

FALL 2009

# CAMERON

MAGAZINE



A HERITAGE OF GIVING

E.P., Louise & Eugene McMahon  
and the

*McMahon Foundation*



Every Student. Every Story.



## Message from the President

Dear Alumni and Friends:

After a yearlong 100th birthday celebration, Cameron University has embarked on its second century of changing lives, and we are excited about the endless possibilities. But what's next? What will Cameron be like in five years when we wrap up *Plan 2013: Choices for the Second Century*, the current strategic plan? What will Cameron be like in 50 years when the Centennial graduates return for the opening of the 50 year time capsule? What's next is up to us to imagine.

- Imagine sitting in Bentley Gardens, enjoying a beautiful spring day while watching students strolling by.
- Imagine students grabbing coffee before class in the new, beautiful student activities complex – the McMahon Centennial Complex, or the “MCC.”
- Imagine a roomful of students learning in the simulated trading floor classroom of the brand new, technology rich Business Building.
- And imagine standing on the balcony of the elegant MCC ballroom, looking out over the rippling pond in the center of the scenic Bentley Gardens.

Happily, your imagination will not be needed to envision these scenes for long because they are fast becoming reality. In fact, as you will see in the photographic essay inside this edition of *Cameron Magazine*, the new Business Building is already “open for business,” and the completion of both the beautiful Bentley Gardens and the unparalleled MCC is just around the fall semester.

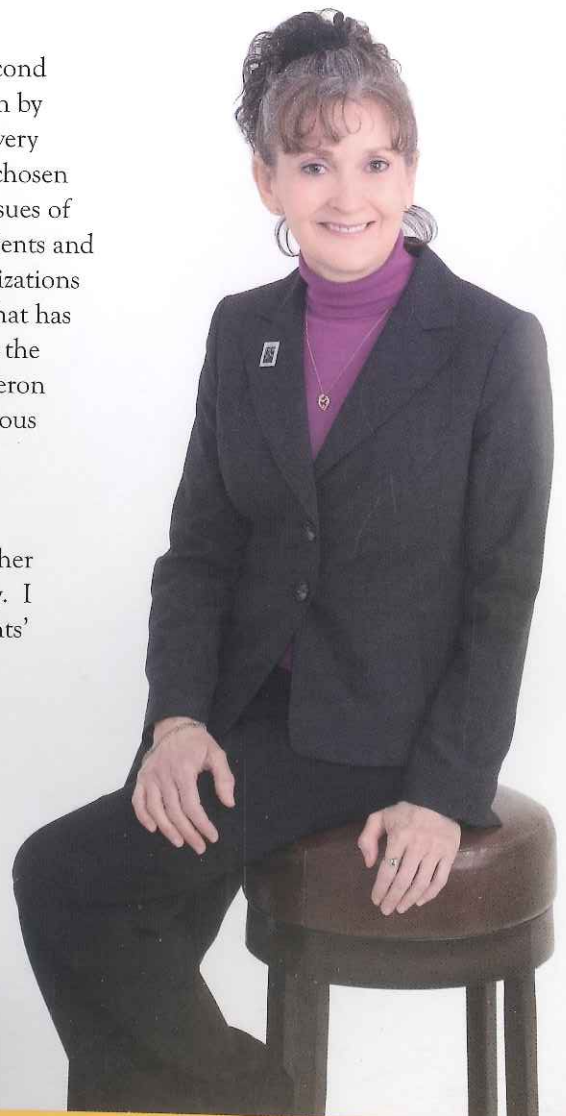
And what is the motivation for this exciting first year of Cameron's second century? Cameron is dedicated to personalizing the university's mission by focusing on those who are the heart of the mission: “Every Student. Every Story.” Students are what CU is all about, and each student who has chosen to become an Aggie has a compelling story to tell. In this and future issues of *Cameron Magazine*, wonderful stories will be shared with you a few students and alumni at a time. In addition, you will find fascinating stories of organizations like the McMahon Foundation, a dedicated group of philanthropists that has provided financial assistance to Cameron and Cameron students since the late 1940s. You will also find information about other significant Cameron partners, like the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, home to numerous student research projects and field experiences.

Cameron's exciting Centennial Observance was guided by the theme, “Changing Lives for 100 Years.” Now Cameron stands poised for another 100 years of changing lives by focusing on every student and every story. I invite you to join me in moving forward enthusiastically to meet students' educational needs. The best is yet to come!

Sincerely,

*Cindy Ross*

Cindy Ross  
President





**President:**  
Cindy Ross

**Director of  
Alumni Relations:**  
Jennifer Bowen

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

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

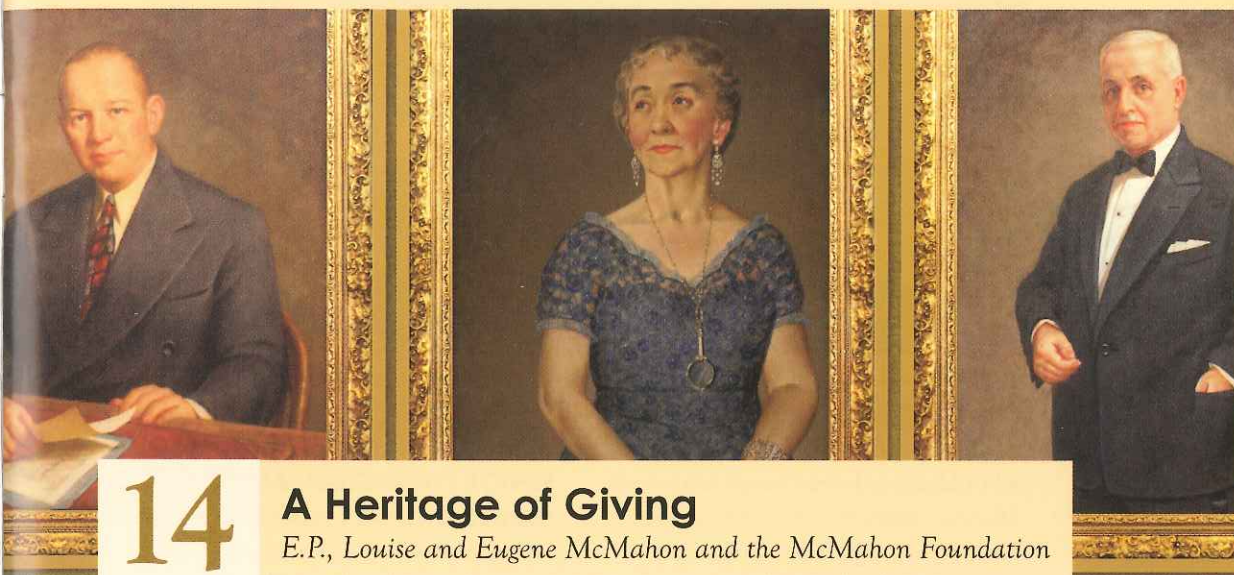
**Graphic Designers:**  
Melanie Barfield  
Ann Morris

**Contributors:**  
Jim Horinek  
Craig Martin  
Monica Wood

**Photographers:**  
Melanie Barfield  
Bennett Dewan  
Jeff Dixon  
Chris Heath  
Jim Horinek  
Diane Landoll  
Ann Morris  
Michael Pope  
Monica Wood

# CAMERON

MAGAZINE



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## A Heritage of Giving

E.P., Louise and Eugene McMahon and the McMahon Foundation

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## CAMPUS UPDATE

### NEW HOUSING CHOICES FOR CU STUDENTS

Students wishing to live on campus have a new housing choice, thanks to the conversion of former offices in North Shepler to residential suites. Ten suites have been created, each of which contains two, three or four bedrooms in addition to a common living room.

"The seventh floor of North Shepler has been completely transformed," reports Casey Case, Director of Student Housing. "The student reaction has been very positive. In fact, this floor was the first to fill up in Shepler. It's gratifying to see that our students are so excited by this new housing choice."

