

AC Plugged In

Faculty & Staff NEWSLETTER

Volume III

Fall 2010

Boys in Blue Going Green with Diggler

Electric Scooter Provides Efficient Alternative Vehicle

So, whatcha gonna do when they come for you . . . on the Diggler?

The AC Police Department recently added a diminutive conveyance to its Washington Street fleet, an electronically powered Diggler, a model of unassuming efficiency.

Suddenly the boys in blue are saving greenbacks, “going green,” and wearing eye-catching green vests as they patrol pedestrian areas, buildings and parking areas more optimally than ever aboard the new two-wheeler.

Do not be fooled by the scooter’s recreational appearance. The little rascal weighs in at only about 100 pounds, but it is propelled by a 48-volt, 750-watt motor and tops out at a fumes-free speed of 35 mph—plenty more than enough for pedestrian-heavy traffic areas.

Even better, the Diggler can travel 20 miles on approximately 15 cents worth of electrical infusion.

It’s sure enough easy to dig the Diggler.

“The cops love to ride it. It’s kind of like snowboarding,” Mike Duval, chief of AC police, said. “It is saving a lot of fuel and a lot of wear and tear on our other vehicles. It can get our officers almost anywhere very quickly, and it’s easy to operate.

“We can cover a lot more ground, visit many more places during a shift than we used to. It has been a real asset.”

Duval said the ACPD had long sought an alternative means of transporting officers throughout campus. Bicycles have been tried without much success, he said, and the self-balancing Segway received mixed reviews here. Then the chief came across an article about the Diggler and started contacting departments similar to his that employ it.

“Every police department I spoke with gave the Diggler glowing reports,” he said. “They said it is economical, it has no mechanical issues, the public loves it, and they said nobody out-runs it.

“It bridges the gap between the old foot-patrol concept and a motorized officer. We decided to get one.”



Patrolman David Pearson says the Diggler is a fun and effective way to keep AC safe.

The \$2,800 Diggler arrived at AC in late August. Patrolmen have been using it to great advantage ever since, especially in the parking lots because the Diggler easily fits between most parked vehicles. It can also be used indoors and off road.

“We can check our lots thoroughly, keep them safer than ever,” Sgt. Steve Chance said. “Our response times are faster. You can even ride a Diggler down a set of stairs. I believe it has already paid for itself.”

The savings have been such that Chief Duval envisions another Diggler in AC’s future, one for the West Campus.

“If our budget allows for it, that’s what we plan to do,” he said.

Will December Graduation Become Tradition?

By Dr. Paul Matney
President of Amarillo College



It's hard to believe it's already November and we are headed to Thanksgiving. We all realize when we return from the Thanksgiving holidays, final exams and the end of the semester are here before we know it.

Speaking of the end of the semester, recently, I received a question from the Faculty Senate Questions Committee. It was a good question and I was pleased to respond. I wanted to share the question and my response with our entire college community.

QUESTION: "In light of the need to cut the budget 5% and perhaps another 10% on top of that, why are we forcing another graduation in December? How much money will be spent having another rental of the Civic Center, providing refreshment, etc.?"

RESPONSE:

The Commencement Committee is currently planning our commencement ceremony for Dec. 11—AC's first

December graduation. Discussions concerning the possibility of a December commencement began about two years ago.

Commencement is a special time for us to celebrate a truly remarkable achievement with our graduates and their families. Simply put, it is the manifestation and culmination of what we stand for and what we do at Amarillo College. Nothing is more important for us as an institution and for our city, region and state than for our students to successfully complete their certificates and degrees.

Like many community colleges, we do an excellent job of providing opportunities for our students. We advise and enroll many students. We're now working hard to do everything we can as an institution to assist our students in being successful. In fact, our single institutional priority this year is "to expand student success." An important part of that "success journey" is earning a certificate or degree.

By adding a December commencement we honor the value of our certificates and degrees, and we honor our students' success. We also publically proclaim our value to the community.

