Farr (B.S. '65, M.A. '69)

San Marcos, died Jan. 28, 2018. Farr taught elementary school in San Antonio and Lockhart. In 1978, she founded the Hays County Child

Protective Board and advocated for foster children for 40 years. As a Texas State professor of education, she supervised student teachers before retiring in 2011. Survivors include her husband, Jerry; daughter, Joanna; and son, Steven.

John A. Finch (B.B.A. '65)

who owned Uncle John's Barbeque for 16 years, died Nov. 13, 2017. Born Aug. 30, 1931, in Gonzales, he served in the U.S. Navy as a corpsman. He worked at San Marcos Baptist Academy and spent 15 years with Stokes Construction Co. A former trustee for the San Marcos CISD, he was active in the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, and the Bobcat Club. Survivors include his son,

Lee Jay Finch; daughter, Stacy Johnson; and sister, Mary Ann Streeby.

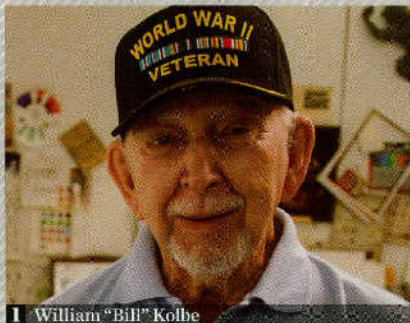
William Thomas Hamilton (B.B.A. '59)

who established the first mini-storage business in San Marcos, died Nov. 10, 2017. He was born Oct. 25, 1936, in San Marcos. After graduation from the university, he created two businesses with his brother, Bud. He was a member of the San Marcos Masonic Lodge No. 342. Survivors include his wife Paula; daughters, Kimberley Hargroder and Paige Austin; and brother, Jack Hamilton.

Continued on page 50

IN REMEMBRANCE

Continued from page 49



1 William "Bill" Kolbe

1 William "Bill" Kolbe, a retired professor emeritus and prolific watercolor artist, died Feb. 15, 2018, in San Marcos. Born March 22, 1925, in Duluth, Minnesota, Kolbe served with the U.S. Army in the South Pacific during World War II. In 1950, he graduated from Wisconsin State University with a teaching degree in history and art. He received his master's degree from the Institute of Design, Illinois Institute of Technology. In 1964, he joined Texas State to begin the watercolor program, he also established a new curriculum for art teachers. For 10 years, the university's Christmas cards featured his watercolors of the campus. He was preceded in death by his son, Ken Kolbe. Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Ella Kolbe; son, Del Kolbe; daughters, Jill Bamer and Val Graves; six grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters. Memorials may be made to the William Kolbe Scholarship in Art Education or the Ken Kolbe Texas State Men's Golf Fund Endowment at Texas State University Development Foundation, 601 University Drive, JCK-480, San Marcos, TX 78666.

Cynthia M. Krueger (B.B.A. '81), San Marcos, died Feb. 5, 2018. Survivors include her husband, Kenneth Krueger; her mother, Shirley Mollenkopf; and her daughter, Heather Krueger.

Karen Letbetter Lavender (B.S. '84), Aurora, Colorado, who taught for 26 years in the San Marcos CISD, died Jan. 17, 2018. A former San Marcos Teacher of the Year, she was born July 7, 1961, in Fort Worth and grew up in Bryan. Survivors include her husband, Charles; daughters, Courtney Bastanic and Meagan Lavender; and sons, Graham Howison, Gene Howison, and Richard Bartlett.



2 Dr. Darrell Piersol

Mae Ellen Mays (B.A.A.S. '81), Cameron, died Jan. 20, 2018. Survivors include her husband, Arthur Mays; and daughter, Karen Breneec.

2 Dr. Darrell Piersol, a distinguished professor emeritus, died Feb. 24, 2018. Born March 5, 1926, in Muscatine, Iowa, he served in the Army Air Corps in World War II, graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University, and earned his master's and doctorate degrees at Purdue University. He spent 26 years at IBM before joining the faculty of Texas State as a professor of business management until his retirement in 1997. Piersol was honored with the President's Excellence Award in 1989. Survivors include his wife, Barbara; children, John Mark Piersol, Laurel Piersol, and Heather Piersol Ahr; two grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Ashley Wayne Pirkle (B.B.A. '71), Gonzales, died Dec. 25, 2017. Survivors include his wife, Sharon; and daughters, Tracey Zientek, Sally Basche, and Megan Hackworth.

Dr. Kenneth L. Scott (B.S. '97), pancreatic cancer researcher and associate professor of molecular and human genetics at Baylor College of Medicine, died Nov. 9, 2017, in Sugar Land. Born July 26, 1974, in Dallas, he graduated magna cum laude from Texas State. He received his doctorate in molecular and human genetics from Baylor College of Medicine and did his postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, where he began his career as a cancer researcher. Survivors include his wife, Laurel; son, Nathan; daughter, Rachel; his mother, Linda Turek Scott; father and stepmother, William Russell Scott and

Agnes Scott; sister, Dr. Kimberly Louise Scott Micus; and brother, Brian Edward Scott.

Phil Seidenberger (B.B.A. '76), who began his lifelong career in the steel-making industry while a student at Texas State, died Nov. 2, 2017. He was born Aug. 9, 1950, in Seguin. He began his career at Commercial Metals Company, working his way up to supervisory positions and the role of director of mill operations before retiring in 2012. He was chairman of Guadalupe Regional Medical Foundation, Seguin Economic Development Corporation, and Central Texas Technology Center. He also served on the Seguin City Council. Survivors include his wife, Nancy Engelke Seidenberger; daughter, Dr. Bree Seidenberger Vickers; brothers, Greg Seidenberger, Sid Seidenberger, Al Mozisek, and Russell Seidenberger; and sisters, Judy Seidenberger and Monica Hicks.

