The Alumni Association bestows its top awards to four deserving alumni and one faculty member. Whether you are a graduate of West Texas Normal College, West Texas State College or West Texas A&M University, we want to provide you with opportunities for involvement with your alma mater. WT is your University.

This summer we set in motion a change to the Alumni Association that will increase our network, and the reach we have as an Alumni Association and University, from approximately 2,500 members to more than 35,000. Payment of annual dues is no longer required to be a “member” of the Alumni Association. Special benefits will still be offered to those contributing members who generously give at various levels. And benefits for everyone will be increasing as well.

If it’s been a while since you’ve been back to campus, I encourage you to visit for Homecoming or check out our progress on Facebook or at wtamu.edu. The campus has changed—it’s never looked better—but I promise you’ll still recognize Your WT in the iconic buildings, the smiles of the students and in the spirit and pride that’s evident as we start this new school year.

Just one thing we’re working on is chapter development in outlying cities where we have a lot of alumni. Hosting events in these cities allows us to support the communities where we live and network with one another. If you would be interested in helping to plan a WT alumni event in your area, please contact us at alumni@wtamu.edu.

As the University embarks on its first-ever comprehensive campaign, we invite you to participate and Share Your Pride. And be sure to mark your calendar for Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 13 – we would love for you to COME HOME.

Always WT,
Becky Stogner
Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Fund
Executive Director, WTAMU Alumni Association
Wes Tyler

The West Texan (May 2011)

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Director of Career Services, has been named as interim vice president for Student Affairs at West Texas A&M University. She fills the position vacated by Dr. Don Albrecht.

Lorna Strong, head of the WTAMU Department of Sports and Exercise Sciences, is the recipient of a 2012 NATI Most Distinguished Athlete Award presented in June by the National Athletic Trainers Association. The award recognizes exceptional and unique contributions to the athletic training profession and reflects Strong's commitment to leadership, volunteer service, advocacy and distinguished professional activities as an athletic trainer.

Rita Davis, associate professor of engineering, has been named interim provost/vice president for academic affairs to fill the position vacated by Dr. James Hallmark.

Lorna Strong

head of the Department of Agricultural Sciences, is the recipient of one of two Texas 4-H Alumni Leader's Legacy Awards presented in June at the State 4-H Roundup in Lubbock. Only two of these awards are presented annually to recognize adults who have made outstanding contributions and achievements that impact the local, district and state 4-H youth programs.

Northern Lights, a CD album featuring the Phoenix Chorale and Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo along with performances by the Harrington String Quartet (HSQ), was released in February with chart-topping success and rave reviews.

The Harrington String Quartet, members of the string faculty at West Texas A&M University, recorded several tracks in May with Gjeilo, the Phoenix Chorale and conductor Charles Bruffy. The disc has hit the number one selling classical album on Amazon uk and spent more than five weeks at number 13 on the Traditional Classical Chart and recently returned at the number 12 spot. It also was featured on classic FM top 30 chart in the United Kingdom.

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The album features five world premier recordings and three pieces either commissioned, composed or dedicated to the Phoenix Chorale. The Harrington String Quartet performs on two tracks—“The Ground” and “Dark Night of the Soul”—and Emmanuel Lopez, HSQ cellist, performs on “Serenity.”

Three WTAMU faculty members were recognized for their outstanding contributions to higher education during the annual faculty meeting May 3 on campus.

Dr. Brock Blaser, assistant professor of plant science, received the Instructional Excellence Award; Dr. Andrew Li, Williams professor of management, the Intellectual Contributions Award; and Dr. Jean Stuntz, professor of history, received the Professional Service Award.

I had just completed a 15-minute presentation on macro economic theory and the impact that a growing national debt would have on future generations (little did I know our national deficits would be so severely out of balance in 2012). I was nervous about the presentation, because I literally wrote the verbal part that morning on a return flight from College Station. After the presentation, I received surprise applause from my classmates and a verbal compliment from my professor. I simply thought people were being polite. It was after class that my professor called me over and told me one-on-one that he was very impressed with my presentation. He said, “JB, you have a gift. You know how to reach people in a very real way.”

I thanked him and took the opportunity to ask him what career path he thought I would be best suited for. He responded, “I think you should consider law school and become a trial attorney.” I laughed to myself wondering if my professor just gave me an insult or compliment to become a trial lawyer! Joking aside, his compliment gave me a great boost of confidence. It was a real moment—a meaningful statement that I suspect he would not remember.

Though I did not end up going to law school, I had the great privilege of serving our country in Washington D.C. Currently I have the opportunity to help with public policy formation that will, hopefully, get our country back on the right track. Thankfully, I am now more confident about speaking in public, in part, because of this WTAMU economics professor who gave me needed encouragement.

While I have never shared this story with him, I am glad to have the opportunity to thank the current dean of the College of Business who was my economics professor in 1998. Thank you Dr. Neil Terry!
It’s a dream that has been in the works for a while now, and it finally looks like a new home for Thunder X, the West Texas A&M University mascot, is slowly becoming a reality. The project has been needed and discussed for many years and finally got off of the ground in 2011 thanks to the efforts of the WT Herdsmen and their adviser Shawn Burns.

“Building the buffalo a home that properly recognizes the importance and majesty of the University’s mascot while providing the animal with comfortable quarters is something that we have needed for a long time,” said Burns, chief of the University Police Department.

Land has been secured for the project with 15 acres on Valley View Road northeast of the First United Bank Center and south of the Stanley Schaeffer Agricultural Learning Lab. The site will include a 40-foot by 60-foot metal building, a holding pen and shelter large enough to accommodate two animals and a turn-out area as well as a round pen for training. There will also be a meeting room for the Herdsmen.

“We are currently working with an architect to finalize the sealed set of plans so that we can bid the initial construction phase. Hopefully, the plans will be approved soon and the bid packets can go out,” said Burns.

