



Spring 2009

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends:

As I read the headlines in higher education this week I'm troubled by what's happening at many of our nation's top universities.

California schools have proposed steep tuition increases as the state prepares to cut \$115 million in university funding for the upcoming academic year. Those schools are also reducing statewide enrollment to help save money, which will mean that 2,300 California residents may be denied access to public higher education next year.

In Washington State, lawmakers have cut \$437 million from the biennium higher education budget which will force statewide tuition increases as high as 14 percent. They will also be forced to eliminate more than 9,000 slots for entering freshmen.

Florida faces severe economic pressures and its public universities are feeling the pain. Florida State University has announced plans to eliminate 21 degree programs and may close one of its campuses.

MIT will save millions in expenses by eliminating eight NCAA sports from its athletic department. Even venerable Harvard, which has suffered a 30 percent loss in the market value of their endowment, has announced plans to trim the number of academic programs they will offer next year due to a 19 percent budget reduction.

We are fortunate to live in Texas, where our economy is in better shape.

While economic growth has slowed in Texas this year, the Comptroller's Office still projects that the Texas economy will expand by 1.8 percent in fiscal 2009. The U.S. economy, by contrast, is on track to shrink by 0.9 percent over the fiscal year.

I am thankful to have a conservative state government that has managed its spending relatively well and Texans are fortunate to have state leaders who understand that spending on higher education is an investment in our most important resource – our children.

The Legislature also has had the foresight to provide a framework that will help Texas Tech become a national research university. This will eventually create new industries in the state based on new technologies that will be discovered and commercialized.

Finally, the Texas Tech University System is fortunate to have tremendous private support from individuals who are willing to give back so future generations of students can enjoy boundless educational opportunities.

While the economic situation is better in Texas than most other states, we're still far from certain how higher education will fare in the coming academic year and the years that follow.

We don't know how much formula funding will be approved from the Legislature. We don't know how much, if any, federal stimulus money will be granted to us. We don't know if state policymakers will act to cap or freeze tuition, and we certainly don't know how much the weak economy and the financial crisis will impact our fall enrollment numbers.

These uncertainties make this year's budget process especially difficult.

Despite that, we remain focused on the one thing we do control: our responsibility to manage our finances conservatively and to squeeze the most from every dollar that is invested in our universities.

Despite the economy, I've never been more optimistic about the future of the Texas Tech University System.

Over the past six months we've drafted a new System strategic plan that's designed to guide us through the next decade. We have expanded student scholarships, created new endowed chairs for professors, and developed doctoral fellowships for graduate students which will help us recruit extremely talented individuals to our campuses.

We also have a strong leadership team in place that fully understands and supports the strategic priorities of each institution and is selectively applying resources to the areas of greatest promise. We recognize that faculty and staff are our greatest resources and will continue to find ways to better utilize, recognize and reward their considerable talents.

Very Truly Yours,

Kent Hance, Chancellor



The Texas Tech University Hispanic Law Students Association welcomed former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales at their annual scholarship dinner in March. Gonzales served as the event's keynote speaker.





Pictured from left are Judge Sam Medina, Mickey Long, Nancy Neal and John Huffaker.



Taylor Eighmy (A-mee) has been named vice president for research at Texas Tech University. Eighmy's appointment will be effective July 1. He comes to Texas Tech from the University of New Hampshire where he is interim vice president for research and director of the Strategic Initiatives Office. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Tufts University and master's and doctoral degrees in civil engineering from UNH.

BOARD OF REGENTS ELECTS OFFICERS, SWEARS IN NEW MEMBERS

The Texas Tech University System Board of Regents elected Larry Anders and Jerry Turner chair and vice chair, respectively. The two will serve two-year terms, beginning immediately.

Anders, who just completed a term as vice chair of the board, replaces Scott Dueser of Abilene as chair of the board.

Anders was appointed to the board in 2005. He is the chairman and majority owner of Summit Alliance Companies, an independent investment advisory and financial services firm in Dallas. A native of Lubbock, Anders attended West Texas State University before attending Texas Tech. His term expires on Jan. 31, 2011.

Turner was appointed to the board in 2007. He is a partner at Andrews Kurth, L.L.P. specializing in public finance. Turner, who lives in Blanco, graduated from Texas Tech with a bachelor's degree in 1968. His term expires on Jan. 31, 2013.

Also, three new regents took their oath of office. They are: John Huffaker of Amarillo, Mickey L. Long of Midland and Nancy Neal of Lubbock.