While a December commencement is indeed another faculty event to attend, I believe faculty and others enjoy joining graduates and their families at

graduation. It is a joyous occasion for students, faculty and family members. Our Commencement Committee works tirelessly to plan and produce a most impressive ceremony which allows our students to create great memories.

President's Message

We will spend approximately \$7,200 on the December commencement ceremony—in my mind, money well spent. Some things are worth doing and should be done simply because they are the right thing to do.

Many of our summer and fall graduates are unable or unwilling to return to participate in a May commencement; thus, a December commencement will provide an opportunity for these students to enjoy a graduation ceremony and to create some wonderful memories.

Our first December graduation on Dec. 11 is, in effect, a "pilot project"—providing us an opportunity to evaluate its success. Let's enjoy our chance to celebrate the achievements of our students on Dec. 11—perhaps we'll then be able to determine if it should become a part of our Amarillo College tradition.



Renewable Energy Conference

Amarillo College was host on Sept. 14 to a wind-energy conference that drew, among others, representatives of the U.S. Department of Labor and folks from the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs in Washington D.C. The first portion of the conference was conducted at the Business and Industry Center. That was followed by a tour of AC's Renewable Energy—Wind Technology Program at the East Campus. Pictured at left is Jeff Hale, instructor of electronic systems technology, who briefs visitors in the wind-energy computer lab. At right is Jack Stanley, chairman of the Sciences and Engineering Division, who greets guests outside one of the Renewable Energy Program's new 44-foot gooseneck trailers that features self-contained mobile training labs.



Mortuary Science Earns Full Accreditation

There is no finer pat on the back for a collegiate program of mortuary science than when the American Board of Funeral Service Education grants full accreditation with “no stipulations.”

AC’s Mortuary Science Program was commended in exactly that fashion when program director Lisa Meehan and Dr. Paul Matney appeared before the board Oct. 10 in New Orleans.

AC’s successful accreditation punctuates a 17-month effort spearheaded by Meehan that ensures the highest professional standards for students and alumni of the program.

Matney said ABFSE officials praised the diligence of Meehan, who twice prepared self-study reports and twice more served as primary host for site visits during the lengthy undertaking.

“The committee praised the professionalism Ms. Meehan demonstrated in leading the accreditation effort,” Matney said. “And while we understand the committee usually questions candidates on the materials they present at such meetings, in our case the board deemed our materials completely thorough and granted immediate approval, no questions asked.

“It is a feather in the cap for AC, and Ms. Meehan and instructor Scott Rankin are both to be congratulated.”

Meehan said many others deserve credit for the success, particularly among the administration and within the Allied Health Division, where accreditation issues are commonplace.

“This was a College-wide effort and a gratifying one” she said. “Much advice was sought and given, and we tremendously appreciate all the support we received.”



Aydmee Cwicklee

Tina Thomas, nursing instructor, left, and Khristi McKelvy, clinical simulation coordinator, flank AC’s newest SimMan—advanced patient simulator—Sept. 22 at a birthday party in his honor on the third floor of Jones Hall. It was a particularly special occasion because the SimMan was christened Aydmee Cwicklee, a name voted on by AC nursing students.

Grants Team Brings Millions to AC

The Office of Grants has had a busy and hugely successful year. Amarillo College was awarded more than \$11.5 million in external funding from state and federal agencies in fiscal year 2010.

The grants team is led of course by Danita McNally, dean of assessment and development. Also integral to its success are Cara Crowley, director of grants, Jennifer Ashcraft, grant compliance coordinator, Jim Morris, manager of special projects, and a dedicated support staff.

Their hard work led to headlines in September when AC was awarded a

\$3.2 million Title V project grant, which will provide \$642,000 each year for the next five years to “strengthen the academic quality, management capabilities and financial stability” of AC.



That award came on the heels of an August windfall that brought three Department of Education grants totaling about \$3 million to the College, money that will be used to support student success on several campuses.

AC President Paul Matney said: “Congratulations are in order for the entire grants staff and to the many AC employees who collaborated on preparing grant proposals.”