Every room in a suite has cable TV and unlimited high-speed internet access as well as a phone line. Bedrooms are furnished with a bed, desk and dresser. The living room for each suite has a sofa, easy chair, coffee and end tables and entertainment unit.

### CU STUDENTS RANK HIGH IN MOONBUGGY RACE

A team of students from Cameron University took eighth place in the 16th Annual Great Moonbuggy Race, held at the Marshall Space and Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. and sponsored by NASA in April. CU's Aggie team - the only team from the state of Oklahoma - was among 68 teams from 20 states, Puerto Rico, Canada, Germany, India and Romania.

The 2009 CU moonbuggy team consisted of engineering design majors Aaron Cobb, Donald Price, Jason Redden and Tana Spaulding,



CU students Tana Spaulding and Jason Redden maneuver the Cameron moonbuggy through the course. Photo courtesy of NASA.

all of Lawton; John Correll of Marlow; Miwa Fukuda of Maebashi City, Japan; Olta Kapinova of Vlore, Albania; and Haniff Woods of Basseterre, St. Kitts & Nevis.

The race is a grueling endurance test over a half-mile course of twists, turns and inclines, as well as simulated lunar craters, rocks, lava ridges and soil. Like the moon's actual terrain, the course is tough and the two buggy drivers who power the vehicle must be in top athletic condition.

### SENIOR EDUCATION MAJOR NAMED DAVINCI/MARTIN SCHOLAR

Cameron University senior Melody Tyler, an elementary education major from Waurika, was named a 2009 DaVinci/Martin Scholar by The DaVinci Institute, a private partnership of leaders in higher education across the state of Oklahoma. One of six DaVinci/Martin Scholars selected in the state, Tyler will receive \$3,000 from The DaVinci Institute in her first year of teaching in Oklahoma.



Ronna Vanderslice (r), Dean of Education and Behavioral Sciences, and Dr. Lynda Robinson, associate professor of education, congratulate DaVinci/Martin Scholar Melody Tyler.





Kyle Luetters

### **BROADCAST STUDENT HONORED WITH BROADCASTING SCHOLARSHIP**

Kyle Luetters, a junior from Garden City, Kan., is one of six broadcast students in Oklahoma to be honored by the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation with a scholarship for the 2009-10 school year.

"Kyle's passion for television production is evident," says Tony Allison, Chair, CU Department of Communication. "When he's not in class, he's bound to be somewhere on campus with a TV camera or in the CUTV production suite putting the finishing touches on an upcoming segment. I am confident that we have a future Emmy winner in our program."

Luetters produced the CU documentary "One Dream: Dirt Track Racing" this summer and is now back on the CUTV airwaves.

Cameron University recognized six members of the faculty and staff as winners of the inaugural Cameron Choice Awards, created to recognize members of the campus community who best embrace and advance the mission of the university.

### *The* **UNIVERSITY OF CHOICE** *Award*

The University of Choice Award recognizes a current staff or faculty member who is making outstanding contributions toward making Cameron University the University of Choice by providing students a top quality education. Dr. Carla Guthridge, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, received the award.

Guthridge was recognized for engaging her students in the excitement of science and academic inquiry. Examples of her efforts include the Science Detectives Summer Academy, her statewide efforts with EPScOR and INBRE, serving as an organizer of the Women in Science Event for secondary students, and outreach to area schools.

### *The* **COLLEGE EXPERIENCE OF CHOICE** *Award*

The College Experience of Choice Award recognizes a current staff or faculty member who is making outstanding contributions toward making Cameron University the College Experience of Choice by fostering a traditional collegiate atmosphere. This year's recipient is Zeak Naifeh, Director of Student Activities. Naifeh's presence on

campus is felt by every CU student; his nomination refers to him as "the major driving force in enhancing and promoting an active campus life for students."

### *The* **LOCATION OF CHOICE** *Award*

The Location of Choice Award recognizes a current staff or faculty member who is making outstanding contributions toward making Cameron University the Location of Choice for community and regional events. John French, Grounds Foreman, and Dr. Anton Wohlers, Assistant Professor of History and Government, each received the award.

French has been instrumental for his leadership and hard work in bringing color and life to the Cameron campus, where a welcoming environment has been achieved through careful planning and the diligent oversight of CU's landscape. He has played a crucial role in establishing Cameron as a beautiful and inviting place for students, faculty, staff and visitors.

For the past year, Dr. Wohlers has been bringing a number of special events to the Cameron campus. These include the 2008 Oklahoma Political Science Association annual conference, a forum on the economic growth of southwest Oklahoma, a special Constitution Day panel that focused on the relationship between





## CAMPUS UPDATE

tribal and federal governments, and a Teacher Institute funded by the Oklahoma Humanities Council.

### *The* PARTNER OF CHOICE *Award*

The Partner of Choice Award recognizes a current staff or faculty member who is making outstanding contributions toward making Cameron University the Partner of Choice by expanding existing and developing new community and area partnerships that will contribute

to the growth and prosperity of southwest Oklahoma. The recipients are Don Aguilar, Associate Professor and Chair, Multi-Media Design, and Arun Tilak, Director, Center for Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurial Studies (CETES).

The nomination for Aguilar cited his tireless efforts in responding to the needs of Fort Sill, for pioneering the first cooperative agreements between Cameron and the Great Plains Career Technology Center, for providing strong support for the companies in CETES, and for being

a campus leader in supporting area businesses such as AST and Eagle Systems.

Tilak was recognized for his leadership in forming partnerships between Cameron and area businesses and effectively providing students experience in working with these companies. One such partnership with Wilco Machine and Fabrication, Inc. in Marlow resulted in a direct donation to the university.

### PERSONNEL NEWS

CU professor of finance Dr. T.K. Bhattacharya was honored as the first recipient of the Oklahoma Medal for Excellence in Teaching at a Regional University/Community College, presented by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. Dr. Bhattacharya, is one of five Oklahoma public school educators to receive the Medal for Excellence this year.

While Dr. Bhattacharya is known for his highly demanding course work, students consistently rank him

among the top professors at Cameron and praise him for his engaging teaching strategies and kindness.

"What a wonderful world it would be if all professors would be like Dr. T.K. Bhattacharya," wrote a former student. "He is someone who really takes his job seriously and is always determined to touch a student's life in the best way possible."

Assistant professor of communication Steve Adams was named the Lisa John Faculty Fellow for summer 2009 by the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters' Education Foundation. During his fellowship, Adams spent a month working in the newsroom at KWTW in Oklahoma City. This is the second time Adams has received the Lisa John Faculty Fellowship, which provides an opportunity for faculty members at Oklahoma's broadcast schools to update their skills and develop closer relationships with radio and television broadcasters.



T.K. Bhattacharya



Maurissa Buchwald

Maurissa Buchwald is CU's new Director of Human Resources. She will be responsible for employee relations including recruitment, hiring process, training and development and employee recognition. She and her team will be responsible for providing quality human resource solutions to aid in the creation of a solid work environment for employees and contribute to the overall organizational development. As the first impressions office to new employees, she will work to create



a new employee orientation and onboarding program for staff and faculty among other opportunities.

Buchwald comes to CU from an international staffing franchise headquartered in Oklahoma City, where she served for almost 10 years in multiple capacities but most recently as the Director of Sales Programs. Her background includes leadership development, marketing, event planning, business and sales strategies and training and development.

Josh Lehman has joined the staff as Senior Director of Public Affairs. In this capacity, Lehman will be responsible for all public relations and marketing functions of the university, including strategic planning, branding of the university's image, ad placement, development and production of publications, assistance in coordinating university events, overseeing distribution of information to the media and responding to media requests.



Josh Lehman

Lehman comes to CU from the University of Northern Iowa, where he served as assistant athletic director for media relations. Prior to joining the UNI staff, he served as sports information director at Virginia Commonwealth University. His background also includes stints as assistant commissioner for communications at the Horizon League from 1998-2001 and assistant sports information director at Fresno State from 1993-98.