Huffaker is a partner at Sprouse Shrader Smith Law Firm. He replaces Windy Sitton of Lubbock. Long is president of Westex Well Service LP. He replaces Bob Stafford of Amarillo. Neal is a registered nurse, former school nurse and past member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. She replaces Scott Dueser of Abilene.

The terms of the new regents will expire Jan. 31, 2015. The governor appoints nine people in staggered six-year terms to the board plus one student regent who serves a one-year term.

TTU JOINS PRESTIGIOUS SUPERCOMPUTING CLUB

The acquisition of a new high performance computing cluster places Texas Tech University among the top universities in the world. The TOP500 Project ranks Texas Tech as 288 in the world, 71 among world academic institutions and 28 among U.S. academic institutions for computer power.

The ranking places Texas Tech second in Texas and third in the Big 12 behind the University of Texas and the University of Oklahoma. The TOP500 Supercomputer Sites group has been ranking the 500 fastest computer systems in the world since 1993. The list includes computer systems from national research laboratories, universities and the private sector.

Texas Tech acquired the DELL high performance cluster known as Grendel late last year. It is housed in the newly constructed High Performance Computing Center (HPCC) in the Experimental Sciences Building. Grendel consists of 1,680 processor cores and 100 terabytes of directly attached storage capable of an aggregate processing speed of 20 teraflops. In lay terms that is the equivalent of the power of 1,600 standard desktop computers working at one time on a problem. Grendel represents a four-fold increase in power over the university's existing cluster, which remains available to researchers.

TTUHSC Briefs

The Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine's entering class of 2006 has achieved a one hundred percent pass rate on the United States Medical Licensing Examination.

The SOM students passed the USMLE 1 which is the first of three steps in the overall examination process.

The USMLE 1 assesses the student's ability to apply important concepts of the sciences to the practice of medicine.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recently announced the Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing as No. 1 in the state for 2008 graduation performance with 96.43 percent of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing students graduating.

Also, 86.86 percent of these graduates passed the National Council Licensure Examination for the first time.

MORELAND, DE LEÓN RECEIVE INAUGURAL CHANCELLOR'S COUNCIL AWARDS AT ASU

Faculty members Ellen D. Moreland of the Mathematics Department and Dr. Arnoldo De León of the History Department have been named the inaugural Angelo State University recipients of the Texas Tech University System Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award and Chancellor's Council Distinguished Research Award, respectively.

Moreland was named recipient of the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Teaching Award for her "demonstrably effective" classroom teaching. She excels in teaching classes from remedial mathematics up to the senior capstone course, which she designed for prospective high school math teachers. Since she designed the capstone course more than a decade ago, 100 percent of the ASU students completing the high school mathematics certification program have passed the state certification exam on the first try. By contrast, the statewide average is approximately 65 percent.

De León, the C.J. "Red" Davidson Professor of History at ASU, was honored for his historical research, which has re-shaped contemporary understanding of Texas history, particularly as it relates to Mexican Americans. He is the author of 15 critically acclaimed books and monographs, as well as the editor of 11 more.



Pictured from left are Arnoldo De León and Ellen D. Moreland.

RESEARCHERS DEVELOP PRODUCT TO REVOLUTIONALIZE ORTHODONTIC INDUSTRY

Lubbock-based ClassOne Orthodontics has rolled out a new coating for braces - based on groundbreaking research at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center - that's expected to revolutionize the industry. Called SeLECT Defense, the product makes use of selenium-based coating approved by the Food & Drug Administration that vastly reduces microbial plaque build-up on braces, a long-standing industry problem. The sealant was developed by researchers Ted Reid at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center and Julian Spallholz at Texas Tech University.

TEXAS TECH RECEIVES PATENT FOR DECONTAMINATION WIPE CREATION PROCESS

The process used to create nonwoven toxic chemical decontamination wipes, such as Texas Tech University's Fibertect™, recently received a patent from the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Receiving the patent means the university has secured the intellectual property protection for the decontamination wipe's technology.

Currently, the Fibertect™ wipe is under production by Hobbs Bonded Fibers of Waco and was invented by Seshadri Ramkumar, an associate professor of environmental toxicology at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH).

Dr. Ramkumar was issued patent No. 7,516,525, titled Process for Making Chemical Protective Wipes and Such Wipes.

