Sul Ross administrators visit China

Thurman and Valenzuela leave today on recruiting mission

By Angela Greenroy
Editor-in-Chief

Thurman and Valenzuela will be visiting China while the city is in bloom. Heze is the peony capital of China. Chinese students who come to the Big Bend area may be surprised by the landscape, but hopefully they will find as much pleasure in it as the locals do.

“Cultural diversity enriches the learning environment and helps to educate students for a global community,” Thurman said.

State University has been attracting Chinese students and these students adjust very well. Sul Ross is also ideal because Alpine is a small town and foreign students won’t get dispersed, but they will add diversity and value.

“The idea is to establish a relationship between the two universities so that students from China who wish to speak English can come here and be immersed in our culture,” Thurman said.

The students who come here will know English, are likely to be females with good reading and listening skills, but they need to practice speaking and hearing the language.

Thurman was asked to give two presentations, one on Sul Ross and the other on criminal justice. If a relationship is established and Sul Ross gets enough students in this exchange, an international office will be needed and ESL.

Thurman and Valenzuela leave today on recruiting mission
Editor's Message

Nine members of the Skyline staff just got back from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association (TIPA) conference excited and ready to improve our game. Designer Kaidyn Wood summarized the TIPA experience for everyone on our staff, “TIPA has seriously made me feel reinvigorated, I’m ready to finish this semester with a bang!”

We heard from other colleges and universities while we were there and we have recommitted ourselves to publishing news. Some may appreciate that more than others. A big thank you to those who help us stay on top of the happenings around Sul Ross and an even bigger thank you to our fans.

The staff has felt the encouragement from so many people on campus and we appreciate every bit of it. Also, thank you to Sharon Henderson, Barbara Richerson, David Cockrum, B.J. Gallego and adviser Cheryl Zinsmeyer—we are second in overall excellence because we have people like you behind us every step of the way.

Angela Greenroy
Editor-in-Chief

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Angela Greenroy
Associate Editor: Kendall Hallmark
Photographers: Thalia Aparicio, Susanna Mendez
Art: Ari Ransom, Claire Underwood, Matt Hardison
Reporters: Brian LaLima, Brenda Gallegos
Sports Writer: Kaidyn Wood
Design Editor: Sylvia Samayo
Designers: Vincent Parras
Artist: Susanna Mendez
Distribution: OPEN
Ad Sales: OPEN
Contributor: Steve Lang
Advisor: Cheryl Zinsmeyer

Office: 432-837-3051; BAB 106 & 108
Editor: 432-837-8187
Advertising: 432-837-8187 or 8001
Fax: 432-837-0664
Email: skyline@sulross.edu
The Sul Ross Skyline is printed on campus by Lauren Mendias and Rob Stoltz at the SRSU Print Shop.
Visit The Skyline online at www.sulross.edu & like us on Facebook

Contents

5 Questions about athletic fee answered
6-7 Training pays off at Law Enforcement Academy
12 Boquillas crossing re-opens in national park
16-18 Spring breakers in Big Bend National Park
20 Jessica Wood takes regional title
22-23 Lobo sports

on the cover
FRONT: Alpine ISO student Abby Clayton shows off her baseball autographed by the Lobo baseball team, thanks to the Student Athletics Advisory Committee who passed out balls to other students as well. Photo by Thalia Aparicio
BACK: Texas weather always brings surprises, like this funnel cloud that appeared in Alpine April 13, accompanied by rain and hail. Thankfully, the funnel cloud, while scary, never touched ground. Photo courtesy Angela Greenroy

Submissions policy: Email to skyline@sulross.edu. No anonymous letters will be printed. The Skyline reserves the right to edit letters and submissions for grammar, spelling, space, profanity/obscenity or libel. We reserve the right to refuse any submissions the staff deem necessary. The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of Sul Ross State University or the Skyline staff. No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored by Sul Ross State University on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including but not limited to race, color, national origin, religion, sex or disability.
Last semester, Sul Ross State University students overwhelmingly approved an athletic fee of $6 per semester credit hour for the spring and fall semesters and $4.50 per semester credit hour during the summer sessions. The fee was estimated to yield an estimated $280,000 annually to assist the athletic budget. The Sul Ross athletic budget is largely funded by Student Service Fees (SSF) with approximately 88 percent coming from this source.

Fee approved by students last fall
How does the athletic fee play into the 2013-14 budget?

By Angela Greenroy, Editor-in-Chief
Kendall Hallmark, Associate Editor

An impromptu meeting of the Student Government Association’s executive council and the Sul Ross administration was called Tuesday evening, April 16, the day before The Skyline went to press. The meeting was called to eliminate any confusion of the disbursement of the athletic fee that was approved last fall semester.

Last year the athletic department was budgeted approximately $300,000. This year they requested more. The SGA representatives felt it was important for students to understand where and how fees are being dispersed.

Spring 2013 enrollment was less than anticipated and one result of the low numbers is a lower amount accrued by the new athletic fee. Cesario Valenzuela, VP for Finance and Operations, is in charge of planning the budget according to the projected number of enrolled students.

“No funds were budgeted from the athletic fee for this fiscal year because the student election, which ultimately approved the fee, was not held until fall 2012. The fee did not become effective until spring 2013,” Valenzuela said.

“Some of the funds generated this spring will be used to ‘fill in the gaps’ for spring sports as well as secure needed items to begin the fall season. As we told the students during the forums held in the fall, the purpose of the athletic fee was to enhance the athletic programs; the new funds were not intended to replace the funds provided by the Student Service Fee,” he said. “However, it was our intent to ‘give back’ $25,000 to the Student Service Fee Committee for use in the 2014 budget. We have done that. I anticipate that the funding for athletics from student service fees should remain at the same levels as before and we will try to cover as much of the additional needs as possible from the athletic fee.”