CU Admissions Coordinator Frank Myers kicks off a high energy activity for freshmen during Aggie Escape.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

- 19 Aggie Volleyball hosts Aggie Volleyball Fall Classic, Aggie Gym\*
- 25 Academic Convocation, 10 a.m., Fine Arts Courtyard

### October

- 1-4 Cameron Theatre presents Steve Martin's "The Underpants"
- 9 Visiting Writers Series: Barry Graham, 7 p.m., Howell Hall 107
- 10 International Banquet, 6 p.m., Shepler Ballroom
- 11 Cameron/Lawton Community Band Concert, 3 p.m., University Theatre
- 13 Endowed Faculty/Donor Appreciation Dinner
- 15-16 Fall Break
- 22 Diversity Day, Cameron Park
- 22 Cameron University Concert Choir and Centennial Singers Concert, 8 p.m., University Theatre
- 23 India Night, 5:30 p.m., Fitness Center
- 23 The Best Little Klezmer Band in Texas, 8 p.m., University Theatre
- 29 CU Percussion Ensemble Concert, 8 p.m., University Theatre
- 29 Graduate Preview Night

### November

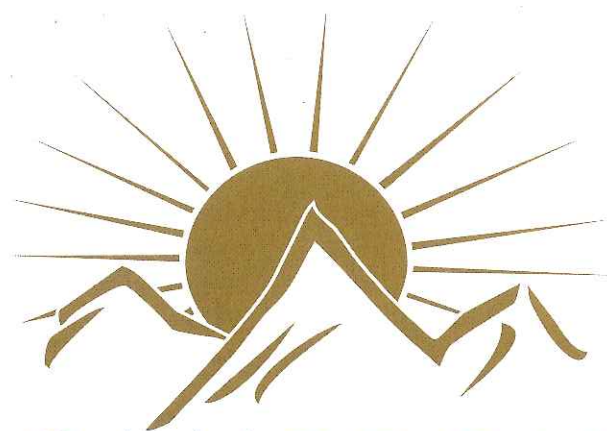
- 4 Dedication of new Business Building, 5:30 p.m.
- 5 29th Annual Country Jazz Fusion, 8 p.m., University Theatre
- 7 Aggie Sneak Peek
- 19-22 Cameron Theatre presents Euripides' "Iphigenia at Aulis"
- 24 CU Concert Band Fall Concert, 8 p.m., University Theatre
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Holiday

### December

- 3 Lawton Holiday Tree Lighting, 6 p.m., McMahon Center
- 10 CU Duncan Holiday Tree Lighting, 6 p.m., CU-Duncan
- 23 Christmas Holiday Begins

\*For complete schedules for all Aggie Athletics teams, go to [goaggies.cameron.edu](http://goaggies.cameron.edu).





# CAMERON UNIVERSITY

## EVERY STUDENT. EVERY STORY.

Students, President Cindy Ross will tell you, are at the heart of Cameron University's commitment, and for more than 100 years, Cameron has changed the lives of the thousands of students who proudly called themselves Aggies. As CU enters its second century, that student-driven mission remains first and foremost. The lives of our students - past, present, and future - are filled with experiences that are moving, motivating, entertaining or compelling. As novelist Mary McCarthy wrote, "We are the hero of our own story."

Cameron is proud to present a new feature highlighting CU students - past and present.

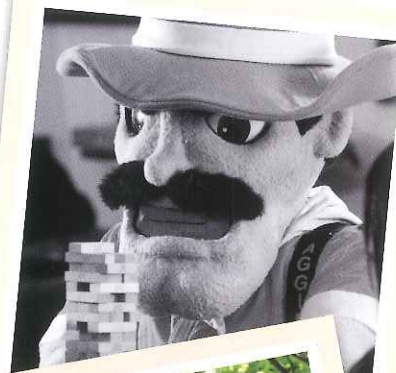
### OLE KIM

Ole Kim has long been one of the most popular students on the Cameron campus. An ex-U.S. Cavalry officer from Fort Sill who sought his fortune as a prospector during the Wichita Mountains gold rush of the early 1900s, Ole Kim worked as a cowboy before becoming a Cameron student.

Well past his teenage years, Ole Kim has lived a life of adventure, driven by an unquenchable love for learning. In 1910, he had the courage to do what would be unthinkable to many people his age - to ride a pony to Mr. Liner, president of Cameron State School of Agriculture, and ask to become a student. Today, the spirit

of Ole Kim still walks the campus of Cameron University. He's never missed a day of class. Each spring, he's the last graduate to walk across the stage during commencement, then returns in the fall with each student. He helped build each new building, coach every team, cheer with the fans and cram for finals.

An eternal student, Ole Kim represents the very best of Cameron University. He is the military and the civilian, the cowboy and the prospector. He is the nontraditional student who gains knowledge, and he is the faculty who shares it. He is dedicated, brave and willing to work hard. The spirit of Ole Kim lives today in Cameron's students and alumni.





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## AT CAMERON UNIVERSITY, EDUCATION COMES DOWN TO ONE THING: *Every Student. Every Story.*

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### GEORGE DENNIS KEATHLEY

After receiving his high school diploma from Cameron in 1930, George Dennis Keathley attended Cameron Junior College in 1931 and 1932, taking classes in agriculture. In a 1942 letter to his mother, a newly married Keathley wrote, "I am now in the Army," advising her that he would be shipping "for points unknown." Two years later, still on active duty in war-ravaged Europe in May 1944, he wrote to his brother, "Am catching lots of hell over here but think it will be worth all of it to win this war..." The following month, he penned another letter. "War is rough," he wrote. "...is not what it is cracked up to be...I personally don't care for medals and glory. I want to come home."

On September 14, 1944, Staff Sergeant Keathley, a platoon guide, found himself in command of a unit at Mt. Altuzzo, Italy. Facing intense sniper and mortar fire, with his unit running low on ammunition and sustaining heavy casualties, Keathley reorganized his men. He visited each wounded man on the barren hillside, giving what first aid he could and collecting their vitally needed ammunition to distribute to those who continued to fight in a last-ditch bid to hold their position.

Under ceaseless and increasingly heavy enemy fire, Keathley shouted orders and encouragement to his troops. A grenade exploded near

him, shattering his abdomen, yet the determined soldier held his position. Instead of taking cover in a bid to save his own life, he continued to face the enemy. For 15 minutes, he alternately held his entrails in his left hand, then would remove his hand from the wound to fire his rifle at an oncoming attacker.

Finally, the enemy was forced to withdraw. Only then did Keathley fall to the ground. His last words were "Please write my wife a letter and tell her I love her, and also that I did everything I could for her and for my country. So long, give 'em hell for me, I'm done for."

For his actions at Mt. Altuzzo, Staff Sergeant George Dennis Keathley was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration, for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty."





# THE WICHITA MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE REFUGE

## EDUCATION IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Looking northwest from the Cameron University campus, you'd never know that less than 30 miles away is an extended classroom of sorts, bounded not by concrete and mortar, but by majestic mountains and blue skies. At approximately 60,000 acres, the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge serves as a significant educational resource for Cameron professors and students.

The Wichita Mountains, among the oldest mountain ranges in the world at 500 million years, provide a diverse and unique ecosystem that attracts biologists, botanists, zoologists,

agronomists, and other scientists who utilize the varied natural resources the Refuge offers for numerous educational and research purposes.

"It's a living laboratory," says Mike Husak, assistant professor of biological sciences. "You can bring a class out here in less than half an hour and show them an intact ecosystem, which is really rare. I look at it as our extra lab for Cameron, we use it so often."

For the past two summers, Husak has been a regular fixture at the Refuge, working on a research project involving scissortail fly-catchers.

Diane Landoll, who received her bachelor's degree from CU in 2007 and is now a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma, volunteered to assist on the project, which she's using for the basis of her graduate thesis.

Landoll says that her CU field experience at the Refuge has played a significant role in her education. "Getting out here all the time kept me interested in biology," she explains. "Coming to the Refuge to do research is probably the reason that I stuck with biology, because I got to see firsthand exactly what it takes to do research. You get involved with nature and the species you're studying."

