Greetings West Texas alumni,

As you look through this issue of the West Texan and read about our alumni, I invite you to consider the many ways you too can be involved and engaged with the University. The stories in this issue highlight just a few of our many WT alumni who are working and living across the United States and around the world and serving our country with pride.

Your time, financial gifts and willingness to advocate for WT at every opportunity are vital to fulfilling our mission and vision for the future. Your support allows us to provide scholarships to future graduates, to offer alumni events in various cities and enables us to continue to grow our alumni services. Thank you for being a part of our success—for wearing your WT T-shirt, for encouraging a young student to consider WT, for giving a gift to your college and for proudly claiming WT as your own.

Please keep us informed of career and address changes at buffalum.com so we can continue to keep you informed about West Texas A&M University.

Go Buffs!

Becky Stogner
Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund, Executive Director, WTAMU Alumni Association

Have You Heerd?

Have You Heerd? is the official newsletter of West Texas A&M University. This newsletter covers current campus news, profiles faculty and staff members and includes an events calendar. Visit wtamu.edu/HAVEYOUHERD to subscribe.

Membership in the Alumni Association is available online. Join at wtamu.edu/ALUMNI

The West Texas A&M University Alumni Association is a non-profit corporation organized for the benefit of WTAMU, a member of The Texas A&M University System. The WTAMU Alumni Association is located in Buffalo Courts on the WTAMU campus in Canyon, Texas.

The West Texan is the official publication of the WTAMU Alumni Association. The magazine is published three times a year by the WTAMU Office of Communication and Marketing. Editorial offices are located in Old Main on the West Texas A&M University campus. Send alumni news information to rmcdonald@wtamu.edu. We welcome story ideas and suggestions.

Postage is paid at Amarillo, Texas. Postmaster: Send address changes to The West Texan, WTAMU Alumni Association, WTAMU Box 60753, Canyon, Texas 79016 or visit BUFFalum.com to update contact information.

THE WEST TEXAN • SUMMER 2011

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the West texan

recognition of individuals who have made significant contributions to the inductees to the chancellor's Academy of Teacher Educators. The Academy faculty members in The Texas A&M University System named as inaugural Dr. Lance Kieth, associate professor of agriculture education, was one of six was taken this summer.

WTAMU faculty in 2008 and has been instrumental in restructuring the each cut was polished by four different wheels. Holliday joined the czech glassmaking. The glass piece features 240 cuts on the side, and a work by Chad Holliday, assistant professor of art, is a recent acquisition that the University was able to establish the Teel Bivins Professor of field of political science. The professorship generated so much response

Dr. James Calvi, associate dean of the College of Education and Social Sciences, has been named the Teel Bivins Professor of American Politics at West Texas A&M University. The Teel Bivins professorship was established in 2008 with gifts from the family, friends and colleagues of the late Ambassador Bivins and the Mary E. Bivins Foundation in recognition of his visionary leadership and the many significant contributions he made in the field of political science. The professorship generated so much response that the University was able to establish the Teel Bivins Professor of American Politics.

A work by Chad Holliday, assistant professor of art, is a recent acquisition of the Museum of Decorative Arts of Prague in the czech Republic. The work, “Radiant Uran” is made of true uranium glass and took Holliday more than 150 hours to create, using all the techniques of traditional Czech glassmaking. The glass piece features 240 cuts on the side, and the book, “Me a Texas Christmas” is the fifth book in Thomas’ Whispering Mountain series, was just released, and The Comforts of Home, the third book in the Harmony Series, and the anthology Give Me a Texas Christmas will both be out in November.

Jean Walker ‘67, instructor of finance, has been named the Miller Professor of Entrepreneurship at West Texas A&M University, The Miller Professor of Entrepreneurship was established in 2010 to support the continued student, faculty and community entrepreneurship activities at WTAMU.

Rik Andersen ’89, University photographer, took the third-place berth in the portrait category of the 2011 annual University Photographers’ Association of America Print Competition June 29-30 at Brigham Young University. He also received an honorable mention in the poster category for his shot of the WTAMU mascot Thunder X. The annual Print Competition draws entries from photographers representing schools from the University of Alaska to the University of Mississippi in a variety of categories.

Dr. Shiquan Tao, assistant professor of chemistry, has been named the Ross W. Wilson Chair in Chemistry at West Texas A&M University. The Ross W. Wilson Chair in Chemistry was established in 2008 with gifts from the family, friends and colleagues of the late Ross W. Wilson, a 1938 graduate of West Texas State College, and the estate of Hazel Kelley Wilson in recognition of Wilson’s visionary leadership and the many significant contributions he made in the field of chemistry.

Dr. Heidi Taylor ‘82, associate vice president for learning assessment, was named to the Texas Panhandle Nursing Hall of Fame April 18 by the Texas Nurses Association, District 2, in recognition of outstanding nursing service to the Texas Panhandle.

Amanda (Gragert) Rogers ’05
West Texas A&M University will face Texas A&M – Kingsville as part of the Lone Star Conference (LSC) Football Festival, to be played at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington.