The Student Service Fee Advisory Committee (SSF) consists of five students and four staff members charged with recommending a student service fee disbursement budget that will be presented for approval to President Ricardo Maestas for fiscal year 2014. The
committee met this past week.

In addition to Maestas and Valenzuela, other administrative officials at the April 16 meeting included Quint Thurman, Provost and VP for Academic and Student Affairs; and Leo Dominguez, VP for Advancement and Dean of Student Life.

“I feel it [athletic fee] was misrepresented and I believe the student body feels that way as well,” Sterling Baade, Student Chief Justice, said.

“We were told it was going to be used for equipment, travel expenses, and improvement of the athletic program,” said Anna Sandoval, SGA President.

Currently, the student service fees pays 25 percent of coaches’ annual salaries and the remainder of their salaries comes from the state education funds.

“The athletic fee is not being spent on coaches’ salaries, only for the head coach,” Maestas explained. “All non-instructional related positions must be paid for by student fees. It’s not just athletics. This also includes other positions such as the director of residential living, student nurse and recreational sports director. Students are already paying a percentage of the coaches’ salaries, so this is nothing new.”

The administration reiterated the fact that the athletic fee can only be used in relation to athletics.

In October, before the fee was approved by students, former athletic director Kay Whitley said that “the proposed fee would generate income to offset the travel costs, increase Sul Ross recruiting efforts and purchase necessary equipment and supplies in a timely fashion. In short, it would help to level the playing field with other ASC members.”

“[Valenzuela] said that the fee was not going to be used for salaries,” Sandoval said in reference to the student forums held to discuss the implementation of the athletic fee.

“It was always the plan to pull out a head coach and we cannot use state money for that position. We must provide the right leadership. We’ve got to have students who are students first. That’s why we call them ‘student athletes,’” Maestas said.

Sandoval and Baade suggested that, based on hearsay, athletes may have been “coerced” into voting for the fee by their coaches and that it was unfair for the coaches to be standing near the polling table during the Oct. 30 athletic fee vote.

“We fund way too many athletics,” Baade said. “We should pay a recruiter instead.”

“That’s a good suggestion,” Maestas responded, “but we are at the minimum number of required sports. If we shut down any one sport, we shut them all down. We would not make NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) compliance.”

“As a small school, there are challenges for stretching every dollar, but Sul Ross is the most affordable institution in the state of Texas,” Thurman said.

“The point was, we were going to enhance the program no matter what,” Valenzuela said.

The administrators stressed the importance of having a better sports program to attract more students—students who will come in as freshmen and stay through their senior year.

The SGA executive council felt the administration was lacking in transparency when the athletic fee was proposed and informed the administration that the student body may be in favor of a re-vote and planned to present this option to the SGA Congress Wednesday evening. SGA members also plan to circulate a petition asking students to sign in favor of a re-vote which may result in the recall of the initial athletic fee depending on the legalities of such a decision.

In addition to Sandoval and Baade, other members of the SGA executive committee present at the April 16 meeting included Karina Galindo, Ryan Hoffer, Ari Ransom, Sadie Sacra and Samantha Vela.

What will the new head coach/athletics director do?

“The head football coach/athletics director is expected to uphold discipline, promote academic success amongst the players, and to win,” said Maestas. “If the coach doesn’t get it done, we will hire another coach.”

What did Valenzuela recommend?

The athletic department requested approximately $100,000 more than what was budgeted last year. Although Valenzuela is not a voting member of the SSF committee, he recommended to voting members that they should not increase the funds to the athletic department. He said that the idea is to use the athletic fee as a supplement to cover the department’s needs.

Was information available to students?

Open forums were held by both the administration and also by SGA to discuss the athletic fee. Documents were presented to students who attended. Unfortunately, attendance was extremely low.

Were athletes coerced into voting for the athletic fee?

Sandoval and Baade noted that athletes might have been “coerced” into voting based on hearsay (there were no physical complaints). In response, baseball Coach Bobby Mesker said, “I asked my athletes to vote and show representation as a group. I did not coerce them to vote one way or the other.”

Thurman suggested that SGA tighten up voting standards to allow students more privacy and to prevent voting under duress.

What is the future of the athletic fee?

Maestas added that the athletic fee may prove to be a valuable resource for the expansion of the athletic department which could lead to soccer and other sports being added.

What would happen if the athletic fee were reneged?
The SRSU Law Enforcement Academy’s training program is offered to any who plan to become a peace officer under the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) admission and graduation requirements.

Under Director Lloyd Dragoo’s leadership, students can meet TCLEOSE standards. In the 18 months Dragoo has directed the program, students have completed their coursework with a 100 percent pass rate.

Hands-on training includes defensive tactics, arrest mechanics, professional police driving, handgun and shotgun training, standardized field sobriety testing, and crisis intervention training. All students must meet an elevated standard in physical fitness training as well.

The academic side of the police academy is equally important.

Students must complete 80 written tests and five final exams before taking a rules exam making them eligible to take yet another exam: the TCLEOSE final state exam. Only those with a score of 70 percent or higher can graduate and be hired by law enforcement agencies.

The current class of students in the academy looks promising with the end of their coursework rapidly approaching. Some students, like Paul Woo and Chris Gill, even have jobs waiting for them. After graduation...
from the academy, they plan to take jobs at Hudspeth County Sheriff’s Department.

In addition to TCLEOSE basic peace officer certification, the training may count as 12 college credits at the Midland Community College, should cadets choose to further their education. Cadets may also receive financial aid to assist with those costs.

Due to the remote location of Alpine, the class sizes are relatively small, allowing cadets to be able to receive personalized instruction that would be difficult to receive in larger police academies. Law enforcement agencies that team up with the academy on a regular basis are the Fort Stockton Police Department, Sul Ross University Department of Public Safety, Brewster County Sheriff’s Department, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who this year held a physical training program with the cadets.