"Diane had her first research experience at the Refuge – a painted bunting project," Husak says. "She'd never seen a painted bunting before – the most colorful bird there is. The Refuge gave her a chance to work with a new species in a beautiful location and then take that experience and present it

during a professional meeting. This Refuge helps develop a lot of research careers. It's not just going to a lab, it's going out



**"THIS REFUGE HELPS DEVELOP  
A LOT OF RESEARCH  
CAREERS."**

**- MIKE HUSAK**





**"CAMERON IS A NATURAL PARTNERSHIP FOR US."  
- JEFF RUPERT**

into the world and doing the things you have to do to be a professional in this field."

Cameron students and researchers aren't the only ones who benefit from their activities at the Refuge. Jeff Rupert, manager of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, values the academic pursuits that CU personnel conduct at the Refuge. "Cameron is a natural partnership for us," he says, "Anytime we're working with researchers, our angle is to find ways to apply that research to our management of the refuge, which is our fundamental focus."

"Take Husak's study. There's a lot of general information out there about scissortails and habitat, but very little specific information. What are scissortails doing on the Refuge? Is the population increasing or decreasing? Are the habitat

management practices we utilize improving scissortail nesting habitat or having a negative effect? The information that Husak gathers and the trends that he will see as the project plays out over a number of seasons will help us assess that."

In recent years, CU's departments of criminal justice, art, agriculture, biological sciences and physical sciences are just a few of the academic areas that have utilized the Refuge.

Rupert cites other areas of Cameron involvement. Last summer, when the Refuge hosted its first NatureQuest, a weeklong camp for middle-school and high-school students, Cameron provided housing for some of the participants. "Some of the older student mentors who we invited from out of state spent a few days at Cameron," Rupert explains. "I was chatting with the kids who stayed at Cameron - they had a great time."

"Our relationship with Refuge personnel is fantastic," says Mike Dunn, associate professor of biological sciences. "We send students out there as interns, we go out there to teach, and Refuge personnel use our resources. We provide equipment when they're

doing workshops. It's a win-win situation."

Kurtis Koll, professor of physical science, agrees. "It's an excellent resource. There are so many opportunities for our students. It's a good place to intern."

Koll conducts numerous workshops at the Refuge in addition to bringing his geology students to the site. "With the Refuge, we try to share with the students the concept of conservation versus preservation," he says. "Just as Cameron has a mission statement, the Refuge has a mission statement. It's about the wildlife and preservation, so that our great-grandchildren will have a place to go."

He shares how a simple field trip can turn into so much more. During a hike with some students through the Valley of Boulders, one of his students found herself unable to continue. "She was standing on one boulder and had to take a big step to get to the other boulder but she had gotten to the edge and froze," Koll recalls. "She positioned herself where it was very difficult to back out but was too scared to go forward. It took us about an hour to help her out of there. The next day, she came back





**"OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH RUFOGE PERSONNEL IS  
FANTASTIC...IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION."**

**- MIKE DUNN**

so excited. She said, 'I felt like inside that I had stared death in the face and overcome it.' For her, it was a life-changing experience."

No matter what role they have at the Refuge - student, teacher, land management professional - all seem to agree that the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge is an exceptional location for both academic and personal enjoyment.

"I still stop and go, 'Wow! This is my office!'" Husak says. "I feel overwhelmed with the landscape, the sunrise, the sunset. I get tickled when we get stuck in what we call 'Oklahoma traffic jams,' when the bison surround us. Coming out here day-to-day, I love the challenge of finding new things, new places. It's a chance for me to sit and ponder new questions for science."

The abundant plant life calls to Dunn. "It's the largest mixed-grass prairie, the largest remaining swatch, in existence," the self-described "plant paleontologist" explains. "In the spring, there are carpets and carpets of wildflowers. I can go out there and get lost - it's what keeps me sane."

The seclusion appeals to Koll. "I'll park at Camp Doris and hike south to Little Baldy, then go on the back side of that. There's a little bluff where you can sit and look down on a mountain meadow. You can see deer grazing, buffalo grazing. It's quiet. I sit there and envision the early Native Americans going through the area, their winter campground, the settlers coming through. It's a solitude place."

"What I think is wonderful about the refuge, special about this place, is the remarkable wildlife populations,"

says Rupert. "It's walking down a trail and seeing a herd of bison or an elk or a group of turkeys. The birding is wonderful. A good proportion of black-capped vireos, one of the rarest birds on the planet, breeds here. This place is largely responsible for the continued existence of black-capped vireos. To me, that's a wonderful thing."

Bison, birds, bluffs and blankets of wildflowers. Sounds like the perfect classroom.

*- Janet E. Williams*





# CENTENNIAL COMMENCEMENT 2009

**Al Roker of "Today" received a rousing welcome from Cameron University's 2009 graduates, their friends and families and the CU faculty and staff during the Centennial Commencement ceremony held Friday, May 8 at Cameron Stadium.**

**"I** can guarantee the extended future for you, the class of 2009, is extremely bright," Roker said. "Today, your forecast is bright."

Inspired by a visit to the Statue of Liberty earlier that morning, "America's Favorite Weatherman," as he is known, alluded to the immigrants who passed through Ellis Island. "Imagine what immigrants saw when they came to the U.S.," he said. "Many of them got on trains and came west. In a sense, you will emigrate from this great campus and go on to your future."

Roker referenced the sacrifices his own parents made in order for him to attend college. Their belief in the proverbial American dream was the impetus that spurred their support of his college education, allowing him to become the first member of his family to receive a college degree. "No matter what you do, if you work hard, you can achieve your dream," he stressed.

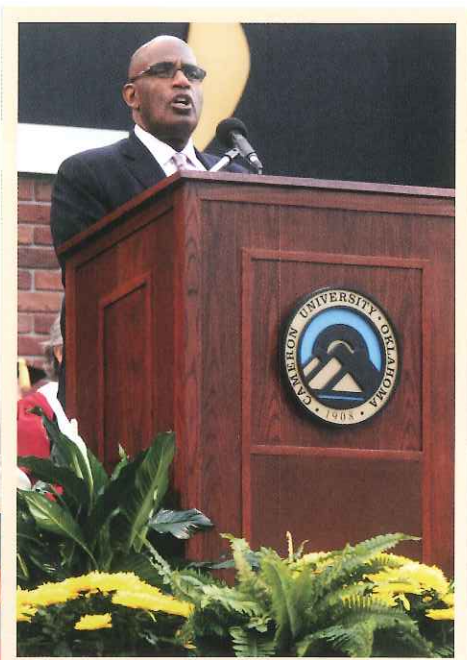
He also cautioned that today's graduates would certainly encounter times of trouble and urged them to maintain a positive focus in the face of adversity. "At the end of the day, no matter how bad that day might

have been, if you can look in the mirror and say, 'I was the best I can be today,' then you're a winner," he advised.

"This is a very special moment," he said in closing. "I hope you savor it...I wish you all good luck and Godspeed as you leave this stadium. I know that my forecast about you is correct."

Centennial Commencement 2009 was a festive occasion for Cameron's graduates, who expressed their joy with exuberant whoops of satisfaction, beaming smiles and congratulatory hugs for members of

the CU faculty. A dazzling display of fireworks lit up the southwest Oklahoma sky to cap off the high-spirited ceremony.







*Taylor Brunwald  
Junior*

“One of my favorite things of the Centennial year was the fireworks during the kickoff event at the beginning of the year. At first there was this big box, and no one really knew what it was. Then it was unveiled to be this representation of a birthday cake. I’m sitting there with some of my friends in the stadium, and the fireworks started going off and lit up the cake.”

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION *Reflections*



*Dr. Charles S. Graybill  
Class of 1938*

“I consider the construction to be the most important thing that took place during the Centennial year. With the Business Building complete, the Bentley Gardens underway and the McMahon Centennial Complex nearing completion, to me, that is a big year, and it has made Cameron a much more interesting place to come and attend.”