The single-day event is planned for Saturday, Sept. 17 with WT kicking off at 8 p.m.

Along with WT, three other LSC universities will be competing that day with the first game beginning at noon.

A single ticket, $25, will be used for admission to the entire festival. Tickets can be purchased through the WT athletics website at gobuffsgo.com.

Two special alumni events are planned to help make the Festival weekend a memorable time for everyone. The WTAMU Alumni Association will host a gathering at the Texas Rangers vs. Indians game on Thursday, Sept. 15 in Arlington! Call the Alumni Association at 806-651-2311 for discount tickets. Alumni and friends also are invited to a pre-game reception Saturday from 4–6 p.m. at Pappasito’s Cantina, 321 W Road to Six Flags. There will be plenty of free food and good conversation so make plans to come join the fun.

Becky Stogner, director of Alumni Relations, hopes alumni will use the opportunity to reconnect with alumni and friends.

“We’re excited to play in such a spectacular venue and have the chance to bring WT to so many of our alumni and friends in the Dallas area,” Stogner said.

“Playing at Cowboys Stadium will be something our team and fans will remember for a long time to come.” Individuals can check the WT website and Facebook for details as they develop.

GAME TIMES ARE:

NOON: MIDWESTERN STATE VS. TEXAS A&M-COMMERCE

4 P.M. ABILENE CHRISTIAN VS. NORTH ALABAMA

8 P.M. WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY VS. TEXAS A&M-KINGSVILLE

West Texas A&M University kicked off its “21 Days of Change” April 1 as a collaborative series of events that focused on social change. Groups from both the campus and the community participated to help raise awareness, encourage involvement and promote change. Events continued through April 21 and closed with TOMS Shoes founder Blake Mycoskie’s visit to campus to share the story about his One for One movement.

PHOTOS BY BK ANDERSEN
21 DAYS OF CHANGE ICONS BY THOMAS KOTARA
1. Canyon mayor Quinn Alexander displays his decorated pair of TOMS for the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum’s Style Your Sole Celebrity Auction.

2. Ibrahim Ramey provides the keynote address at a Social Justice Leadership Conference on “Local Connections and Global Perspectives.”

3. WTAMU students observe TOMS Shoes official One Day Without Shoes, and Student Government provides paint for those going barefoot.

4. Students help spruce up the grounds during the Don’t Mess with Texas Campus Clean-Up.

The University's "21 Days of Change" is a joint effort between the WTAMU Student Government Association and BUFSity, an organization of mass communication student media groups, and features a variety of activities including Spring Fling, Battle of the Bands, Stay Afloat, Buff Sole Give, Style Your Sole and the Hawk Nelson concert.
“School sets up your foundation,” Miller said. “Until you get the hands-on experience, you can’t really call yourself a true programmer.”

Brandon Baker ’94, a current employee at McCoy Myers and Associates, serves as the liaison between WT and the company’s internship program, which started in 2000.

“We view each intern as a future employee,” Baker said. “We call them interns but they truly are employees. The only difference is they are part-time.”

Baker understands this path better than anyone. He started with McCoy Myers and Associates as a WT student working part time and was hired full time upon graduation. He has now been with the company for 17 years.

The internship offers students a one-time three hour class credit, a $2,500 scholarship for the academic year and a starting pay of $12 or more an hour. Students also can repeat their internship each year until graduation.

For some, the college internship means answering phones, making coffee or running errands. For West Texas A&M University interns Preston Branch, Lori Cillo and Price Miller, it means an all access, behind-the-scenes pass to the real world.

Branch graduated this May with a Master of Public Accounting. He was the fourth WT intern at the Amarillo accounting firm Hudgins, Crosier and Sumpter, PC.

Students selected for the spring internship receive a $1,000 scholarship, three hours of class credit and financial compensation, which is roughly 80 percent of a starting salary for a new graduate working part time 20 hours a week.

Jeff Sumpter, who joined Hudgins, Crosier and Sumpter, PC in 1997 and became a partner in 2003, works closely with the intern program.

“We treat them just like a first-year staff person. They aren’t making copies or coffee. They are doing tax returns and accounting work.”

Jack Hudgins, who started the firm in 1990, believes that in order to be a successful Certified Public Accountant, it takes a lot of work and real life experience.

“We like to have our interns sit in on client meetings. They might not fully grasp what’s going on but they are able to see and hear what’s involved in working with a client.”

Branch benefited from Hudgins’s hands-on approach.

“It was exciting to see what I learned in class applied to real life and actually understand why it works the way it does and how to do it,” Branch said.

Cillo and Miller also were able to apply their knowledge as interns at McCoy Myers and Associates, an Amarillo banking software company.

Cillo graduated this May with a bachelor’s degree in computer science. Miller is a junior majoring in computer science.

Programming at their internship was a definite change of pace. In school they might receive an assignment to write as many as 1,200 lines of programming code. At McCoy Myers and Associates, they can work with as many as 200,000.

“We view each intern as a future employee.”

With a strong connection and appreciation for the University, Baker said McCoy Myers sees a huge value in what WT is providing them.