The cadets certainly meet the expectations of their mission statement as they prepare for the May 7 TCLEOSE exam and May 10 Law Enforcement Academy graduation.

More information concerning Law Enforcement Academy admission, registration and enrollment costs are on the Sul Ross website under the “Academics and Professional Studies” tab.

Sul Ross State University Law Enforcement Academy is now accepting applications for the Class of Bravo 2013 day session in Alpine and for the Class of Charlie 2013 night session in Fort Stockton. Please inquire about financial aid.
Dispelling a Texas Myth

By Angela Greenway

In Texas, spring means warm weather, blooming wildflowers, and various other wildflowers and bluebonnets. Locals will take scenic drives to admire the hues of our spring landscape. President Lyndon B. Johnson announced the "America the Beautiful" initiative in 1965.

It’s Illegal to Pick the State Flower. This is actually a myth. Perhaps this idea has become so widespread because of the possibility of breaking the law while picking Texas Bluebonnets along state highways. Who hasn’t heard the old Texas mantra “It’s illegal to pick the state flower?”

Who Instated the Old Texas Mantra? The myth may have also originated from a news release in 2013 where the Texas Department of Public Safety issued a news release in 2013 in response to a report that people were picking wildflowers along highways.

Bluebonnets and Wildflowers Need Protection. Texas has designated Bluebonnets as the state flower, so it’s not illegal to pick them. Bluebonnets can be seen in various natural habitats, so it’s important to pick responsibly.

Texas Bluebonnet Habitats are Under Threat. Bluebonnets are a non-native species that have taken over native habitats. To protect these habitats, it’s best to leave them alone and let nature take its course.

Please be careful when picking wildflowers and Bluebonnets to enjoy the view and protect the environment.
Kolby Kothman

Four short years ago, senior Kolby Kothman began her college journey. She graduates May 11 with a bachelor of arts in Human Communication and a minor in English. After graduation, Kothman is leaving for Cordoba, Argentina and will live there for the six months. Cordoba is known as the dove hunting capital of the world. She will be working for a bird hunting company, Frontera Wingshooting. She learned of this opportunity from a family friend.

Kothman has been very involved with activities ranging from Collegiate FFA, Student Government Association (Communication Senator), Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society, Lambda Pi Eta, and SRSU Ambassador. She offers these words of wisdom to freshmen: “Don’t be afraid to get involved. Join a club (or two), an intramural sport, or an organization. College is fun, yes, but it’s like anything else- it has its ups and downs. But, if your time is invested in something other than your books, it will help the time pass more quickly. You never know, you might even make a few new friends!”

“Those who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it.” -Anonymous

Karina Galindo

All the way from California, Karina Galindo made her way to Alpine to study English and criminal justice. She is very involved on campus: Vice-President of SGA, Vice-President of the honors club, also a member of the Student Advisory Board.

Needless to say Galindo stays busy, she says, “I think it is worth it, it’s been a tough four years, but I have come out a stronger and smarter person because of it. I am now a pro at working under stress and constant pressure!”

Her advice to all freshmen is this: “Get your general Ed classes out of the way as fast as you can, and don’t mess around too much your first two years because once you become an upper classman it’ll come back and bite you. Also get involved in clubs! It is easier to get involved in clubs when you are a freshman because your schedule is usually not so hectic, plus the people you meet in clubs will end up being your lifelong friends and they are always there for support when you need it!” Galindo stated.

Galindo’s plans after graduating are to go “back to California where I am originally from and work for a dairy farm as the head of Safety and Regulations. I am also getting married in November!”
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY CLUB

EARTH DAY!

music. food. raffle. farmers market.
guest speakers. workshops. native plants.
kids activities. vermiculture. composting.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2013
HISTORIC MURPHY ST.
9 am - 4 pm
Sul Ross honors Special Olympians
The Sul Ross State University Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) and Lobo baseball team honored Alpine ISD Special Olympics team members prior to Friday evening’s (April 12) American Southwest Conference baseball game vs. Howard Payne at Kokernot Field. SAAC member Cody LeCroy, Needville, presented baseballs autographed by team members. The Special Olympians met the Lobo players and were introduced to the crowd. The following day, the Special Olympians competed at the Area Games at Odessa’s Ratliff Stadium. Pictured are (front row, from left): David Wright III, Abby Clayton, Dominique Gonzales, Seth Portillo, Sawyer Jackson, Martin Zapata. Back Row: LeCroy, Salvador Hernandez, Nick Zapata, Cristi Upshaw, Shiloh Savas. Photo by Thalia Aparicio

Sul Ross State University students Marley Boyd, Alpine; Jason Leyva, Alpine; and Geoffrey Schuette, Midland, made undergraduate research presentations at the Mathematical Association of America Texas Section 93rd annual meeting, held April 11-13 at Texas Tech University, Lubbock.


Boyd presented “Who is the Greatest Player in all the Land;” Leyva discussed “Minimum Folding of an Infinite Ribbon” and Schuette’s topic was “A Brief Look Into the History of Galois and Galois Groups.” Boyd received a special award for the best presentation in his category.

Also attending the meeting were Sul Ross students Estefana Galindo, Monahans; and Marcos Rodriguez, Alpine; and Dr. Angela Brown, assistant professor of Mathematics; and Dr. David Martin, associate professor of Mathematics.

Boyd, a senior mathematics major, will present his research, “Baseball as a Markov Chain,” during a mathematics seminar Friday, April 26, 2 p.m. in ACR, Room 204. Boyd studied more than 400 Major League players to determine a more accurate method of calculating offensive run production averages.

