



2012

Fall



AC FACULTY & STAFF NEWSLETTER



Plugged



VOLUME V

AC Receives
\$2.5 Million

Meet the
New Dean

Generations
of Riders

Try a Great
New RECIPE

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



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S E P T E M B E R 2 0 T H
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One Fine Day for AC

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By Dr. Paul Matney
Amarillo College President

Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012 was a momentous day in the life of AC. That morning the SACSCOC on-site evaluation team, chaired by Dr. Anthony Wise, Jr., President of Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, Tenn., presented its exit report after spending three days on our campuses.

The team's report, a critical component of our re-affirmation efforts, was a good one with only two recommendations. After spending literally three years preparing our SACS readiness audit and compliance certification report, and developing a strong Quality Enhancement Plan, we heaved a collective and weary sigh of relief. Finally, it was time to catch our breath. But, to quote ESPN's Game Day host, Lee Corso, "Not so fast, my friend, . . . not so fast . . ."

The phone rang in my office about 2:00 that afternoon. It was David Gardner, deputy commissioner for THECB, in Austin. "Paul, do you have a staff of folks who could put together a \$2.5 million Department of Labor grant due Monday," he asked. I replied, "David, you've got to be kidding—THAT'S IN 3 DAYS! . . . Uh . . . \$2.5 million you say? . . . Uh, well . . . yes, I think we can do that."

About 30 minutes later came another call, this time from our congressional office in Washington, D.C., with news that AC had been awarded a \$1 million Economic Development Administration grant to provide technical equipment for our new Hinkson Memorial Campus in Hereford.

One day - Sept. 20, 2012—a good SACS report and \$3.5 million in grants to provide opportunities for students to succeed. Not a bad day for Amarillo College!

The story of Sept. 20 gives me an opportunity to thank two groups of AC colleagues who have worked so diligently and effectively on behalf of AC and the students we serve—first, everyone who had a part in our SACSCOC re-affirmation efforts during the past three years, and second, our grants and instructional folks who worked ceaselessly to develop an important grant in three days. It truly takes a committed team to pull that off. Our hats are off to Teresa Clemons, Danita McAnally, Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, Dr. Kim Hays, Dr. Tamara Clunis, and Lyndy Forrester for their recent tireless efforts.

Our thanks go to Danita McAnally and her staff who organized and managed the mammoth re-affirmation efforts, to Mark Hanna who spent an entire summer preparing our compliance readiness audit, to Dr. Lana Jackson and Dr. Kathy Wetzel who lead our "Conversations on Student Success" team, to Edie Carter and her team who worked so diligently on faculty credentials, and to Kara Larkan-Skinner and her institutional research staff who provided mountains of data.

Accolades also go to Dr. Jackson and Dr. Judith Carter and our hard-working QEP team, to Cabinet officers who provided leadership and who wrote large sections of our compliance report, to Jill Gibson for her impressive editing skills and Bruce Moseley for his careful narrative review, to Lee Colaw and his IT staff, Ellen Green and her College Relations staff, and finally to the on-site preparation committee. I'm certain I have left out some contributors, and for that unintended oversight, I apologize.

All 12 on-site evaluation visitors commented often on the genuine hospitality, cooperation, and professionalism of AC personnel during their stay. They even enjoyed their visit to the Big Texan Steak Ranch.

Ever hear the phrase, "It takes a village?" Well, it certainly took an impressive village of dedicated Amarillo College employees to pull off one successful re-affirmation experience. My sincere thanks to you all. Now, we wait until June for official re-affirmation confirmation.



AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR VISITS COLLEGE

Timothy Egan's "The Worst Hard Time" is of course AC's Common Reader. While here Oct. 11, the author was guest of honor at a student/faculty/staff luncheon at the Museum of Art, and he presented an evening lecture at the Civic Center.

Courtney Milleson (pictured above with Egan), chair of the Common Reader Team, says this year's selection fit especially well with the community-wide engagement effort "Days of Dust."

With documentary filmmaker Ken Burns' new film *The Dust Bowl* as a centerpiece, Days of Dust partners organized numerous events and activities to lead a yearlong Panhandle re-visitation of the Dust Bowl. Egan's visit was the perfect prelude to the premier of the Burns' documentary—a film airing in two parts on KACV at 7 p.m. both Nov. 18 and 19.