This value recently spurred company president Roger McCoy to reach out to the University with an additional $100,000 pledge of support. Funds will be used to name a classroom in the new engineering building and provide unrestricted support for the computer science program as well as support for computer science students’ senior projects.

Brandon Baker ’94

 McCoy Myers & Associates
Independent Division of Computer Services, Inc.

LOCATION: Amarillo
ESTABLISHED: 1990
EMPLOYEES: 150
PRIMARY FOCUS: Banking Software

Independent Division of Computer Services, Inc.

LOCATION: Amarillo
ESTABLISHED: 1980
EMPLOYEES: 14
PRIMARY FOCUS: Accounting, tax and business valuation and transaction consulting services.

EDUCATION: Provides employer tuition assistance—$53,000 to date. Nearly $10,000 for continuing education opportunities.
His talents on the playing field paid off. His application to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point was quickly forgotten when he received a four-year football scholarship at what was then West Texas State University. He played four years as a Buff, under Coach Gene Mayfield (1975-76) and Coach Bill Yung (1977-78). The talented running back was an all-time letterman at WT with high hopes of making it into the National Football League (NFL). Two NFL teams even traveled to Canyon to scout the talented player, but his dreams of making it to the pros didn’t pan out. That’s when he turned his focus in another direction—the Army Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC).

“He was in ROTC in high school, so I talked him into signing up at WT,” his roommate, Roger Boykins ’78, said. “He was fun to be around, a real joker, but he had qualities I just can’t explain. I told him once, ‘I don’t know what it is, but you got it.’”

And that it Boykins saw in Cross was evident on the football field, at the ROTC firing range and in class. It may have been a combination of traits Cross learned during all those years of moving from house-to-house, state-to-state. He was athletic, competitive, friendly, confident, smart—all characteristics that were putting him in roles of leadership. In 1979, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Quartermaster Corps through ROTC, and as they say, the rest is history.

A happy childhood full of transition definitely prepared him for his career path, but Cross also credits WT for his success.

“WT wasn’t just about getting a degree,” he said. “It was being able to grow and thrive in a solid environment. There was a strong sense of team spirit, and I had a love for that ROTC firing range.”

And a decision to sign up for WT’s ROTC program provided Cross the momentum toward a very successful military career that has taken the Brigadier General from house-to-house, state-to-state with a full list of assignments, including 50th Quartermaster General of the Army’s Quartermaster Center and School. He also boasts an impressive list of awards and decorations including two Defense Superior Service Medals, two Legion of Merits, the Distinguished Order of Saint Martin, a Bronze Star, six Meritorious Service Medals and the Parachutist Badge. In 2006 he was inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Quartermaster Regiment.

He’s had the opportunity to live in locations around the world, meet world leaders and work with amazing military families. Cross even got the chance to play the national anthem on his saxophone for the Fox and Friends morning show (http://www.quartermaster.army.mil/hold/17_MAR_10_FNC_BG_Cross_.swf), and he feels blessed by it all.

“I am blessed beyond merit, and I realize that all blessings and accomplishments come from God,” Cross said. “My only objectives in life have been to help someone else succeed, and I have done that. I have done my part for my family, my friends, the nation and mankind.”

His college roommate didn’t know what it was, but it’s taken Cross full circle—from the child of a career Army cook to a Brigadier General—in a career marked by countless accomplishments, memories and opportunities.
The sounds of birds chirping, students laughing, music playing and tower bells ringing can be heard throughout the day across the West Texas A&M University campus. But those everyday sounds are being punctuated more and more by the beep, beep, beep of a sky scraping crane, the buzz of a saw and the metal clang of a hammer as construction projects continue to change and improve the campus landscape.

Those construction sounds are resonating from the center of campus this summer as officials begin working on the expansion to the Jack B. Kelley Student center. “They began with some selective exterior demolition and installed fencing and trailers in June,” Tadhi Hayes, director of engineering/architectural services, said. “We are in the design development segment now. The floor plans are developed and now the detail work in structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing, exterior elevations and wall sections will flesh out.”

The expansion, approved by a student referendum in 2009, includes additional meeting rooms, a multi-purpose room, additional food service areas, study spaces, a catering kitchen and student lounge. The plan also calls for a partial basement to house additional mechanical equipment, a new Student Senate chamber and up to four meeting rooms to provide for expansion as the campus continues to grow. Hayes expects actual construction to begin in August with an estimated completion date of October 2012.

The University’s iconic Eternal Flame will take a temporary hiatus when construction crews move in to renovate and spruce up campus entrances including the west side access where the fiery symbol is located. Construction crews will begin work on signage and landscaping at the University’s west entrance as well as the entrance to Old Main on Fourth Street. Both projects will take on the look of the newly completed entrance sign located at 23rd and Russell Long Boulevard, but work at the west entrance will extend farther into campus. Construction crews will build a landscaped divider down the road leading into campus and create a new home for the Eternal Flame in a roundabout at the intersection of University and Victory.

The beautification project is funded through debt service proceeds allocated specifically for capital improvements through Higher Education Assistance Funds.