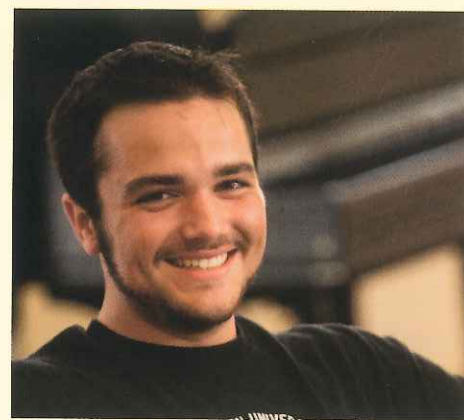


*Casey Case  
Director of Student Housing*

“All of the excitement around the beginning of the year was probably my favorite part of the Centennial year. I remember going out to the stadium and coming over the hill where they had the big birthday cake and all of the stuff outside. Seeing all the people there, I thought, ‘Wow! This is really something!’”

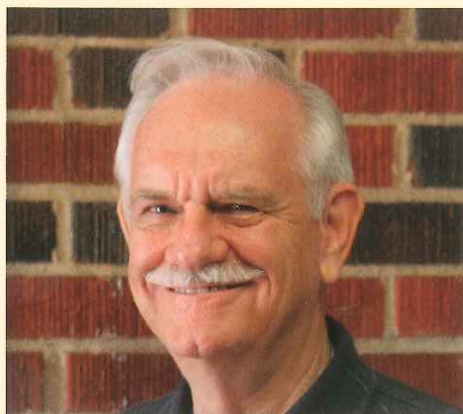


“My favorite thing from the past Centennial year was the Centennial graduation. First of all, because it was such a historic event being the 100th graduating class of Cameron University, and then the fact that my mother graduated during the Centennial graduation made it a special event for me. My mother met one of her lifelong goals of graduating from college and her walking across the stage made that event even more special to me.”



*Daniel Brown  
Senior*

## MEMBERS OF THE CAMERON UNIVERSITY FAMILY RECALL THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF CU'S YEARLONG CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.



*Dr. David Fennema  
Professor of Theatre Arts*

“Graduation was my favorite Centennial Celebration event. It was the finale of a wonderful, exciting and eventful year and a true celebration of Cameron University's purpose: to send students into the world educated, successful and excited for their future.”



*Amanda Finch  
Senior*

“At the end of the Oak Ridge Boys concert, my friends and I ran to the 50-yard line and laid down. We stretched out across the whole football field and watched the fireworks. That was my favorite moment from Cameron's Centennial.”



A *Heritage* of Giving  
E.P., Louise & Eugene McMahon  
and the  
*McMahon Foundation*

When Louise McMahon stepped off the train in Lawton in 1901, she was embarking on a life in new surroundings filled with opportunities. The risks of uprooting her 6-year-old son Eugene and leaving their home in Clyde, Kan., were far outweighed by the commitment she'd made to her husband, E.P. McMahon, in 1892. Family was all-important, and if E.P. wanted to start fresh in unknown territory, Louise would work to make that wish come true.

As much as Louise believed in family, E.P. believed in seizing opportunities. A former schoolteacher and superintendent, he migrated to the Oklahoma Territory in August 1901 to participate in the land lottery when the Kiowa-Comanche-Apache reservation was opened for

settlement. After building a home on C Avenue and reuniting with Louise and Eugene in December, E.P. embarked on a career in insurance and real estate, while his wife, an accomplished musician, supplemented the family income by giving piano lessons.

"It was a great privilege to be a first settler in such a town as Lawton," Louise wrote in the 1934 publication "Neath August Sun 1901." "We envisioned then what a pleasant place would develop for those who would come along with the years to carry on our plans for good homes, good schools and good churches."

As E.P.'s business ventures grew more successful, Louise, known for her outgoing and gregarious nature, enjoyed card parties, dances, and

"Mrs. McMahon was an inspirational person who played a key role in the cultural, educational and social development of Lawton."

Dr. Charles Graybill





social clubs. Before long, the McMahons, one of Lawton's "First Families," were highly regarded in the community. By the 1920s, E.P. had amassed a personal fortune thanks to his savvy business acumen. Eugene, the McMahon's only child, grew up understanding the meaning of hard work, good decisions and - first and foremost - the value of family. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma in 1915, he moved to Texas to tackle the oil and gas industry, sending most of his earnings to his father for investment.

After a short-lived marriage, Eugene persuaded his parents to join him in San Antonio in 1926. Although they willingly left Lawton to be near their only child, they retained their ties to the community.

"We received many offers from Lawton citizens for the lots at 714-16 C Avenue," Louise wrote in her book, "Reminiscences and Scrapbook." "But regardless of any sum offered, we always wrote 'Not For Sale.' I am not sentimental but I have often thought it was our destiny through God's tender mercy that we could not part from our Lawton home and our Lawton friends. I have a trust to keep."

After E.P.'s death in May 1936, Louise and Eugene brought him "home" to Lawton for burial. During the short trip, Louise resolved to someday return to the community that she had left a decade earlier.

Eugene's second marriage in 1938 was another unhappy union that ended quickly. With no children of his own, he talked to his mother about what would become of their now-considerable assets. The solution, he determined, was the establishment of a charitable trust,



The McMahon Foundation's first Board of Trustees was comprised of (front) Louise McMahon, Eugene McMahon, (back, left to right) Floyd D. Ross, W.F. Barber, and Lawrence Keegan.

## PURPOSES OF THE MCMAHON FOUNDATION

ESTABLISHED JUNE 27, 1940

1.

*The alleviation of human suffering and the prevention and control of disease;*

2.

*The relief of worthy poor and indigent, by and through agencies and institutions legally organized and operated exclusively for such charitable purposes;*

3.

*The bringing of the hearts, minds and lives of poor, indigent or unfortunate people under the influence of education; and*

4.

*As incidental to its primary purpose of thus promoting the well-being of mankind, to acquire, construct and maintain buildings to be used for such charitable purposes, and to promote education and aid in any scientific endeavor or cause designed and carried on solely for the betterment of mankind.*

based in Lawton, to preserve his father's memory. In July 1940, The McMahon Foundation was officially incorporated with \$50,000 from Eugene and Louise McMahon. As mother and son continued to add more funds to the Foundation's assets, Eugene decided to take a more active role in the Foundation's activities in July 1944. In a 1945

letter to the trustees, he wrote, "It is my wish that the trustees at all times pay particular attention to the educational objects of the Foundation."

Eugene's involvement in the Foundation was derailed by a diagnosis of lung cancer; following his death in July 1945, his estate of



\$926,136 was added to the assets of the Foundation. Determined to fulfill her son's ambition to create a perpetual foundation for the people of Lawton and Comanche County, Louise elected to take an active role in the Foundation.

She proposed the construction of a building to house the McMahon Foundation - with living quarters for her on the upper floor - at her property on C Avenue. In her proposal to the Foundation's trustees, she indicated that she wanted "to see The McMahon Foundation housed in a dignified home, built expressly for the use of the Foundation, worthy of the high purposes of the institution, and a credit to the memory of its founder."

After the Foundation trustees agreed, she mailed a check to James L. Keegan, the Foundation's secretary-treasurer, writing, "Please deposit the enclosed check for \$47,000 to the McMahon Foundation Building Fund. If I have written the check incorrectly, let me know...I never wrote one as large before, and never wrote one that gave me so much satisfaction."

Once construction on the building was completed in 1948, Louise returned to Lawton, residing on

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MCMAHON FOUNDATION

Kenneth Bridges, *Vice Chairman*  
Dr. Charles Graybill, *Chairman*  
Gale Sadler, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
Dr. Ronald Cagle  
Kenneth Easton  
Michael Mayhall  
Orville Smith

#### THE MCMAHON FOUNDATION HAS PROVIDED FUNDING FOR MORE THAN 25 CAMERON UNIVERSITY INITIATIVES, INCLUDING:

- McMahon Centennial Complex
- McMahon Center
- Presidential Leaders University Scholars Program
- Louise D. McMahon Endowed Chair in Music
- McMahon Scholarships
- Louise D. McMahon Fine Arts Complex
- Agricultural Complex
- Fitness Center

the upper level of The McMahon Foundation until her death in 1966. During those years, she guided the trustees of the McMahon Foundation. It might be said that after the deaths of her husband and son, she came to regard the citizens of Comanche County as her extended family.

