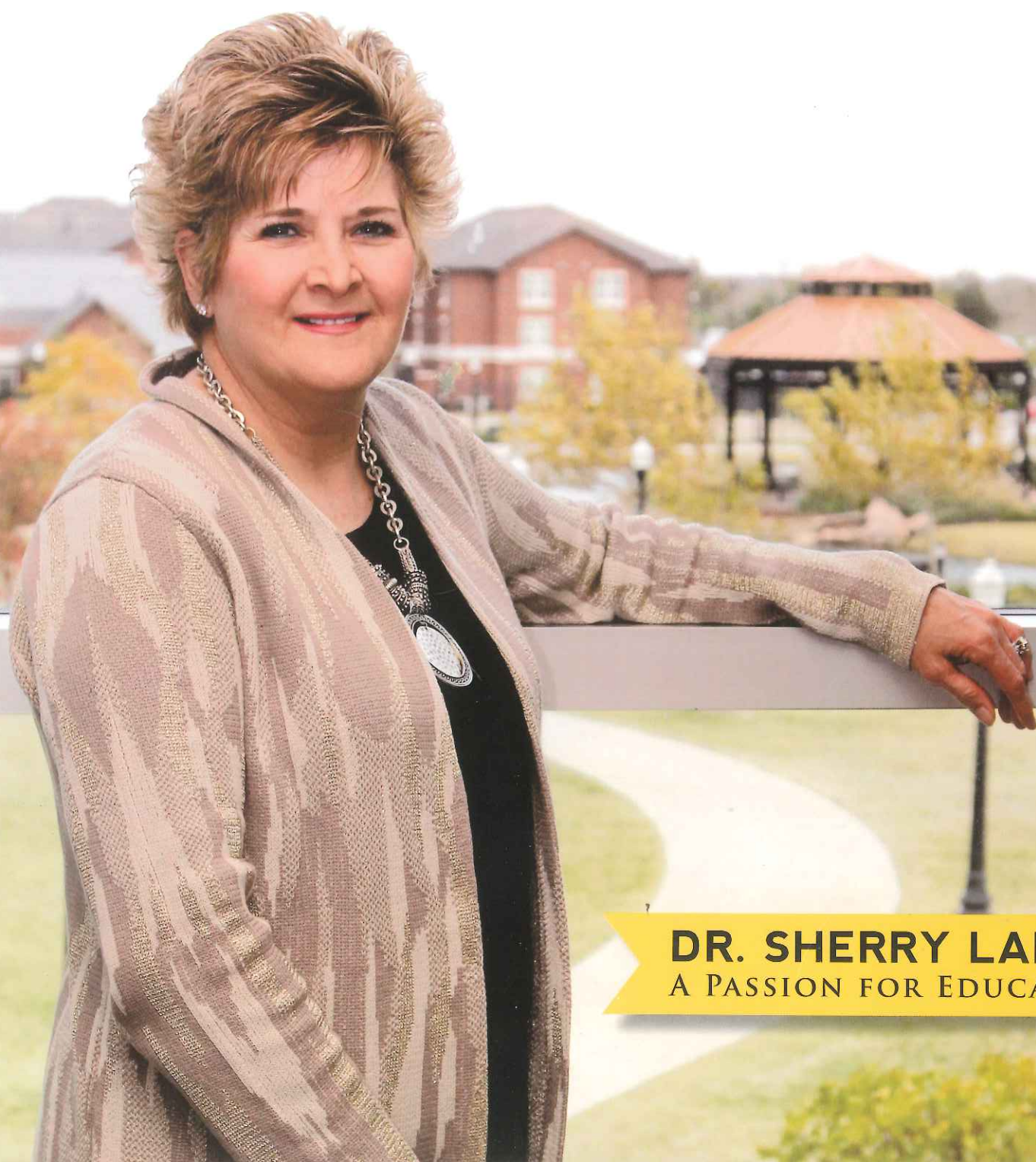


CAMERON

SPRING 2015

MAGAZINE



DR. SHERRY LABYER

A PASSION FOR EDUCATION



Message from the President



Dear Alumni and Friends:

One of the best things about being on a university campus is that there is always something to attend for learning, engagement, or enjoyment. You will see a sampling of that array of activities in this issue of Cameron Magazine. We celebrated academic excellence during our annual Convocation ceremony, hosted our Second Annual Ethics Bowl, and on Veterans Day, in Veterans Grove, we recognized our service members' contributions and sacrifices. Finally, we closed the semester by celebrating the holidays as a community on our campuses in Lawton and in Duncan.

Cameron University is in the midst of celebrating its ninth Academic Festival this academic year. We have been exploring the topic of "Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities," considering several aspects of the important topic. In September, chef and agricultural activist Rick Bayless spoke to our campus about food and agricultural practices; in November, water policy and law expert Robert Glennon engaged us in thoughtful discussion about our nation's and southwest Oklahoma's challenges surrounding water. The Festival will continue this spring as we explore sustainability in communities of different sizes and consider sustainable lifestyles with our featured speakers, city planner and urban designer Jeff Speck and actor/environmentalist Ed Begley, Jr. There has already been a wonderful complement of ancillary activities hosted by our academic departments, and we look forward to more in the spring. More information may be found in the article on page 8.

Cameron's Center for Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurial Studies (CETES) celebrates its 10th anniversary of operation. Over the past 10 years, CETES has promoted new technologies and been a driving force behind economic development in southwest Oklahoma, offering entrepreneurs and startup businesses office space in the business incubator and providing a wide range of consulting services. Through the capable leadership of Arun Tilak, Director of CETES, the hard work of a dedicated staff, and the on-going development of regional partnerships, CU continues to support the growth and success of the communities we serve.

This issue features student Randall Hooker, who found a passion in bee keeping. Mr. Hooker shares his path to starting and maintaining a honey bee program on campus. We celebrate the accomplishments of our faculty. Faculty members Dr. Mike Dunn and Dr. Edris Montalvo were honored with the Harold and Elizabeth Hackler Teaching Excellence Award in November. We are proud of Dr. Theresa Billiot and her efforts to bring community partnerships inside the classroom. Our alumni and friends are also a source of pride. I know you will enjoy reading about the inductees of the Class of 2015 Athletics Hall of Fame and the achievements and new ventures of alumna Dr. Sherry Labyer.

Cameron graduates have greater opportunities to pursue their dreams and passions when repayment of student loans is not their primary concern. The financial support of so many donors, alumni, and friends make this possible for our students. In this issue, Mark and Linda Ashton share why they support the university by giving to the Cameron University Foundation through President's Partners. I am truly appreciative of their continuing support. We are also immensely grateful for the generous gift from the Terry K. Bell Charitable Trust which will enhance the athletic experience of our men's and women's golf teams and allow them to practice in any kind of weather.

The faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of Cameron University are dedicated to the educational, cultural, and economic advancement of the communities we serve. I hope you will find evidence of that dedication in the following pages. Thank each of you for your interest in and support of Cameron University. I hope to see you on one of our campuses this spring.

Sincerely,

John McArthur
President

Inside This ISSUE

CAMERON
MAGAZINE

Spring 2015 Volume 12, Issue 1

18



On The Cover: Dr. Sherry Labyer: A Passion for Education
This CU alumna is leading the way for statewide education.

FEATURES

- 8 Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities** *Cameron's triennial Academic Festival continues!*
- 13 Why I Give:** Mark and Linda Ashton and **How A Donor Helped Me:** Brya Hannabass
The personal impact a donation to the Cameron University Foundation can have.
- 14 The CU Department of Agriculture is "The Bee's Knees"** *How student Randall Hooker has enhanced the offerings in his academic major.*
- 16 Cameron Golf to Prosper**
The generosity of the Terry Bell Foundation will impact CU golf for decades to come.
- 20 The Hackler Award for Teaching Excellence**
Faculty members Dr. Mike Dunn and Dr. Edris Montalvo receive Cameron's highest faculty honor.
- 23 CETES: 10 Years of Economic Development**
The impact of the Center for Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurial Studies on business development in southwest Oklahoma.
- 26 Dr. Theresa Billiot: Bringing community partnerships inside the classroom**
It's a win-win for Cameron students and area businesses.
- 30 Every Student. Every Story.**
Spotlighting members of Cameron's Honors Program
- 32 And the Award Goes To...**
The Cameron University Alumni Association announces its 2015 honorees.

DEPARTMENTS

Campus Update.....	2
Athletics	28
Alma Matters/In Memoriam	36

President:
John McArthur

**Director of
Alumni Relations:**
Jennifer McGrail

**Senior Director of
Public Affairs:**
Josh Lehman

**Director of Media Relations/
Managing Editor:**
Janet E. Williams

Graphic Designers:
Karyn Bowen
Ciera Schibi

Editorial Assistant:
Marty McCoy
Morgan Thompson

Contributors:
Tiffany Martinez
Kara Moran
Don Vieth
Monica Wood

Photographers:
Karyn Bowen
Jeff Dixon
Michael Pope
Ciera Schibi
Monica Wood

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Cameron University earns berth in U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges 2015 "Least Debt" rankings

Cameron University continues to excel at keeping student debt to a minimum, according to "U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges 2015." Cameron is ranked 11th in the category of Least Debt, Class of 2013, among the 136 universities surveyed in the West region of those designated as Regional Universities and is 28th among all 620 Regional Universities surveyed. Significantly, only 30 percent of the Cameron graduates who started and completed a bachelor's degree at Cameron incurred debt, the lowest percentage in the West region and sixth lowest of all Regional Universities.

"Unlike the majority of colleges and universities across the nation at which the percentage of students graduating with debt is frequently 70 percent and sometimes exceeds 90 percent, only 30 percent of our students graduated with debt," says Cameron University President John McArthur. "This demonstrates Cameron's efforts to provide an excellent education at an amazing value. It also reflects the generosity of scholarship donors in southwest Oklahoma to help our students achieve their academic goals."

This year, Cameron increased university scholarships and resident tuition waivers by nine percent over last year. Since academic year 2001-02, Cameron has increased resident tuition waivers and scholarship funding by 320 percent, from \$756,000 to this year's \$2,419,000.

(Left) Cameron's annual tree lighting ceremonies - held in Lawton as well as at CU-Duncan, offer fun-filled festivities for students, faculty, staff and members of the community. CU students (back row, left to right) Aleigh Peirao, Jenny Simpson, Autumn Quickle, Becky Harris, Jessica Fernandez, (front row, left to right) Jacob Quickle and Layton Harper gather in front of the tree located in Bentley Gardens to share some holiday spirit.

(Right) During the annual International Student Scholarship Banquet, Cameron's international students provide entertainment spotlighting their cultural heritages.



Cameron receives \$25,000 from Stripes College Scholarship Fund

Cameron University has received a gift of \$25,000 from the Stripes College Scholarship Fund. The generous donation has been used to provide scholarships of \$1,000 each to 25 Cameron University students.

"We are indeed grateful to the Stripes College Scholarship Fund for its support of Cameron students," says Cameron President John McArthur. "Cameron is committed to providing as much financial assistance as possible so that our students can concentrate on their studies and complete their degree requirements. We share the Stripes® vision of empowering tomorrow's leaders through access to quality education."

"We are proud of our passionate team members and the energy they put into the Stripes College Scholarship Fund campaign," says Eduardo Pereda, Stripes® Convenience Stores Vice President of Marketing. "We will make a difference in the lives of our youth by investing in them today through college scholarships. Again, we are overwhelmed by the generosity of our customers for contributing to further the education of so many students at Cameron University."

Through the Stripes College Scholarship Fund, Stripes® is investing in tomorrow's leaders. The company hopes to inspire students to actively and passionately build careers and become productive community contributors.

"Stripes scholarships were awarded to students majoring in 13 of Cameron's academic programs, enabling those students to get one step closer to earning a degree," says McArthur. "The diverse range of academic programs these students are pursuing will no doubt have a positive community



Four of the 25 students who received scholarships from the Stripes College Scholarship Fund expressed their appreciation of the \$25,000 gift to Cameron University. Pictured left to right: Brittany Turner; Michelle Bannon; Stripes Area Manager Michele Spicer; Cameron University President John McArthur; Stripes Area Manager Heidi Blevins; Craig Fain; and Rebekah Pullicar.

impact once these students earn their degrees and commence their respective careers."

The degree programs being pursued by the Cameron Stripes College Scholarship Fund recipients include accounting, art, biology, business administration, chemistry, communication, early childhood education, elementary education, interdisciplinary studies, international languages, multimedia design, psychology and sociology.

Cameron is one of 20 universities in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas that participates in the Stripes College Scholarship Fund. Scholarship recipients must be full-time students with a minimum 2.5 grade point average and a resident of a Stripes® market area county for at least one year.

Cameron continues to earn recognition with military friendly rankings



Cameron University continues to earn recognition for its support of active military and veterans by retaining its designation as a Military Friendly School® by G.I. Jobs magazine and earning selection as a Top School in the 2015 Military Advanced Education Guide to Colleges and Universities.

This is the fifth consecutive year that Cameron has earned the Military Friendly School® designation, placing the university in the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's veterans as students. The ranking is compiled through extensive research and a free, data-driven, survey of more than 10,000 VA-approved schools nationwide. Each year, schools taking the survey are held to a higher standard than the previous year via improved methodology, criteria and weightings developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Board (AAB) consisting of educators from schools across the country. This year's Military Friendly Schools® list criteria also incorporated a survey of over 4,000 actual student veterans. This feedback provides prospective military students with insight into the student veteran experience at particular institutions based on peer reviews from current students.