The beautification project is funded through debt service proceeds allocated specifically for capital improvements through Higher Education Assistance Funds.

AG/NURSING BUILDING
WTAMU’s engineering program will be moving into the renovated facility in time for the spring 2012 semester. The Phase I construction gutted the building and focused on renovations to the building’s first floor with new classroom, lab and office space. Construction also included exterior work on the building’s facade and its windows.

MARY MOODY NORTHEN HALL
The $1.7 million project is updating the building’s interior with some exterior work on windows. Renovations include new flooring, art and music locker replacements and repairs to the recital hall catwalk. All work will be completed for fall 2011.

VIRGIL HENSON ACTIVITIES CENTER
Renovations to the facility’s first floor area and entrance are nearing completion. Work includes office renovations, improvements in the lobby and main staircase as well as a 40-foot rock-climbing wall at the entrance. Future plans include renovations to a second floor game room.
Mentor, benefactor, role model and leader are just a few of the words used to describe the recipients of the West Texas A&M University Alumni Association’s most prestigious awards during the 48th annual Phoenix Banquet May 13 at the Alumni Banquet Facility on campus.

**DR. MARTY KUHLMAN ’83, ’84, ’86**

Dr. Marty Kuhlman, associate professor of history, was selected from a field of 15 nominees as the recipient of the association’s coveted University Excellence Award. The University Excellence Award was created in 1967 to honor faculty, staff or administrative personnel who have made significant contributions to the University, its students and the community.

“A lot of my earliest memories really are from West Texas State,” said Dr. Marty Kuhlman, the 2011 winner of the West Texas A&M University Alumni Association’s University Excellence Award. “I was born here in Canyon, and we would go to the football games, the homecoming parades, the barbecues on the lawn of Old Main, and then I came to college here in 1979.”

As a student at WTSU, Kuhlman tried his hand at several different things before settling into a possible future in history. “First I got a finance degree, I thought I was going to be a stock broker and hit the big city lights,” said Kuhlman. “Then I got an English degree, and finally I got my master’s in history.”

“Marty had a very deep interest in civil rights, and I taught a course in that,” said Dr. Pete Petersen, WT professor emeritus of history. “When he went on to get his doctorate at Texas Tech, he wrote a couple of splendid articles on the civil rights movement in Texas, and I believe that he is the leading scholar in the state today on that subject.”

As a professor at WT, Kuhlman is famous for more than just his popular classes. “One of the ways I got to know Dr. Kuhlman best was when we got together in his apartment and listened to classic rock together,” said Dr. Bruce Brasington, professor of history at WT. “That’s what led us into our co-disc jockey days at KWTS.” Kuhlman can still be heard on the KWTS airwaves every week sharing his knowledge and love for music.

Another term that many use to describe Kuhlman is philanthropist. “I believe the last count was that he had established eight scholarships here at WT,” said Petersen. “It’s very rare for a faculty member that is still teaching to make those kinds of contributions.”

“I’m really embarrassed I didn’t nominate him for this award sooner,” said Brasington. “If anyone is deserving of this award, it’s Dr. Kuhlman.”

The University Excellence Award is reserved for those faculty members who exhibit those rare and meaningful qualities that add up to exceptional. “I think WT is truly blessed to have someone like Marty,” said Petersen. “He serves as a role model in so many ways, and I think that it’s good for young students to be able to look to someone like him and say ‘Listen, this guy has overcome some real obstacles in his life, and here he is, one of the most respected faculty members on the WT campus.’”
ANDY COLE '71

It seems as though a career in agriculture may have always been in the cards for Andy Cole, the University’s second DAA recipient.

“I grew up in Pampa on a farm just south of town, so by the age of nine I was hoeing cotton and by 12 or 13, I was driving a tractor and a combine,” said Cole. “I was very interested in agriculture, and that’s one reason I decided to go to WT, because they had a good ag program.”

As a WT student, Cole was active in livestock judging and the Kappa Alpha fraternity, and he found much encouragement in many of his professors. “When I went to WT, I really didn’t know what I wanted to do, but one of our livestock judging coaches, Don Beerwinkle, was the one that suggested maybe I ought to go to graduate school and even get my Ph.D. He amazed me by saying that I could actually get a job making $12,000 or $13,000 a year! I didn’t know people could make that kind of money.”

Today, Cole’s accomplishments as a scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture have proven invaluable to the ag industry and to the area. “His work in helping the cattle feeding industry be more competitive and more environmentally sound is work that has really reached across the world and made the high plains of Texas much more competitive,” said Don Topliff, dean of the College of Agriculture, Science and Engineering at WT.

“He’s a consummate professional that other scientists gravitate to, and he’s just an all around great guy,” said John Sweeten, resident director of Texas AgriLife Research. “His work has been a major contribution to the ag industry and to the body of science both nationally and internationally.”

Cole humbly insists that he’s just happy to get to do what he does everyday. “I’m thankful that I’ve been able to work for 30-something years doing something that I really enjoy.”