Students, faculty present at math association meeting
As the sun rose on April 10, 2013, history for the Coahuila, Mexico village of Boquillas and Big Bend National Park would be changed forever. The popular informal border crossing from the national park across the Rio Grande into the sleepy village was closed after the 9/11 attacks. Prior to its closing, visitors could ride across the river in a wooden boat, and then pay $1 each to ride a burro or horse into the rustic settlement that sports a cantina, restaurant and store. A trip to Boquillas was an experience tourists could find nowhere else, and the town’s economy suffered greatly after the crossing was closed.

The crossing is now open from 9 am to 6 pm, Wednesday through Sunday. Visitors must have a valid passport.

To go to Boquillas, take Hwy. 118 south to Big Bend National Park, and then follow the signs to the Boquillas crossing. Be sure to take a camera for an authentic, and safe, Mexican adventure.

“It’s well worth the trip,” Cheryl Zinsmeyer, student publications supervisor, said. She added that the village is where singer Robert Earl Keen wrote “Gringo Honeymoon.”
Where do my tax dollars go?

You pay federal income tax if you’re a working student (or your parents do if you’re a dependent). We all know that our tax money is used to run the government, but did you ever wonder what percentage goes into which programs?

The following is a breakdown for $1,000 paid in taxes. The numbers come from the National Priorities Project. You can also visit www.nationalpriorities.org to find out exactly where your tax dollars are going.

$10.32 Science (includes $4.61 for basic scientific research)

$13.75 International Affairs (includes $8.06 for foreign aid)

$13.83 Transportation (includes $4.42 for infrastructure improvements)

$21.39 Energy and Environment (includes $2.52 for renewable energy research)

$34.97 Education (includes $.15 for Corporation for Public Broadcasting)

$42.33 Housing and Community (includes $6.13 for disaster relief)

$42.85 Veterans Benefits (includes $4.01 for education, training and rehab for veterans)

$43.95 Food and Agriculture (includes $2.36 for supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children)

$54.31 Government (includes $2.78 for federal correctional activities)

$122.14 Unemployment and Labor (includes $.77 for child care and development block grant)

$135.77 Interest on Debt

$199.62 Health (includes $85.23 for Medicaid)

$264.77 Military (includes $6.60 for nuclear weapons)
The History of the Skyline

Sul Ross Skyline! How appropriate the name; how opportune its birth, what a mission before it.

~Clifford B. Casey, author of Alpine, Texas, Then and Now

By Angela Greenroy
Editor-in-Chief

According to an article in the April 1924 issue, the idea for a newsletter was proposed in 1922 that would temporarily act as substitute for a newspaper. The newsletter was two long pages and it was dedicated to campus news and the “doings of the exes.” Students of the past were very interested in where life had taken their ex classmates.

The Skyline was a title suggested by faculty member Victor J. Smith at an Alumni meeting in June of 1922.

While the newsletter served a purpose keeping past and present students informed, it was not the complete vision as the reporter from the 1924 Skyline shared, “Since all things have their real origin in dreams and plans, one might say the ‘Skyline’ began that first year, though it remained only a dream-child for three years.”

The idea of a newspaper lived on in the pages of a newsletter, but in June of 1923 the mailing list was so large, the last newsletter was mailed and it read, “Our newsletter has outgrown the mimeograph. Next year we must have a paper. Why shouldn’t we?”

On August 20, 1923, the Skyline was welcomed by students and faculty who had desired a newspaper since the university had opened its doors in 1920. Casey noted that the Skyline quickly became the “most widely read news sheet in West Texas.”

Today, it may very well be the most widely read news in West Texas still. With the new magazine format, more and more businesses throughout Alpine have asked for copies to distribute.

WHY ATTEND SUL ROSS

BECAUSE the Faculty is composed of expert teachers holding at least M.S. degrees.

BECAUSE of the Ideal Climate and Inviting Scenery.

BECAUSE students gain in health while passing through the strain to obtain an education.

BECAUSE the college is equipped with first-class laboratories and a choice library.

BECAUSE of the intimate contact of students with faculty members.

BECAUSE credits from this institution are accepted at face value by the best colleges and universities.

BECAUSE Alpine is characterized by clean morals and hospitable homes.

BECAUSE of the sports provided by Football, BaseBall, Tennis, and the New Natatorium.

BECAUSE it is a good investment of your time and money.

WINTER TERM OPENS JANUARY 2.
H. W. MORELOCK, PRESIDENT
SR lands 34 awards at annual TIPA convention

By Angela Greenroy
Editor-in-Chief

Members of the Skyline staff had an amazing time at the annual Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention (TIPA) held from April 3-6 in Fort Worth. Texas colleges and universities have been gathering since April of 1910 to “improve college journalism, to raise the standard of college publications and to bring the colleges and editors into closer and more vital relationship.”

The long hours scouring The Skyline for mistakes and making sure every design line matched up paid off as the staff witnessed the name of Sul Ross State winning award after award, including second place in overall excellence. This year, The Skyline brought home 17 awards in all, The Brand scored 12 awards, and The Sage, five. The 2013 TIPA awards are for work produced during 2012.

Across Texas, 66 colleges and universities compete. Adviser Cheryl Zinsmeyer mails in entries. Each school is allowed two submissions per category and categories are divided into each division. Divisions are broken up by enrollment numbers and how often they publish newspapers, yearbooks, and literary magazines.

The majority of those who attended this year’s conference were first timers to TIPA. The Sul Ross group consisted of eight students—a very small number of competitors compared with other schools.

Being surrounded by extremely competitive students who are majoring in specific fields of journalism can be very intimidating, but Skyline design editor and grad student Brenda Gallegos said, “The long hours at the Skyline paid off. It was easy to design; it was comfortable, like I was at work.”

Gallegos brought home five awards.

Senior Peter Dindinger may well have set the record for most awards won in one year by a Sul Ross student. He brought home eight awards, seven for his photography, but unfortunately, he was not present to compete in the live contests. In total, Dindinger has 18 TIPA career awards.