Cameron has also earned a prominent ranking as a Top School in the 2015 Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities, published by Military Advanced Education (MAE). Selection was based on five key categories of consideration to service members, veterans, their spouses and dependent: Military Culture, Financial Assistance, Flexibility, Online Support and Support On-Campus. MAE publishes the guide in order to provide men and women in uniform information that will help them make the right choices about college.

VETERANS DAY

Major General John G. Rossi, Commanding General, Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill, addresses the audience during Cameron's annual Veterans Day observance.



These events made possible by our donors

Each year, Cameron has the ability to offer events and academic opportunities for our students and community members that are underwritten by the Cameron University Foundation's endowed lectureship and faculty positions. Thanks to the generosity of so many donors, Cameron has more faculty positions than any other regional public university in the state.

This spring and summer, funding from endowed faculty positions will continue to provide opportunities to benefit Cameron students and community members. A partial lists includes support of student travel to various conferences, including the Midwest Model U.N. conference, the Who Wants to Be an Entrepreneur workshop, the Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, and the Phi Alpha Theta/Oklahoma Association of Professional Historians regional conference; support of undergraduate research in a variety of areas; a public presentation pertaining to Native American perceptions of sustainability; and a science and mathematics professional development workshop for area middle and high school teachers.

Cameron University is deeply appreciative of the generous donors who make these experiences possible.



India Night was launched in 2004 thanks to the Ajay and Shireen Bhargava Endowed Lectureship in India Studies and the Ajay and Shireen Bhargava Endowed Lectureship in International Studies. Now an annual event held in the fall, India Night celebrates the culture and heritage of India with dazzling entertainment and an informational keynote speaker.



Cameron vocal students put their operatic talents on display each year during two opera workshops that feature selections from well-known operas. The workshops are funded through the Southwest Oklahoma Opera Guild Endowed Lectureship.



The Second Annual Ethics Bowl, held in November, pitted eight teams of three students each against one another to resolve six ethical dilemmas. The team of Jonathan Good, Danny McQuarters and Nick Pasternak took top honors. The Ethics Bowl is funded by the Philip L. Jones Endowed Lectureship in Ethics.

STAFF & FACULTY NEWS



Katherine Liontas-Warren

Katherine Liontas-Warren, Professor of Art, was honored with the 2014 Governor's Arts Award for Arts in Education last December. The award recognizes Liontas-Warren's outstanding leadership and service in the arts benefitting youth and arts in education. Liontas-Warren joined the Cameron faculty

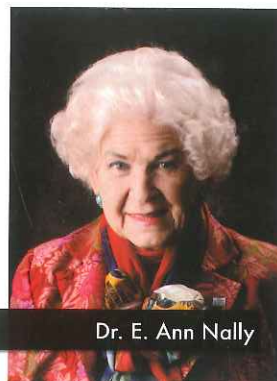
in 1984. She has been honored with the Bhattacharya Research Excellence Award and with induction into the Cameron University Alumni Association Faculty Hall of Fame. In addition, she has been honored as Artist of the Year by the Paseo Art Association and the Artist and Educator of the Year by the Lawton Arts and Humanities Council.



Zeak Naifeh

Zeak Naifeh, formerly Director of Campus Life, is the university's new Dean of Students. In this role, he is responsible for administration and leadership of the Office of Student Services. The Dean of Students works collaboratively and creatively with other university leaders to maintain and improve a

living and learning environment conducive to student success. Areas of oversight will include campus housing, student activities, student government, student organizations, judicial affairs related to student conduct, student development, disability services, the Aggie Rec Center and the Student Wellness Center.



Dr. E. Ann Nalley

Dr. E. Ann Nalley, Professor of Chemistry and Clarence E. Page Endowed Chair in Math and Science Education, has been honored by the American Chemical Society with the 2015 ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. The award recognizes significant accomplishments by

individuals who have stimulated or fostered the interest of women in chemistry, promoting their professional developments as chemists or chemical engineers. Nalley will receive the award in March during the ACS national meeting. During the national meeting, a symposium titled "Championing the Empowerment of Women in Chemistry" will be held in Nalley's honor. She will be inviting Cameron graduates to speak during that event. Nalley will receive a \$5,000 cash award, and Cameron University will receive a \$10,000 award to be used to encourage women to enter careers in chemistry.

THE PICKAXE AWARD

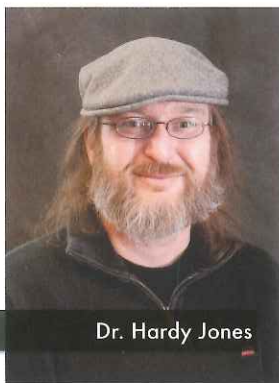


Geraldine Brady



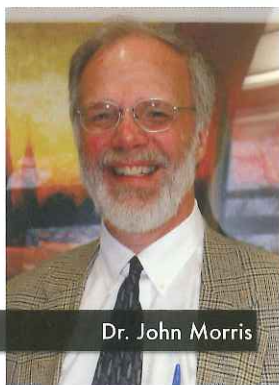
Yolanda Goff

Congratulations to Geraldine Brady, Help Desk Technician, Information Technology, and Yolanda Goff, Advisement Specialist, Education (RSU), on receiving the Fall 2014 Pickaxe Award. The Pickaxe Award recognizes full-time Cameron employees whose performance is above and beyond expectations.

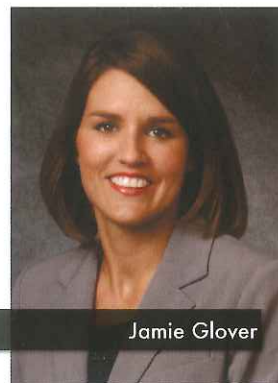


Dr. Hardy Jones

Works by Dr. John Morris and Dr. Hardy Jones have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize, considered to be among the most honored literary projects in the country. Winning selections will be published in the 2016 edition of "The Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses," an anthology published every year since 1976, to recognize writers of short stories, poetry and essays and the presses who publish them. Morris' poem "This Patched Town, This Home", which appeared in the August 2014 issue of The Red River Review, was nominated by the online publication's editors. Jones was nominated for "Dry Gumbo," an excerpt from his memoir "People of the Good God." The excerpt was published in Red Truck Review: A Journal of American Southern Literature and was nominated for the Pushcart Prize by that journal's editors.



Dr. John Morris



Jamie Glover

Jamie Glover, who recently left her position as Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, was honored with the Natalea Watkins

Communicator of the Year Award. The honor was presented by the Oklahoma College Public Relations Association (OCPRA) and the Communicators Council during the organizations' joint fall meeting. The award honors a communications professional from one of Oklahoma's colleges and universities whose service and leadership have set a high standard for others.

CONVOCATION



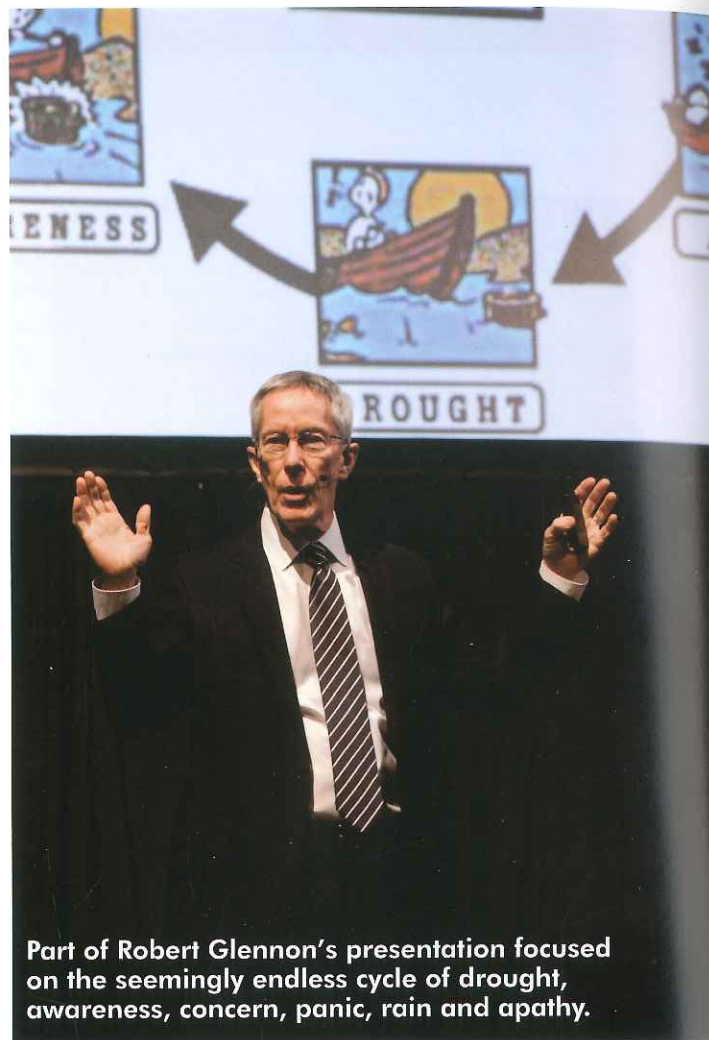
President John McArthur welcomes student speaker Angelica Lopez to the podium during Cameron's annual Convocation ceremony.



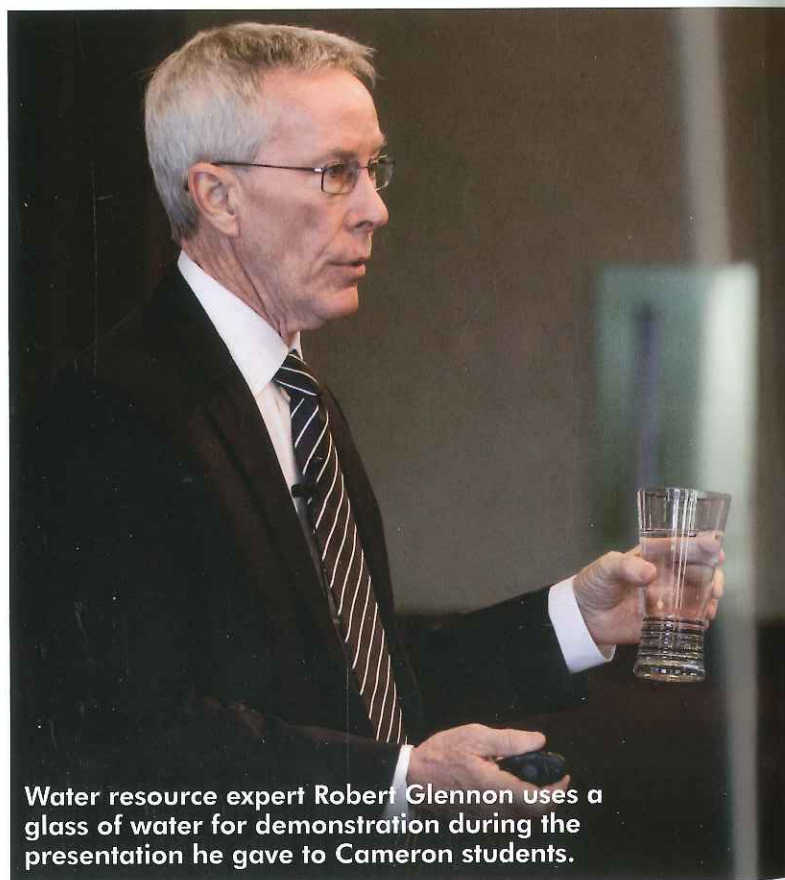
SUSTAINABILITY

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

"Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities," Cameron's triennial Academic Festival, has been met with great success thus far this academic year. Keynote presentations by agricultural activist and chef Rick Bayless and water resource expert Robert Glennon were just two of the events that drew students, faculty, staff and community members to the Cameron campus to examine the areas of sustainable agriculture and the nation's water crisis.



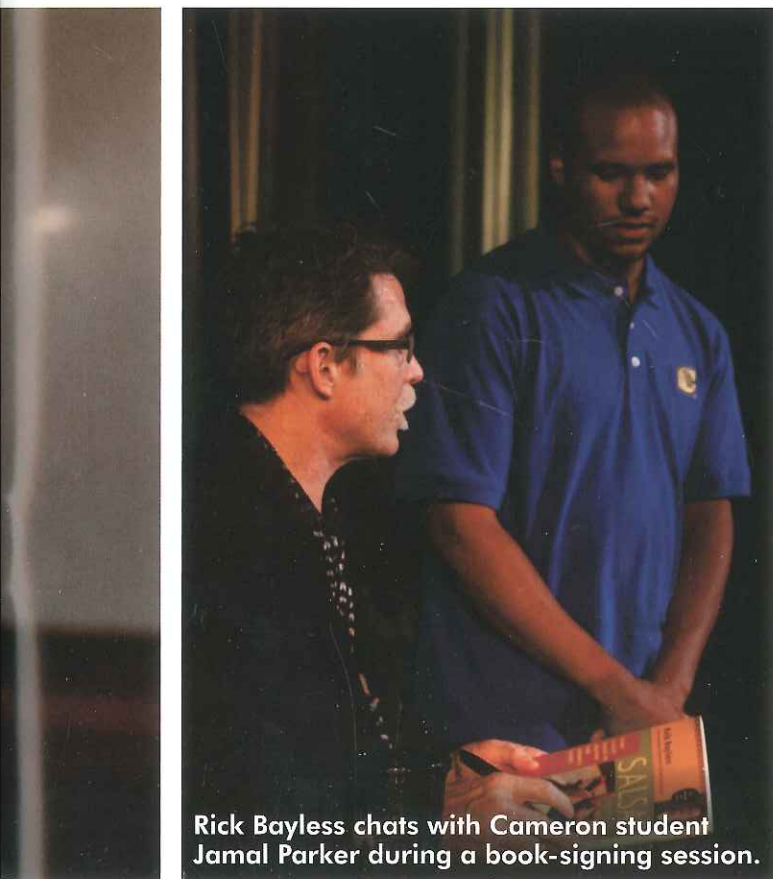
Part of Robert Glennon's presentation focused on the seemingly endless cycle of drought, awareness, concern, panic, rain and apathy.