Mann, Moller Honored at General Assembly

Amarillo College's most prestigious awards for administrative and classified employees were announced during the General Assembly Aug. 18 at Ordway Hall.

Julie Mann, customer service technology specialist and interim supervisor in AskAC, was named Classified Employee of the Year.

And Jerry Moller, chairman of the Behavioral Studies Division and dean of academic transfers, was named AC's Administrator of the Year.

Among the many superlatives attributed to Mann in a letter of nomination by her supervisor, Dale Longbine, were: natural leader, customer-service heart, great organization and planning skills, delivers 150-percent effort, and works hard to be a team player.

Mann said she was so surprised upon hearing her name called out at the assembly that she presumed it was a mistake.

"I was so shocked I didn't know what to say," she said. "I probably sounded ungrateful, but that couldn't be further from the truth. I work with a lot of people in a mission-driven environment who strive to see that students have what they need to be successful.

"The truth is many deserve this award. Because the committee chose me, I am grateful to Dale for nominating me; to AskAC and the dedicated people who accomplish extraordinary things; to Bob Sloger, Brad Johnson and Betty Howell, my mentors; and to everyone who serves our students."



Julie Mann and Jerry Moller were praised at General Assembly for their commitment to the College.

Moller, who spent 18 months, including all of 2009, as acting vice president and dean of instruction, received numerous nominations. They touted many of his attributes: honest, kind, consummate professional, leads by example, team player, and stepping up to support the administration during the illness of late President Steven Jones.

"I am humbled and overwhelmed," Moller said. "All I set out to do this past year and a half was to try and keep the train on the track. I'd never have been able to accomplish even that if it weren't for all the incredibly dedicated people who I leaned on for help along the way."

You Can Share Memories of Your Personal Heroes

By Ellen Green
Marketing and Communication

Whether you've read AC's common reader, *Flags of Our Fathers*, or had the opportunity to see the blockbuster movie adaptation of the *New York Times* best seller, chances are you have at least one hero in your life. That hero is probably a person you admire – someone who has made a significant difference in your life. In his book, James Bradley says that his father, John, never considered himself a hero although he was among the six service men photographed raising the American flag on Iwo Jima in February 1945. John Bradley said instead that those six were boys of common virtue, ordinary guys just doing the job they were asked to do during a very difficult time in American history.

So, who is your hero and, maybe more importantly, what attributes should a hero embody? Those are the kind of questions AC students, faculty and staff are being asked to consider this



year as we study our theme: Heroes.

One way you can participate in our theme is to take a moment to remember your personal hero by sharing those memories or actually interviewing that person on tape at the college radio station. During the fall semester, Brian Frank, program director at FM90 (Parcells Hall, first floor) will be recording those hero stories. The recordings will be streamed on the radio website (www.fm90.org) and broadcast every Wednesday evening at 6:50 p.m. Some great ones have already aired.

To listen to the hero stories already recorded by AC employees and students, go to www.fm90.org or tune to 89.9 on your radio dial. If you would like to schedule an appointment to record your own story, call Brian Frank at 806.371-5287.



AC Celebrates Steve Dutton



Family, friends, peers and former students of Steve Dutton turned out Nov. 4 to celebrate the man's Amarillo College legacy. Cheryl Dutton and Prenis Williams, chairman of the Board of Regents, unveiled the sign proclaiming that the old biology building will henceforth be known as Dutton Hall. A reception at the CUB capped a memorable, well-attended occasion.



CCSSE Report: Vitally Important to Improving AC

By Russell Lowery-Hart
VP for Academic Affairs

Last Spring, we administered the **Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)** at Amarillo College for the second time. It is a vitally important survey with results that should greatly improve our institution.