The new habitat is estimated to cost around $150,000. A portion of the money has been raised, but the Herdsmen are still seeking gifts to complete the project. For more information or to make a donation, visit wtamu.edu/HERDSMEN.
Ann Friemel was a typical teenager. She grew up on a farm in Umbarger, played basketball with the Lady Eagles at Canyon High School and had a large circle of friends to hang out with on the weekends. She was young, full of plans, and figured she would one day marry a farmer, settle down in Umbarger and have a large Catholic family. Yet at the age of 16, Friemel said, “I just had a feeling I’d lost something.”

It wasn’t something simple like a lost purse or misplaced ring. It was something more—a feeling down deep inside that she couldn’t explain, much less understand. And the search for that “lost something” turned Friemel’s world upside down in a step of faith and led to the consecration of Sister Mary Paul in December 2011 in Austria.

Today Sister Mary Paul ’99, ’03, smiles when she recounts the story of that young teenage girl, and the big decisions she had to make more than 18 years ago. Her story is one of faith and commitment tinged with a few goose-bump inducing twists and turns that only confirm Friemel was on the right track in her search for that “lost something.” And that search more than prepared her for a one-of-a-kind role of healing and unity as Sister Mary Paul.

It all makes sense today, but back in high school, Friemel’s confusion over her feelings was so overwhelming that she turned to her confirmation sponsor for help. She shared her feelings and was surprised at the response she received. “My confirmation sponsor told me to quit basketball,” Sister Mary Paul said. “I argued with her. She told me that He had to give me the desire to quit, which I thought would never happen! I woke up the next morning, and I was 100 percent sure that I needed to quit basketball.” The decision may have come easy, but the consequences were hard on the happy, gregarious teenager.

“My life after quitting basketball was terrible,” Sister Mary Paul said. “I lost my friends. I was miserable.” But again, prayer saw her through the hard times and helped her realize that she wanted to spend her life serving Him.

The former basketball player’s life had completely changed directions by her senior year of high school, and Friemel was eagerly looking forward to studying theology at a Catholic university. Or so she thought. “I got that feeling again,” she said. “It was like I was missing something, and I was sure it was again God trying to tell me something.” Plus, Friemel’s confirmation sponsor had a dream about what the high school senior was going to do with her life. “She told me I was going to take someone’s place, do something very important and that I would be very, very happy.”

At the end of that visit, the 6-foot Lady Eagle just told the confirmation sponsor she would pray about it. Thoughts about the mysterious feeling deep inside of her coupled with the confirmation sponsor’s remark about quitting basketball created even more intrigue for Friemel. Then something odd happened.

“I couldn’t sleep that night. Then I heard a voice inside say ‘you said you would pray.’ So I told the Lord that if He wanted me to quit, I would, but that He had to give me the desire to quit, which I thought would never happen.”

“I woke up the next morning, and I was 100 percent sure that I needed to quit basketball,” Sister Mary Paul said. The decision may have come easy, but the consequences were hard on the happy, gregarious teenager.

“My life after quitting basketball was terrible,” Sister Mary Paul said. “I lost my friends. I was miserable.” But again, prayer saw her through the hard times and helped her realize that she wanted to spend her life serving Him.
The deep-seated feelings and the confirmation sponsor’s predictions were never far from her mind, but never more so than during a chance visit to the Sancta Maria Convent in Panhandle. That is when Friemel got the surprise of her life in a goose-bump instance that marked a major milestone in her ongoing search for that “something lost.”

“We got to the convent, and a sister invited us in,” Sister Mary Paul explained. “I literally had one foot in the door and one foot out when the Sister looked at me and said, ‘Will you take my place?’”

The unexpected comment surprised Friemel, and she immediately remembered the confirmation sponsor’s dream. She knew it was another clue, and she left the convent that day knowing she had another option to add to list of possible answers to her search. And through the next few months she continued to get various clues at two different prayer conferences. At one conference her eyes were opened to different gifts of the spirit—teaching, evangelism, healing—and she knew in a moment of prayer that God was calling her to give her life as a religious.

Not knowing what was in store in the next step of her search, the Texas Panhandle native hoped that it would at least take her east of the Mississippi. And like an answered prayer, one year later Sister Mary Paul definitely found herself east of the Mississippi—thousands of miles, in fact—when she landed in Austria. She had been asked for a six-year commitment to help out with the schools in Vienna. The skills she learned at WT served her well as she soon found herself in a position of leadership in school administration and in working with the community.

“I’m so thankful for my studies at WT,” she said. “The program prepared me for what I am doing and the way I teach. I learned so much from the master’s program, and Dr. Angela Spaulding was so influential. The lessons I learned from her have really helped me in my administrative roles.”

When the school asked her to pursue her study of theology, Sister Mary Paul packed up and headed to Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. She spent two and one-half years at the university and while there, she taught a course on the theology of healing. That’s when her calling became crystal clear. She also discovered a small book published by the Vatican that became her favorite teaching tool. It also was the source of another goose-bump instance that again set Sister Mary Paul on the final leg of her search to find that “something lost.”

When she returned to Austria, a friend encouraged her to meet a British priest there. Sister Mary Paul hoped to have him as her spiritual director, but Father Peter was hesitant to take on the role. He wanted to know why, and she told Father Peter she wanted to live a life of communion and community. That is when he pulled a small book from his bookcase—a book he wrote and the very book she had used as a teaching tool at Franciscan University. Father Peter’s book expressed so well what she had felt in her heart for so many years. The search was over, Sister Mary Paul found that “something lost.”

She decided to leave the School Sisters in order to more closely pursue her healing ministry. Sister Mary Paul is thankful for her years with the School Sisters because teaching is still an important part of her current ministry. The decision to leave the School Sisters wasn’t a decision to stop living as a religious Sister, and Sister Mary Paul counts it as nothing short of a miracle that she was allowed on December 13, 2011, to make private vows under the patronage of St. Francis of Assisi. The consecration was witnessed by Sister Mary Paul’s parents, Karen ‘03 and Robert Friemel along with friends from the United States, Austria, England, Poland, Germany and Slovakia.