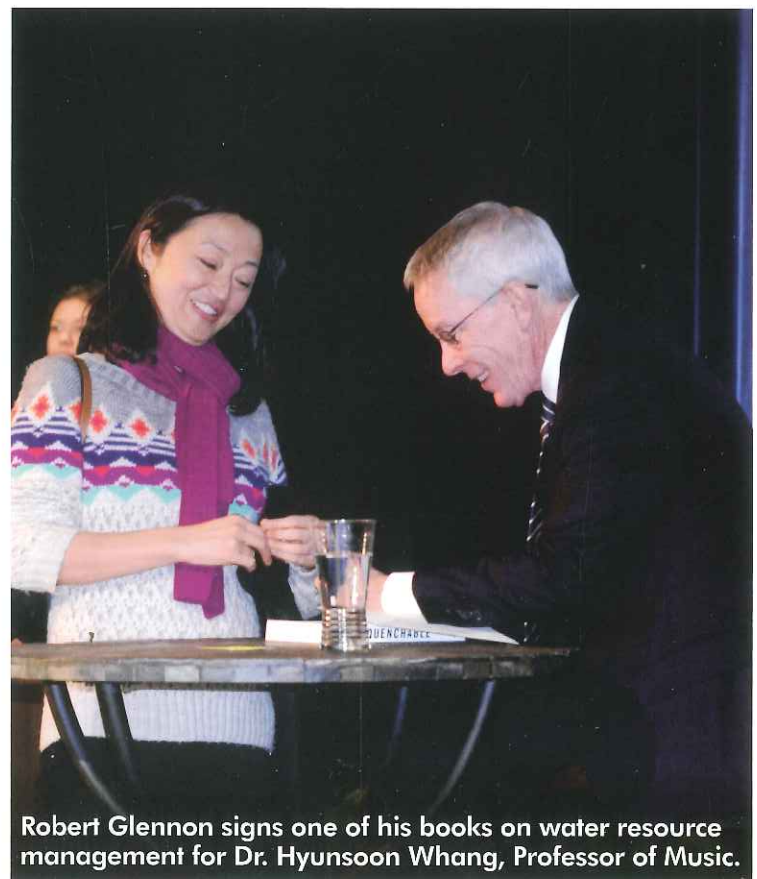
Water resource expert Robert Glennon uses a glass of water for demonstration during the presentation he gave to Cameron students.



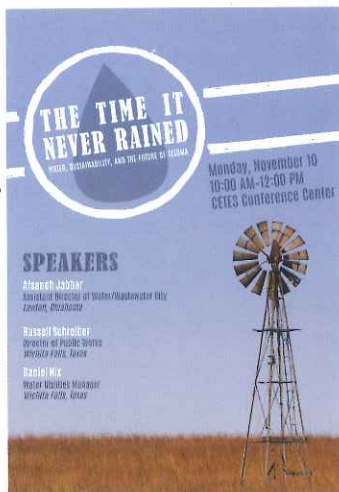
Rick Bayless kicked off the Academic Festival with an entertaining and informative presentation about farm-to-table sustainability in the restaurant industry.



Rick Bayless chats with Cameron student Jamal Parker during a book-signing session.



Robert Glennon signs one of his books on water resource management for Dr. Hyunsoo Whang, Professor of Music.

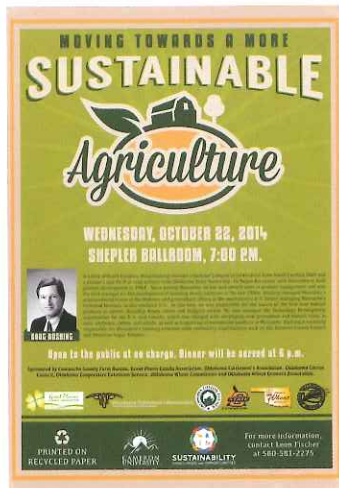


Cameron's academic departments also sponsored a variety of events relating to sustainability during the fall semester.

The Academic Festival will continue during the Spring 2015 semester as Cameron continues its in-depth examination of "Sustainability: Challenges and Opportunities." In addition to a keynote presentation by noted city planner and urban designer Jeff Speck and Cameron's annual Commencement address, which will be presented by actor and environmentalist Ed Begley, Jr., Cameron's academic departments will sponsor a variety of events highlighting different aspects of sustainability.

The documentary "Fed Up," which focuses on the causes of obesity in the U.S., will be screened at CU-Duncan during the spring semester. The screening is presented by the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences, which will examine sustainability from the perspectives of healthy communities and lifestyles.

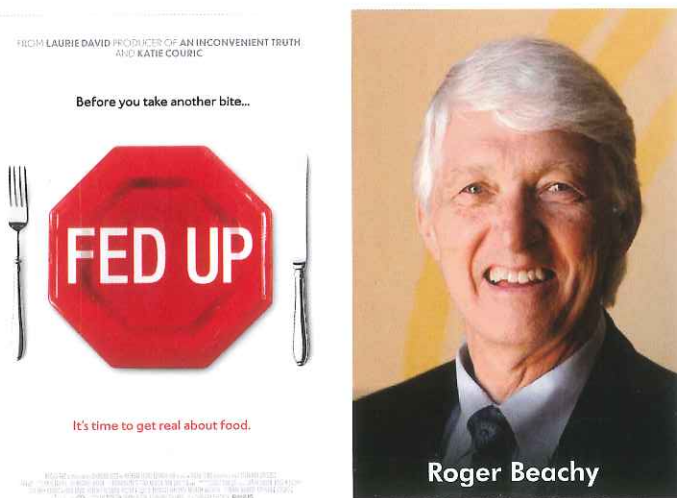
In February, the School of Science and Technology will continue Cameron's examination of food and agriculture with a presentation on global food security by Dr. Roger Beachy, Founding Director of the New World Food Center at the University of California-Davis. Then in April, Dr. Charles Rice, University Distinguished Professor in the Department of Agronomy at Kansas State University will come to campus to discuss sustainable agriculture. The Department of Theatre Arts continues its season with "The Heretic," a black comedy that tackles the divisive issue of climate change and its skeptics, and "110 in the Shade," a musical version of the romantic comedy "The Rainmaker" which is centered around a community experiencing a severe drought.



In March, the Cameron International Film club will put the focus on food waste and recycling with a free screening of "The Gleaners and I," an award-winning French film. The presentation will also include a panel discussion featuring community members.

Among the other events scheduled to take place during the spring semester are a two-part discussion on "Building a Mentally Healthy Community," lectures and workshops by visiting artists, a "Healthy Outdoor Expo: Building a Healthy Community One Family at a Time," and the establishment of "4 Little Free Libraries" along the Aggie Mile to provide a lending library of children's and adolescent books for the community.

For a listing of community events, go to www.cameron.edu/festival2014-15.





JEFF SPECK

CITY PLANNER & URBAN DESIGNER

Jeff Speck is a city planner and urban designer who advocates internationally for smart growth and sustainable design. As Director of Design at the National Endowment for the Arts from 2003 through 2007, he presided over the Mayors' Institute on City Design and created a new initiative, the Governors' Institute on Community Design. Prior to his federal appointment, Speck spent ten years as Director of Town Planning at Duany Plater-Zyberk & Co., the founders of the New Urbanism movement, where he directed or managed more than forty of the firm's projects. Since 2007, he has led Speck & Associates LLC, a boutique planning firm that specializes in making downtowns more walkable. With Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, he is the co-author of *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*, which The Wall Street Journal calls "the urbanist's bible." His recent book, *Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time* – which The Christian Science Monitor called "timely and important, a delightful, insightful, irreverent work" – was the best-selling planning/design book of 2013.

Speck is a contributing editor to *Metropolis Magazine* and serves on the Sustainability Task Force of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Speck has dedicated his career to determining what makes cities thrive. He has boiled it down to one key factor: walkability. The very idea of a modern metropolis evokes visions of bustling sidewalks, vital mass transit, and a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly urban core. But in the typical American city, the car is still king, and downtown is a place that's easy to drive to but often not worth arriving at. Making walkability happen is relatively easy and cheap; seeing exactly what needs to be done is the trick. In *Walkable City*, Speck reveals the invisible workings of the city, how simple decisions have cascading effects, and how we can all make the right choices for our communities.

Bursting with sharp observations and real-world examples, giving key insight into what urban planners actually do and how places can and do change, *Walkable City* lays out a practical, necessary, and eminently achievable vision of how to make our normal American cities great again.

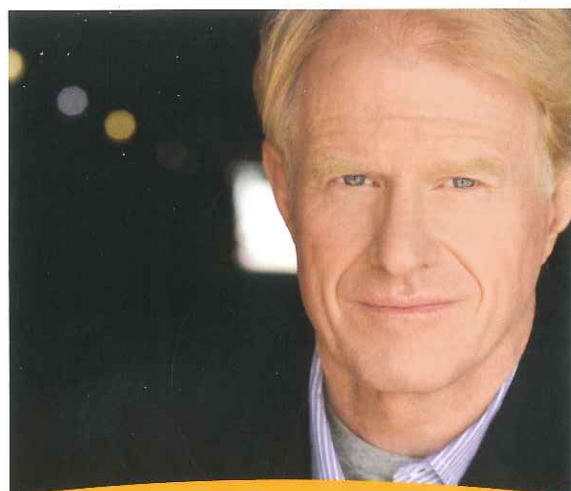
March 12, 2015

7:30 PM in the University Theatre

Tickets for Jeff Speck can be reserved online beginning in mid-February.

Go to www.cameron.edu/festival2014-15 for additional information.





ED BEGLEY, JR.

ACTOR & ENVIRONMENTALIST

As environmental issues become more pressing, there are two possible responses: forget it and hope that government and corporations will figure it out, or take action yourself.

In the "take action yourself" camp, a few individuals are leading the way. One such person in California is Ed Begley, Jr.

Turning up at Hollywood events on his bicycle, Begley has been considered an environmental leader in the Hollywood community for many years. He serves on the boards of The Coalition For Clean Air, The Thoreau Institute, and the advisory board of the Union Of Concerned Scientists, among many others. His work in the environmental community has earned him a number of awards from

Begley was star of the hit Planet Green series *Living With Ed*, a look at the day-to-day realities of "living green," and is the author of *Living Like Ed: A Guide to the Eco-Friendly Life* and *Ed Begley, Jr.'s Guide to Sustainable Living: Learning to Conserve Resources and Manage an Eco-Conscious Life*.



some of the most prestigious environmental groups in the nation, including the California League of Conservation Voters, the Natural Resources Defense Council, The Coalition for Clean Air, Heal the Bay, Santa Monica Baykeeper, and the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation.

May 8, 2015

7:30 PM in the Cameron Stadium

Cameron's annual Commencement ceremony is open to the public. No tickets are required.

For additional information, visit www.cameron.edu/Festival2014-15 or call (580) 581-2211.





WHY I GIVE

"Our commitment to the Cameron University Foundation through President's Partners began when our daughter, Hillary, was Director of Development at Cameron, and she invited us to give. Our two eldest daughters, Kathryn and Hillary, are Cameron graduates and both benefitted from the generosity of others. We believe it is our responsibility and privilege to provide support to current and future Cameron students."

MARK AND LINDA ASHTON are members of President's Partners.



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO GIVE TODAY!

I WANT TO GIVE

If you want to help Cameron students achieve their academic goals, contact the Office of University Advancement.

☎ 580-581-2999

📍 www.cameron.edu/cu_foundation

HOW A DONOR HELPED ME

"Having this scholarship has allowed me the opportunity to live on campus and lessen the worry of finances and commuting so I could focus more on my classes and being part of the campus community."

Living at college has allowed me to be a member of the cheerleading squad and build great relationships through the campus and community service in which we participate. I've been lucky enough to be a part of cheer clinics for elementary schools and help serve food at local fundraisers. I feel that this scholarship has truly enriched my college experience and helped me along my scholastic journey."

BRYA HANNABASS received a President's Partner scholarship. A native of Indianahoma, she is a psychology major.





FOR RANDALL HOOKER, THE CAMERON UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS "THE BEE'S KNEES"

Randall Hooker, a senior agriculture major, definitely thinks outside the box. While the majority of agriculture majors who are pursuing a concentration in animal science are content to focus on traditional species - cattle, swine and sheep - Hooker wanted to expand his studies to bees and honey production. There was just one problem. Cameron's Department of Agriculture had no experience in bee keeping.