REALITY CHECK

Judy Carter, coordinator of the Honors Program, and Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, vice president for academic affairs, were joined by some honor students as AC came into a \$33,000 donation from Underwood Law Firm. The money for the Honors Program was raised when former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani spoke in October at an event marking Underwood's 100th anniversary.

No Excuses Fund is Working but Needs Replenishing

American higher education no doubt has been aware of the existence of barriers to student success since the founding of Harvard College in 1636.

The reasons why students do not succeed are close to infinite because they are subject to a boundless blend of academic, financial, motivational and societal quantification. But here lately "life issues" seem to be taking the greatest toll, and that underscores the importance of AC's No Excuses Fund.

The emergency fund was established with start-up money generously contributed by the AC Foundation. It is utilized as a last resort to help students quell life issues that, when left to boil over, often force them to move academic attainment to the back burner of most any poverty-muddled priority list. Too often they drop out.

FACT: The family income of 50 percent of AC students is at or below the poverty line; our speed bumps can easily be their roadblocks.

This semester alone, Trudy Banner, coordinator of social services at AC, has utilized the No Excuses Fund to help dozens of students deal with out-of-classroom tribulations and stay in school—from emergency auto repairs and dental care to helping with rent, utilities and bus vouchers.

There are two things she likes to point out about the fund. First, it is not being spent willy-nilly; it's going bit by bit to those with the greatest and most immediate needs, and only when other sources of help within the community prove insufficient.

For example, Banner initially looks into the availability of financial aid for students in need. It turns out many qualify for need-based Texas Public Educational Grants. Many community and United Way agencies are willing to help out too, especially when Banner lets them know it's not a complete bail-out she seeks.

"When we go to the various agencies and tell them we do have some money available, they usually are willing to help," she said. "Together we've kept lights on, heat on, roofs over heads."

Banner also has helped assemble a network of businesses and professionals willing to help solve problems, at or below cost. An auto dealership will assess and repair vehicles. A local dentist will treat emergencies. Many are involved because keeping students in school is the goal.

Still, each emergency request that comes through AC's social services office has the potential to tap the No Excuses Fund, which brings us to the second thing Banner wants to make clear about the nest egg.

"The fund is working," Banner said. "It's helped keep a lot of students in school and focused on their academic goals, but it is not a bottomless pit."

"We have a finite number of dollars, money that is used solely for true emergencies. We have students living on the edge. A gift of \$150 can keep someone's utilities on and lift a heavy burden at a time they need to be concentrating on their education. Anyone can contribute to our No Excuses Fund, and it will make a difference."

Some funding trickled in through recent State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) contributions, for which Banner is thankful. Yet there will always be additional need.



Tracy Dougherty or Kathleen Dowdy at the AC Foundation can be reached at 371-5107 and will be glad to earmark donations for the No Excuses Fund.

AC Recognizes Exceptional Employees



“

Sometimes it's really shocking to me that I even get to work here at all.”

Sugden Claims Classified Award

Suppose it's Final Jeopardy and Alex Trebek imparts this fateful clue: “He got a GED, an associate degree, and the 2012 Classified Employee of the Year award — all at Amarillo College.”

The correct response, of course, would be: “Who is Michael Sugden?”

Sugden, disbursement supervisor in the Business Office since 2006, said he was overwhelmed in August when at General Assembly he was proclaimed Classified Employee of the Year.

“Oh my, yes,” he said. “It means a lot to me because AC means a lot to me.

“I didn't have a high opinion of myself when I first came to AC, but the people at this College helped change my opinion.”

Sugden dropped out of Tascosa High in the 10th grade and worked hither and yon. After a couple years, he came to AC in need of a GED. Buoyed by AC's rank and file, he breezed through that and stayed to pursue a degree in accounting. He ultimately wound up at Texas Tech, where he graduated summa cum laude in economics.

He was described as “a patient co-worker who is always smiling and pinching pennies for the College,” by last year's award winner, Kelly Murphy, at General Assembly.



FACTS: He is presently working on a master's degree in accounting at West Texas A&M, and he hates chocolate.