CCSSE was established in 2001 and has been administered to community colleges throughout the country. These surveys asked students to comment on how engaged our students are at AC. Although the report is voluminous and contains a great deal of information, I wanted to give you a summary overview of the results. You may access the full CCSSE Summary Report by clicking on the following link: <http://www.actx.edu/iea/index.php?module=article&id=61>

OVERVIEW

Since this is AC's second year to collect data, this is our first year to provide trend-line information. AC is "above the mean" in a number of categories and "below the mean" in a few categories. The following chart is a snapshot of Amarillo College student engagement in the overall CCSSE Benchmark Categories.

Benchmark Category	Amarillo College Mean 2010	Above/ Below	Amarillo College Mean 2009	Above/ Below
Support for Learners	55.1	Above	53.5	Above
Student-Faculty Interaction	51.3	Above	48.4	Above
Academic Challenge	50.5	Above	46.5	Below
Student Effort	46.3	Below	45.4	Below
Active and Collaborative Learning	44.9	Below	42.4	Below

Amarillo College is doing exceedingly well in the following categories:

Support for Learners

Student-Faculty Interaction

In a major area of improvement, in 2010 we crossed over into the "above the mean" category for Academic Challenge.

As an institution we need to closely examine the areas of Student Effort and Active and Collaborative Learning so that we can discover ways to help our students become more engaged in these categories.

The following is a list of specific items mentioned in the CCSSE that Amarillo College students scored significantly above the mean for both 2010 and 2009.

Student Effort:

Frequency: Skill labs (writing, math, etc.)

Extent to which examinations during the current school year have challenged you to do your best work at AC

Support for Learners:

Providing the financial support you need to afford your education

Frequency: Academic advising/planning

The following is a list of specific items mentioned in the CCSSE that Amarillo College students scored significantly below the mean for both 2010 and 2009.

Active and Collaborative Learning:

Made a class presentation

Student Effort:

Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in

Worked on a paper that required integrating ideas or information from various sources

Academic Challenge:

Number of written papers or reports of any length

This report gives us successes to celebrate. We are supporting and challenging our students effectively. We must, however, not be satisfied with these successes. The CCSSE results also provide some startling challenges. We must come together, using our creativity and passion, to address the full spectrum of support our students need from us.



AC Saluted for Patriotism

The Personal Enrichment Department at Amarillo College has been recognized as a "Patriotic Employer" and recently received a plaque and certificate of verification from the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Luke Morrison, personal enrichment coordinator, visited Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis on Sept. 15 to accept the award on AC's behalf.

AC aikido instructor Andrew Scott DeJesse, a major in the U.S. Army Reserve, submitted the nomination for what is called an ESGR (Employer Support for Guards and Reserves) Award.

The award was conceived to recognize employers who accommodate and help



Maj. A. Scott DeJesse (center) is AC's instructor of aikido who presently serves in Afghanistan.

reservists and National Guard troops who have to leave their jobs to deploy, as presently is the situation with Maj. DeJesse.

"We are grateful for your patriotic support for the men and women serving in the



Luke Morrison displays the award he collected at Cannon Air Force Base.

reserve forces," Dwain James, executive director of Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, wrote in a letter of congratulations.



AC Gymnastics, Dance Best in Amarillo

Folks in the Gymnastics and Children's Dance programs at Amarillo College are doing cartwheels after being voted Best of Amarillo for 2010.

The annual Best of Amarillo readership-popularity sweepstakes is conducted each year by the Amarillo Globe-News, which this year received in excess of 6,000 ballots in voting conducted exclusively online.

AC's Gymnastics and Children's Dance programs were voted best in the Gymnastics/Dance School category. The Gymnastics Program serves boys

and girls ages 2-18 with a variety of classes ranging from Recreational Gymnastics and Non-competitive Cheerleading to Power Tumbling & Trampoline. The program also is home to AC's competitive gymnastics team.

The Dance Program offers classes in ballet, tap and jazz.

The AC programs were showcased along with all the Best of Amarillo honorees during the eighth annual Best of Amarillo event Oct. 21 in the Heritage Ballroom of the Amarillo Civic Center.

AC Launches Mobile Smart Phone App

Amarillo College has embraced the proliferation of new mobile applications (apps) by developing one of its own.