"No student had expressed an interest in something like this until Randall came along," says Dr. Leon Fischer, Chair of Cameron's Department of Agriculture. "He was a first. We had never been involved in hive production or bee keeping, so all of us have learned from it. This is a benefit of our department. We are small. I make it a point to get to know each of our students on a personal level. I know their interests and, most of the time, we can design some sort of special study or project for them to learn more and explore."

Hooker took a special interest in the

development and production of honey bee hives, as well as the global colony collapse disorder that claims approximately 30 percent of the nation's bees annually. His curiosity blossomed, he says, after looking into several news stories and academic studies on the subject. The idea of managing his own honey bee colonies, however, didn't cross his mind until a friendly conversation with professors turned into a moment of inspiration.

"I'm really grateful to have such a great group of people to work with in the Agriculture Department," Hooker says. "They have been so supportive of my crazy ideas and willing to help me find answers to the unlimited questions I always come up with. When I first brought up the idea of bringing bees to the Cameron farm, I was just making conversation. But Dr. Fischer said, 'Figure it out and I'll support you.'"

Crops requiring bee pollination had never been cultivated on the university farm before. Therefore, there was no

college coursework designed for bee management or for the keeping of bee colonies at Cameron.

But that was all about to change.

"Dr. Fischer gave me all the motivation I needed," Hooker says.

After additional research and a couple of phone calls, Hooker visited the Tipton Valley Honey Co. in Tipton and made some new friends.

"Gary Grose, the owner of the company, donated a bunch of equipment and a couple of bee hives to the Agriculture Department," Hooker says. "We got the equipment in late spring 2013, and we had the bees by June."

With active hives on the Cameron farm, Hooker ventured into the great outdoors to collect unwanted hives and swarms. On at least three occasions, he jumped into a protective suit and travelled to many different parts of town - from Cameron stadium to hollow trees in backyards across

Lawton – hoping to relocate the bees to a place where they could be studied and out of the way from the public. Most of his adventures were “just for fun,” he says, although Fischer did arrange one independent study course – the examination of queen bee raising and honey bees – for which he did receive credit.

“It’s all been a learning process. It still is a learning process for me,” Hooker says. “That’s one thing that all of the beekeepers say: It’s a continual learning process. It has definitely had its ups and downs, but I’ve loved it.”

Hooker has had one hive swarm and escape from him, and he has endured plenty of bee stings – something he compares to “getting burned in the kitchen when you cook a lot.” He suffered his first colony collapse during the first week of October, after which Hooker collected the lifeless bees to ship to the National Bee Research Laboratory, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture located in Beltsville, Maryland, for answers.

“Now that I’ve gotten past how to capture the bees and keep the bees, it’s more of looking into the unknowns,” says Hooker, who will graduate in May. “I’m writing about the colony collapse disorder for my senior thesis. The amount of research that is out there – sometimes it doesn’t feel like there is enough brain space to compute it all!”

Hooker is hopeful that having a honey bee program right on campus, as well limitless literature and a motivated university faculty, will incline students to expand their knowledge about an insect that is so vital to everyday living.

“A lot of students have shown interest in the project,” Hooker says. He harvested nearly 20 pounds of honey that was sampled by university students and faculty last year, an undertaking that sparked the interest of many of his peers. Some have gone

down to look at the hives and want to assist with other honey harvests.

“With the amount of positive responses I’ve gotten, I feel like if the program continues to develop, it would be a huge educational benefit to the university as a whole,” Hooker says. “I would like to see a full blown, large area for the honey bee program. I would like to see it develop exponentially.” Fischer says he shares the same dream and will work to ensure its success even after Hooker graduates. There are currently two bee hives at the farm, and Fischer hopes to add four to six more to produce honey on a larger scale.

“I enjoy seeing people like Randall develop as a student and really take an interest in a topic and be motivated to go above and beyond for it,” Fischer says. “It has certainly required a lot of time and effort on his part. He has become well-versed in the area and the science of bee keeping now, and we’re proud of that. We’re proud of the fact that we can help students personalize their educational goals here.”

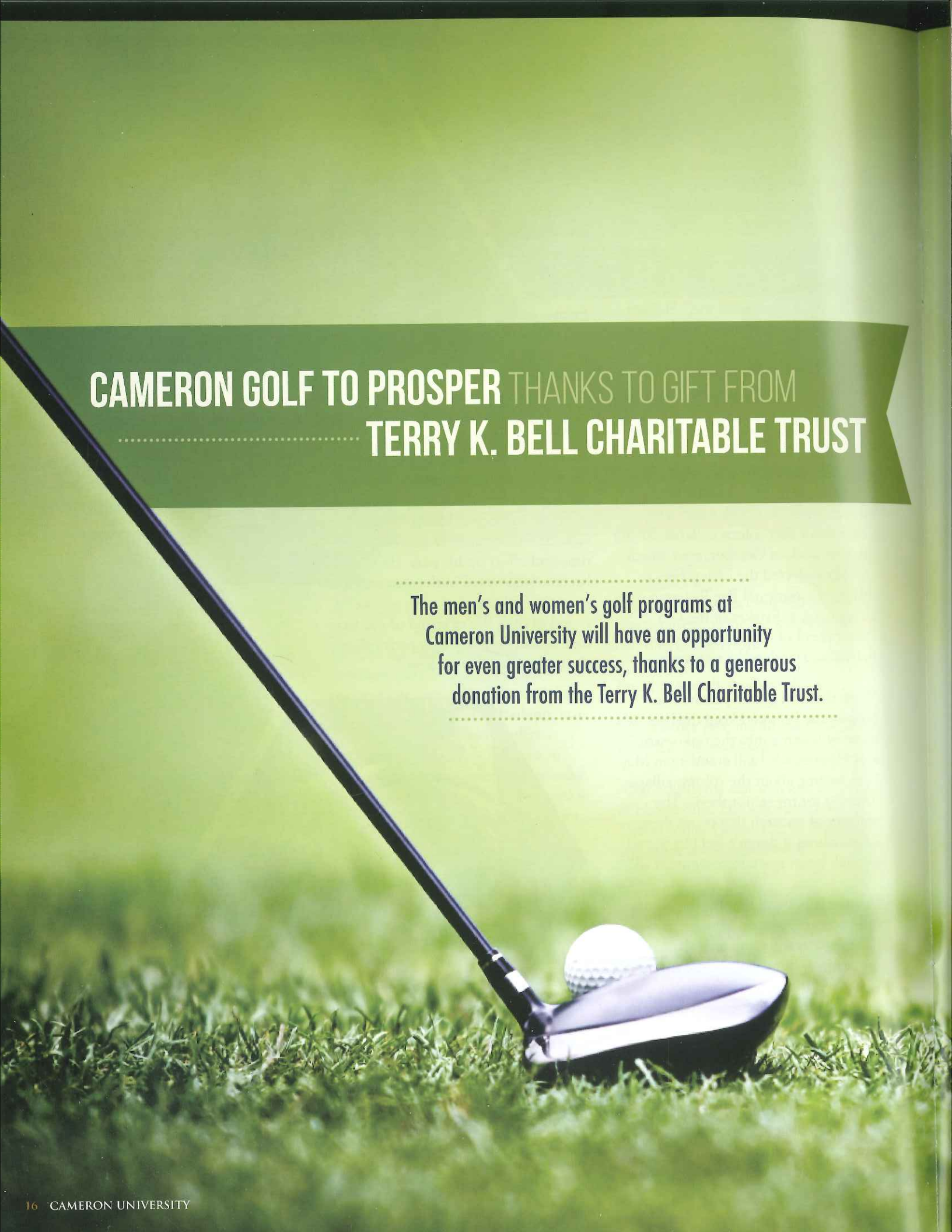
Hooker, who is employed at an animal breeding facility outside of Chickasha, says Cameron courses have revealed many unknown passions within him – such as animal care taking and plant tending – and he plans to work in the agricultural field permanently.

“My experience through Cameron’s Department of Agriculture has been amazing,” he says. “It’s exceeded any kind of expectations I had. The interaction between the professors and the students and the opportunities that are available if the students want to pursue them – it’s just great. There are so many options there.”

All you have to do is think outside the box.

Tiffany Martinez



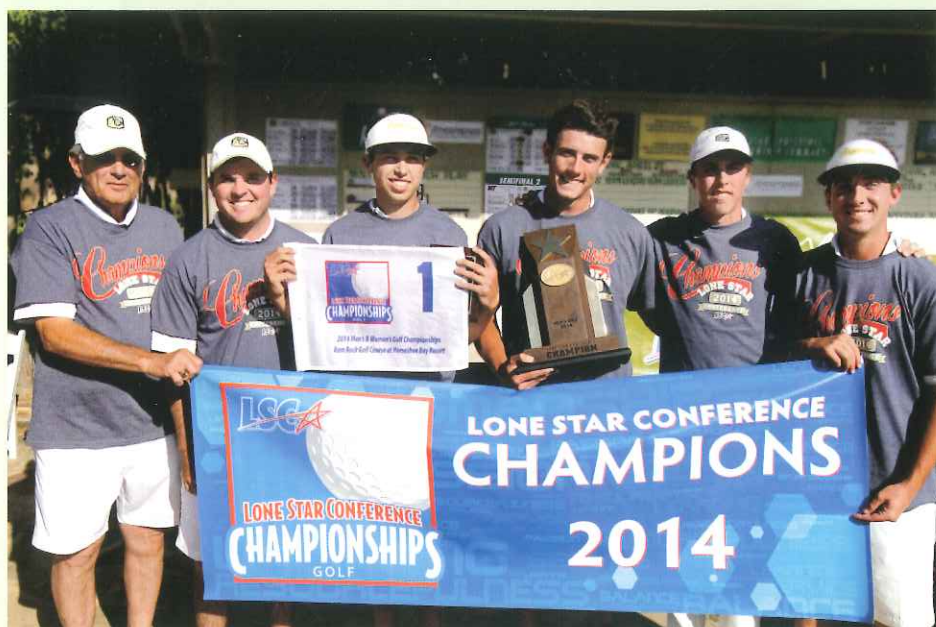


CAMERON GOLF TO PROSPER THANKS TO GIFT FROM **TERRY K. BELL CHARITABLE TRUST**

.....

The men's and women's golf programs at
Cameron University will have an opportunity
for even greater success, thanks to a generous
donation from the Terry K. Bell Charitable Trust.

.....



A gift of \$250,000 has been earmarked for the Terry Bell Golf Center, to be constructed near the driving range east of Cameron House. The facility will serve as a legacy of the late Terry Bell, an ardent supporter of Cameron athletics.

The donation is the first gift granted by the trust, which was established by Bell shortly before his death in 2012 with the intention of making a positive impact on Lawton-Fort Sill.

"Terry was very interested in seeing Cameron grow and flourish so that students would have the opportunity to get an affordable education right here at home," says Richard Allen, co-executor of the trust. He knew that a successful Cameron University would have a positive impact on the economic success of our city for years to come."

The Terry Bell Golf Center will be an indoor facility with bays heading into the driving range and technology that will give golfers the ability to scientifically analyze golf swings and body movement. Most importantly, the facility will be a place for Aggie golfers to practice year around.

"One of the biggest challenges for our players is having the ability to practice when the weather is poor," says head women's golf coach Rick Goodwin. "With the help from the Terry K. Bell Charitable Trust, we can hit no matter what the weather brings us in Oklahoma."

When completed, the Terry Bell Golf Center will be the only golf-specific complex in the Lone Star Conference and one of the few in NCAA Division II, giving Aggie coaches an upper hand in recruiting high quality student-athletes.