Berg Named Top Administrator

Lest you didn't know it, AC is on extremely firm financial footing. So far into the black we are that Human Resources might want to launch a flashlight-distribution policy for new hires.

Credit our prosperity to Terry Berg, vice president of business affairs, who back in August was named AC's Administrator of the Year.

Berg wields a wrench so efficient and far-reaching that it keeps AC's nuts and bolts firmly secured in not only the obvious places, but in nooks and crannies seldom mulled.

He is responsible for much more than the vast intricacies of AC's financial network; his oversight extends to domains such as the Physical Plant, Human Resources, Purchasing, the Bookstore, the Police Department, and even AC's 300 rental properties out east.

But after he was named AC's top administrator for 2012, Berg swiftly attributed his accolade to the standout workforce he employs.

“To be a good administrator, good enough to actually receive this award, you need excellent people working for you, and I do,” Berg said.

“I am humbled and honored to be in the company of (previous winners) Bruce Cotgreave, David Ziegler and Linda Hendrick. But I know it's really a consequence of the outstanding work done by a lot of fine individuals who work here.”

Kay Mooney, last year's Administrator of the Year, introduced this year's winner by saying: “Terry is a quiet leader who works countless hours behind the scenes and leads by example.”



FACTS: Berg is an avid snow skier. He took up ice hockey at age 52 and played casually on Civic Center ice for about five years.



The Riders, seated by the Clock Tower, are, from left, Sheridan, Trena and Theresa.

❧ Riders Fancy Fall Trail ❧

For one fleeting semester, Amarillo College assembled enough Riders to establish its own chapter of the Pony Express.

Expect a horse of a different color come spring.

Theresa Rider will retire in January after 11 years as associate vice president of finance.

Theresa's daughter-in-law, Trena Rider, has been intramurals specialist at AC since 2010, but she's closing in on her master's degree—a May expectation.

Trena's daughter, Sheridan Rider, is presently in her first semester of study at AC (not counting dual credits earned at Bushland), taking courses she hopes to build on next year at Texas Tech.

But for now, **these three amigos represent three generations of Rider women** here at AC.

Of course many are the families with multiple and generational ties to AC, professionally and academically. The Riders' situation isn't so much unique as it is a capstone of sorts for Theresa, who has greatly enjoyed having two of her favorite people so close at hand for her crowning semester of work.

"It's been a blessing," Theresa said. "I've thoroughly enjoyed working at AC, but especially these last few months with both girls here at the same time."

Theresa, who grew up in Nazareth, became a first-generation college student once her own kids began going to school. She now has five grandkids and aspires to spend more time with them and less time in the world of accounting.

"I'm also keeping my eye open for volunteer opportunities," she said.

Trena says her mother-in-law is an excellent volunteer.

"When I put on a 5K race, she's there," Trena said, adding in jest: "and we always need referees in the spring."

Theresa may not turn out for referee duty, but who can say for certain? There are those who consider AC one big, happy family. Then there are the Riders, who make it so.

AC SNARES HUGE GRANT FROM DOL

It was the eleventh hour and the U.S. Department of Labor was clearly underwhelmed.

The applications it had received from Texas community colleges for the Career Training Grant Program just didn't cut it. Since each of the 50 states had been mandated to receive one such non-consortium grant, DOL put the onus on Texas to suggest something better—and swiftly.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board did just that and AC, which had not initially applied for the grant, received it.

The \$2.5 million, four-year windfall will largely be used to acquire high-tech simulation equipment and to enhance online training applications that support several ongoing and future student-success initiatives at AC tied to a concept called "stackable credentials."

The THECB zeroed in on AC because of its ongoing efforts in this area—something the DOL could embrace. And so AC's Division of Planning and Advancement basically was given only the ensuing weekend to submit a formal application before the DOL deadline.

The taskforce led by Danita McAnally, chief of planning and advancement, came through with flying colors.

AC will focus the funding primarily (though not exclusively) on underprepared students pursuing workforce credentials in healthcare and technical fields.

Redesigned courses, coupled with interactive simulation experiences made possible by the grant, will propel students more swiftly into the workforce. Moreover, the entry-level credentials they earn, because they are stackable, can be applied toward subsequent academic attainment.