Anyone with a compatible mobile operating system—the Apple iPhone and iPad are compatible now, and the Android and Blackberry are expected to come online by year's end—can download a MOX app that provides important phone numbers, latest news and events, even detailed maps of all seven AC locations.

AC developed the app in conjunction with Datatel, its primary information- and resource-management provider.

Datatel recently began giving its clients in higher education access to MOX, an application through which universities and colleges can make apps available to the general population.

The MOX app can be downloaded for free at Apple's iPhone App Store. To find the Amarillo College app, search for "MOX."

Lee Colaw, chief information officer, said AC developed the MOX app in response to the needs of its constituency.

"It was just a matter of paying attention to what our students want," he said.



Senate Sets Priorities for a Challenging Academic Year

By Carol Buse
President of Faculty Senate

"The teaching staff should be partners in a noble enterprise, not employees in an industry." Professor Yandell Henderson of Yale University quoted in *Time Magazine* (Jan. 12, 1931).

Priorities:

The 2010-2011 academic year is proving to be a year of challenges with record enrollment, fewer faculty members, House Bill 2504, and decreased funding. In light of these challenges the Faculty Senate has set forth the following priorities for the current academic year:

1. Cultivate AC's original values of shared governance between faculty and administration by increasing faculty involvement on committees and task forces that affect faculty.
2. Be actively involved in Amarillo College's response to the House Bill 2504.
3. Assess and address issues from faculty members as they arise and

communicate those issues to administration and the vice president of academic affairs.

Visit the Senate's web page (http://www.actx.edu/fac_senate) for more information on the Senate priorities.



House Bill 2504:

The Senate identified 18 faculty members to serve on the House Bill 2504 faculty team from each academic division of the college: Judy Isbell, Ann Hamblin (Access), Becky Burton, Mark Rowh (Allied Health), Pam George (Behavioral Studies), Bobbie Hyndman, Susan Burks (Business), Joseph Jacob, Dennis Mosely (ITT), Patricia Maddox (Language, Communication, Fine Arts), Heather Voran (Other), LaVon Barrett, Ruth Whitehead (Nursing), Mandy Wheeler, Matt Craig, Rehka Yesuda (Science & Engineering), Courtney Milleson (Stu-

dent Development), and Carol Buse (Faculty Senate). Each of these faculty members are directly impacted by House Bill 2504. Dr. Lowery-Hart charged the team to "identify the processes by which AC will comply with requirements of H.B. 2504 for posting student evaluation results online for all faculty." In addition, efforts will be made to ensure faculty members are not held accountable or evaluated for conditions beyond their control. To that end, questions from the student evaluation instrument and questions selected for posting will be reviewed.

For the preliminary plan submitted for Amarillo College see: http://www.actx.edu/collegerelations/files/filecabinet/folder14/After_Committee_Review_House_Bill_2504.pdf

Budget Reduction:

The Senate prepared and delivered a response regarding the budget reduction effort for the next year. This response was discussed in the President's Cabinet meeting in October.

Visit the Senate's web page (http://www.actx.edu/fac_senate) to read the Senate response.

Theatre Department Honored

Ray Newburg and Monty Downs of AC's theatre faculty are flanked by students as they display a plaque honoring their department's efforts in hosting the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

AC hosted the festival last year and will do so again in 2011, an immense undertaking that calls for tremendous commitment and effort on the part of the entire department.

AC honored the Theatre Department at this presentation Oct. 19 in the lobby of the Experimental Theatre.



Lounge, Fitness Center Transform East Campus



to take on the additional responsibility of a branch at the East Campus.

“It was a fun project,” Clifton said. “It had been more of a recreational space, with pool tables and ping pong. Now it’s a legitimate, full-functioning fitness center, and it’s huge compared to what it was.

“When word gets out, I think a lot of people at the East Campus and in the surrounding community will use it and see it as a viable alternative to driving into town.”