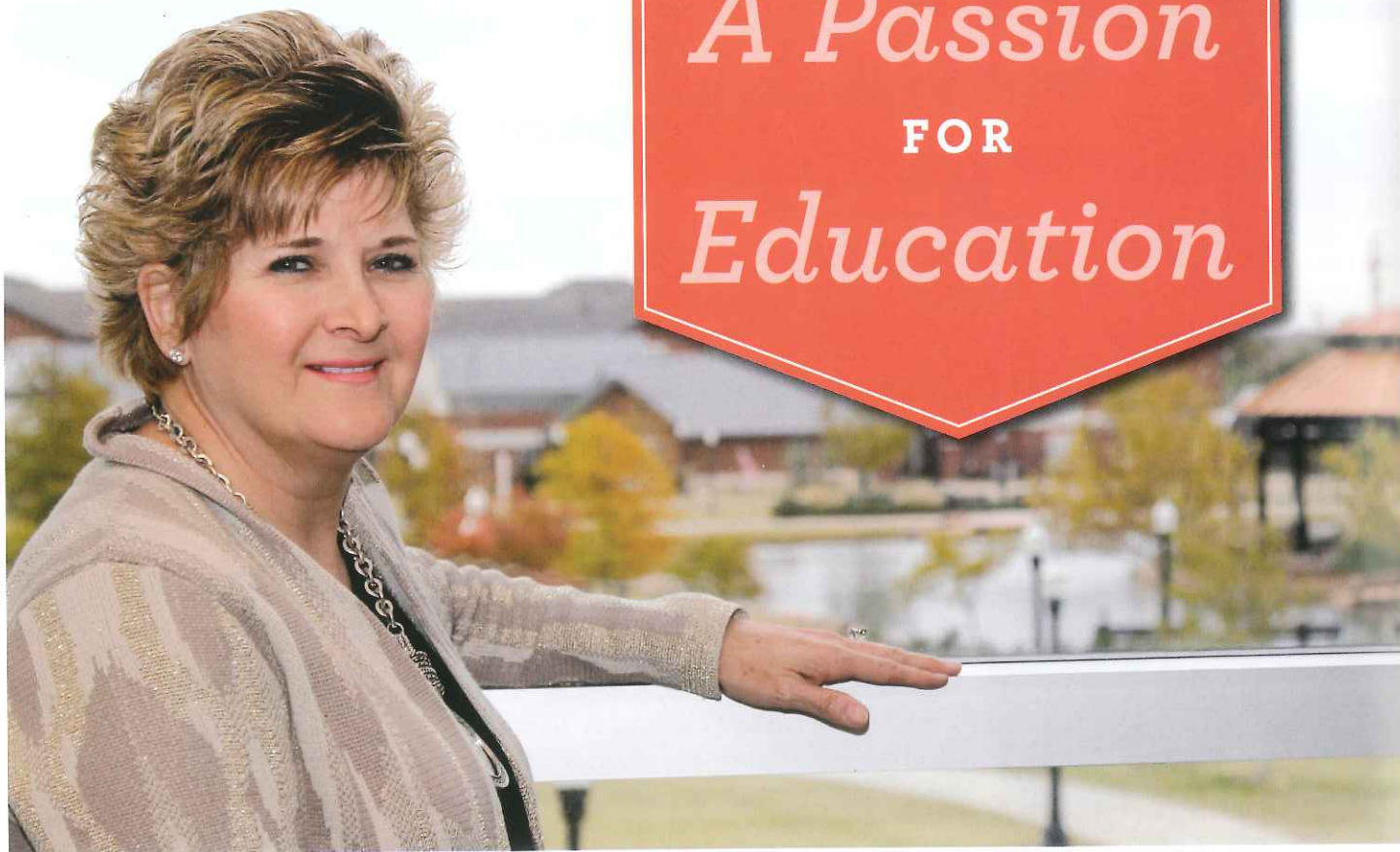
"This center will be a boost for both programs," says head men's golf coach Jerry Hrciar. "The recruiting benefit will be outstanding for us to showcase our programs locally, regionally, nationally, and even worldwide. We've had golfers both past, present, and incoming tell us this center is really instrumental in growing the program further."

"As far back as I can remember, Terry supported Cameron through his sports attendance and monetarily whenever he could," Allen says.

A strong supporter of Cameron athletics dating back to the 1970s, Bell attended nearly every home football and basketball game. He was also a recreational golfer who became personal friends with Hrciar and Goodwin.

The decision by the Terry K. Bell Charitable Trust to present its first gift to Cameron University is deeply appreciated. The Terry Bell Golf Center, a year-round facility, will drive more energy into two strong programs for years to come.

- Don Vieth



Dr. Sherry Labyer: *A Passion* FOR *Education*

When she graduated from Duncan High School, Sherry Labyer didn't plan to go to college. Instead, she took a position at Halliburton Services in order to put her husband, Hal, through college. But thanks to a query posed by another Halliburton employee, her plan changed.

"I never had aspirations to go to college until I worked for a gentleman who asked me one day why I hadn't gone to college," Labyer recalls. "I told him I didn't think I was smart enough, and he told me, 'Well, you are, and I would like to see you go to college.'"

She had always wanted to be a teacher, so she started taking night classes at Cameron. "I decided if I made a good grade in the first class that I took, it would prompt me to continue my education," she says. "I made an A in the class, so I continued my education and went as far as I could go with night classes."

She switched her work schedule to the 2-10 p.m. shift, which enabled her to continue her own education. "I

finished my degree in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, then I got my first teaching job in August 1987 at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School where I taught first grade," she says.

Over the next 27 years, she held a variety of teaching and administrative positions at Duncan Public Schools, earning two master's degrees and a doctorate along the way. In 2005, Labyer was named Superintendent of Duncan Public Schools.

"When I became superintendent, it was important for us to develop a culture in which our students, parents and our stakeholders were customers," she says. "We began our strategic planning with a vision in mind that we were going to be customer-service oriented. I believed in that.

"We realized people often judge a book by its cover so we went to work on making the facilities look clean and manicured and welcoming. There was a lot of clean up to do because we had old facilities, but we believed that children should be able to go and see the best that we

can offer. That became our facilities mission. I am proud of the bond issues we were able to get passed during my tenure, and I believe we were wise with our stimulus money. We employed instructional coaches that helped teachers become better teachers. Our goal was to help teachers and to be a resource for teachers."

Labyer implemented many other programs as superintendent, including an intensive reading model called LETERS or Language Essentials for Teachers of Early Reading and Spelling.

"We did a rollout where all of our teachers, K-5, would be trained, as would all incoming teachers. It's still ongoing; it's been a sustainable initiative. I am proud of the administrative team that we built. When I left Duncan Schools, I believe we had one of the strongest administrative teams in the state. Everything was a team effort."

She also cites another initiative. "We started a career pathways program for students as young as pre-kindergarten. We trained our counselors on what a career pathway looks like and its purpose, then we began to take teachers on their professional development days to the manufacturing plants and let them talk to people on the front lines. It was an opportunity for the teachers to connect the dots on what they teach the children and how it is used in the real world. We were doing everything we could do to make our teaching relevant to the world."

In August 2014, she became the executive director of the state Office of Educational Quality and Accountability. "It was an opportunity I didn't want to pass up at this point in my career," she says. "As the executive director, I work on the state level and I'm still involved with Pre-K through 12 but now it's Pre-K through 20. We do a lot with higher education, so it was an opportunity for me to grow professionally and to fulfill some goals that I had and to go beyond what I had been doing."

Labyer is now involved in professional learning opportunities for teachers and oversees administering the National Board of Certified Teachers. She said she hopes to build partnerships outside her agency.

"One of those partnerships I want to forge and foster is with the State Department of Education and with the state superintendent," she says. "Another partnership I am involved with is the National Governors' Association for Workforce Development. Because of my career pathways work in Duncan, I have been asked to be involved in Oklahoma Works. We are partnering with schools and the Department of Labor and Economic



Sherry Labyer, then-Superintendent of Duncan Public Schools, was one of the members of a panel dedicated to STEM education.

Development and other entities that go into our workforce to see how we can develop a system by which schools can better prepare students for the workforce."

Labyer believes her Cameron education laid the foundation for her career today. "What is so interesting about my education from Cameron is that Cameron was ahead of the game with the classes offered and the teachers on staff," Labyer says. "I remember learning Reading Pedagogy - how to teach children how to read - from Dr. Jane Morse. In the reading methods classes, she taught us a lot of the best practices that we are still using in schools today."

"The quality of education and the quality of student that Cameron is turning out shows how well Cameron stacks up with other universities. Cameron's motto is 'Every Student. Every Story,' and the university incorporates that into its mission and vision. As a superintendent, I stayed involved with Duncan students. I would follow up with those who went to Cameron and ask them if that is by choice, and they said, 'Yes, it absolutely is.' I hear that from student after student. I can say that without a doubt that students are made to feel as if they do matter. Cameron understands the customer service piece, and that's huge."

Labyer is happy to advise high school students who are thinking about college. "If there's a will, there's a way. Don't ever give up because if you want it bad enough, you can get it," she says. "My dad used to say education is something no one can ever take away from you, and that is so true."

-Monica Wood



HACKLER AWARD

FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Dr. Mike Dunn, Professor of Biological Sciences, and Dr. Edris Montalvo, Assistant Professor of History and Government, were honored with the Harold and Elizabeth Hackler Teaching Excellence Award in November, joining an elite group of 26 previous recipients of Cameron's most prestigious faculty honor. Following welcome remarks from President John McArthur, Dr. Ronna Vanderslice, Vice President for Academic Affairs, shared with those in attendance the background of the Hackler Award, which was established in 1996 by alumni Harold and Elizabeth Hackler to recognize and reward members of Cameron's extraordinary faculty.

Now retired, Mr. and Mrs. Hackler were longtime employees of Halliburton. Mr. Hackler had often teased his wife about not completing her college degree. After they retired, they decided to enroll at Cameron so they could have a collegiate experience. Both earned associate degrees in 1993, with Mr. Hackler, at the age of 67, being the oldest graduate in the Class of '93. Mrs. Hackler went on to complete a bachelor's degree in 1998 and was the oldest graduate in the Class of '98.

"Harold and Elizabeth's experiences with the Cameron faculty so impressed them that they decided to provide financial support for a teaching award," Vanderslice said. "We are so grateful that they established this endowment in recognition of the high standard of teaching that enriched their lives. Teaching is one of the most difficult jobs today. Great teachers are engaging, enthusiastic and caring, and desire to make a difference in the lives of their students. The Hackler Award recognizes the best of what Cameron values the most."

Cameron biology major Kathryn Parsley, a senior who plans to pursue a Ph.D. and then a career as a paleobotanist, introduced Dr. Mike Dunn. "He helped me figure out what I wanted to do with my life and my degree," she said. "He's had a lot of influence on me from day one in his first class. I hope to be like him one day."

"I never thought I would be standing here getting a teaching award," Dunn said, admitting that he considered himself a scientist, not a teacher. "I'm a paleobotanist. I got hooked on that from the instant gratification of taking a rock hammer, opening a rock and seeing a fossil that no one has ever seen before."



Dr. Mike Dunn was introduced by one of his students, Kathryn Parsley.

He likened that experience with teaching. "When I started teaching, I realized how similar paleontology and teaching are. Opening a rock and opening a student's mind are analogous."

Dunn explained his belief that a teacher's job extends beyond the classroom. "You can use your contacts and experience to open doors to get students where they want to go."

Since joining the Cameron faculty in 2003, Dunn has guided the academic choices of countless students. "Cameron students are amazing," he said. "I almost feel like I'm gaming the system, because I'm supposed to be giving back. But I'm getting the feedback from our students, and experiencing that gratification when they achieve their goals. I'm getting back just as much from them as I hope they are getting from me."



President John McArthur congratulates Dr. Edris Montalvo on receiving the 2014 Hackler Award for Teaching Excellence.

Graduate student Jacob Jardel introduced Dr. Edris Montalvo. Jardel admitted that he has never taken one of Montalvo's classes, offering that "he has found a way to teach me in various ways outside of the classroom. Most of my experiences with Dr. Montalvo have occurred within the context of the Race, Ethnicity and Place Conference, which we attended in Puerto Rico last year."

Jardel said that while the conference was not the most conventional of classrooms, it provided the Cameron students in attendance with the opportunity to learn a lot from Montalvo.

"Dr. Montalvo's abilities as a speaker show how excellently he can convey

a message to a group in conferences, in research meetings and in general discourse," Jardel said, adding that while most would say Montalvo had a silver tongue, he thinks it more accurate to think of him as having a tungsten tongue.

"Tungsten is a rare metal known for its durability, ductility in certain forms, density and brightness, especially in a light bulb," Jardel explained. "It is in that same way that Dr. Montalvo evokes thoughts of this particular element. Like tungsten, an instructor like him is a rare find. His words are durable, staying with you far after he speaks them. His words are ductile, able to fit with and assist a student in any situation. His words have a sensitivity to them, packed with knowledge beyond the surface level. And his words have brightness and brilliance that can light up a classroom, a conference room or a meeting room like a light bulb."

"I'm humbled and honored to receive this award," Montalvo said, calling it the highlight of his career. "It recognizes the most important part of my job – teaching and service to students. I am thankful to be part of a department where teaching is highly regarded and there is such a high standard."

Montalvo acknowledged the influence of his mentor, Dr. Lawrence Estaville, a professor of Geography at Texas State University. "He gave me the most valuable advice about teaching," Montalvo said. "Everybody's got to find their own style, and I think I have found my style of teaching. I hope my students find it effective."