His gratitude has driven him to give back to the University in a variety of ways with both his time as an adjunct professor among other roles, and with dollars. “I think he’s the kind of a man as a man can do in his capacity for WT, especially through his scholarship,” said Sweeten.

“Thanks to people like Andy, we’re able to help some of those first-generation students that maybe couldn’t afford an education any other way,” said Topliff.

“I’m able to help a few students, and they always seem very appreciative which is a good feeling. Hopefully I am able to give back just a little bit for everything that I have received from WT.”

Giving back seems to be a common thread that both of these award winners share. Their continued involvement with the University is a remarkable demonstration of the type of graduate that WT produces, and each truly deserves the honor of WT’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

THE WEST TEXAN
**"AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS: WHAT CAN PHILOSOPHY TELL US ABOUT THE AMERICAN DREAM (AND VICE VERSA)?"**

**Dr. David Hart**
assistant professor of philosophy

10:30 a.m.
Tuesdays, Oct. 4-25
WTAMU campus

Join the Remnant Trust and WTAMU in an exploration of the ways in which famous (or infamous) philosophical texts have shaped the ideals of the Founding Fathers and continue to shape what it means to be a practical, 21st-century American. Rare editions of Plato’s shape what it means to be a practical, 21st-century ideals of the Founding Fathers and continue to infamous) philosophical texts have shaped the exploration of the ways in which famous (or Join the Remnant Trust and WTAMU in an American Machiavelli’s The Prince will be available for a true hands-on experience.

It stANds: "whAt CAN PhILOsOPhY ANd tO thE REPubLIC FOR whICh DREAM (ANd VICE VERsA)?

Tell us about the American.

Terms like liquid assets, risk analysis and diversification aren’t usually associated with the hip-hop, making beats world of scratching, cutting and needle drops, but Francisco Rodríguez ’08, found a way to combine the coat-and-tie business world with his love of the boom bap music industry, and he is living the dream.

Rodríguez, known as DJ Frank Dux on 93.1 The Beat in Amarillo, graduated from WTAMU in 2008. He played pitcher for the Buff baseball team and worked as a deejay in his free time. When he graduated with a degree in finance, he had every intention of making his mark in the business world and took a job with a Fortune 100 company. Making beats as a deejay on the side continued to keep him busy, and that is when he discovered a way to combine his background in finance to his interest in the music.

Today Rodríguez co-hosts the 93.1 show “Them Dudes 5 O’clock Ride” from 5-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. He also deejays at clubs around the country and is a partner in a company called Above the Notes LLC. The company, with business partner, friend and artist Adair Lion, is built on what Rodríguez calls ‘positivity’ with music that eschews the typical hip-hop themes of sex, violence and bad language for beats that he’d let his young daughter listen to. Above the Notes is a record label and artist management company. Plus, it’s home to a clothing line called Seemosis.

“Frankie is in the enviable position of being able to utilize his professional training in an area that also happens to be his passion—music,” Dr. Nick Gerlich, professor of marketing, said. “To that end, he and Adair are approaching music much the same way Jimmy Buffett did—as a business. Frankie gets to apply his finance degree in the business of making and selling music, no different from Buffett. The clothing line is to his music as Margaritaville is to Buffett’s.”

Rodríguez and Lion grew up in the same rough El Paso neighborhood, but didn’t know each other until chance meeting two years ago in Amarillo.

The two college graduates shared an intense interest in music and felt their backgrounds—Rodríguez’s degree in finance and Lion’s degree in music/sound engineering—were a good mix for something big that could prove profitable.

“Everything clicked when we met,” Rodríguez said. “Our personalities meshed well, and now we are striking a chord with fans and sharing our message of positivity.”

Those well matched personalities collaborated and created Above the Notes, and the business partners, with bandmates Louie Rubio, Siah S. and T dot Ace, have three current videos in rotation on YouTube—“Sicka Than Yo Average,” “Sky’s the Limit” and their newest release, “Radio.” The popular tunes have received more than 42,000 hits, 13,000 hits and 5,000 hits respectively on YouTube, and their song “Dreams,” featuring Buzy Bone, on iTunes has received positive customer reviews.

Rodríguez’s talent on the turntable also is featured in a YouTube video with bandmate T dot Ace in “Scrumming.” Rodriguez, who just completed his M.B.A. in May, has the business aspect down pat, and Lion knows the music side, but they knew they were missing the marketing side of the business. That is where Gerlich stepped in. He is working with them on Facebook and Twitter strategies as a social media coach. Gerlich helped them install a music and video player on their Facebook page and introduced them to QR codes. He’s also encouraged them to use viral marketing strategies to help build their fan base.

“We’ve met with him about four times now, and we learn something new every time,” Rodríguez said. “He looked at our business model and said we are doing things right—music videos boiling on the front burner, T-shirt designs on the back burner. He’s so interesting and knowledgeable, and he knows everything about social media. I never had a class with him at WT, but I am so impressed—he’s definitely going to help build a buzz for us.”