Now we can build our infrastructure and implement promising strategies that, due to budgetary constraints, might have taken years to attain. It's all about student success, and it's awesome."

Dr. Tamara Clunis, Dean of Academic Success



The AC State Employee Charitable Campaign team expresses its pleasure at the happy event. They are, from left, Eric Wallace, Nancy Brent, Edie Carter, Kelly Murphy, Bob Austin, Heather Atchley, Ernesto Olmos and Rebecca Archer.

Pumpkin Party Pulls in Profits

If you think matadors and rodeo clowns live dangerously, know this: about 30 people got gourd at AC's Pumpkin Decorating Contest.

That's right, the silent auction proved popular, and most of the pumpkins entered in the SECC/United Way fundraiser left the College Union Building in the arms of new and happy owners.

That helped make the contest of Oct. 25th a successful venture indeed. Between auction sales and monetary votes for the best-designed entries, the event netted \$580 for charity.

The Alien Spaceship designed by Student Life captured first place, so Student Life earned the right to designate the event's profits to the United Way/SECC program of its choice. That happily turned out to be the AC Foundation's Unrestricted Fund.

Humpty Dumpty, submitted by AskAC, and Carved Tree Pumpkin, designed by Student Government Association, placed second and third, respectively.

The contest was orchestrated by AC's SECC and the Student United Way Council, with help from Student Life, Maxwell's Pumpkin Farm and the Burrito Stop, which provided \$25 gift certificates for the top three vote-getters.



Rebecca Archer and David Ziegler admire an entry.



JoBeth Hill votes for her favorite pumpkin.



Janie Roach and Rhonda Higgs admire Humpty Dumpty.



Contest features some really SMASHING PUMPKINS

NEW DEAN LIKES BEING

Where the Action Is



Lyndy Wilkinson is not opposed to scuffling through a mud-oozing quagmire beneath a devilishly low-hanging canopy of barbed wire.

The fact is, she frequently trains for such adventures—12-mile Tough Mudder events—obstacle races designed by British Special Forces that require equal and enormous amounts of physical stamina, mental determination and, at the end, soap.

Wilkinson does not expect to face anything nearly as grueling as a Tough Mudder in her new role as dean of technical education; however, in a way, she's been training over the past few years for this challenge, too.

Tabbed in September to succeed Dr. Shawn Fouts as dean, Wilkinson joined the AC family following a five-year stint with the Amarillo Economic Development Corporation. There she served as business development manager and spent some of her time helping coordinate programs and activities linking AC to industry.

"That's the part of my job at AEDC that I liked best," Wilkinson says, "which is why I was so interested in this job when it came open. The things I liked most about my last job I now get to do all of the time for AC.

"I'm truly honored to have been chosen to lead such an important charge in our community."

Her arrival at AC coincided with recent building renovations on the East Campus. That afforded her the opportunity to relocate

the dean's office from the scarcely populated Activity Center to bustling Building V (vee).

"I'm a people person," she said. "I want to be where the action is, where the students are. The remodeling out here is exciting as we reposition some programs and look for ways to improve our curriculums.

"Sometimes it's helpful to have new scenery when you set out to build more synergy, and that's exactly what we intend to do, build synergy and camaraderie and a higher level of inclusion in the College as a whole."

Wilkinson also looks forward to keeping her finger on the pulse of local and regional industry, to ensure not only that AC is doing everything it can to bolster the economy, but that students who complete technical programs find jobs.

"Our purpose statement for technical education is 'Putting People to Work through Industry Partnerships,'" she said. "Industry and students are our customers. We're in this for them."

An avid gardener and landscaper, Wilkinson is active in the Junior League of Amarillo. She and her husband, Clark, have three kids at home and lots of friends and, it's easy to imagine, lots of busy weekends, some of which the new dean spends mired in, well, mire.

.....
NOW AT 2 LOCATIONS
.....

Food Pantry Looks to Brighten Holidays

As traffic increases at the AC Food Pantry—and it has been on the upswing—so too does the need for the sort of donations that keep its shelves replenished.

The Food Pantry, which expanded in September to include a satellite site in Jones Hall on the West Campus, has been busy at both locations this semester.