She now resides at the Mysterium Christi house in Hainburg, where her life is centered around ecumenism and the ministry of healing. The dilemmas and confusion that dogged her during high school are gone, and Sister Mary Paul’s joy is evident when she talks about the work she is doing. The young girl who just wanted to go east of the Mississippi now travels the world sharing her spirit of communion, healing and unity. Her travels have taken her to Germany, England, Poland and Slovakia as well as to China for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. She also traveled to London for the 2012 summer games to provide pastoral support.

There is no doubt Sister Mary Paul is right where she belongs. Her friendly demeanor and warm smile reveal an inner joy that is obvious to everyone she meets. And there is no doubt where that inner joy comes from when Sister Mary Paul smiles and says, “The Lord is always so good.”
July 3, 1968. It’s a day Dr. Richard Cummins ’72 will never forget. It started out as any typical day for the young filling station attendant, but one single defining moment that Wednesday set in motion a series of events that not only changed his life, but also provided a catalyst to the development of one of the University’s Student Union building. He dreamed of going to what was then West Texas State University and fill it out, I’ll see what I can do.” The envelope held a scholarship and Cummins had just graduated from high school and was working at Cole and Moore, a filling-station truck stop on 23rd Street just across from what used to be the University’s Student Union building. He dreamed of going to what was then West Texas State University and although his parents supported his dream, they just didn’t have the extra money for tuition. “Many evenings after I finished work, I would come to the campus and walk around and look at the magnificent buildings and imagine myself being there as a student,” he said. And Dr. Charles Smallwood, head of the Department of Agriculture, walked into Cole and Moore that July day and made Cummins’ dream come true. “I understand that you want to go to college,” Smallwood said. He reached into his pocket and handed Cummins an envelope. “I can’t promise you anything, but if you will take this and fill it out, I’ll see what I can do.” The envelope held a scholarship application and one month later Cummins was the proud recipient of a $50 scholarship. It may not seem like an excessive amount, but that small sum provided the bridge from the filling station to the WT campus for Cummins. Four years later Cummins earned a bachelor’s degree from WT. He continued his education and earned a master’s degree (1973) and a Ph.D. (1995) from Texas A&M University. He spent more than 20 years in the business sector, learning how leadership plays a role in success. Today Cummins is using that first-hand knowledge as director of the Leadership Excellence Program for the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University.

Cummins and his wife Judy ’72 are longtime supporters of WTAMU, but it was his expertise in leadership that brought him back to campus recently as a consultant of sorts to help University officials on the development of a leadership program. His good friend Fred Markham, executive director of the Texas Pioneer Foundation, introduced Cummins to Don Albrecht, former vice president of Student Affairs. Conversations revealed mutual interests in student leadership development.

“...We had already completed a great deal of research and had a pretty good idea of what would and would not work at WT,” Misty Rueda, development grant writer, said, “and Dr. Cummins came in and really helped the committee solidify those ideas. He answered pretty much all of our concerns and was an amazing consultant—he really exhibited great leadership from day one.”

LEAD WT received a $188,021 grant from the Texas Pioneer Foundation, and the inaugural cohort of 25 students began the two-year program in the fall. Students will develop leadership potential through coursework, student service and real world application. Those completing the program will receive a leadership certificate and it will be noted on their transcripts that they have completed a Certification in Leadership at WTAMU. Amber Black is the LEAD WT coordinator, and Dr. Lance Kieth, associate professor of agriculture sciences, is the faculty director.

As the guest speaker at LEAD WT’S kick-off luncheon on July 3, 1968, Cummins shared his story and summed it up by saying, “For a program like this to be successful, it needs support—financial to provide infrastructure, professional to provide opportunities for students to learn and to observe and work with seasoned, practiced leaders and personal to interact with the students. So the question for you becomes ‘Can I really make a difference?’ Professionally and personally I know that yes, you can make a difference as a difference was made in my life by someone willing to be involved, and I am working to make a difference for others.”

July 3, 1968—a day that set a series of events in motion that continue even today.

Pay-it-forward gesture benefits LEAD WT program
BY RANA MCDONALD • PHOTO BY RK ANDERSEN

West Texas A&M University students
THE WEST TEXAN
Select individuals and organizations were recognized for donating more than $2.2 million to West Texas A&M University when the WTAMU Foundation hosted its annual Old Main Society formal induction ceremony Thursday, June 28 on campus.

The Foundation recognized new members to the Old Main Society and honored 2012 Pinnacle Award recipients Jack and Helene Hayward during the annual event.

The Old Main Society was established in 1998 to recognize individuals, organizations and corporations that have given lifetime contributions of $50,000 or more to support the students and mission of West Texas A&M. Recognition levels are Supporter, $50,000-$99,999; Sustainer, $100,000-$249,999; Ambassador, $250,000-$499,999; Patron, $500,000-$999,999; Benefactor, $1 million-$4,999,999 and Visionary, $5 million or more.

Contributions from Old Main Society donors endow scholarships and provide financial assistance to students, enhance instructional programs, provide faculty development opportunities and awards for outstanding teaching, and build and enhance campus facilities.

The Old Main event also included the presentation of the Pinnacle Award. The Foundation’s first Pinnacle Award was presented in 2005 to recognize an outstanding donor who not only supports the University financially, but also gives of their time and labor to promote WTAMU in the community, and Jack and Helene Hayward definitely exemplify that pinnacle of giving.