Dr. Roger Spiller (B.A. '69, M.A. '71), Leavenworth, Kansas, one of our nation's foremost military historians and theorists, died Aug. 13, 2017. He was born Oct. 19, 1944, on a ranch near Bonham. He served in the U.S. Air Force prior to his studies at Texas State. In 1978 he began his 27-year association with the Army as a visiting associate professor in military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth. He was a founding member of the Combat Studies Institute, a contributing editor for *American Heritage*, a member of the board of trustees of the Society for Military History, worked closely with documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, and wrote numerous essays and books on military history. In 1998, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas State. He was also the Ewing Distinguished Visiting Professor of Military History at West Point and became the first George C. Marshall Distinguished Professor of History while on the faculty of the Staff College. Survivors include his wife, Irene Spiller; and son, Galen Spiller.



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The yellow-crowned night-heron is just one of the birds that can be spotted along the water at Texas State. More than 110 species have been recorded at Spring Lake.

Among the birds found in San Marcos are the green and great blue herons, red-shouldered hawk, kingfishers, yellow-billed cuckoo, Carolina wren, and summer tanager – to name just a few.

Photo by Chandler Prude



RUTGERS

SEPTEMBER 1 | PISCATAWAY, NJ

TEXAS SOUTHERN

SEPTEMBER 8 | BOBCAT STADIUM | HOME OPENER

SOUTH ALABAMA

SEPTEMBER 15 | MOBILE, AL

UTSA

SEPTEMBER 22 | SAN ANTONIO, TX

LOUISIANA

OCTOBER 6 | BOBCAT STADIUM | FAMILY WEEKEND

GEORGIA SOUTHERN

OCTOBER 11 | BOBCAT STADIUM

ULM

OCTOBER 20 | MONROE, LA

NEW MEXICO STATE

OCTOBER 27 | BOBCAT STADIUM | HOMECOMING

GEORGIA STATE

NOVEMBER 3 | ATLANTA, GA

APPALACHIAN STATE

NOVEMBER 10 | BOBCAT STADIUM | VETERANS & HEROES DAY

TROY

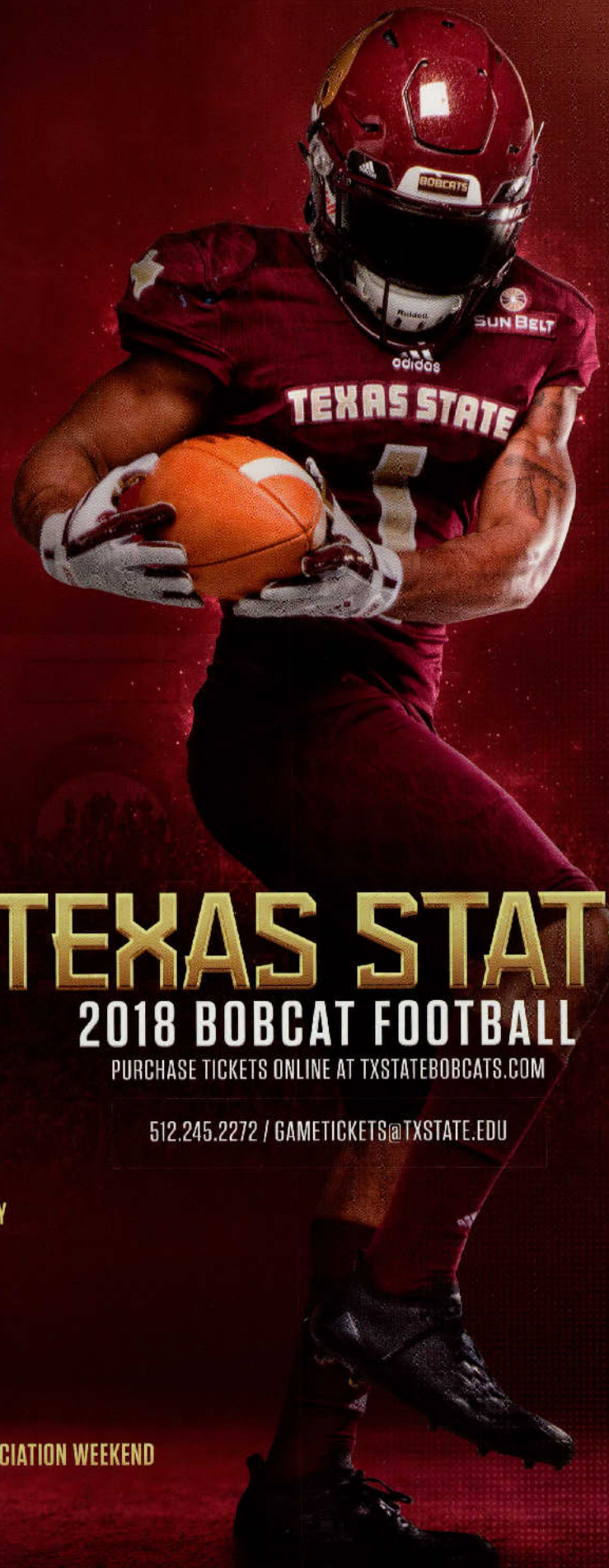
NOVEMBER 17 | TROY, AL

ARKANSAS STATE

NOVEMBER 24 | BOBCAT STADIUM | SENIOR DAY & "T" ASSOCIATION WEEKEND

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