When told of the number of awards Sul Ross won, Dindinger said, “We kicked ass!” He also praised his colleagues numerous times, “Outstanding, glad I was a part of such an amazing staff; best three years of my life. Good luck to all of you. Cheryl, you’re the best, I don’t know what I would have done without you and Jason, and Steve. Congratulations Skyline staff, it’s been a pleasure.”

TIPA is not all about competitions. Numerous workshops are held for students and advisers to learn more about journalism techniques and practices. The Skyline staff gleans information from journalism professionals and works to incorporate these ideas into the magazine.

Thalia Aparicio and Susanna Mendez, Skyline photographers, attended photography workshops.

“I was inspired. Now all I want to do is go take pictures,” Mendez said.

Zinsmeyer literally danced as award after award came forth for Sul Ross. After she tallied up the number of awards, Zinsmeyer said, “A humongous congratulations to everyone involved, past and present. Everyone’s help made these awards happen. It’s nice to have proof that you’re among the best at what you do and you should all feel proud.”
A different take on spring break

By Kevin W. Pang (The Ranger/San Antonio College) and Logan Gordon (Sul Ross State University)

For many Texans, Spring Break connotes a journey to South Padre Island. For the San Antonio College’s student Geological Society and the Sul Ross State University Geology Club, it meant a trip to Big Bend National Park, the largest protected area of the Chihuahuan Desert. The desert, located in southwest Texas and north central Mexico, is larger than the state of Rhode Island. We have it on good authority that at 1,252 square miles large, Big Bend National Park is as just as full of wildlife as South Padre Island.

The trip began in San Antonio, where 12 San Antonio College students, a reporter, College faculty and a photographer, loaded gear into two white vans and embarked upon the seven-hour drive to far West Texas and Sul Ross in Alpine. Passing through a landscape of wind turbines, pump jacks, and aquifers, led rather naturally to discussions of hydraulic fracturing and its effect on water and other resources.
So just how is it that San Antonio College students decided to spend their Spring Break in Big Bend to learn about Texas Geology?

The story goes that Logan Gordon, Sul Ross Geology Club secretary met some San Antonio College Geology Club at a meeting in San Antonio sponsored by the Adelante Tejas (Forward Texas) partnership to increase participation enrollment, retention, transfer and graduation in the sciences at both schools. Gordon was allegedly making claims that “West Texas and Sul Ross are the greatest place to study geology because there’s every type of rock: sedimentary, metamorphic and volcanic” or something in that vein. She went bolder: “In fact, all you have to do is walk outside (in Alpine) and you can see mountains.”

Mountains? In Texas? The San Antonio College students wisely insisted that she prove it and a plan to take a joint field trip to Big Bend National Park was quickly hatched.

The San Antonio group spent the first night in the Lobo Village dorm rooms. That night students were instructed by advisers to stay inside the dorms “because javelinas roam the campus in the evenings and even though they’re only about the size of a mid-sized dog, they also have tusks and can be dangerous when threatened.” (Conveniently, the threat of javelinas can also be very effective at keeping students in their rooms at night on the evening before a big trip!)

On Saturday morning early, the San Antonio College students met with seven members of the Sul Ross Geology Club and a four-vehicle caravan proceed South to Big Bend National Park: Destination Cottonwood Campground. The group took Ross Maxwell Drive to Sotol Vista, a scenic overlook of Santa Elena Canyon and Tuff Canyon in Big Bend National Park. Upon arriving at the Lower Burro Mesa Pour-off, the students drank water, and snacked on bananas and wraps before setting out for what geologists do often: Hiking.

The trail began in sandy terrain, changing to rocky terrain over the course of three-quarters of a mile. Within the pour-off, two students did what geologists also do: They scaled a 40-foot-deep channel formed by erosion and composed of a volcanic surge deposit, just to see the formation up close. The formation contains gas escape tubes, called maars, which formed when the flow came into contact with ground water. Logan Gordon, secretary of the Sul Ross Geology Club described the differentiating sizes of the crystals in the channel that were formed as the magma cooled. Just to be sure everyone noticed, she also pointed out the mountains.

The group also visited Tuff Canyon. Hiking through the canyon, Gordon explained that Tuff “is consolidated ash deposited by a volcanic, pyroclastic eruption. It is easily eroded and therefore a canyon has formed in this particular spot.”

Camping at Cottonwood Campground. Continued on next page
Members of the SAC Geological Society and SRSU climb up the Burro Mesa pouroff during a trip to Big Bend National Park. The pouroff was created by water erosion that carved the narrow opening.

Continued from previous page

ground about three miles southwest of Tuff Canyon, was a chance for the more experienced campers, such as Will Ingraham, San Antonio College geology sophomore to help the others set up tents in advance of the approaching night, which (of course!) brought gusting winds and temperatures dropping to 32 degrees Fahrenheit, or 0 degrees Celsius.

Students kept an eye out for javelinas circling the camping grounds, scavenging for food while Sul Ross students served vegetarian lasagna and brownies prepared in dutch ovens. The evening’s entertainment was six hours of star gazing into the night sky.

Without heavy packs or the sun beating down, the students soaked up the dark scenery. Being accustomed to San Antonio and more light pollution which creates a foggy filter and impairs being able to really see the night sky, students were rewarded by the “desolation” of Big Bend National Park and some spectacular star and constellation viewing.

The next morning, relaxed and refreshed, students were ready to explore further. At Santa Elena Canyon where the Rio Grande runs between 1,500 feet cliffs, the National Park Service (and the Department of Homeland Security) adamantly prohibit crossing the Rio Grande and the international boundary with Mexico, so students and advisers scaled boulders and studied the thick layers of limestone near the river on the U.S. side.

That afternoon, students hiked the Window Trail in the Chisos Basin with an eye to the signs cautioning hikers to be on the lookout for cougars and black bears, although none were actually sighted. Although for a wildlife Biologist, not seeing wildlife is one of the great disadvantages of travelling in a large, chattering group, some of the students expressed relief.