The original Food Pantry opened last year in Parcels Hall and doled out about 16 bags of groceries and personal-hygiene items each month through the spring and summer. However, the bags-per-month average has hovered at around 22 this fall.

The West Campus location in Jones Hall is seeing a similar uptick in need, yet overall donations to the AC Food Pantry have dropped off of late.

“We have had a drop in donations of food,” Karen Logan, administrative clerk for the Department of Communications and Theatre, said. “Meanwhile, we want to make the holidays as bright as we can for our students.”

Logan and her department chair, Lynaé Jacob, put their heads together and launched the Food Pantry in 2011, finding it a home on the second floor of Parcels.

Instructors of vocational nursing Tamara Rhodes and Lizzy Sharp, and their staff assistant Connie Lax, are the collective force behind the pantry’s newest location on the second floor of Jones Hall.



Lizzy Sharp, left, and Tamara Rhodes, instructors of vocational nursing, fill up a bag of groceries at the new West Campus Food Pantry on the second floor of Jones Hall.

“Right now we are especially in need of canned meats like tuna or Spam and hygiene items like body wash and shampoo,” Sharp said. “We received a wonderful response when we opened our pantry. Now we just have to keep it going because the need is great.”



“If each of us donated just three items from our holiday wish list, think of the difference we can make.” – Karen Logan

Items can be dropped off at Parcels Hall, Room 204A, in the Mail Room on the first floor of Lynn Library, or at the second-floor nursing office in Jones Hall.

Here’s a list staples both locations could use right now:

- Ramen noodles
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash
- Women’s deodorant
- Macaroni & cheese
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Baking items (Cookie mix, muffin mix, flour, sugar, etc.)
- Single microwavable meals
- Individually wrapped snacks

Here’s a list of items that would help make the upcoming holidays special:

- Green beans
- Cream of mushroom soup
- Fried onions
- Stuffing mix
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Cranberry sauce
- Gravy mix
- Canned pumpkin
- Marshmallows



FACULTY & STAFF

Accolades



Moseley Recognized Twice on Same Night

We've all dealt with having to be in two places at one time, but not necessarily for the purpose of accepting multiple forms of tribute.

Leave it to **Bruce Moseley**, who because of his many hours of volunteer legal services on behalf of indigent clients, was presented on Oct. 25 with his third consecutive Attorney of the Year Award by the Amarillo-area Equal Justice Volunteer Program.

If that wasn't enough, the EJVP also unveiled a new award this year that actually bears Moseley's name, but even that couldn't keep AC's Business Department chair and director of paralegal studies from hurrying to a second awards ceremony before the first one ended.

That same evening, Moseley was presented with a Top Twenty under 40 Award at the annual awards banquet of the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce. Joining Moseley as a Twenty-under-40 recipient was AC's **Jennifer Ashcraft**, grant compliance officer. They were selected for having "demonstrated professional excellence while bringing value to their places of employment and their community."

Officer **Robert Taylor** of the AC Police Department was elected second vice president to the Texas State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police at its August assemblage in Houston. The Texas State Lodge represents more than 10,000 active officers and presents legislation affecting the law enforcement community at both the state and national levels.

Albert Urbina, telecommunications specialist, is not only commander of Knights Templar of Texas, Commandery No. 48, in Amarillo, but he is a member of the Commandery's elite seven-man drill team that captured a world championship Aug. 11 in Alexandria, Va. Urbina's drill team reached the world championship by capturing the state title back in April in Houston.



WORKSHOP SET FOR FYS INSTRUCTORS

Faculty and staff with master's degrees are invited to participate in the upcoming three-day Instructor Certification Workshop for AC's First-Year Seminar. Seating is limited to the first 20 who sign up.

Meetings are Dec. 17-19 in Lynn Library 113 and run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., except for the first meeting which goes until 2 p.m.

Those who complete the workshop will receive a \$200 stipend and should have a better understanding of the role FYS plays in student success, along with greater knowledge of the curriculum and how to better teach it.

Applications are due by Nov. 19. If you need one, call Dr. Lana Jackson at 371-5292.