THE OLD MAIN SOCIETY INDUCTEES FOR 2012 ARE:

- The Anna Belle Kritser II Foundation, David Kritser and Bill Countiss, Trustees—Supporter
- The Anna Belle Kritser II Foundation and The Ed and Margaret Roberts Foundation, Bill Countiss, Trustee—Supporter
- Hassan and Jill Dana and Kareem Dana—Sustainer
- Osman Dana—Sustainer
- Frances S. and J. Evetts Haley Jr.—Sustainer
- CSI Meridian Division—Supporter
- M.K. Brown Foundation—Supporter
- CEFCO-Fikes Wholesale, Inc.—Supporter
- Dr. Mary L. Green Estate—Supporter
- K. Roger Williams and Ana Estevez—Supporter
- Donald E. and Twanna Powell—Benefactor
Passion. It fuels dreams and inspires one to reach greater potential. It’s what pushed Jesse Cross to reach the rank of brigadier general and helped Larry and Sandra Oldham build a multi-million dollar business. It’s also what fed Sharla Valdez’s dream to help others and made Dr. Emily Hunt an outstanding professor and researcher.

The Alumni Association at West Texas A&M University recognized that kind of passion with the presentation of its most prestigious awards during the 49th annual Phoenix Banquet on Friday, May 4 at the Alumni Banquet Facility on campus. Two individuals and one couple were presented Distinguished Alumnus Awards, and one faculty member received the Association’s coveted University Excellence Award.

The Distinguished Alumnus Award is given each year to successful WTAMU graduates who contribute time and support to the University and to humanitarian causes. The Alumni Association received 29 nominations for the Distinguished Alumnus Award, and the 2012 recipients are Brig. Gen. Jesse Cross (retired), Larry and Sandra Oldham and Sharla Valdez.

Brig. Gen. Jesse Cross (retired) came to what was then West Texas State University in 1975 on a football scholarship, and he graduated in 1979 with a bachelor’s degree in marketing. He played four years as a Buff under Coach Gene Mayfield and Coach Bill Yung. The talented running back was an all-time letterman at WT, but he also had a passion for the Army Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC). That passion took him to the ROTC firing range many times during his days at WT, and in 1979 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Quartermaster Corps through ROTC. That commission gave him the momentum for a very successful military career 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.

“Jesse has had a very unique career,” Albert Johnson Jr., vice president for university advancement at Cameron University, said. “He became 50th Quartermaster of the Army. That is a huge job and a huge responsibility, and Jesse did it with flying colors. I think it goes back to the ROTC program at West Texas and how well it prepared Jesse. I think he would give credit to the leaders he had at West Texas and the peers he had at West Texas that helped him understand what the Army was. Being a general officer has not changed him as a person, and that’s the quality of who he is and the quality of the family he grew up in.”
Larry and Sandra Oldham met as students at West Texas State University. Hugh Griner, a longtime friend, offered Larry a job if he would come to WT. Larry took on the midnight-8 a.m. shift at the University's steam plant while carrying a full load of accounting courses. Sandra came to WT by way of the University's annual band camp. She started going to the summer camp when she was in the seventh grade and continued through high school. When it was time to choose a college, there was no question in her mind that it would be WT. She got a band scholarship and was a twirler with the WT Marching Band. Larry graduated in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. Sandra graduated in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in social work. His first job after graduation was as a junior auditor with Peat, Marwick and Mitchell, in Amarillo and his defining moment came when he chose to do the audit for an oil and gas company. That fueled his passion and in 1979, he and Sandra started their own company in Midland. Parallel Petroleum grew to a successful company with an employee base of 50 and more than 5,500 barrels a day of production. In December, the Oldhams sold the company collectively to Samsung as the first major oil and gas investment in the United States.

One of the Oldham's nomination letters, in part, read, “Larry and Sandra represent the quintessential goal of WTAMU—provide young people of West Texas, many from small towns or truly rural ones, the necessary education and experience for a productive life and career. Larry and Sandra are outstanding examples of WTAMU’s success in this regard.”

Sharla Valdez has always had a caring heart for others, but it was during a class presentation on hospice nursing when Valdez truly found her passion. After graduating in 1984, she began working as a graduate nurse in hospice and was quickly promoted. In 1991, her passion for hospice took on a new role when she founded Crown of Texas Hospice in Amarillo. It was a cutting-edge business and one of the few hospice programs in the country owned and operated by a registered nurse. After more than 12 years and a second Crown of Texas Hospice in Conroe, Valdez sold the business. She and her husband Joe co-founded Valmed Home Health Solutions in 2000 to serve hospice patients and their families. In 2007 Valdez expanded the business to include Valmed Pharmacy Solutions to provide medical equipment and supplies as well as pharmaceutical needs for patients and families in one location. In addition to her duties as CEO of Valmed Home Health and Pharmacy Solutions, Valdez finds time to serve her community. She is a member of the WTAMU College of Nursing and Health Sciences Advisory Board and serves on the boards of various local and national organizations and has received numerous awards and honors for her work and contributions.

One of Valdez’s nomination letters, in part, read, “Sharla exemplifies every opportunity of her education and career to further those who will follow after with her passion, dedication and caring of patients.”
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. This year’s recipient is Dr. Emily Hunt, associate professor of chemical engineering and interim head of the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

Dr. Emily Hunt, who joined the WTAMU faculty in 2005, always loved math and problem solving. That passion proved to be a perfect fit for an engineering major and today she is the only female professor in West Texas A&M University’s engineering program. That hasn’t slowed her down one bit, though. In fact, her passion for problem solving earned her a 2010 Young Investigator Award from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency for her project on “Energetic Nano-Materials for Bio-Agent Defeat.” The award provided her with $150,000 a year for two years to pursue the research on creating energetic materials for use against weapons of mass destruction. Her other research interest focuses on high-speed infrared imaging. In addition to teaching classes in mechanical engineering, Hunt also has developed outreach seminars to introduce fundamental engineering to schools. She even manages to find time to write. Hunt is the author of Nanostructured Metallic Alloys: Synthesis, Properties and Applications, and she’s even made a name for herself in the children’s market to share her passion and engage children at a young age about the field of engineering.