They’ve played before crowds as big as 8,000 and have even conducted workshops on their message of positivity for juvenile offenders at the Al Price State Juvenile Correctional Facility in Beaumont. The group is busy planning a tour for the end of the summer, proving that assets and diversification mixed with a bit of scratching and cutting can make for some pretty successful beats.

Learn more about Rodríguez and Above the Notes at abovethenotes.com.
A recent West Texas A&M University graduate will be teaching English and spearheading an oral history project when she travels to Azerbaijan as the recipient of a coveted Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Donna Raef, who graduated from WTAMU in May 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in political science, is the University’s first-ever winner of the prestigious Fulbright award. She just finished her participation in the cultural ambassadors program before heading to Azerbaijan through the Ministry of Education of the former Soviet republic.

“Donna is very bright, intellectually curious, and has a passion for learning,” Dr. Reed Welch, head of the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice, said. “Through the many different kinds of activities in and out of the classroom she has been involved in, she has challenged and stretched herself and moved out of the comfort zone in which she could have easily remained. She is a great example for fellow students to follow in getting the most out of their education.”

“I have no doubt she will bring an intellectual and personal integrity to teaching in which these same goals are impressed upon her students,” Ms. Mon’s said. “Donna is an individual who will know her students hopes and dreams are as true and high as her own. She will be an outstanding representative of our University and our nation.”

The Fulbright program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, is the nation’s largest international exchange fellowship program, providing approximately 1,500 study grants and English teaching assistantships each year. Raef is the recipient of a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship which enables U.S. students to serve as English teaching assistants in schools or universities overseas to help improve foreign students’ English language abilities and knowledge of the United States while enhancing the Fulbright recipient’s own language skills and knowledge of the host country.

Since the establishment of Fulbright awards in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, 111,000 Americans have studied, taught or researched abroad. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. For more than 60 years, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has funded and supported programs that seek to promote mutual understanding and respect between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is administered by the Institute of International Education.
Campos is working on her thesis with Dr. Leslie Dalton Jr., a visiting professor of communication disorders, as her major professor in the project looking for neural biomarkers in subjects diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. Campos started her project as part of a research course taught by Dalton designed to integrate research in clinical practice in speech pathology students. Campos is now busy with data collection and is already seeing a definite trend in her subject's ways of interacting with their environment.

“I started the project with the idea of seeing if there was any difference in the brain function of those with autism,” Campos said. “Dr. Dalton suggested I look at Asperger's Syndrome since it is a milder form of autism and would lend itself to a time-limited study such as a thesis. I didn’t know much about Asperger's so it has been a great experience for me.”

Asperger's Syndrome is an autism spectrum disorder that causes noticeable problems in social interaction. Those diagnosed with Asperger’s are usually highly intelligent but have difficulty understanding and recognizing social cues. They don’t understand sarcasm and don’t get jokes and riddles. They take things at face value and lack communication and empathy skills. They simply see the world in a different way. And Campos and Dalton wanted to see if their seeing the world in a different way translates into different brain functions as well.

When looking for subjects for the research project, Dalton contacted Montana Hüsel-Cochran, director of Student Disability Services at WTAMU, to see if she had any Asperger’s students in her program.

“I’ve visited with Dr. Dalton on a number of occasions about his various research projects, and one day he expressed an interest in students with Asperger’s Syndrome,” Hüsel-Cochran said. “I told him we did have some students on campus, and we talked about if they would be a good fit for research. We had four students who expressed an interest and that is how the project was born.”

The four students, who will remain unidentified to protect their privacy, represent a good mix of undergraduate students at WTAMU. The group includes one female and three males in majors that range from political science to communications.

“They are a sweet bunch,” Dalton said. “They are very cooperative, fun and friendly, and we are finding information that will be very helpful.”

The research involves looking at the brain stem for any biomarkers that are unique to autism. Each student is hooked up by way of surface electrodes to an amplifier that magnifies the brainwaves up to one million times while they hear a discrete stimulus—a clicking sound. This sound causes the electroencephalography (EEG) to change, and a computer reads the EEG and determines if the subject is different than a so-called normal subject. The results are shown on the computer as a series of very predictable waves that can then be quantified.

“We can see a significant difference between our Asperger’s students and what is defined as normal,” Campos said. “From that, we can infer they do process information differently. We hope we can use this information to take it to the next level to create new applications and strategies for those diagnosed with Asperger’s to learn to their potential.”

In addition to sitting for brain wave activity research, the four students also signed up for a psychology course as part of the project. The course provides a support system for the students while offering course credit. It has proven successful, and Dalton hopes to offer it every semester.

“This has been really interesting,” Campos said. “I’ve learned so much, and Dr. Dalton provides so much support. I have been really blessed to have him as an adviser.”

They may seem like any other student on campus, but their way of looking at the world is providing a foundation of information that could provide insight on the future treatment for Asperger's Syndrome.
Every four months, I am tasked with writing the athletics story for the West Texan. And since the West Texan publishes only three issues a year, deciding what to focus on can become as difficult as trying to use a saucer plate at an all-you-can-eat buffet of your favorite foods. That’s why I have decided to throw in as much athletic information as possible into the great Buff melting pot and present to you what I am affectionately calling Buff Soup. To find the buffet line, simply head over to gobuffsgo.com for plenty of morsels to digest.