Dr. Charles Graybill, a Lawton physician, has been on The McMahon Foundation Board of Trustees since 1971, serving as Chairman since 1980. His acquaintance with Mrs. McMahon dates to his childhood. "My mother used to play bridge with Mrs. McMahon, back in the 1920s," he says.

After Graybill began his medical practice, Louise became one of his patients, and a friendship ensued. "She was very sincere and honest," Dr. Graybill recalls. "She was a very generous woman, and she knew how she wanted things. She didn't mind telling you if it was something she didn't like - which was a good trait for her to have. Her strong will was a guiding force for the early Board of Trustees."

A former teacher, Louise took an interest in Cameron students as early as 1947, granting Foundation funds

to individuals to help them pay for their education. One early award noted the student was the "son of an African chief"; another was to a student whose father had been laid off and could no longer pay for college.

Since then, the trustees of The McMahon Foundation have generously awarded almost \$14 million to Cameron, including a \$4 million gift - the largest one-time award in the Foundation's history - for the construction of a new state-of-the-art student activities complex. The McMahon Centennial Complex, opening in Spring 2010, is one of the many legacies left by the McMahon family, whose generosity will continue to touch the Lawton/Fort Sill community for generations to come.

"How wonderful to have both the generosity of spirit and the means to impact the lives of so many people," Dr. Graybill says of Louise McMahon. "Mrs. McMahon was an inspirational person who played a key role in the cultural, educational and social development of Lawton. How fortunate this community has been to have been so blessed by one individual."

- Janet E. Williams



# MAKING THE *Grade*

Two Cameron University graduates credit CU with laying the foundation to their becoming school superintendents. After receiving Bachelor of Science degrees in 1974 and 1987, respectively, Barry Beauchamp and Dr. Sherry Labyer entered the classroom as educators, then rose through the teaching ranks to become school superintendents.

Although they've traded their teaching responsibilities for administrative roles, both Labyer, Superintendent of Duncan Public Schools and Beauchamp, Superintendent of Lawton Public Schools, believe staying connected to the classroom is critical.

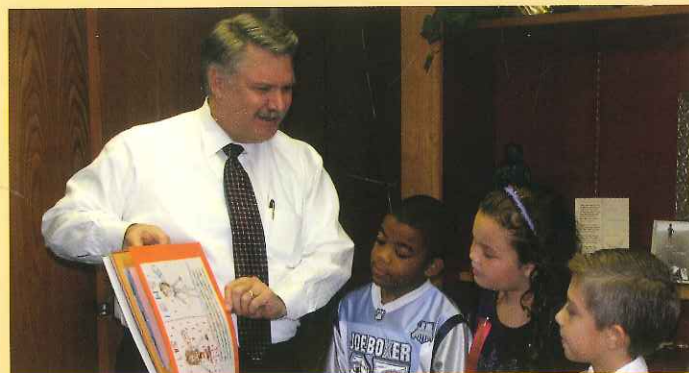
"The Lawton Public School District is blessed with an outstanding instructional staff that welcomes you into their classrooms," Beauchamp says. "They understand that the best way to improve instruction is give the proper relevance to the subject being taught and to establish appropriate caring relationships with the students you are teaching. It is a wonderful benefit of my job to get to observe this first hand frequently."



Barry Beauchamp



Sherry Labyer



Barry Beauchamp meets with a group of elementary school students.

Labyer begins each day at a different school site. "By starting the day out with children, it keeps me grounded and reminded of the reason that I am in education," she believes. "I also substitute once a month for a teacher from a random drawing that we have at the beginning of the year. Being able to actually substitute in a classroom keeps me connected to the challenges that students and teachers face every day."

As career educators dedicated to quality classrooms, Labyer and

Beauchamp take pride in the impact they, as administrators, still have on students. Labyer believes that her leadership is making a difference in Duncan Schools. "I am humbled by the awesome responsibility of this position every day," she says. "I believe in teamwork and am rewarded every single day by working side-by-side with outstanding educators who believe in excellence. I am also blessed with a supportive community, dedicated parents, and awesome students. My motto is: together we make a difference."

Beauchamp echoes that sentiment.

"Whether it is learning the simplest of tasks or being recognized on the state or national level, the accomplishments of our students and staff always thrill me," he says. "Our role as administrators is to help teachers be as successful as possible so they can help students be as successful as possible. Then, hopefully, our students will use their successes to help those they touch during their lives to become as successful."

- Monica Wood



# WHAT'S NEW AT CU?

Cameron University has launched several new initiatives aimed at providing a complete, affordable college experience to all Aggie students.



**CU \$UPPORTS YOU** is an ambitious financial assistance program to help students and their families afford a college education. The components of this comprehensive financial assistance package share one common purpose – to ease the financial burden of obtaining a college degree.

## **INCREASED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS**

CU has budgeted \$1.5 million in resident tuition waiver scholarships and \$200,000 in scholarships. Since Fall 2002, the amount of money budgeted for student resident tuition waiver and scholarships has increased by \$941,000, a 124 percent increase in seven years. Additionally, the Cameron University Foundation has budgeted \$332,050 for scholarships, a 21 percent increase of nearly \$70,000 from last year.

## **"CHECK IT OUT ✓ BOOKS"**

To assist CU students with the high costs of books, Cameron will buy textbooks for all of Cameron's general education classes and most popular courses and make them available to check out from the Cameron Library and the Duncan branch.

## **TUITION PAYMENT PLAN**

For the first time, CU students have the ability to pay their tuition and fees in four installments during the semester. Students who choose this option will be eligible for early enrollment the next semester.

## **DISPLACED WORKER ASSISTANCE**

In cooperation with the South Central Oklahoma Workforce Investment Board, the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG), area Workforce Development Offices,

and Oklahoma Employment and Securities Commission, Cameron is assisting displaced workers in seeking out education and training opportunities to help them re-enter the workforce.

## **YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM FOR VETERANS**

Cameron participates in the Yellow Ribbon program, which provides support to veterans eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. Cameron has committed to provide 50 qualifying students up to \$2,484 each during the 2009-2010 academic year to help offset educational costs not covered by the Post 9/11 GI Benefits.

## **SUPPORT FOR MILITARY SPOUSES**

CU participates in the Military Spouse Career Advancement Financial Assistance Program. Spouses of active duty military personnel may receive up to \$6000 in assistance to pursue their college degrees.

## **EMERGENCY LOAN PROGRAM**

The Emergency Loan Program, funded through the Cameron University Foundation, provides students with a short-term loan to assist with unexpected expenses and allows them to continue their studies.

Detailed information about "CU \$upports You" can be found at [www.cameron.edu/cusupportsyou](http://www.cameron.edu/cusupportsyou).



## A HEALTHIER CU IN CENTURY II

Cameron University is committed to the health of the university's physical landscape as well as the health of each individual in the Cameron family. The university has several new programs that promote a healthy lifestyle.

### FREEDOM FROM SMOKING

To address the public health concern of smoking, CU will offer a community-based smoking cessation program that provides a supportive environment in which individuals can quit smoking.

### "CU IN SHAPE"

With hundreds of new trees planted and new buildings opening, Cameron is promoting a walking path around campus. This one-mile path is a great place to take advantage of Cameron's beautiful landscape and the new initiatives to help the CU family and community get in shape.