“Emily is hard science, soft heart,” Dr. Elizabeth Clark, associate professor of history, said. “She is a scientist in the lab and a scientist in the community, but she finds a way to make science accessible to everyone. There are plenty of engineers out there who could come and tell students about engineering and about facts, but Emily really explains it, and she cares about it, and it matters to her that people understand the science around them. She is an incredible representative of our University.”
The West Texan

class notes
Send alumni news information, photos, story ideas and suggestions to rmconald@wtamu.edu.

'60 Red Steagall '60, is the recipient of the Boss of the Plains Award for his support of the National Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock. Steagall, a western recording artist, entertainer and radio personality, was presented the award June 1 at a special dinner and gala in the Red McCombs Main Gallery at the National Ranching Heritage Center. His support of the western way of life also has earned Steagall inductions into the Texas Trail of Fame in Fort Worth and the Hall of Great Westerners at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

'65 Congratulations to David Sims '65 and his wife Suzy, who just celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary in June. Sims played football at WT under Joe Kerbel and after graduating with a bachelor's degree in geology, he worked for Texaco and Schlumberger. The family eventually transferred overseas with Schlumberger and spent 24 years living in Venezuela, Angola, Trinidad, France, Iran, Argentina, Dubai, England and Indonesia. They are now retired and living in Helotes. They have two daughters and seven grandchildren.

'69 Jack Woodville London '69, took part in the Writers on Deck library tour this summer to encourage active duty personnel to read and discover literature. The one-of-a-kind tour was designed for active duty military members and their families stationed in Italy and Spain. London traveled to Signella, Italy, Naples, Italy and Rota, Spain. London, author of the French Letter series, Virginia's War and Engaged in War, is a trial attorney, award-winning author and World War II historian.

'76 Andy Cole '76, received the American Society of Animal Sciences Award in Ruminant Nutrition Research during the organization's annual meeting in Phoenix in July.

Doug McDonough '76, has been named editor of the Plainview Herald and started his new duties in May. He has a long history with the paper, joining the staff in 1976 as a farm editor and assistant sports writer. He was named news editor in 1983 and promoted to managing editor in 2006.

Shott Miller '76, and his associate, Linda Young '85, have been named for the third consecutive year to Barron's Top 1000 Financial Advisers in the United States. Barron's magazine publishes the list each year to recognize top financial advisers in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The 2012 list ranks Miller and Young at number 32 in the state of Texas. They are with Merrill Lynch in Fort Worth.

'78 Bobby Kleinecke '78, was inducted into the Texas Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame in Dallas. He played at WT and won five Missouri Valley Conference titles. He was inducted into the WTAMU Hall of Champions in 2008. He spent 26 years as women's tennis coach at Texas A&M University and now coaches at Willis High School.

'79 Cody Myers '79, is the recipient of the 2012 Lifetime Administrator Achievement Award of Outstanding Commitment to Music Education presented to him at the Texas Bandmasters Association's annual convention in July. He has been director of fine arts at Amarillo Independent School District for 15 years and has taught band in Tulia, Dimmitt, Dumas and Midland.

David Willis '79, was featured in the inaugural issue of Who's Who in Black Dallas, a publication showcasing accomplishments of African Americans in the Dallas area. Willis is the chief executive officer of Renaissance Enterprises, Inc., where he has been involved with more than $350 million in new real estate construction projects. He also will chair the 2012 African American Student Reunion at WTAMU.

'81 Gregg Bynum '81, received the 2012 Alumni of the Year Leadership Award during the July graduation ceremony of the Southwest CUNA Management School (SCMS) in Fort Worth. He is president and CEO of the Education Credit Union in Amarillo and has been elected twice to the SCMS alumni board and serves on the Texas Credit Union League's governmental affairs committee. Bynum also serves on the WTAMU Foundation and on the board of directors of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum.

'Tony LoPresti '82, is the author of the children's book My Cat, published by 4RV Publishing. The book shares a young girl's journey with her feline companion. LoPresti is an award-winning screenwriter, who has worked in theatre and independent film production. He and his family live in Oklahoma City.

'84 Randy Ray '84, is the author of Thank the Lord for Leroy: A Humorous Look at Life, Love, Friendship and Faith, published in January by CrossBooks. Ray uses humor to share his life experiences from life on the road to raising children. The former recording artist is now director of broadcast engineering at WTAMU.

'86 Jon Drake '86, was promoted in December to senior executive vice president of Peoples Bank. He joined Peoples Bank in 2006 as executive vice president and chief financial officer. Drake continues to serve as CFO with the promotion.

'89 Nick Scales '89, was an invited performer at the Orfeo Music Festival, July 6-23 in northern Italy. He taught a masterclass in double bass and performed in two chamber music concerts and two orchestra concerts. The Orfeo Music Festival offers a full program of international classical performers along with a full roster of classes taught by artists in residence and guest artists. Students get the opportunity to study and learn from some of the finest musicians in the world.

'91 Betsy Baughman '91, has been named the head coach for girl's basketball at Tascosa High School in Amarillo. She played at WT under Bob Schneider and has served as head coach in Amarillo, Happy, Merkel, Crawford, Seagraves and Mineral Wells.

Chad Fitzgerald '91, was a contestant on season two of TLC's Next Great Baker. The Dallas-area baker made it to the final four of the show and is now back home, where he is co-owner of The Cake Guys and a high school math teacher in Duncanville.

Lynn Mock '91, is the recipient of a prestigious Teaching Excellence Award at Midland College. Mock, an associate professor of nursing, was nominated and selected for the award by her colleagues.

'92 Gregory Arp '92, has been named Secondary Teacher of the Year for 2012 by the Plano Independent School District. Arp is the performing arts director at Plano Senior High School.

Paul Phillips '92, has been named president of Maxi-Lift, Inc., an international manufacturer and marketer of plastic elevator buckets and accessories. He serves on the board of directors and executive committee of the American Feed Industry Association (AFIA) and last year was the recipient of the AFIA Member of the Year award.