BY TREY ROACH • PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF WTAMU ATHLETICS

Buff Soup

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WT athletics hosted the second Night with the Pros event this spring by bringing in six of the current seven pro football players who are WTAMU alumni. Charly Martin, Keith Null, Eugene Sims, Dallas Bell, Keithon Fleming and Anthony Armstrong graciously returned to attend the event that helped raise funds for WT football. The hot topic everyone was talking about was the potential absence of an NFL season this year due to the collective bargaining agreement disputes between NFL team owners and players.

The Buff baseball team finally got a true home-field advantage this season with Wilder Park, the premiere baseball facility in the Texas Panhandle. However, the Buffs postseason hopes were cut short by Tarleton State in a doubleheader loss.

The Buff football team will play Texas A&M-Kingsville on Sept. 17 in Cowboys Stadium in Arlington. The game is a part of the Lone Star Conference Festival, an all-day event starting with Midwestern State vs. Texas A&M-Commerce at noon, Abilene Christian vs. North Alabama at 4 p.m., and West Texas A&M vs. Texas A&M-Kingsville at 8 p.m. The WTAMU Alumni Association has planned a reception Saturday prior to the game from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Abilene's Centennial Park, 321 W Road to Six Flags. Free food will be served. Check buffalum.com for more event details as they develop. Game tickets, priced at $25 for adults and $8 for kids ages 2-18, are available for purchase at gobuffsgo.com.

Finally, there is one more little event you may want to put on your calendars. WT’s 101st Homecoming is Oct. 2-8. The weekend celebration culminates in the showdown between the Buffs and Angelo State. Alumni events leading up to the game include the all new community picnic, the alumni gathering at the Golden Light Cantina, the bonfire, homecoming concert, the alumni breakfast and Alumni Association tailgate. More details to come at buffalum.com.

SOCCER

Daily Athletics

2000-02—Kansas City Wizards
Beau Brown
(1998-2001)—Dallas Sidekicks; Lafayette Swampscat; Utah Storm
Vassar Catlett
(1996-2003)—Dallas Sidekicks
Josh Fender
(2002-05)—Laredo Heat
Lance Lombard
(1996-98)—Lafayette Swampscats
Tomar Odoi
(2004-07)—Hoppel Kalamazoo Soccer Club (USA)
Jeremie Pileta
(1998-2001)—Puerto Rico Islanders; Charleston Battery; Toronto Lynx; Vancouver Whitecaps; Portland Timbers; Kansas City Wizards (1995-2001)–Dallas Sidekicks; Dennis Benbow; San Antonio Laredo Chief; FC Dallas
Mikey Remington
(1993-96)–Dallas Sidekicks; Lafayette Swampscats; Utah Storm
Ben Waldrum
(2000-01)–El Paso Patrons; Dallas Sidekicks

BOWLING

Mike Sorenson
(1986-89)—Professional Bowling Association

FOOTBALL

Dayjob Box

(1956-57)–Dallas Lions
John Holt
(1914-15)–Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Where Am I Wearing? A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People that Make Our Clothes will be the common reader for the West Texas A&M University Readership WT Program next fall, and author Kelsey Timmerman will be the WTAMU convocation speaker on Sept. 29 at the First United Bank center.

Taking special note of the tag in his T-shirt one day, Timmerman was inspired to set out on a journey. Made in cambodia, Honduras, Bangladesh, china or some other far away foreign land was the common thread in each of his favorite garments. Timmerman made it his mission to travel to each of these places to learn more about the people and conditions that were involved in the making of an average piece of American apparel. Of course, he learned much more than he bargained for along the way.

“Our lives are connected with the lives of others around the world and there’s no greater reminder than that of the tag on every item of clothing we put on daily,” said Timmerman. “The Where Am I Wearing? project is how I put my education to work. I’ve never put my degree to work, never even tried to get a job with my anthropology degree, but I ended up using what I learned. The WAIW story is sort of what I did after I graduated by using my education and following my passion and curiosities.”

Next fall, WT freshmen will be given the opportunity to enter the Readership WT essay contest for the chance to be chosen as one of the new Readership WT Ambassadors. The new crop of Ambassadors will represent the Readership program in many capacities, including traveling to Honduras in the spring, one of the locations that Timmerman visits in the book.

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“The world isn’t black and white,” said Timmerman. “Exploring issues like child labor, sweatshops and extreme poverty, and how they impact the lives of individuals, allows us to see topics from perspectives that we would have never imagined. I look at the world much more critically and with much more of an open mind now. Even something that seems as clear cut as ‘child labor is bad’ on closer look is a much more unclear issue.”
Dr. Jud Hicks '82, has been named president of Frank Phillips College in Borger. He has been with the college since 2002. He was appointed interim president in December and appointed to the permanent position in April. The position is becoming a family tradition. Hick's father, Dr. Andy Hicks, served as president from 1981-1988.