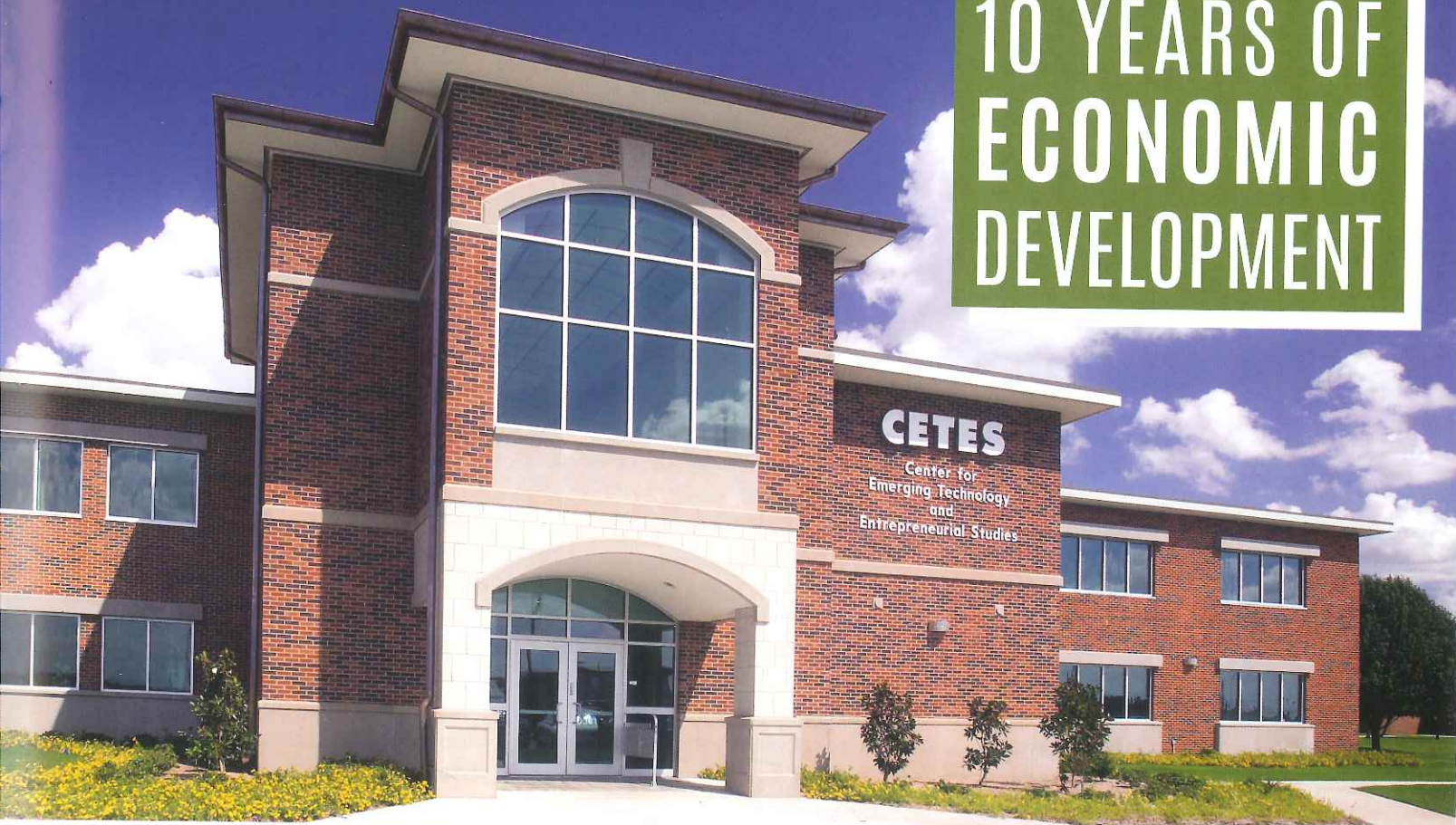
He concluded his remarks with, "I'm proud to teach at a university that values teaching in its core values. I only hope I've taught students as much as they've taught me."

Janet E. Williams



Previous Hackler Award recipients congratulate 2014 honorees Dr. Mike Dunn and Dr. Edris Montalvo. Pictured are (front, left to right): Dr. Rebecca Pazoureck, Dr. Mary Dzindolet and Dr. Sarah Janda; (back, left to right), Dr. Christopher O. Keller, Dr. Matt Jenkins, Montalvo, Dunn, Dr. Ted Snider, and Dr. Mike Husak.

CETES: 10 YEARS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



June 30, 2005 was a momentous date in Cameron University history. Then-President Cindy Ross was joined by a host of dignitaries, including keynote speaker Kathy Taylor, Oklahoma Cabinet Secretary for Commerce and Tourism, for the dedication of the Center for Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurial Studies (CETES). The ceremony marked the opening of a facility designed to promote new technologies and economic development in southwest Oklahoma. In the decade since, CETES has played a significant role in driving economic development throughout the region.

The idea of creating an economic development resource on the Cameron University campus came in response to the mandate of the State of Oklahoma's Economic Development Generating

Excellence (EDGE) study in 2003. The EDGE report recommended that the state's higher education institutions become more actively involved with local business communities. Specifically, EDGE called for the higher education sector to establish systems, structures and knowledge needed to grow high-paying and high-performance companies involving new technologies.

Understanding the long-term benefit of housing such a center, officials at Cameron began taking the necessary steps to identify funding sources and develop a mission plan. The old Physical Sciences Building, which had gone largely unused since the construction of the Sciences Complex in 1996, was identified as an existing campus structure that could be renovated and given new life.

Construction for Phase I - the CETES building - got underway in April 2004 with a budget of approximately \$2.5 million.

Fifteen months later, CETES became a reality. During the dedication, President Ross said, "CETES will spur business development in southwest Oklahoma and result in higher paying jobs.

In order for Oklahoma to prosper in the 21st century, we must identify and create an environment that stimulates technology-driven companies. Doing so will help stop the exodus of the state's college-educated residents to other states in search of better-paying jobs."

A majority of the funding for the building came through private donations, including \$750,000 from



Most of dignitaries including community leaders, major donors and State Regents gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony to convert the old Physical Science building into the Center for Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurial Studies.



the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Ardmore, \$300,000 from the McCasland Foundation in Duncan, and \$250,000 from the Sarkeys Foundation in Norman.

President Ross recognized the significance of those contributions, saying, "Each of these foundations is deeply committed to finding new ways to advance Oklahoma. We are privileged that they chose to support CETES and share in our vision for the potential this project holds for our state."

The remaining funding came from three sources: a 1998 bond issue that provided nearly \$1 million, \$75,000 from the Governor's Oil Overcharge Fund, and the balance from targeted institutional funds.

The business incubator at CETES has been home to numerous start-ups, including OK Family Publishing and Media Group, the award-winning publisher of magazines including Red River Family Magazine, Rio Grande Family Magazine, Red River Kids Magazine and School Bus Express Magazine. In addition, OK Family Publishing has attracted other incubator

tenants, who specialize in graphic design and delivery.

Defense contract Charles F. Day currently houses three employees in the incubator; this business continues to grow such that Day has more than 60 other employees on contract outside of the incubator, and the company continues to grow.

Lawton Marketing Group, which develops websites and does search engine optimization, continues to experience growth as a tenant. Most of their revenue is generated from out-of-state clients; their expertise is in the financial services sector.

More recent tenants include the Fairmont District Experience, which is working to revitalize a downtown district, and the Export Coordination Center, which have five employees working from the CETES incubator to assist clients with international trade and partnerships.

In addition to offering entrepreneurs and startup businesses office space in the business incubator, CETES offers wide-ranging consulting services in strategic planning, market research/

analysis, operational analysis, and graphic and webpage design, to assist other area businesses and non-profits. "A large part of our focus is called economic gardening," says Arun Tilak, Director of CETES. "We are here to help existing companies grow their businesses in addition to incubating start-ups."

Long before CETES was dedicated, funding was secured for Phase II, the CETES Conference Center. The City of Lawton's 2005 Capital Improvements Program, a bond issue that passed in August 2004, earmarked \$1.5 million for the project. Just four months later, the university received a \$900,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

Construction for the CETES Conference Center began in April 2007, and the building was opened in January 2009. The facility brought a much-needed conference and networking space to the Lawton-Fort Sill community, and also houses a backup emergency operations center for the City of Lawton and a data disaster recovery system for OneNet, the state's official communications and



Kathy Taylor, then-Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce and Tourism, was the keynote speaker at the CETES dedication ceremony in June 2005, while Ole Kim officially unveiled the building for all to see.

information network that is a division of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Now entering its 10th year, CETES has become a staple of economic development in the region, serving businesses and entrepreneurs in a variety of sectors including manufacturing, publishing, technology, non-profits and retail. Accomplishments to date include Web 2.0 training workshops, hosting a robotics camp for area high school students, active involvement with the Southwest Oklahoma Impact Coalition, creation of a business board consisting of community business leaders and military personnel, and development and implementation of "Project Dream," an entrepreneurship contest.

"Project Dream" is a regional competition that offered an opportunity for people to fulfill their dreams of self-employment or expansion of their current business and was part of Dream Big Oklahoma, a statewide initiative. Four finalists pitched their dreams to a panel of judges. The winner, Dana Southall of The Stitchin' Shop, won the \$5,000 prize. She has used the prize money to purchase new equipment and

software to help grow her business. CETES also introduced and hosted Global Game Jam (GGJ), the world's largest concurrent multi-locational gaming event held over a 48-hour period, serving as the only site in Oklahoma to participate in the worldwide event. The four teams formed at CETES had team members ranging in age from 15 to 55 who designed and developed a variety of interactive games.

"The possibilities for CETES are endless. We will continue to identify and implement programs and initiatives that drive economic development in the region." -Arun Tilak

CETES has also developed partnerships with Great Plains Technology Center to offer training and seminars. Additional partnerships include joining with Oklahoma State University to submit a National Sciences Foundation grant proposal on Partnership for Innovation,

as well as with the Oklahoma Manufacturers Alliance to assist businesses with growth strategies in challenging times.

In addition, CETES sponsors a monthly Tech Night, an informal gathering for community members working in or interested in technology. Tech Night provides a platform for techies to exchange information and ideas with others, connect with people who are working with interesting or new technologies and applications, listen to speakers address new emerging technology issues and raise questions about technology issues and seek answers. Past topics include "Augmented Reality and its Impact," "Demystifying 3D Printing," "GIS Technologies in Crime Mapping," "Music Composing Applications from Amateur to Professional," and "Open Source Software Applications."

"The possibilities for CETES are endless," says Tilak. "We will continue to identify and implement programs and initiatives that drive economic development in the region."

Janet E. Williams

DR. THERESA BILLIOT

Bringing community partnerships inside the classroom



When students enroll in Dr. Theresa Billiot's advertising class, they are not just signing up to learn theoretical rules of marketing. Rather, they are hired by a mini advertising agency, with area businesses as clients.

"You can't make students into successful marketers without testing their creativity and giving them creative confidence," Billiot says. "We put them in a role that challenges them."

That role is to work within groups to create advertisements for their clients. The students are tasked with meeting with business leaders to learn more about their product and goals, and then with developing appropriate materials, from direct mailers to newspaper ads to radio and television commercials. Finally, the students present their work to their clients.

"It's kind of like their 'Shark Tank,'" Billiot says. "Not only do they have to show their work, but they have to articulate their ideas and why they did things the way they did."

Billiot put her sales background to use to provide clients for her students. She reached out to area businesses and pitched the idea, creating a connection between the business and Cameron.

"I don't believe in networking," Billiot says. "I believe in building relationships, and that's about establishing trust. These businesses trust our students to represent their brands. They know our students are still in the learning process, but they're creative and they're hungry."

The businesses involved reap multiple benefits from the partnership.

"For us, we have a vehicle parked at the university for a semester," says Steve Barnes, Executive Manager/Partner of Jim Glover Chevrolet, part of the Red River Best dealerships. "That creates some great brand awareness. We've gotten some great marketing ideas from the class. We're also always looking for ways to be involved and build good relationships in the community."

For students, the benefits of the advertising class are evident when the job search begins. With real-world experience under their belts and professional-level work samples in their portfolios, Cameron graduates enter the workforce with a leg up on the competition.

"I've had students tell me that they go to interviews and all the interviewers want to talk about is this advertising class," Billiot said. "They are really excited to talk about the hands-on experience."

The rewards for Billiot's students do not all come after graduation, however. During the Fall 2013 semester, students in Billiot's advertising class decided they wanted to create a television commercial promoting the Silverado for Red River Best Chevy Dealers. The students undertook every aspect of creating a commercial, from the creative—such as storyboarding, scripting, framing the message and conveying emotion—to the logistic—casting, buying props and working with a media company to produce the ad.

"They challenged themselves to do things they had not done before and to be in situations they had not been in before," Billiot says of the first group of students in her class to take on the task of producing a commercial. "They set a high standard for themselves. They wanted to represent Red River Best Chevy Dealers well, and they wanted it to look like something that would come from a national agency."

The resulting commercial was an ad titled "Tomboy" which showcased a hard-working Silverado driver, revealed at the end to be a woman. The ad was so successful that it won

a silver Addy at the Annual American Advertising Awards (ADDYs) sponsored by the Oklahoma City Ad Club.

"It was fun for everyone involved," Billiot says. "We didn't realize how amazing it was until we put it on YouTube and it started getting a lot of views. Then to have these top executives see the commercial and give it the award was just the cherry on top."

If the ADDY was the cherry on top, the strengthened relationship with Jim Glover Chevrolet was an entire extra scoop of ice cream. Red River Best Chevy Dealers donated \$5,000 to sponsor the advertising class, and Jim Glover Chevrolet followed with \$2,000 to help launch Cameron's chapter of the American Marketing Association.

"These students just did a great job, and we want to continue to support them," says Barnes, "I was skeptical at first, but then when we got involved, we saw that these kids have great ideas, they think outside the box, and they work hard."

The students are not the only people who have made an impression on Barnes. "I am so impressed with Dr. Billiot as an educator," Barnes says. "It's amazing the way she engages her classroom. These students learn a lot, and they work their butts off. I wish I had a teacher that fun when I was a student."

Along with providing hands-on experience, Billiot engages her students by bringing in business professionals from across the region to speak to her class, including representatives from Anheuser-Busch, Chick-Fil-A, Jim Glover Chevrolet and KSWO-TV.

"What I want students to learn is how passionate these successful people are about their work," Billiot says. "I can stand in front of the room and tell them how important it is for them to love what they do, but when people from the industry come in and say the same thing, it really hits home."

Like the passion for work that builds successful employees, Billiot's applied learning methods create passionate, successful students.

-Kara Moran



Steve Barnes (center), Executive Manager/Partner of Jim Glover Chevrolet, presents a gift to Dr. Theresa Billiot and Dr. John Camey, Dean, Cameron University School of Business, to assist with the formation of Cameron's collegiate chapter of the American Marketing Association.



ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF 2015

The Cameron University Athletics Hall of Fame will welcome six new inductees during a gala ceremony on Friday, February 20. Softball player Debi Covarrubias, photographer William T. (Bill) Dixon, basketball player Mike Fleming, football player Jim Poole, volleyball and basketball player Kathy Smith and volleyball coach John Spears will join 45 previous honorees. The event takes place during Cameron's annual slate of Homecoming activities.

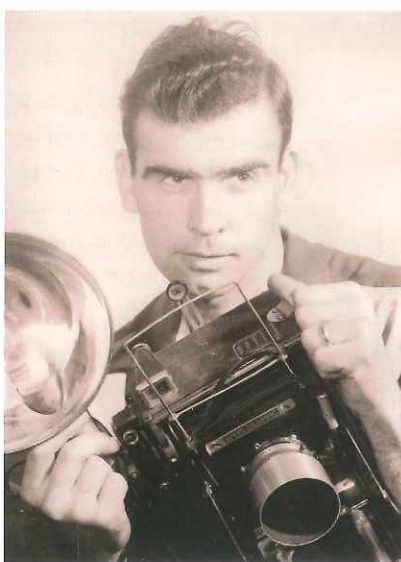


**DEBI
COVARRUBIAS**

**Softball (1996-98),
Student Assistant
Coach (1998-99)**

Bachelor of Science,
Health and Physical
Education, 1999;
Master of Arts in
Teaching, 2000

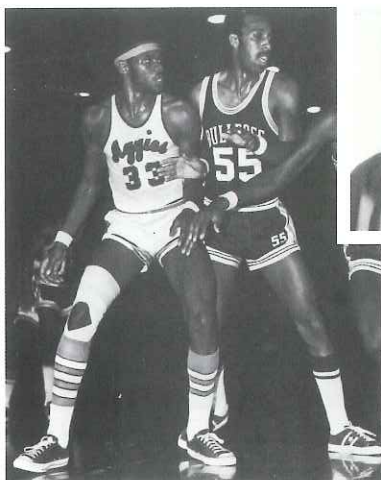
Covarrubias transferred to Cameron after spending two years at Ventura College. A highly coveted pitcher, she ranks third all-time in career wins (28), third all-time in shutouts (8) and is the Aggie program leader with most no-hitters (3). Covarrubias pitched three straight no-hitters, with the first two as perfect games. She is Cameron's all-time leader in winning percentage (.596) and led the team in ERA during the 1997 and 1998 seasons. Additional rankings include fifth-most wins in a season (15 in 1998) and second all-time in strikeouts (252). Covarrubias helped guide Cameron to a 29-win season in 1998, giving the program its first winning season in nearly two decades and the fourth-best season in program history. She now teaches in the Oxnard, Calif., school system.



**WILLIAM T.
DIXON**

Media (1947-86)

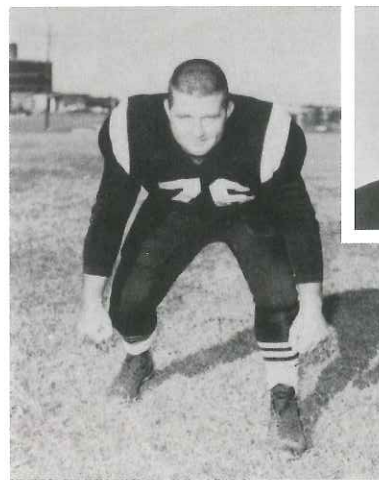
Dixon served as the chief photographer for the Lawton Constitution for almost five decades. During a career spanning 1947 to 1986, he spent thousands of hours covering Cameron athletics. Dixon gave many young photographers the practical training and the encouragement to start careers of their own. Dixon's work appeared in Life Magazine, Sports Illustrated and numerous other national publications. His photographs provided the residents of southwest Oklahoma with an accurate and interesting account of the events occurring around them. Dixon was inducted into the 1991 Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame. He passed away in 2005.



MIKE FLEMING
Men's Basketball
(1969-73)

Bachelor of Science,
 Health and Physical
 Education, 1973

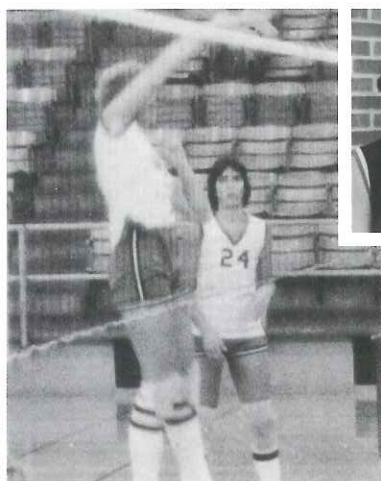
Fleming is the only member of Cameron's 1,000-1,000 club in the history of the men's basketball program, scoring 1,000 points and nabbing 1,000 rebounds. He is the all-time rebounding leader (1,137) and ranks eighth all-time in scoring (1,443). He was a four-year letter winner who helped guide Cameron to a 20-7 record and the first four-year era conference title, playing under Hall of Fame Coaches Bill Shahan and Red Miller. Fleming retired from Oklahoma City Fire Department in 2006 at the rank of major.



JIM POOLE
Football (1961-63)

Associate in Arts, 1963

Poole was a member of the 1961 Junior Rose Bowl National Championship Team and was named Most Valuable Player of that game. He was also an All-American that year. He started as both an offensive and defensive lineman. Poole played for Hall of Famer Leroy Montgomery and was a teammate of Hall of Famer Bob Kelley. He taught, coached, and served as a school administrator for 33 years.



KATHY SMITH
Volleyball & Women's
Basketball (1978-80),
Student Assistant
Volleyball Coach (1980)

Graduated in 1981

A two-sport student-athlete in volleyball and basketball, Smith was an outside hitter on volleyball teams that won 41 matches in 1978 and 40 matches in 1979. She helped guide the Aggies to two consecutive OIAAW State Championships, averaging more than 12 points per game. Smith's career high of 34 points in one game ties her for first place in Cameron's all-time rankings. She was a member of the volleyball coaching staff that won the 1980 NAIA District IX Championship and appeared as a national finalist.



JOHN SPEARS
Head Women's
Volleyball Coach
(1976-79)

John Spears is the second-winningest volleyball coach in Cameron history with a record of 115 wins and 57 losses. He led Cameron to three straight state championships and a program record 41 matches won (1978). Spears owns the highest winning percentage of all Cameron volleyball coaches for those coaching more than one season, leading his team to three AIAW regional berths.

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY STORY.

The Cameron University Honors Program, overseen by the Office of Academic Enrichment, offers numerous benefits to students who are active in the program. The mission of the Honors Program is to provide an enriched, innovative and high-impact curriculum of honors courses coupled with experiential learning opportunities aimed at fostering civic engagement, scholarly activities, and global citizenship among the most academically talented and highly motivated students of Cameron University.



"I heard from many students who were already in the Honors Program that it offered students many ways to increase their own experiences and knowledge. For me, a scholastic journey isn't just about soaking up as much knowledge as possible; it is also about expanding my mind to its full capacity and thinking outside the box of information already available to me. The Honors Program has given me countless ways to do exactly that. Educationally, it offers a student access to study abroad opportunities, a means of developing knowledge on intense research, and a college experience with its many activities on and off campus. Personally, it offers the chance to form new bonds with the other students and professors involved in the Honors Program."

JOEY CHEN
FRESHMAN, BIOLOGY



"I joined the honors program mostly for an organization that lets me hang out with my friends, although giving me a challenge in my class is a close second. It has given me access to people who have helped me with assignments as well as access to more knowledge. The people in it are awesome."

ROSS HOLLEY
SENIOR, ACCOUNTING

"I joined the Honors Program because I wanted that extra challenge that it provides. I appreciate the academic excellence that it requires, and I wanted to be a part of a society that promotes the advancement of knowledge beyond just the typical college degree requirements. The Honors Program not only provides excellent and unique learning environments, it also creates connections between people that will help to further one's career later in life."

ABIGALE HOOPER
FRESHMAN, ENGLISH EDUCATION



"I was interested in the academic challenge that the Honors Program provides and also in learning about other fields outside of my degree. Eclecticism is a hallmark of the Honors Program. I have been made more aware of other cultures through the Honors Program courses. The program also introduced me to OSLEP (Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program), which provides intense week-long learning experiences. My participation has greatly expanded the scope of my knowledge about the world and the people in it. The friendly and welcoming atmosphere that marks the Honors community makes involvement a truly rewarding experience."

WESLEY JONES
JUNIOR, ENGLISH



CAMERON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

HONORS ALUMNI, FACULTY

The Cameron University Alumni Association (CUAA) is pleased to announce the honorees of the 2015 CUAA Awards, bestowed annually on alumni and faculty. The recipients will be feted at a ceremony during Homecoming Week in February.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to Cameron alumni who are 40 years of age or older. The Outstanding Young Alumni Award is presented to Cameron alumni who are 39 years of age or younger. The awards are presented to alumni who have made significant contributions to society and whose accomplishments and careers have brought credit to Cameron in one or more of the following areas: by distinguishing themselves in their careers, in service to their communities, or through continued support of Cameron University.

The Faculty Hall of Fame Award honors current or retired faculty and emphasizes teaching effectiveness, positive impact on students' lives and involvement at Cameron outside of the classroom and in the community.

Outstanding Young Alumni



Denise Aguilar

CLASSES OF 1997 AND 1998

Denise Aguilar, a history and Spanish teacher at Central Middle School, is a dedicated educator who has been recognized at local, state and national levels. Her love of teaching is evident as she strives to create exciting and stimulating learning environments for her students. She has been named Teacher of the Year at Central Middle School on three occasions, and she is the 2012 recipient of the National Council for Geographic Education's K-12 Distinguished Teaching Award in Geographic Education.

Since 2009, Aguilar has served as a teacher consultant for the Oklahoma Alliance for Geography Education. As a result of that participation, she was selected to serve as the Oklahoma State Representative, Policy Point Person, for the National Geographic Society for 2014-16.

Aguilar is also active in the community, serving as a Girl Scout troop leader and participating in the Junior League of Lawton, where she is currently serving her second term as President. She coaches a variety of sports through Lawton Parks and Recreation and at the YMCA.



Jon Horinek

CLASS OF 2003

Jon Horinek has played a significant role in the lives of students at Oklahoma City Community College for the past decade. During that time, he has served as Coordinator of Service-Learning and Student Life Programs, Coordinator of First-Year and Student Life Programs, and Director of Recruitment and Admission, a post he has held since 2008.

He has been called an innovative and thoughtful professional and has "left an indelible mark" on OCCC. He was instrumental in bringing a number of new co-curricular development opportunities to students, including establishing a formal lecture series, a brown bag college success workshop series, and a leadership development certification program.

A native of Duncan, Horinek was a PLUS scholar at Cameron. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication in 2003. He has also earned a Master of Education in adult and higher education from the University of Oklahoma and is currently a doctoral candidate in Oklahoma State University's educational leadership program.



Jay Johnson, FACHE

CLASS OF 1990

Duncan native Jay Johnson is a shining example of a community leader. In his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Duncan Regional Hospital, Johnson is dedicated to providing the highest quality medical care possible to the residents of Stephens County. In doing so, he is committed to exceptional customer service, expanded healthcare initiatives and resources, and developing a comprehensive roster of medical practitioners who are experts in their fields of specialization.

Johnson's desire to have a positive impact on his community can be traced to his days as a Cameron student. A PLUS scholar and an Aggie Ambassador, Johnson served as president of the Student Government Association as well as of Phi Delta Theta. Johnson earned a Bachelor in Business Administration in 1990. He has been a President's Partner since 2005 and began serving on the Cameron University Foundation board in 2010.

He is active in the Duncan Rotary Club, the Duncan Chamber of Commerce and the Heritage Trails Committee. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Duncan Public Schools Foundation and serves as chair of the Stephens County Mental Health Task Force and vice chairman of the Duncan Area Economic Development Foundation.

In 2014, he was honored with the Grassroots Champion Award from the American Hospital Association, and in 2013, he received the Advocacy in Action Award from the Oklahoma Hospital Association. Other honors include Leadership Oklahoma's Community Service Excellence Award and the American College of Healthcare Executives Oklahoma Regent's Early Careerist Award.



Jon Kalbfleisch

CLASS OF 1985

As a Cameron student, Jon Kalbfleisch's passion for music was evident. While pursuing a degree in piano performance, he distinguished himself as a talented musician, playing saxophone in Cameron's marching band and bassoon in concert bands. After graduating from Cameron, he earned a Master of Music degree from Southern Methodist University.

Kalbfleisch has served as the Resident Music Director of the Tony Award-winning Signature Theatre in Arlington, Virginia, since 1991. In that post, he has conducted more than 1,000 performances of some 30 musicals, receiving 23 nominations for the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Director. He has been honored with the award on seven occasions.

Nationally, he served as associate conductor for the touring company of "Les Miserables" and as music director for "Putting It All Together" at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles. He has played and/or conducted at Carnegie Hall, The White House, Wolf Trap, The National Theatre, The Warner Theatre, The Smithsonian Institution, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2006, he became music director and conductor for the Lawton Philharmonic Orchestra. In that role, he is involved in community outreach by directly involving local students with LPO programs.