'94 Mark Kammleh '94, is the new principal at Williams Elementary School in the Arlington Independent School District. He has been the assistant principal at the district's Goodman Elementary School since 2002 and has taught at Williams Elementary and at Bishop Elementary in Everman.

'95 Amy Lanham-Reid '95, has been named the new executive director Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Baltimore County in Maryland. She joins CASA from World Vision U.S., and her associate,

Cynthia Gregory '90, retired in May from the Plainview Independent School District (PISD) after a 30-year career in teaching—28 of those years were spent in PISD. She plans to read, travel and spend time with her two schnauzers.

Kevin N. Word '95, is the new principal for Parkway Elementary School in the Lubbock Independent School District. He has been the assistant principal at the district's Goodman Elementary School since 2002 and has taught at Williams Elementary and at Bishop Elementary in Everman.

'97 Natalie Esary '97, is the author of Helluva Luxe, set for release Sept. 1 by Lethre Press. She is a freelance editor and writer and contributor to Therapy Sucks and Love is a Mangled Splintered Thing, available as ebooks through Amazon.com.
in memoriam


Jesse Powell ’70, died June 14 in Lubbock. He was a Buff defensive lineman/backer from 1966-68 and was selected by the Miami Dolphins in the ninth round of the 1969 draft. He played five seasons in the NFL, and was a two-time Super Bowl champ.

Dennis Walling, former WT men’s basketball player and head coach, died Aug. 18 at the age of 80. He played Buff basketball from 1949-1953 and served as the Buff’s head coach for six years beginning in 1967. He was inducted into the WTAMU Hall of Champions in 2009.

Lloyd Watkins, former WTAMU president, passed away March 1 in Bloomington, Ill. He served as president at WT from 1972-1977. He was named president of Illinois State University in 1977 and retired from the position in 1988. He continued as a professor in ISU’s communication department and permanently retired in 1991.

Mike Zoffuto ’69, died Feb. 26 in Amarillo. He played Buff football from 1966-67 and was a former WT coach. He gained national fame for his broadcast of the 1994 Plano East-Tyler John Tyler playoff game when a late touchdown return prompted him to say on air “God bless those kids. I’m sick. I think I’m gonna throw up.”

Ryan Hazelwood ’99, has joined the team at Amarillo’s ABC affiliate KVII as news director. He previously worked as a broadcast engineer and instructor at WTAMU. Hazelwood also owns his own production company.

Matt Muir ’95, is the writer and director of Thank You a Lot, an original feature film about the Austin music scene. The film, produced by Chris Ohlson and starring Blake DeLong and James Hand, tells the story about a music agent and his reclusive, legendary father.

Mark Kellogg ’00, is the new head coach for women’s basketball at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville. He joined the Bearcat family after seven seasons as head coach at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo.

Marcus Brockman ’01, was promoted to senior vice president at Peoples Bank in Nacazrith. He joined Peoples Bank in April 2005 and has served as branch manager and loan officer.

Nathan Fambro ‘01, and Dynamo Innovations Group, Inc., business partner Brent Boswell have developed the Stabil-i Case, a pocket-sized video stabilization phone case. The duo’s invention is backed by years of experience in the film and television industry.

Andrea Stevens Keller ’03, was named the 2011-2012 Teacher of the Year by the Texas Computer Education Association and recognized as one of the “20 to Watch in 2012” by the National School Board Association at the Consortium for School Networking Annual Conference March 6 in Washington, D.C. The “20 to Watch in 2012” individuals represent emerging leaders in education technology and enrich the lives of students, teachers and school districts. Keller is a LIFE K-5 special education teacher at Elliott Elementary School in the Irving Independent School District.

Johnathan Leonhart ’04, has joined NCW Insurance in Amarillo as a risk consultant. He will work with corporate professionals and business owners on their commercial insurance needs.

Lee K. Howard ’05, is a weekend sports anchor at WKYT 27 in Lexington, Ky.

Clay Beardemphl ’06, has been promoted to banking officer in the operations department at Peoples Bank. He is now responsible for the automatic clearing house and wire transfers activities and serves as the coordinator of the bank’s business continuity planning. He joined Peoples Bank in 2006.

Jack ’06 and Helene ’02, ’08, were presented the WT Foundation’s prestigious Pinnacle Award during the Old Main Society’s formal induction ceremony in June. The Haywards were recognized for their support of the University. In 2008 the Haywards gifted the University with the Hayward Spirit Tower, the clock tower that now marks the north entrance to WTAMU’s Pedestrian Mall.

Michelle Resendez-Mata ’06, is a certified Professional in Human Resources, a member of the Society for Human Resource Management and serves as a board member for the San Antonio Chapter of the American Society for Training and Development (ASTD). She met with Rep. Francisco Canseco and several legislative aides last fall on Capitol Hill to discuss workplace training and development-related issues on behalf of ASTD.

Pamela Garrett ’08, was named the Elementary Teacher of the Year by the Amarillo Independent School District during the district’s Lamar Lively Teacher of the Year breakfast in May. She is a prekindergarten teacher at South Georgia Elementary.

Orations on the Dignity of Man: Men, Ideas and Ideals in Renaissance Europe with Dr. David Baum, director of the Remnant Trust Series at WTAMU

10:30-11:45 a.m. Wednesdays Oct. 10-31, Amarillo Center

Come learn how the Renaissance attempted to fashion a positive “humanistic” view of society, religion, art and politics and how those efforts worked. Discover the role Giovanni Pico, Machiavelli, Thomas More, Michelangelo, Michel Montaigne and Shakespeare played during this cultural movement.

Cost of the course is $60, and the deadline to register is Oct. 3.

For more information, call the Office of Continuing Education at 806-651-2037 or visit wtamu.edu/OCE.
“We are so grateful to the Haley family. This is a wonderful opportunity for the college to be able to support a faculty member as a Haley Professor and two graduate students as Haley Scholars in their research on Western Studies,” Dr. Jessica Mallard, interim dean of the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities, said. “The prospect of studying at the Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library and the J. Evetts Haley History Center provides the opportunity for in-depth research on an important topic and the chance for increased connections between the Haley family and WT.”