The weight room operates just like its sister center on the Washington Street Campus, with the same membership costs and options. Its hours are from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, with abbreviated times on Friday and Saturday. To join one is to join both and, of course, AC employees may use the facilities free.

Rachel Reneau, manager of Carter Fitness Center, now oversees staffing at both sites, the newest of which is being called Carter Fitness Center, Too.

“I am all for expanding opportunities for people to improve their health,” she said. “I’m hopeful that the East Campus center will become busy as time goes by.”

Said Fouts: “In the past couple of months, we’ve already noticed increased activity within the building. More students are enjoying down time in the new lounge, working on projects or watching TV between classes. The improved fitness center is fantastic.

“We made a sticky space for a nominal cost. We did it through teamwork. It’s all good.”

Soon after he was named dean of career and technical education, Dr. Shawn Fouts began a thoughtful coupling of two items near the top of his must-do list: create sticky space and be frugal.

The result is an East Campus Activity Center that reflects Fouts’ vision of a comfortable, student-friendly gathering place with an atmosphere more conducive than ever to student success. It not only boasts a new and alluring student lounge, but it also underwent a recent and extensive expansion of its fitness center.

Call it an extreme makeover.

The study lounge, previously home to a student activities office, features plush new leather seating, computers, access to a phone, vending machines, even a high-definition TV.

The fitness center, meanwhile, is a first-time expansion of AC’s Carter Fitness Center, which not only supplied updated equipment but staffs the facility on a regular schedule.

“I knew we needed to create some student-gathering space, ‘sticky space,’ and that it needed to be accomplished within our budget allocations,” Fouts said. “We were able to get it done thanks in great part to assistance from our friends at the physical plant, which found some leftover paint, and Lee Colaw (IT), who graciously

provided our satellite connection.”

Kathy Wheeler, Fouts’ executive secretary, was charged with furnishings procurement. She waited for bargains and, at significant savings, bought lamps, art, a rug, contemporary computer desks, a coffee table and the cushy couches, all in earth tones.

“It seemed to encourage a study-inducing environment,” she said. “Dr. Fouts has very strong feelings about student success. He wanted a place that would be attractive and where students would be welcome whether they wanted to study, to read, watch TV or rest and listen to their head phones.”

For expansion of the fitness center, Fouts turned to the good folks in the Department of Fitness and Life Sciences, of which Craig Clifton is chairman. Clifton says Carter Fitness Center was delighted



Kathy Wheeler selected the furnishings.



Writer Cornered

Author James Bradley, surrounded by several members of the Common Reader Committee at AC's Writer's Corner, holds a copy of the book that brought him to AC.

Bradley's lecture about Flags of Our Fathers was well received by a large audience Oct. 28 at the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts.

Members of the committee pictured are, from left, Heather Atchley, Amber Brookshire, Susan Burgoon, Charlotte Goebel, Julie Mann, Courtney Milleson and Frank Sobey.

AC Offers Confidential Employee Assistance

**By Lynn Thornton
Director of HR**

Are you aware Amarillo College offers an Employee Assistance Program (EAP)?

The EAP has been available to AC employees and their families since 1987. It is part of Amarillo College's commitment to the health and welfare of employees. The EAP is one of the many great benefits provided by AC that Human Resources visits with you about on your first day of employment.

Human Resources

The EAP provides confidential assistance to any employee who may be struggling with substance abuse, family concerns, relationship issues, or other personal problems. HR Manager Brenda Waren and I can help you with policy and procedure questions. We are willing to provide a sympathetic ear to other personal issues you may wish to discuss. However, neither of us are trained professional counselors and we leave those issues to the experts.

How do you access the EAP?

It is really very simple. If you would like to talk with a professional counselor all you have to do is call Brenda (371-5046) or me (371-5044) and say you would like to use the EAP. We do not ask why, and you are not required to give us a reason for your visit. The reason is between you and the counselor.

When you call we will ask for a number for the counselor to return your call. It can be your work number, home number, cell phone, or any number where you can be reached and have some degree of privacy.