Dr. Jennifer Dennis

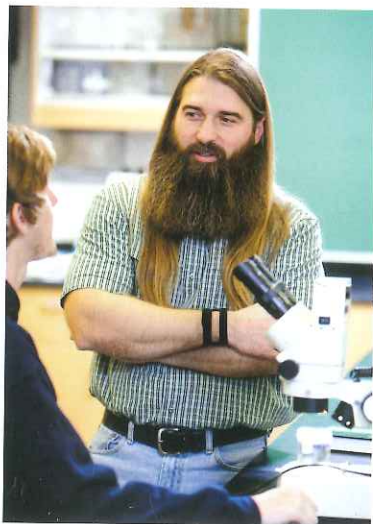
CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Cameron graduate Jennifer Dennis has been a member of the CU faculty since 2005 and has served as chair of the Department of Education since 2009. In that time, she has demonstrated her commitment to the university through an extensive list of departmental and university service.

Within the Department of Education, Dennis is active in the Educational Leadership Committee, the Recruitment Committee and the Conceptual Framework NCATE Committee. She also serves as the Standard 6 NCATE Chair. During her tenure as a faculty member, she has represented the Department of Education at numerous events, including Teacher Education Day at the Capitol and Teacher Education Preview Night.

Her service to the university is extensive. She currently serves as chair of the Faculty Development Committee and is also a member of the Graduate Council and the Teacher Education Council. She also volunteers for numerous university initiatives, including Ask An Aggie. She has made numerous presentations on behalf of the university as well as the Department of Education throughout the Lawton-Fort Sill community.

Dennis is a member of the board of directors of the Lawton Public Schools Foundation and the Eagle Legacy (alumni association for Eisenhower High School). In addition, she serves on the Pre-Education Program Advisory Committee at Great Plains Technology Center. She is also a volunteer at Crosby Park Elementary.



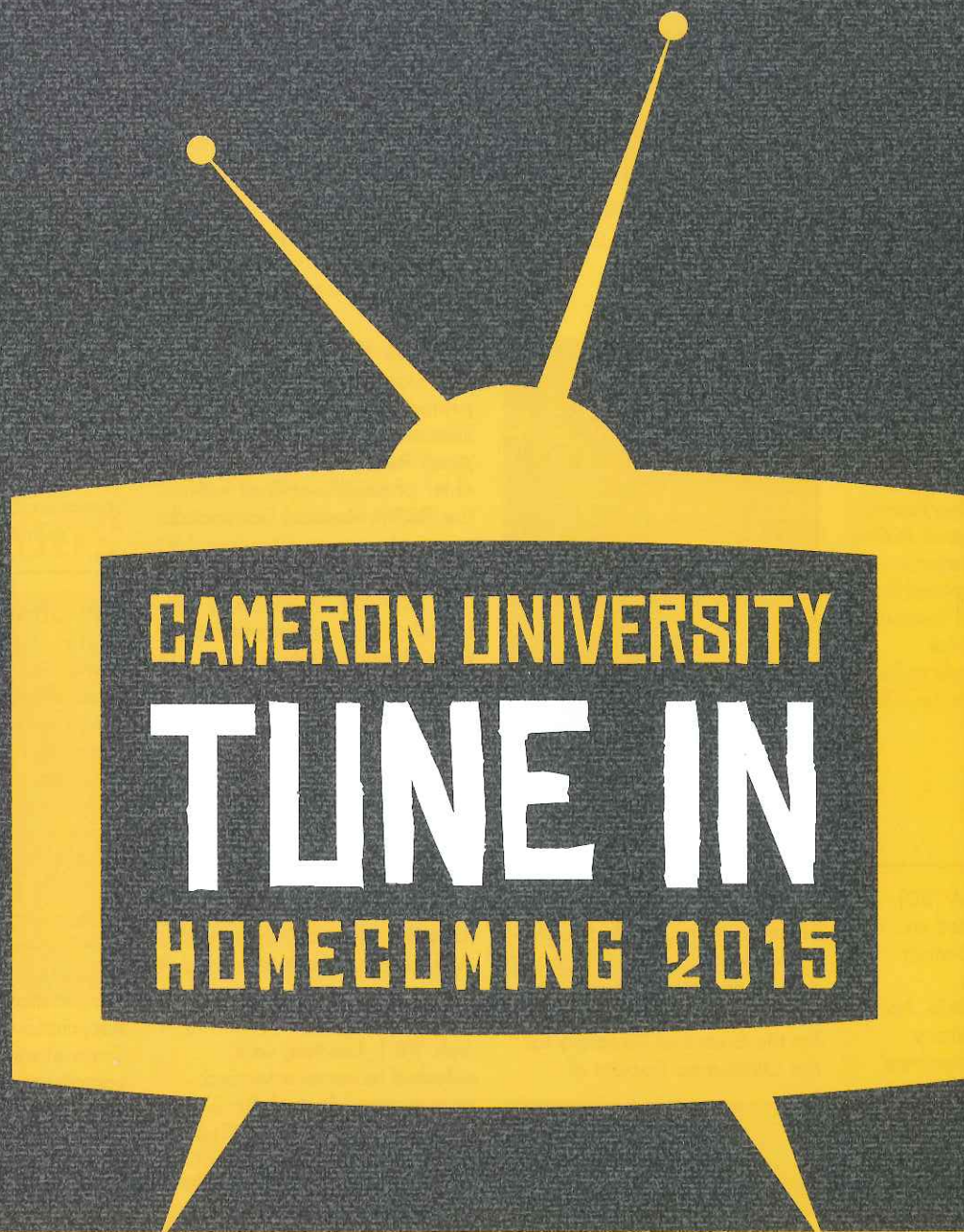
Dr. Michael Husak

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

According to 2013 Cameron graduate Alexandria Lamle, Dr. Michael Husak “truly has a passion for educating which, in my opinion, is far too rare in higher education.” Many would agree. Husak has already been awarded teaching accolades, including the Cameron University Foundation’s Hackler Award for Teaching Excellence, Cameron’s highest faculty honor. He is also the recipient of the Bhattacharya Endowed Lectureship for Excellence in Research Award.

In her nomination on behalf of Husak, Lamle notes that he “played a pivotal role in my success.” She also cited the level of investment that Husak demonstrates for his students, calling it unrivaled. “Dr. Husak is always pushing students to reach their full potential whether it be in the classroom or with independent research, and I believe that shows when you see what his former students have gone on to accomplish.”

Husak himself says, “I feel that I have been fortunate in my 10 years at Cameron University in that I have been allowed to pursue my academic career in a manner that allows me to focus on my students and give back to the professional societies and the community that have contributed so much to me and my life.”



FEBRUARY 20-21

FRIDAY

Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner, Bonfire and Pep Rally,
Aggie GOLD Happy Hour, Cameron Alumni Happy Hour

SATURDAY

Aggie Family Fun Run, ROTC Reunion, Aggie Family Coffees, Aggie Family & Friends
Awards Lunch, Chuck Wagon Cook-off and Tailgate Party, Basketball

WWW.CAMERON.EDU/ALUMNI/HOMECOMING

ALMA MATTERS

Alumni who received more than one degree are listed by year of their first degree. Those who attended but did not graduate are listed under the year they would have graduated; or in some cases, the last year they attended. If you have changed your address, have a new job or have other news to share, contact the CU Alumni Office, 2800 W. Gore Blvd., Lawton OK 73505, 580-581-2988; alumni@cameron.edu; or on the web at www.cameron.edu/alumni.

1960s

Eddie Whitworth (AA '67), Frederick, was named the 2014 Mayor of the Year for cities with less than 5,000 population by the Mayors Council of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Municipal League during the OML Annual Conference. He has served as mayor of Frederick since 2007.



Christy K. Allen (BA '92), Fort Douglas, Utah, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. She serves as chief of health services with the 807th Medical Command.

Scouts of Western Oklahoma, Lawton Youth Sports and Holy Family Catholic Church.

2000s

Dana Moore (BS '94, MED '08, MS '12), Indianola, was appointed principal of Crosby Park Elementary school in Lawton. She is a 20-year veteran kindergarten teacher with Lawton Public Schools.

T.W. Shannon (BA, '00), Lawton, has joined the staff of Premier Consulting Partners in Tulsa. He will head the company's new national community bank division. He is a former member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and served as Speaker of the House.

Nathaniel Meraz (BA '95), Elgin, has been selected to succeed Tom Crimmins as Superintendent of Elgin Public Schools when Crimmins retires later this year. He is presently Assistant Superintendent.

Tessa Craig (BBA '01, MS '03), Lawton, has been awarded National Board Certification by the American Association of Bariatric Counselors (AABC). After completing a specialized training and education program in Bariatric Science, she was credentialed as a

Denise Aguilar (BA '97, MA '98), Lawton, was selected to serve a second term as president of the Junior League of Lawton for 2014-15. She is also a volunteer for Girl

1980s

Emmit Tayloe (BA '80), Lawton, was re-elected as Comanche County District Judge. He had been appointed to the seat in April 2014 by Governor Mary Fallin to fill the seat vacated when former Judge Allen McCall retired.

Debra L. Jordan (BS '82), Lawton, is participating in the Defense Senior Leadership Program (DSLDP), a highly competitive Department of Defense two-year program. Previously, she was chief of the Force Integration Branch at Installation Management Command, Fort Sam Houston.

Jennifer Beaty Godinez (BA '88, BS '08) Oklahoma City, is the Executive Office Assistant in the Office of the President at the University of Central Oklahoma. She also serves on the Associate Board of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

1990s

Ted Blodgett (BACC '90), Norman, was inducted as the 55th member of the Oklahoma Accounting Hall of Fame. He currently serves as president for the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Society of CPAs.

Jay Johnson (BBA '90), Duncan, was awarded the American Hospital Association Grassroots Champions Award by the American Hospital Association. He is President and CEO of Duncan Regional Hospital. The award recognizes his exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community activity in support of a hospital's mission.

Maj. (Ret.) Ed Pulido (BA '91), Edmond, released his autobiography, "Warrior for Freedom," in November 2014. He is the co-founder of the Folds of Honor Foundation, where he serves as Senior Vice President, Director of Public Relations & Military Affairs, as well as Warriors for Freedom.



FUTURE Aggie

Molly Daniel Ghayyeb is the daughter of Daniel and Ashley Ghayyeb. Mom is a 2008 Cameron graduate who teaches at Eisenhower Elementary, and Dad is General Manager of Sodexo, Cameron's food services provider.

If you have your own new future aggie, contact the alumni relations office at 580-581-2988 or alumni@cameron.edu.

Board Certified Bariatric Counselor (CBC). She is also a licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed professional counselor and licensed chemical dependency counselor.

Dr. Ann Warn (MBA '01), Lawton, was named to the Journal Record's 2014 list of "50 Making A Difference." She is an ophthalmologist at the Lawton office of the Dean McGee Eye Institute and is a Clinical Associate Professor in the University of Oklahoma's... Departments of Ophthalmology and Family and Preventive Medicine.



Edwin Colón (BS '02), Muscatine, Iowa, is one of five educators at West Middle School who formed Fighting Chance Solutions. The group created a device called The Sleeve, a V-shaped piece of carbon steel that fits over the closer arm of a classroom door, preventing it from opening.

Leslie Blair (BA, '05), Oklahoma City, begins a two-year term as President of the Board of Directors of Red Earth, Inc. She is public information officers for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

Sandra Dunn (BA '05), Medicine Park, presented an interactive art demonstration titled "Drawing from Life and Imagination" during a meeting of the Lawton-Fort Sill Art Council.

Billie Jean Hastings (MED '07, MS '10), Lawton, is the human resources coordinator for the Lawton Public Schools. She was

previously the Title III teacher leader for LPS.

Brock Bode (BA '09), Lahoma, married Brooke Roshell last October during a ceremony at Rosebrook Vineyards.

2010s

1LT Jason Ray Elbert (BA '11), Lawton, a member of the Oklahoma National Guard, serves as the Public Relations Officer for his battalion. He was deployed to Afghanistan in June 2014.

Matthew Boyles (BS '12), Lawton, and Anastasia Hoffpauir (BA, '14), Lubbock, Texas, were united in marriage in June 2014.

Elijah Morlett (BA '12) and **Bethany Heinen (BA '13)**, Lawton, were united in marriage on October 25, 2014. She is a reading and language arts teacher and he

teaches computers/multimedia and yearbook at MacArthur Middle School. He also serves as Public Affairs Specialist for the Oklahoma National Guard.

Melinda Taylor (BA '12) and Ryan Lund, Lawton, exchange wedding vows on June 21. She is employed by Advanced Pathology, and he is employed by Dacus Heat and Air.

Destiny Ahlfenger (BS '14), Duncan, was hired as the executive director of Main Street Duncan. She is also a board member of the Stephens County Humane Society.

IN MEMORIAM

Cameron Alumni

Glen Edwin Albin, '72, Walters
Rodeney Newlin Cherry, '90, Comanche
Doris Jean Emhoolah Jake, '77, Anadarko
Jack Robert Everman, '79, Bartlesville
Billy Gordon Foster, '56, Lawton
Barton Craig 'Bampa' Hadley, '89, Lawton
Kenneth Albert Harmon, '86, Arlington, Texas
Dorothy Bernice Isom, '73, Lawton
Sheila Kay King, '84, Crowley, Texas
Janice Kay Lee, '71, Elgin
Mary Benke Parrish, '78, Walters
Louis Powell, '79, Lawton
Charles Wolfe, '88, '89, Lawton

Faculty/Staff

Nickie Keith Harrison, Chickasha
Shirley Martin, Glen Mills, Pa.



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