RECYCLING EFFORT PRESERVES TREES



Since the paper-recycling program commenced in September on the Washington Street Campus, AC can claim to have saved 68 trees and 152 gallons of oil.

These facts are among the latest data provided to AC by KB Recycling, which through the first two months of the pilot program carted off a total of 7,596 pounds of paper.

That, according to KB, means AC also has saved just over 11 cubic yards of landfill space!

KB reminds us that weekly pickup is Mondays and that paper clips and staples need not be removed from paper before it is placed in the recycling boxes—and while phone books are welcome, cardboard is not.

PIE RATS

Claudia Arnold, human resources specialist and occasional pirate, stabs at a slice of pumpkin pie while serving as a judge for the Communication and Marketing pumpkin contest staged on Halloween at College Relations.



It's Been a Groundbreaking Semester



Hereford Campus

Sunshine prevailed as AC and community leadership stood shoulder-to-shoulder to break ground for the Everett & Mabel McDougal Hinkson Memorial Campus in Hereford. The event on Aug. 31st was a prelude to what will be an energy-conscious, 30,000 square-foot beacon of higher education in northwest Hereford. The new campus is expected to be fully operational in time for the spring semester of 2014.



Moore County Campus

An auspicious group that included keynote speaker Senator Kel Seliger pitched in to officially break ground for the new Career and Technical Training Center that will support AC's Moore County Campus. The ceremony was staged Oct. 19th on the northern edge of Dumas, where the 30,000 square-foot structure will be utilized to support area workforce training, likely by the fall of 2013.



ACPD Whistle-stop

The AC Police Department, having dedicated the fall semester to women's safety, recently purchased 2,000 attention-getting safety whistles for distribution to female students and employees. Officer Darryl Moore says a loud blast from one can serve as a signal for help or a deterrent to crime. Moore, AC's crime prevention coordinator, manned this giveaway booth Oct. 30 near the Washington Street Campus Clock Tower. He termed the giveaway "a strategic proactivity aimed at ensuring a continuation of the high level of safety AC campuses enjoy."

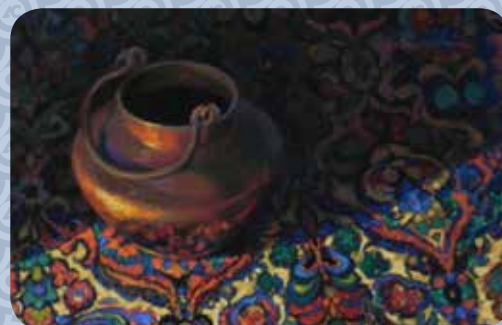


Picture Perfect

An AC graduate who is considered one of America's extraordinary pastel artists donated a pair of paintings to the College's permanent art collection on Oct. 30th. She gave AC one of her own works and one by her late father, Lloyd V. Cook. A member of the Class of 1969, Ms. Cook has been a professional artist for more than 40 years. She holds coveted signature status in the Pastel Society of America. During her recent visit to AC, the renowned artist taught three workshops and gave a public lecture.



Gathered in the President's Office for the donation of valuable paintings are, from left, Dr. Paul Matney, Kathleen Cook, Steven Cost, associate professor of art, and Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart. On the easel is a watercolor by Cook's late father, Lloyd V. Cook.



The pastel.

FALL RECIPE

Baked Ham Sandwich

Recipe compliments of Stefanie Carruth, College Relations



Ingredients

- 1 12-pack of King's Hawaiian Original Rolls
- 1 lb. deli ham, shaved
- 1 lb. Swiss cheese, thinly sliced
- 1½ sticks butter
- 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1½ teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 3 teaspoons of poppy seeds
- 1 onion, chopped

Directions

1. Heat oven to 350.
2. Melt butter and mix in mustard, Worcestershire sauce, onion and poppy seed. Simmer for several minutes.
3. Cut the entire pack of rolls in half, horizontally (keeping all top and bottom halves in tact).
4. In a greased 9×13 pan, place bottom half of rolls and spread 1/3 of the onion mixture over the bottom of the rolls followed by the ham and cheese.
5. Replace the tops of the rolls and spread the remaining onion mixture over top.
6. Cover and bake for 15-20 minutes and, once finished, separate for serving.