When the group gathered at the edge of Window, Gordon explained “The Chihuahuan Desert is the most biologically and geologically diverse desert in the northern hemisphere.” She said people often do not realize the diversity of the desert unless they visit it themselves. She concluded, “The whole purpose of this trip is to bring attention to the opportunity to study Geology in this kind of environment.”

The group spent its final evening together at the rocky campsite otherwise known as “the Boathouse Bar and Campground” in Terlingua. The visiting college students learned about the mining history of The Terlingua District, which was the third-largest cinnabar ore and mercury-producing area in the United States. The first flask of Mercury being produced in 1886 and continued in response to demand and market price from the mid-1880’s through to 1971 when, due to decreased demand, production in the Terlingua District ceased.

As the locals and familiar know, Terlingua today is a “booming” town with a population of some 267 year-round residents and a floating population of an unknown number of snow birds and visitors who enjoy its signature offbeat character and benevolent winter climate.

The group enjoyed their last night together debriefing about the trip over wild boar burgers followed by celebratory two-stepping to live music at the Starlight.

By all accounts the trip was a success. Kelly Castellanos, geology freshman and vice president of the San Antonio College Geology Society and Logan Gordon both agree there will be similar field trips with Sul Ross and San Antonio College students in upcoming semesters and the groups are already preparing.
Olivia Gallegos art exhibit thru April 26

"Esencia Floral," a graduate art exhibition by Olivia Gallegos, Ojinaga, Mexico, will be on display through Friday, April 26 at the Main Gallery, Francois Fine Arts Building at Sul Ross State University.

A closing reception will be held from 5-7 p.m. Friday, April 26 at the Gallery. There is no admission charge and the public is invited.

Gallegos, who will graduate in May with a Master's degree in Art, presents a series of oil paintings that trace specific childhood memories. She refers to "esencia floral" as the essence of life.

She has exhibited paintings in the annual Artwalk, Sul Ross Fine Arts Gallery and shops around the tri-county. She has had a solo undergraduate exhibition Memories, at the Fine Arts Gallery and some of her paintings were featured in the Pueblo Unido Latino Festival in 2009.

GED testing at Sul Ross April 25-26

GED testing will be offered at Sul Ross State University Thursday and Friday, April 25-26.

Testing begins at 8 a.m. each day in the Morgan University Center, Room 211B. Pre-registration is required a week in advance. To pre-register, call Career Services and Testing, (432) 837-8357 or 837-8178.

GED tests are administered the fourth Thursday and Friday of each month excepting December. Future testing dates are: May 30-31; June 27-28; July 25-26; Aug. 29-30; Sept. 26-27; Oct. 24-25; Nov. 21-22.

This the final year for the current test battery. Persons who need to pass an individual test or tests to receive their diplomas have until Dec. 31, 2013 to complete the testing. Otherwise, all live tests must be taken beginning January 2014.

Also in January 2014, the GED test will change from paper-based to computer-based testing format.

For more information, call (432) 837-8357 or 837-8178.

Honors Convocation Monday in Marshall Auditorium

Announcement of the 2013 Man and Woman of the Year will highlight the annual Sul Ross State University Honors Convocation, scheduled Monday, April 22, 7:30 pm in Marshall Auditorium.

The convocation, sponsored by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs, is free and open to the public. In addition to the Man and Woman of the Year presentation, departmental awards will be given to outstanding students. Mitchell Waechter, Devine, and Grace Fox, Killeen, were named the 2012 Sul Ross State University Man and Woman of the Year.

For more information, contact Ana Dragoo, 432-837-8036.
Talk At Ten - Marfa Public Radio, 93.5 FM
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Dr. James Ward - Assistant Professor of Geology, Angelo State University
“Small(ish) Texas Towns, Fast Horses, and the Magnificent Study of Geology”

Dr. Kevin Urbanczyk - Rio Grande Research Center Director and Professor of Geology, Sul Ross State University
Analytical and Spatial analysis laboratory upgrades, major instrument aquisitions and programmatic improvements taking place in the sciences for students, and fun events such as the “Scanning Electron Microscope Ribbon Cutting and Naming Ceremony”

Scanning Electron Microscope Ribbon Cutting and Naming Ceremony
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM; Warnock Science Building Room 115

Dr. Kevin Urbanczyk and Rebecca Loos, Analytical Lab Technician
S.E.M. images; Refreshments; Fun interactions and giveaways. Email your suggested name (rloos@sulross.edu) or bring it in printed form to the event.

Dr. James Ward Presentation
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM; Lawrence Hall Room 300

Dr. James Ward’s “Small(ish) Texas Towns, Fast Horses, and the Magnificent Study of Geology”

For more information:
Contact the Rio Grande Research Center at (432)837-8648;
Email Rebecca Loos at rloos@sulross.edu;
Or visit us on the web at: www.sulross.edu/section/1530/rio-research-center
Sully researchers building better Big Bend beef

By Steve Lang
Contributor

Through genetics, Sul Ross State University researchers hope to develop a type of beef cattle more compatible for West Texas grasslands.

In short, the researchers seek to develop a smaller, healthier cow, better suited to grazing.

“A larger cow takes more feed,” said Dr. Bonnie Warnock, associate professor of Natural Resource Management. “This research seeks to decrease the overall body size... and develop a cow that really does well on grassland forage without a lot of supplements.

“We are looking for an animal that will gain well and do well on forage rather than in a feedlot situation.”

Warnock and Dr. Scott Ericsson, professor of Animal Science, are working on a five-year grant from the Dixon Water Foundation. The $245,000 project will use Hereford bull semen frozen since the 1960’s, donated by the National Animal Germplasm Program, Fort Collins, Colo., to artificially inseminate the Sul Ross cow herd and the Mimms Ranch cow herd.