The next step involves Brenda or me calling the counselor. We give the counselor your name, contact number, and a billing code for the counselor to use when providing Amarillo College a bill for services. The code does not identify you in any way. The code provides verification to the HR office for payment. The counselor will call you, normally within a couple of hours, to establish an appointment.

What are the costs?

The EAP provides up to three counseling sessions at no charge to the employee. The counselor will send the bill to HR and



we will process it for payment. There will not be anything on any of the paperwork that will identify the employee. The process is confidential.

If more than three sessions are needed the cost will be borne by the employee. However, depending on the nature of the problem, health insurance might pay part of the cost.

Will Counselors file reports?

For a self-referral, the answer is "no." The process is totally confidential. If an employee is referred by a supervisor, due to work-related issues, the counselor will file a report with HR. However, the report will be kept in a confidential file, not in the employee's personnel file.

If you have questions that have not been answered, please call Brenda or me and we will attempt to answer them for you.

Chili Cook-off Draws Hungry Crowd



Even with everyone on their best behavior there was bloodletting aplenty Oct. 5 at the East Campus. Of course that's because Coffee Memorial Blood Center was on hand to accept donations during the Chili Cook-off.

The Cook-off, sponsored by AC's State Employees Charitable Campaign, also raised \$707 to benefit the blood center.

Competition for the best chili was fierce, and Una Gran Cena (Counseling and Advising) took top honors. The best dessert was deemed that of Fire & Ice (Access Learning Center).



Ron Faulkner: Six Buildings on Three Campuses in Ten Years

To those temporarily displaced and inconvenienced by construction projects sweeping our College—Parcells Hall leaps to mind—consider the odyssey of Ron Faulkner.

Ron, coordinator of technical training, has sidestepped the wrecking ball of progress so often that the evacuation of Parcells registered only the mildest blip on his relocation radar; for he has now occupied nine offices during a decade of service to AC.

It makes him a veritable shoe-in to play the leading role should the Theatre Department hanker to stage an AC version of *Where's Waldo*.

"I do get asked fairly often where my office is now," said Ron, whose tenure has found him in offices on three campuses in six separate buildings, two of which vanished in his wake to accommodate paved parking.

"It makes me feel like I've contributed a lot to the parking situation here," he jests.

That's how it was when he withdrew from a swiftly-demolished house on 22nd Street near the Washington Street Campus, a circumstance that led him to set up shop in the basement of Lynn Library, a subterranean nook he's called home on three occasions now.

Ron abetted construction of yet another parking lot when he vacated a house on Van Buren Street. Once used as transitional quarters for incoming President Steven Jones, it was soon sold and removed.

He occupied space on the East Campus for a spell, but fearful of that particular building's permanence he relocated to Parcells, which now is un-



Ron Faulkner points out some of his former offices from the window of his newest one.

der reconstruction. He returned to the basement once more, but even before he had that particular office running at optimum efficiency, it was appropriated to accommodate a new College initiative. So he moved on up to the library's third floor.

He's there now, or was at last inquiry, among the alphabet of rooms numbered 305.

Perhaps Ron's game of musical offices was preordained in 2000 when he first joined the AC family as assistant director at the Moore County Campus. After all, back then he lived only three blocks from the Washington Street Campus, yet he commuted to MCC for about a year.

By 2001, Ron had been appointed to his present position and his office-hopping began.

"I know a lot of people see humor in all this," he said. "But it doesn't really bother me at all. I'm honestly just happy to be here, though I must admit that unless somebody gets me a motor home, I really don't want to move again."

Enrollment Largest Ever at Amarillo College: 11,675

For the second time in as many fall semesters, Amarillo College eclipsed its previous record for enrollment. AC this fall has 11,675 students, its most students ever. AC's record enrollment upsurge mirrors a widespread trend.

A survey conducted last year by the American Association of Community Colleges revealed that from 2007-2009, head count in community college credit courses was up 16.9 percent nationally.