TIEHH UNVEILS STATE-OF-THE-ART NONWOVEN LAB

The Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) at Texas Tech University introduced a new, state-of-the-art fabric laboratory to help researchers continue creating products that can protect both military and civilian populations.

The 4,000-square-foot facility, named the Nonwovens and Advanced Materials Laboratory, was unveiled April 6. The new lab's air conditioning and humidification system, contoured needlezone needlepunching technology and thermal bonding capability will allow for faster, more focused research into nonwoven technologies.

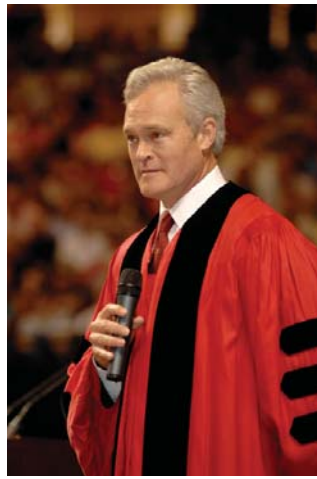
Funding for the lab's \$1.5 million cost included \$125,000 from Lubbock Economic Development Alliance and nearly \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) for the machinery. Overall, nonwoven research at Texas Tech has received \$2.5 million in DoD funding.



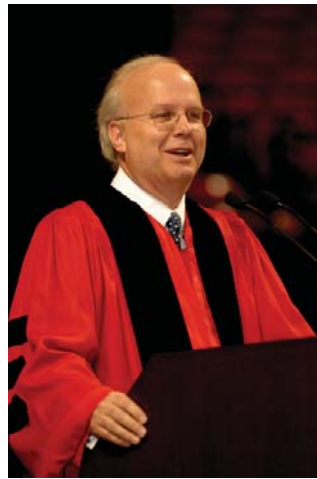
Pictured from left are Seshadri Ramkumar, Guy Bailey, Rory Holmes, Ron Kendall and Kent Hance.



Karen P. Hughes



Scott Pelley



Karl Rove



Anita Thigpen Perry

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES HELD

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY - More than 3,100 students received diplomas May 8-9 during the five ceremonies held at the United Spirit Arena. Texas Tech saw its largest group of spring undergraduates in history.

Ambassador Karen P. Hughes, former counselor to President George W. Bush and under secretary of state with the rank of ambassador, spoke at the undergraduate and Graduate School ceremonies on May 8, while Scott Pelley, a correspondent for 60 Minutes since 2004, spoke at two commencement ceremonies on May 9. Karl Rove, former deputy chief of staff and senior advisor to Bush, spoke at the School of Law Hooding Ceremony.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER - The Health Sciences Center graduated students from each of its regional campuses and schools of allied health sciences, nursing, pharmacy, medicine and the graduate school of biomedical sciences on May 16. Texas First Lady Anita Thigpen Perry was the keynote speaker. Perry was honored for her commitment in health care and educating future nurses, when the Texas Tech University System Board of Regents approved the TTUHSC Anita Thigpen Perry School of Nursing on Aug. 7, 2008.

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY - More than 600 students received diplomas during Angelo State University's spring graduation ceremonies May 16. San Angelo Mayor J.W. Lown delivered the commencement addresses.



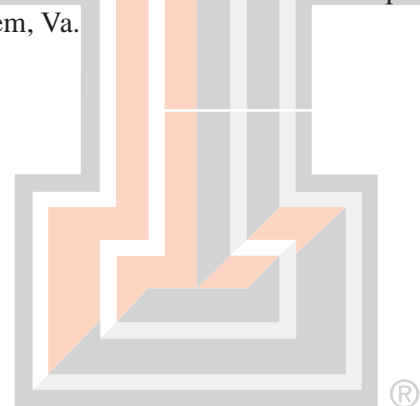
2009 ASU Rambelles

RAMBELLES WIN CONFERENCE TITLE, ADVANCE TO NCAA D-II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

The No. 4-ranked Angelo State softball team (43-8) fell behind early but exploded for six runs in the fourth and sixth innings to defeat No. 12 Abilene Christian, 13-5, and claim the 2009 Lone Star Conference Championship May 2 in Abilene.

The Rambelles downed Nebraska-Omaha on May 10 in the title game of the NCAA Division II South Central Region Tournament in San Angelo before defeating No. 7 Southeastern Oklahoma to take the the 2009 NCAA Division II South Central Super Regional crown. The Rambelles will advance to the NCAA D-II National Championship Finals, May 21-25, in Salem, Va.

From here, it's possible.



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