Thirty cows on the Mimms Ranch and 30 in the Sul Ross herd have been inseminated, with the first crop of calves due in August.

Sul Ross student Annabel Gallegos, El Paso, under Ericsson’s mentoring, is participating in the project as part of the McNair Program. Her research is entitled “Effect of Storage Time on the Viability of Cryopreserved Bovine Spermatozoa.”

Justin Boatright, El Paso, is a grant-funded graduate student working on his Master’s thesis involving the main portion of the project.

Ericsson said the research will use high density SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism) chips to distinguish allelic (alternative forms of the same gene or group of genes) differences between older Hereford bulls, the Dixon Water Foundation (Mimms Ranch) Mexican bulls and those currently found in the cattle industry.

“Having this information will enable us to explore differences [markers] in factors such as milk production, longevity and carcass merit,” he said. “We hope to be able to determine which cattle are suitable for the West Texas range. Based on the data, we can design an animal much better suited for this environment.”

Cattle with traditional Hereford genetics were hardy, early maturing and capable of fattening on grazed forage. These cattle had good fertility and were easy calving with excellent mothering-milkling qualities. In addition, they were docile, easily managed, and had great longevity. Herefords could efficiently and economically convert grass into beef products without having to grain finish them in order to produce a quality carcass.

The National Animal Germplasm Program has conserved traditional Hereford genetics in the form of frozen semen and has allowed industry and the research community to access the collection of semen from bulls born from the 1960’s to the present. Two Sul Ross graduates, Dr. Phil Purdy and Scott Spiller, are on the staff.

Working with the National Animal Germplasm Program will “allow us access and data analysis,” Ericsson added, noting that this research puts Sul Ross in a prominent position in re-establishing animals to their former territory.

Research headed by Warnock will include studies of grazing practices.

“Rangelands are much healthier if you have cattle on them, with proper management decisions.”

Consumer demand for grass-fed beef has increased, as there is some evidence that grass-fed beef might have some health advantages over grain-fed beef. Grazed forages are generally more economical than harvested or supplemented feeds.

Collectively, the research hopes to combine the best grazing practices with a new-old type of cattle best suited for this area’s rangelands. Successful results could play a major role in reinvigorating the cattle industry.

“In 2011, Texas saw a huge decrease in the number of cattle on rangelands, as the drought caused a major sell-off,” Warnock said.

“We are seeking sustainable production and profitability instead of maximum production.”

Wood clinches Regional goat tying championship

Jessica Jo Wood, Terrebonne, Ore., has clinched the Southwest Region goat tying title in this year’s National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) competition.

Wood did not place in last week’s Howard College Rodeo at Big Spring, but with one rodeo remaining, has scored 930 points, 345 more than her nearest competitor. The maximum points possible in one event is 180. Entering last weekend’s competition, Wood ranked second nationally, behind Millie Marie Twitchell (1,146 points) of Southern Utah University.

The top three place winners in each region qualify for the NIRA Finals Rodeo, scheduled June 9-15 in Casper, Wyo.

Sul Ross scored in four events at Howard College, KC Fryer, Kansas, Utah, finished second in the long round of steer wrestling, Seth Malaffay, Sweetwater, split second and third in the long round of bull riding and finished fourth in the calf roping long round. Sadie Sacra, Neodville, placed in the short round of goat tying.

Sul Ross concludes the regular rodeo season Thursday-Saturday (April 18-20) at Tarleton State University, Stephenville. The women’s team has amassed over 1,000 points to rank in the top four in region standings.

“The team has had an outstanding year,” said coach Chance Campbell. “We have shown a marked improvement from last season and the program is continuing to grow stronger.

“We have recruited several outstanding individuals to join the team in the fall, and our future is looking bright.”
TENNIS RECAP
Schreiner, UMHB, Hardin-Simmons

By Brian LaLima
Sports Writer

The Sul Ross State men’s and women’s tennis teams have been
continuing their ASC-Conference schedule.

On April 4, the Lobos traveled to Kerrville to take on Schreiner. The
men lost 8-1 and the women lost 7-2. Lessli Ruiz, Tatiana Gonzales, and
Taner Ragan won matches for Sul Ross.

On April 5, Sul Ross traveled to Belton to battle against UMHB. The
men lost 8-1 and the women lost 9-0. The team of Chris Villafranco and
Ronnie Martinez recorded the only win for the Lobos.

The Lobos hosted Hardin-Simmons on April 13 with the men falling
9-0 and the women 7-2. Reba Smith and Monica Traylor got the wins for
the Lobos.

Lady Lobos softball swept by Howard Payne

By Brian LaLima
Sports Writer

The Sul Ross softball team traveled to Brownwood to battle against
Howard Payne University as they
continued their ASC-Conference schedule.

In the first game, the Lady Lobos
trailed 4-0 after the second inning,
Howard Payne scored a run in the
fourth and then three runs in the sixth
inning to end the game and give Sul
Ross an 8-0 loss.

Keri McShan received the loss and falls to 4-12 on the season.

In the second game, the Lady
Jackets led 2-0 after the third inning.
HPU would score again in the sixth to
increase their lead to 3-0.

Sul Ross was not able to answer as
the game ended with the Lady Lobos
falling 3-0.

In game three, the Lady Lobos
trailed 3-0 after the third inning.
Howard Payne then scored four
runs in the fourth and then a run in the
sixth inning to end the game and give
Sul Ross a 8-0 loss.

The Lady Lobos managed three hits
while committing five errors.

Alex Galvan received the loss and
falls to 3-12 on the season.

In game four, trying to avoid the
sweep, the Lady Jackets led 3-0 after
the second inning and kept Sul Ross at
bay the rest of the game.

The Lady Lobos had four hits in the
game that accompanied three errors.

Keri McShan received the loss and
falls to 4-13 on the season.