### HEALTHIER EATING

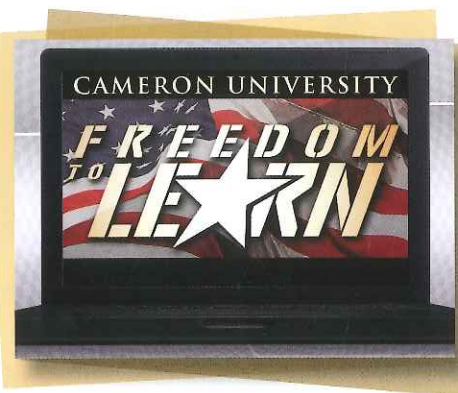
A healthy eating station will be offered each day in the cafeteria to positively impact the lives of students, faculty, staff and visitors to campus.

### "BLACK & GOLD GO GREEN!"

Cameron will continue to prioritize green initiatives including expanding recycling practices, reducing paper and energy usage and increasing energy efficiency.

### COMMUNITY GARDEN

Summer 2009 saw the establishment of a community garden on campus for students, current and retired employees, alumni and donors. The garden, maintained according to organic practices, supports a larger community-wide effort led by the Southwest Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition. Crops included tomatoes, okra, corn, squash, beans and much more.



### FREEDOM TO LEARN

Active duty military students enrolled at CU in six or more hours online per semester are eligible for the "Freedom to Learn" program, which entitles them to a free laptop computer. The program is open to members of all branches of the service. "Active duty military working toward a college degree face unique obstacles, including deployment overseas," says CU President Cindy Ross. "With more than 88 classes online for the Fall 2009 semester and 11 degree programs available completely online, CU makes it possible for active duty military to complete their college degrees while fulfilling the responsibilities that accompany their selfless service to our nation."

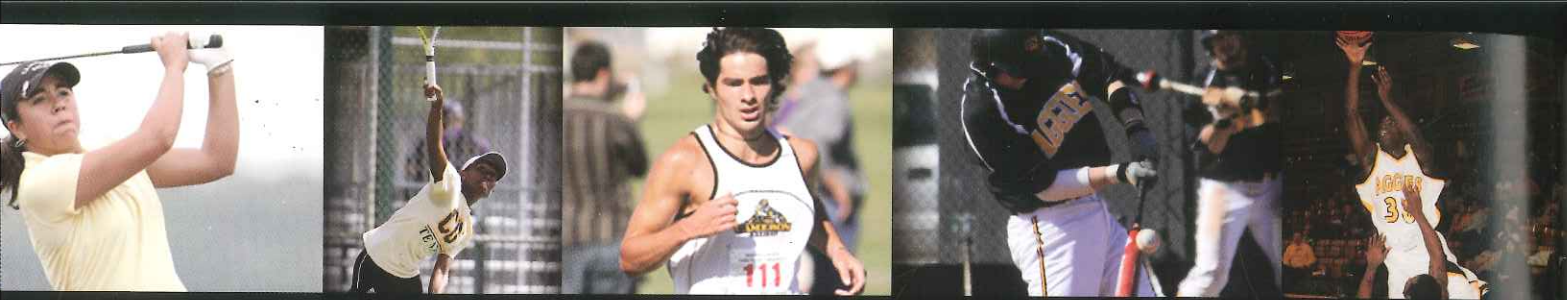


CU's community garden opened in summer of 2009.



CU President Cindy Ross presents a Freedom To Learn laptop to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Trevor Meier, a CU student who will be deployed to Germany and Afghanistan this fall.





# AGGIE ATHLETICS

## GLORY DAYS REVISITED CAMERON'S 1961 FOOTBALL TEAM



Members of the 1961 Aggie Junior College National Championship football team reunited at Cameron in Spring 2009.

Nearly 50 years ago, the Cameron Aggie football team hoisted the Junior College National Championship trophy as 1961 Junior College Rose Bowl Champions. In front of a packed house in Pasadena, Calif., the Aggies of Cameron Agricultural Junior College disposed of Bakersfield College 28-20 to win their first and only Junior College Rose Bowl National Championship.

**“I think  
Cameron has  
come a long  
way...”** Ulysses Kendall

Earlier this spring, the Cameron Athletics Department honored the 1961 squad with an all-day reunion that included a commemorative bench dedication, a cookout, and a ceremony followed by a baseball doubleheader at McCord Field. The day proved to be a fun and exciting reunion with nearly half the team coming back to Lawton for the festivities. Returning for the reunion





CU President Cindy Ross and former Aggie offensive end Ulysses Kendall dedicate a bench commemorating the 1961 national champions.

were John Allen, Derald Ahlschlager, Paul Baker, Jim Cabbiness, Jim Clark, Dan Dieck, Mike Fisher, Russell Fremin, Richard Goins, Mickey Hoy, Ulysses Kendall, John Liljedahl, Jack Mars, Gary McIntyre, Lonny Morrison, Ronnie O'Rear, Kenny Osborne, James Poole, Don Underwood, Jerry Wade, Danny Wigington and Marcus Wilcoxson.

The reunion kicked off with a bench dedication ceremony at the east entrance of Aggie Gym. Cameron University President Cindy Ross and former Aggie offensive end Ulysses Kendall, who was on the receiving end of a pass that resulted in Cameron's second touchdown during the 1961 contest, dedicated a commemorative bench bearing the names of the 1961 national champions.

"I think Cameron, which when we started here was the largest junior college in Oklahoma, has come a long way," Kendall said. "The school is starting to compete with and even pass the big universities in certain academic fields, which is a real credit to Dr. Ross. The new buildings, the campus expansion - this is going to benefit not only Cameron but all of Lawton and Oklahoma in general."

Immediately following the morning ceremony, a hamburger and hot dog cookout began in the parking lot of CU's McCord Field. Members of the 1961 football team and their families, not to mention a number of

CU fans, enjoyed delicious barbeque and a pregame ceremony where each member of the 1961 Junior College Rose Bowl champion football team was recognized.

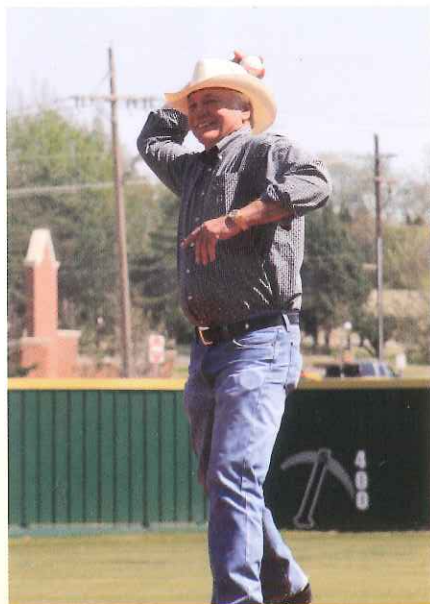
Jerry Wade, defensive end on the 1961 football team, was selected to throw out the ceremonial first pitch before the Aggie baseballers took the field to face West Texas A&M in a doubleheader. The afternoon was capped off by two decisive victories for the Black and Gold on the diamond.

"Cameron Athletics has a longstanding tradition of winning and excellence on the field of play," says Jim Jackson, CU Athletics Director. "We are honored that so many players from the 1961 championship football team were able to join us for this special recognition. The team is planning another reunion in 2011, and we hope to see even more of these athletes back on campus."

- Craig Martin

**Cameron Athletics has a longstanding tradition of winning and excellence on the field of play."**

Jim Jackson



Former defensive end Jerry Wade throws out the ceremonial first pitch as the Aggie baseball team took the field.



# EYES ON THE PRIZE

AGGIE ATHLETICS AIMS HIGH IN 2009-10

IN MAY 2009, THE CAMERON AGGIES ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT WRAPPED UP WHAT WAS THE BEST COLLECTIVE SPORTS SEASON IN MEMORY, WITH STELLAR PERFORMANCES COMING FROM ALL SPORTS. "WE'RE COMING OFF A REMARKABLE YEAR," SAYS AGGIE ATHLETICS DIRECTOR JIM JACKSON. "WE'VE GOT A LOT OF MOMENTUM AS WE HEAD INTO THIS SEASON, AND I CAN GUARANTEE THAT EVERY AGGIE TEAM IS GOING TO GIVE OUR AGGIE SUPPORTERS A LOT TO CHEER ABOUT!"