Janet Paschel Fuscus '85, is the 2011 National Business Education Association Secondary Teacher of the Year. Fuscus, who teaches business technology applications at Frenship High School, has won numerous awards through the years for her excellence in teaching. Last year she was one of six recipients of the Beaumont Foundation's Newton Excellence in Education Award as well as the Mountain Plains Secondary Teacher of the Year honor. She's also received awards from the Region 17 Education Service Center and from the Texas Business and Technology Educators Association.

Dr. Gary Wurtz '85, was honored April 13 for teaching excellence at Stephen F. Austin. Wurtz, associate professor of music at SFA, was the honoree from the College of Fine Arts and was recognized for his enthusiasm for teaching, the quality of his lectures and assignments, availability to students, knowledge of subject matter, commitment and contribution to teaching. He joined the SFA faculty in 1992.

Jack A. Clark '86, was promoted in March from director of leasing and operations to president of Red Oak Realty in Fort Worth. Clark, who joined the firm in June 2010, has more than 22 years of experience in all areas of commercial real estate brokerage, management and investment. He serves on the board of directors of the Texas and Fort Worth chapters of the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) and served two terms as president of the Fort Worth chapter. He also serves on the board of directors and executive committee of Downtown Fort Worth, Inc., and is a former board member of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

Myrna Raffkind '88, '95, was named the Amarillo Globe-News 2010 Woman of the Year and was honored at a special luncheon in January at the Amarillo Civic Center. She has been a volunteer with the Amarillo Symphony and the Amarillo Symphony Youth Orchestra for many years. Raffkind is the founder of the Raffkind School of the Arts, a classical music school in Amarillo, and is a member of the board of directors of the Amarillo Symphony.

Charles Jones '97, was nominated by the Golden Key International Honor Society and accepted to attend the International Scholar Laureate Program Delegation on Medicine June 5-12 in Australia. The program offered him special access to hospitals, clinics and universities as well as to special lectures by doctors, practitioners and administrators. Jones is pursuing a master's degree in health care administration at Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa, and hopes to become a health care executive. He was accepted into the Golden Key International Honor Society in September 2010 for maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Sunday L. Austin '99, has joined the Dunham Law Firm in Austin. She previously served as an assistant criminal district attorney for Randall County and will now use that experience to help those accused of crimes in Texas.

Benjamin P. Browder '99, received in April a partner promotion at Hunton and Williams LLP. Browder is a member of the firm's capital finance and real estate team and focuses his practice on real estate acquisitions and dispositions and real estate finance as well as private equity investment, structuring and entity formation. He is based in Dallas and has been named a Rising Star by Texas Monthly.

Derik Sutton '01, was a presenter at the annual conference of the Independent Bankers Association of Texas Jan. 24-25. He spoke to bankers from across the state of Texas on bank technology and how it will affect community banks. Sutton is responsible for special projects and is an assistant sales manager for McCoy Myers and Associates in Amarillo.

Jennifer Baen '04, completed some graduate work in environmental design at Texas A&M University and now works for the Department of Assisitive and Rehabilitation Services.

John McCord '07, serves as the district director for U.S. Rep. Francisco Canseco. Canseco represents the 23rd Congressional District that includes a portion of San Antonio and Bexar County and west, including two precincts in El Paso County.

Nick Renteria '02, second grade math teacher at Lakeview Elementary School, was named the Canyon Independent School District 2011 Elementary Teacher of the Year at the district's annual Teacher of the Year breakfast May 4 in Canyon. Renteria will now compete for Regional Elementary Teacher of the Year honors in August.

Steven Singleton '10, who teaches forensic science and biology at Randall High School, was named the 2011 Secondary Teacher of the Year for the Canyon Independent School District at the annual Teacher of the Year breakfast May 4 in Canyon. Singleton will now compete for the Regional Secondary Teacher of the Year honors in August.

Hundreds of Texas high schools compete each year in one-act play competition, but only 40 actually make it to the state level. This year, six high school directors who graduated from WTAMU's theatre program took their plays to the UIL State One-Act Play Competition in May. Their success speaks volumes about the WTAMU theatre program. The directors, alumni and their school, classification and play are as follows.

Cy Sroggins '05, Sonora High School—AA, Will

Lydia Miller-Wyatt '64, Gary Wyatt '63, Wimberly High School—AAA, The Beggar's Opera

Jill Ludden '03, Randall High School—AAA, Unexpected Tenderness

Vonza Eudy '98, Keller, Fossil Ridge High School—AAA, The Shadow Box

in memoriam

Shirley Kay Glover '69, died Nov. 22, 2010 in Springfield, Ore. During her years at WT, she was an active member of the Baptist Student Union and returned eight years ago for the organization's reunion.

Ken Parker, the artist who created the WT flame logo in 1986, died April 9 in Amarillo. He was hired to design two logos for the University—one for academics and one for athletics. He then created the WT flame logo for academics, and the design is still in use today.
HOMECOMING 2011

WEST TEXAS
MARDI GRAS

Let the good times roll, Y'all!

OCT. 2–8

WTAMU.EDU/homecoming