The Haley Endowed Professorship of Western Studies will benefit the University in terms of research and help in the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty. Dr. Alex Hunt, associate professor of English, has been named the first Haley Endowed Professor of Western Studies. The professorship is a three-year appointment, and funds from the endowed account will provide Hunt with approximately $20,000 per year for travel, graduate assistants, computer software and hardware, database and/or journal subscriptions or any other resources for enhancing research at the Haley Memorial Library. Hunt also will mentor the Haley Scholars Graduate Fellows in their research. His appointment began Sept. 1.

The Haley Graduate Fellowship is one of the most prestigious fellowships available at WTAMU. It is designed for graduate students majoring in history with an interest in western history or English majors with an emphasis in western literature studies. Preference will be given to graduate students from Texas, New Mexico or Oklahoma. Recipients for the 2012-2013 academic year are Aaron Howland and Kristin Loyd, graduate students in English from Amarillo. They can hold the position for no more than two years with a minimum funding of $10,000 per fellow. As Haley Graduate Fellows, Howland and Loyd will be required to conduct research at the Haley Memorial Library and submit their work for publication.

The Haley Undergraduate Scholarship is for students majoring in history with an interest in western history studies or an English major with an emphasis in western literature studies. Preference will be given to students transferring to WTAMU from Midland College and to students from Texas, New Mexico or Oklahoma. Recipients will support the Haley Professor and the Haley Graduate Fellows in research and publication. Haley Undergraduate Scholars will receive a minimum of $5,000 per year. No more than two scholars will be named per year.

WTAMU and the Haley Memorial Library and the J. Evetts Haley History Center will host the Haley Scholars Lecture Series each year in Midland. The Haley Professor and the Haley Scholars will be the keynote speakers in a presentation of their research findings.

The late J. Evetts Haley established the Haley Memorial Library and History Center more than 40 years ago to preserve the western heritage and provide unparalleled research resources for students, researchers and writers. The facility houses 25,000 books, documents and materials that detail the rich history of the west. History buffs can find everything from photos, letters and news clippings to personal papers, scrapbooks and military records in a full listing of early settlers from Harold Dow Bugbee to Lt. Col. D. M. Tanner.

For more information about the Haley Family Western Heritage Program at WTAMU, call the Sybil B. Harrington College of Fine Arts and Humanities at 806-651-2777 or visit haleylibrary.com.

Western Heritage Lives on at WTAMU

BY RANA MCDONALD • PHOTO BY RIK ANDERSEN

A vast collection on the rich history of the Texas frontier is now part of the Haley Family Western Heritage Program at West Texas A&M University thanks to a special collaboration with the Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library and the J. Evetts Haley History Center in Midland.

The program is a joint effort between the Midland facility and WTAMU’s Department of History and Department of English, Philosophy and Modern Languages. It is supported by a generous donation to encourage WTAMU research at the Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library and the J. Evetts Haley History Center through the newly created Haley Endowed Professorship of Western Studies as well as the Haley Scholars—Haley Undergraduate Scholarships and Haley Graduate Fellowships—and a Haley Scholars Lecture Series. The J. Evetts Haley Jr. family endowed the undergraduate scholarship, and a 10-year commitment of $40,000 per year for 10 years from an anonymous donor will support the professorship and two fellow positions. That will give WTAMU an opportunity to raise $800,000 over the next 10 years to endow the various components of the Haley Family Western Heritage Program.

J. Evetts Haley

History was a passion for J. Evetts Haley, who grew up on a ranch near Midland and graduated from West Texas Normal College in 1925 with a bachelor’s degree in history. He worked as the field secretary for the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society and interviewed close to 700 pioneers in the Texas Panhandle. His interest in the Texas frontier prompted him to write more than 20 books as well as numerous articles about the American West. He is probably best known for his book Charlie Goodnight, Cowboy and Plainsman.

He also was politically active and chaired the Jeffersonian Democrats of Texas. He ran unsuccessfully for governor of Texas in 1956. Haley lived a long and full life as an author, cowboy, rancher, politician, historian and professor. He died in October 1995 at the age of 86.
In November 2011, The Texas A&M University Board of Regents approved the naming of West Texas A&M University’s new athletic facility as the Bain Athletic Center. The board’s approval recognized Ray and Barbara Bain and the entire Bain family for their generous gift to help build the $4 million dollar facility. The lead gift from the Bains combined with gifts from other supporters of the project have raised more than 50 percent of the necessary funds. Information regarding naming opportunities, donor levels and building specifications is available at gobuffsgo.com.

When the West Texas A&M University football team reported for the beginning of fall practice in early August, the Buffaloes had a brand new place to call home.

The newly completed football locker room is the first step in the completion of the Bain Athletic Center, located behind Jarrett Hall on the north side of the WTAMU campus. The 6,700 square foot locker room provides 135 lockers, along with showers, laundry facilities, equipment storage space and a video screen for the team to utilize when studying game-film review. When completed, the facility also will house WT’s Athletic Training and Strength/Condition programs.

“Our first priority was to get football in a home,” said WT Director of Athletics Michael McBroom. “They’ve been patient, and I think now they’re in a very nice locker room. It is really fantastic and has been a worthwhile venture.”

The Bain Athletic Center is located on the west side of the Buffalo Sports Complex, one of the premier intercollegiate athletic complexes in the country. WT’s dream of a new, state-of-the-art complex became a reality when ground was broken in a ceremony during the winter of 2009.

The complex, now entering its third year, consists of competition fields for Intercollegiate Athletics, including venues for soccer, track and field, baseball and softball as well as practice facilities for football, soccer and the WTAMU Marching Band. In addition, the complex includes Rec-Sports facilities which include tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, three intramural fields for flag football and slow-pitch softball.