The Lady Lobos are 9-27, 4-16 ASC
on the season and will host Texas
Lutheran University on April 19-20 in
their final home series.

Lady Lobos fall to Concordia, 1-3

By Brian LaLima
Sports Writer

The Lady Lobo softball team hosted
Concordia University on April 5 and 6
in an ASC-Conference series.

In the first game, Concordia led 2-0
after the first inning and held the Lady
Lobos scoreless until the fifth inning.
Sul Ross got on the board when
Jessica Castellano reached on an error
allowing Shelby Contreras to score.

The Tornadoes would a get run in the
sixth and seventh innings to secure
a 4-1 win.

Alex Galvan received the loss and
falls to 3-9 on the season.

The second game saw Concordia
lead 4-0 until the bottom of the seventh
inning. With one out, Maile Hoyt
hit an RBI-single to score Samantha
Menchaca.

Contreras later had an RBI-single to
score Dayna Whitmire. The Tornadoes
would then get the final two outs to
finish the game leading 4-2.

Keri McShan received the loss and
falls to 3-11 on the season.

In game three, Sul Ross took a
2-0 lead in the second inning after
RBI-singles by Maile Hoyt and Keri
McShan.

The Tornadoes scored a run in the
fourth but were at bay the remainder of
the game as the Lady Lobos won 2-1.

Keri McShan got the win and
improves to 4-11 on the season.

In game four, Concordia took a 3-0
lead after Katie Carrizales blasted a
homerun with two runners on.

The Lady Lobos answered with a
run in the bottom of the inning after an
RBI-single by Christina Graham to cut
the lead to 3-1. Sul Ross struck again
in the sixth inning when Hoyt hit an
RBI-single to make it a 3-2 game. The
Lady Lobos would attempt to rally
in the seventh, but Concordia got the
third out before Sul Ross could bring
in a run.

Alex Galvan received the loss and
falls to 3-10 on the season.
Final home series of the season

Lobos take series from Howard Payne

By Brian LaLima
Sports Writer

The Lobos baseball team hosted Howard Payne for their last home series April 12 and 13. In game one, the Lobos trailed 1-0 heading into the bottom of the fourth inning. Jesse Loter hit an RBI-double to score Brian LaLima to tie the game 1-1. Howard Payne took the lead in the fifth after scoring a run to move ahead 2-1.

Sul Ross answered again in the eighth with a Dakota Dill RBI-double to tie the game 2-2.

In extra innings, HPU scored 10 runs to lead 12-2. Sul Ross was held scoreless in the bottom half of the inning and fell 12-2.

Acy Kimber got the loss and falls to 0-1 on the season. Kimber allowed five runs off four hits in 1-1/3 innings after relieving Zak Enriquez at the start of the ninth inning.

In game two, rain, lightning and even a funnel cloud suspended play in the seventh and pushed the games to be played on Sunday.

Game two resumed in the top of the seventh inning with both teams tied at 2-2 with one out. Dill returned to the mound and got the second out and was replaced by Leighton Beaird who got the third and final out.

In the bottom of the inning, after Turner Matson led off with a double, Johnny Campos reached on an error and move Matson to third. Josh Vasquez then hit a game winning, walk-off RBI-single to score Matson.

Beaird received the win and improves to 1-0 on the season. Dill allowed two runs off eight hits while recording five strikeouts with only one walk in 6-2/3 innings pitched.

In the second game, the Lobos blasted HPU in the first inning to take a 6-0 lead. Sul Ross scored two runs in the second and fourth runs in the third to lead 12-0. The Yellowjackets would score two runs in the sixth to cut the margin to 12-2.

Anthony Trevino (2-1) received the win after allowing only three hits in five complete innings. Clayton Heise replaced Trevino in the sixth and gave up two runs but shut down HPU in the seventh to secure the win for the Lobos.

Six different Lobos had at least two hits each toward the 15 hits in the game.

LaLima finished 2-3 with 3 RBIs and a run scored. Josh Huddleston was 1-3 with 2 RBIs and a run scored. Brandon Barcalow and Dill were both 3-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Vasquez was 2-3 with an RBI and three runs scored and finished the day 5-6 with two RBIs and four runs scored.

The Lobos are 13-20, 5-10 ASC on the season and traveled to Kerrville today and tomorrow for their final series.

Zak Enriquez throws one to a Howard Payne batter as shortstop Dustan Greer readies for a possible hit. Photo by Thalia Aparicio

Lobos drop series to UMHB

By Brian LaLima
Sports Writer

The Lobos took a 1-0 lead against the University of Mary Hardin Baylor April 5. after an RBI-single by Dakota Dill. Sul Ross scored again with a run in the fourth, and Ely Gallego had a two RBI-single in the sixth to put the Lobos ahead 4-0. In the seventh, Dill had a two RBI-single and Jesse Loter had an RBI-single to increase the lead to 7-0. Loter homered in the ninth scoring Emmett Crisp to seal the 9-1 victory.

Dakota Dill went 4-5 with three RBIs and two runs scored. Jesse Loter was 2-4 with a homerun, three RBIs, and a run scored. Ely Gallego went 2-5 with two RBIs. Zak Enriquez allowed just one run off three hits while walking one batter and recording six strikeouts.

In game two, Sul Ross was held scoreless as UMHB sealed a 10-5 win. Dill fell to 3-2 with the loss.

In game three, the Lobos trailed early, falling behind 6-2 after the third inning. Sul Ross would get runs in the second and third innings with RBIs from Gallego and Emmett Crisp.

UMHB led 11-2 after the seventh inning. Sul Ross struck again in the eighth when Crisp homered to make it 11-3. Nolan Hoskins hit a homerun in the ninth to cut the lead to 11-4 but the Lobos fell 11-4.

Juston Vauert received the loss and fell to 1-2 on the season.