Amarillo College Accolades

Lavon Barrett, MSN, RN, coordinator of vocational nursing and associate professor recently earned the Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) credential through the National League for Nursing. The CNE credential recognizes the nurse educator's specialized knowledge, skills and excellence in nursing practice and academia and that the highest standards of excellence are being met. She is the Division of Nursing's first faculty member to earn this recognition.

Dr. Richard Pullen, RN, professor of nursing and **Sheryl Mueller**, MSED, MSN, RN, Nursing Division chair and professor had an article appear in the September 2010 journal *Nursing Management* titled "Preparing a Successful Grant Proposal."

Dr. Pullen and **Lyndi Shadbolt**, MS, RN, associate professor of nursing, had an article appear in the August 2010 issue of *Nursing Made Incredibly Easy*. It was titled "Caring for a Patient with Psoriasis."

Dr. Lana Jackson, formerly chair of the Department of Mass Communication, has been named director of AC's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). She is joined in the initiative by **Dr. Judith Carter**, professor of English, who serves as QEP assistant director. **Lynaé Jacob**, assistant professor of speech and theatre, is serving as interim chair of the Department of Mass Communication.

Maury Roman-Jordan, director of outreach services at Community Link, was keynote speaker at the fifth annual *Hablando de la Salud de la Mujer* (Speaking of Women's Health) symposium Oct. 9 at the Amarillo Civic Center.

Jennie Sparks, instructor in the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, was the October recipient of the Badger of Honor award for her outstanding efforts in student engagement.

The AC Gymnastics and Dance programs supervised by **Charlotte Modersitzki** recently won "Best of Amarillo 2020," a readership-popularity sweepstakes conducted by the *Amarillo-Globe News*.

Sign Up to Receive Texts at AC Alert

By Rusty Cornelius
Emergency Manager

If you followed the recent shooting incident at the University of Texas—Austin, you know that planning, training and emergency equipment pay off during a crisis. Did you know Amarillo College's emergency plans are very similar to those of UT?

Nothing is more essential to a successful emergency response on a college campus than having trained personnel and the capability of informing the campus community about what is happening and what people should do.

AC Police, just like UT Police, are trained to respond to the sounds of an emergency and, if it is gunfire, to neutralize it immediately. That's what happened in Austin.

The AC Threat Response Team is constantly training to manage or minimize impacts and hazards that stem from emergency situations. And AC, like UT,

Emergency Management

will utilize multiple media communication tools to send out text, phone and email messages when deemed necessary.

This is accomplished through AC Alert, the notification system all AC employees are automatically signed up to receive. You can access AC Alert at the bottom of the AC home page. Use your ACNetID (same way you access WebAdvisor) to log in. You should visit this site and access it because the system knows only the employment information on file; if your phone numbers or email addresses have changed, or if you want to sign up to receive texts, visit AC Alert.

We really want you to do so because it is critically important that you receive emergency messages when the time comes. The UT—Austin shooting brings to mind

some questions:

If you saw someone walking across campus wearing a mask, what would you do? Hopefully you will call College Police and move away from them.

If you saw someone walking across campus with a gun and they were not in a law enforcement uniform, what would you do? Hopefully you will call College Police and get away from them quickly.

Please take the time to enter 806-371-5911 in your speed dial.

Lastly, by the time you read this we will have conducted the fall semester test of AC Alert. That occurred on Oct. 21. If you did not receive the test message, do you know why? Have you logged in to your personal account through AC Alert and made sure the College has your correct information. If you wonder about the importance of receiving emergency messages, just ask someone at UT what it meant to them the other day. Knowledge really can save your life.

Plugged In's Fall Photo



With about 300 enthusiastic friends of Amarillo College on hand, a ceremonial ribbon was cut and the new nursing and dental health center was officially christened in honor of Steven W. Jones, 12th president of the College. Taking part in the ceremony were Dr. Jones' wife, Tommye Lou; his mother, Bobbie Jones; his daughters Holly and Jennifer; Prenis Williams, chairman of the Board of Regents; and some nursing and dental students.