The initial construction of the Bain Athletic Center, along with the completion of the Buffalo Sports Complex, represent the building blocks for the future of West Texas A&M Athletics.

The next stage of the project is the completion of the Athletic Training and Strength/Condition areas of the nearly 24,000 square foot space. The training areas will be fully equipped with a hydrotherapy facility, taping tables, ice baths and much more. The state-of-the-art, 7,000-square foot weight room will serve all 500 student-athletes at WT.

“Once the next phase is done, the whole building will be terrific, especially for football,” McBroom said. “They’ll be able to walk across the hall, get taped, then walk down the hall to the weight room.”

Due to the sheer size and quality of the center, funds must be raised for certain phases to begin. The entire center, projected to cost just over $4 million, is being funded entirely through private donations.

Future stages include the addition of a Championship Atrium that will showcase the tradition and success of WT Athletics, along with an Academic Success Center for WT’s student-athletes.

The commitment of the entire student body and University has given West Texas A&M the start of one of the truly outstanding athletic facilities in all of NCAA Division II.
Sometimes life puts you in the place you love a little later than you expect. For Jack and Helene Hayward, it wasn’t until retirement that they found West Texas A&M University.

The Haywards are great friends to the University and very active alumni, but they did not receive their undergraduate degrees from West Texas A&M University, or West Texas State College for that matter.

“They were a couple that after retirement, moved to Canyon and became associated with the University, and it became part of their lives,” said Dr. J. Pat O’Brien, president of West Texas A&M University. “When you think about enthusiastic alumni, you think about individuals who as undergraduates attended the University for four years, they lived on campus, attended all the activities, but for Jack and Helene, it was different.”

Neither Hayward was to be satisfied with the leisurely life of retirement, and soon after arriving in Canyon, both were enrolled at WT as graduate students. Helene earned two master’s degrees, one in art in 2002 and a Master of Fine Arts in 2008, and Jack finished his master’s in professional counseling in 2006. During his tenure as a student, Jack also was a member of the WT marching band. “Not only was he the most fit member of the band, but he was probably the most energetic,” said Don LeFevre, director of bands at WTAMU.

LeFevre went on to say that the Haywards continue to contribute to the band, including buying new marching hats each fall.

Their contributions to the University has seen many facets over the years, but the most notable is undoubtedly the Hayward Spirit Clock Tower that looks over the Pedestrian Mall in the middle of the WT campus.

“In the summer of 2007, I got a phone call from Jack,” said O’Brien. “He asked me, ‘Do you know what’s missing from this campus? We don’t have a clock tower. Helene and I would like to donate the money to build a clock tower on campus.’ That was one of the most out of the blue, generous contributions I have ever come across.”

It’s that kind of generosity that earned the Haywards the distinguished honor of being the 2012 recipients of the Pinnacle Award from the WTAMU Foundation.

“The Pinnacle Award is the highest recognition that we give to University donors,” said O’Brien. “We have had some very fantastic recipients, and Jack and Helene fit right in there as two of the most dedicated individuals that this University has ever known. They continue to be the most generous, contributing alumni that you could ever imagine. They are truly a part of the WT family.”
Together we can do so much.

$35 million

$15_M$ SCHOLARSHIPS

$8_M$ PROGRAM AND FACULTY SUPPORT

$12_M$ CAPITAL PROJECTS
The early morning quiet is shattered when Anna’s clock radio sounds at 6 a.m. Not quite ready to face the morning, Anna listens to the early morning chatter of the radio deejay for a few minutes before climbing out of bed for a brand new day. She turns off the radio, hits the television remote and adjusts the volume of the local morning show before heading to the shower.

It’s not even 6:30 a.m., and Anna’s day has already been influenced by two encounters with West Texas A&M University. That early morning radio deejay earned his degree in broadcasting at West Texas A&M University, and the morning show host is currently working on her master’s degree in communication at WTAMU. By the time Anna gets to work, the number will increase exponentially as she drops her children off at school where University alumni populate the building as teachers, coaches, band and music directors, counselors and even principals. At work, Anna greets her co-workers, many of whom majored in business and marketing at WTAMU.

That afternoon Anna’s WTAMU contacts continue as she visits a friend in the hospital (doctors, nurses), makes a deposit at the bank (tellers, loan officers), shops (business owners, sales associates), dines (owners, managers, wait staff, farmers, cattle producers, researchers), attends a concert (Amarillo Symphony, Amarillo Opera, Chamber Music Amarillo, Amarillo Little Theatre, Lone Star Ballet) and watches the evening news (anchors, editors, producers, reporters). Even just driving across town increases Anna’s encounters through billboards, logos, letterheads and advertising designed by WTAMU alumni.

Anna’s day is a perfect example of how West Texas A&M University graduates share their pride by contributing to the business, cultural, educational, medical and agricultural professions of the Texas Panhandle and beyond on a daily basis. Their contributions are endless, and the impact is enormous. It’s an impact that WTAMU officials want to expand through its Share Your Pride capital campaign.

The campaign is the perfect way to Share Your Pride by strengthening or renewing ties to WTAMU and helping expand the University’s impact for generations to come. Generous support from family and friends will expand the University’s endowed scholarships, faculty and program enhancements and improve campus facilities and technology to prepare students for the business, cultural, educational, medical and agricultural professions of tomorrow.

“Your belief in the power of education and your commitment to WT will be the catalyst to elevate West Texas A&M University into a great institution capable of transforming not only people’s lives but also the future of our state and country,” Don Powell ’63, campaign chairman, said. “I look forward to working with each of you as we come together to achieve our campaign goals.”

Share your Pride and join WTAMU’s commitment to impact the world. Visit wtamu.edu/giving for more information about WTAMU’s Share Your Pride campaign.
The Campaign for
West Texas A&M University

Don Powell, ’63
WTAMU Campaign Chairman

Dr. J. Patrick O’Brien
CEO/President of WTAMU

Share your PRIDE