HERE'S JIM'S OUTLOOK ABOUT EACH OF THE AGGIE TEAMS FOR 2009-10.



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Aggie women showed incredible improvement last year under head coach Tom Webb, who has assembled one of the top recruiting classes in the Lone Star Conference. Expect the Aggie women to improve exponentially next season with a real shot at making the playoffs.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Head coach Matt Agüero and the Cameron Aggie cross country team experienced a year of firsts in 2008-09, winning the first meet in school history at the Midwestern State Mustang

## BASEBALL

After quite possibly the best baseball season in CU history, the nationally ranked Aggie baseballers have set their sights even higher for 2010. Finishing the 2009 season with a record 42 wins, a #6 national ranking, and a #1 regional and conference ranking but no postseason bid has whetted the Aggie appetite for more. Expect another fabulous season from LSC Coach of the Year Todd Holland and his squad.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

First-year head coach Wade Alexander ended an 11-year drought last season when he took his Aggie men's basketball team to the playoffs. With three players from his 2008-09 squad returning and 10 new additions, coach Alexander is looking to make it back to the playoffs in 2010, shooting for the postseason two years in a row for the first time since the early 1990s.

Relays in Wichita Falls, Texas. The team also achieved its first ranking of any kind in the program's history with the #8 spot in the regional. This season, the Aggies look to build on last year's success and kick off the season by hosting the inaugural Aggie Showdown meet.

## MEN'S GOLF

Hampered by injury, the Aggie men's golf team had a rough 2008-09 season but still



put forth a solid fourth place showing at the LSC championship tournament. Senior standout Peter Svajlen will be back on the team after missing last year with a hand injury, joining head coach Jerry Hrnciar's new recruits. Coach Hrnciar and his team are in the hunt for a spot in the NCAA Division II National Tournament.

### WOMEN'S GOLF

Cameron's women's golf team had an all-around solid year in 2008-09, placing third at a trio of tournaments and vaulting to #28 in the national rankings.

Coach Watson's strong 2010 recruiting class will offset the loss of five influential seniors as the Aggies look to make it further into the postseason and regain a regional ranking.

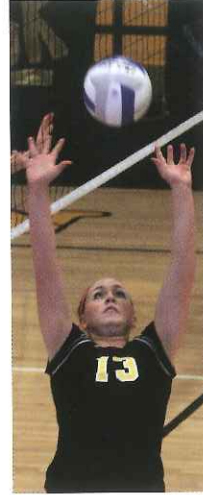
### MEN'S TENNIS

The momentum continues for Cameron's men's tennis team, led by head coach James Helvey. Coach Helvey and his Aggie men won their second straight LSC Regular Season Championship last year and fell one match short of their second consecutive LSC Tournament Championship. In 2009-10, the

schedules. The women's tennis team has a great chance of reaching Nationals once again.

### VOLLEYBALL

In her first year as Aggie head coach, Brianne Smedley got Cameron back above .500 with a record of 14-13. Despite improving steadily as the season wore on, the Aggies missed out on the playoffs for the first time in over a decade. Coach Smedley has added four impressive recruits to help the team make it back to the postseason. CU's long-standing tradition of excellent volleyball gets back in full swing this year.



Head coach Rick Goodwin has added top talent from the area to his 2009-10 squad, and the entire team is hungry for its second Lone Star Conference title in four years.

### SOFTBALL

With one year as an Aggie under her belt, head coach Beth Watson transformed a good softball team into a great one. The team won more than 30 games last year before falling in the second round of the LSC Championship tournament.

team is poised to get back to the national tournament for the 15th consecutive season.

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

Although hampered by injuries during the 2008-09 season, the Aggie women's tennis team finished the season above .500. The Aggies just missed the second round of the LSC Championship Tournament. Head coach James Helvey has reloaded his women's squad and has once again put together one of the nation's toughest

### CHEERLEADING

Robin Martin has been building a cheerleading squad that has the potential to make Nationals in 2009-10. At this summer's annual UCA Collegiate Cheer camp, CU won the Leadership Award as the camp's top squad for the second straight year. The Aggie cheerleading squad is poised to have its best year ever.



# OPEN *for Business*

THE EVENTS OF OCTOBER 25, 2006 CHANGED THE FACE OF THE CAMERON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. THAT DAY, PRESIDENT CINDY ROSS WAS JOINED BY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FOR THE OFFICIAL GROUNDBREAKING FOR A NEW BUSINESS BUILDING, MADE POSSIBLE BY FUNDING THROUGH THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 2005.

"With outstanding faculty and a new state-of-the-art building, our students will be supplied with the necessary tools for success," President Ross said that day.

Shortly thereafter, the old business building, constructed as a women's dorm in 1964, made way for a new facility, occupying more than 32,000 gross square feet. Collegian editor Jim Horinek documented the changing landscape throughout the two-year project. He caught up with some CU business students shortly before the Business Building opened for the Fall 2009 semester.

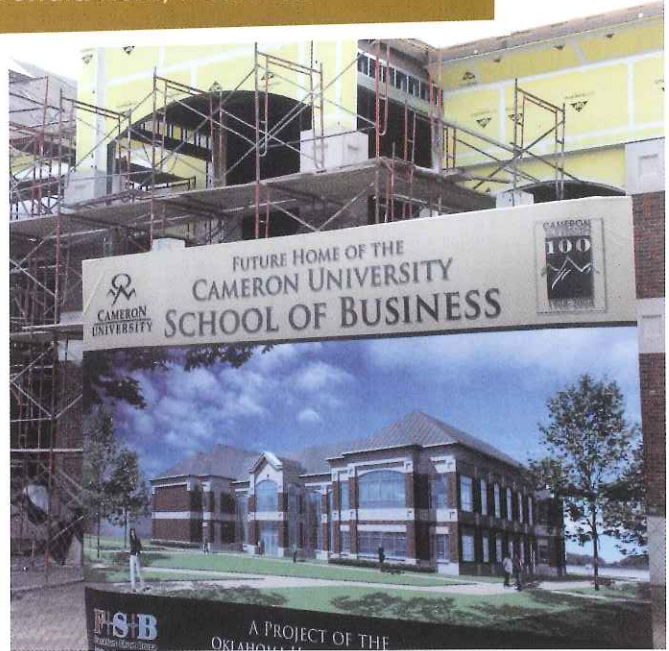
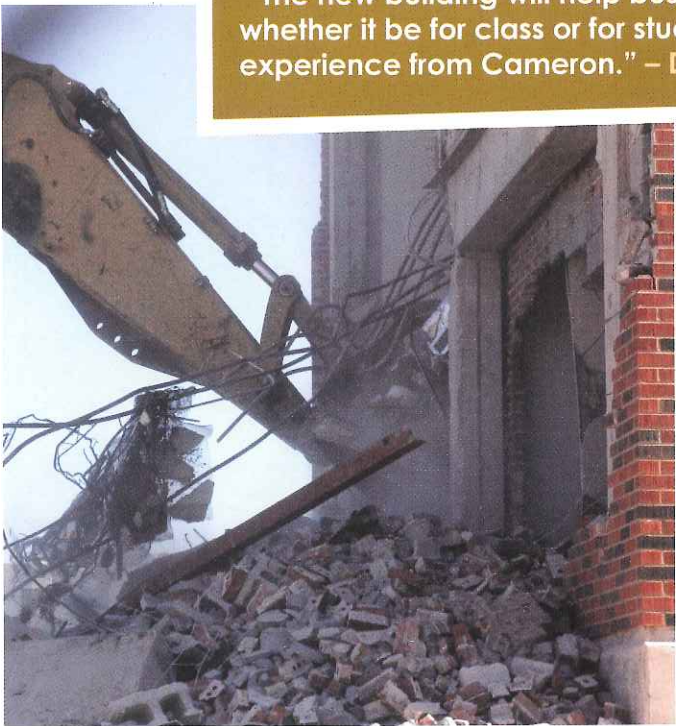


"The new classrooms are very roomy and have a great floor plan. I think that the new building will improve the education that students receive."

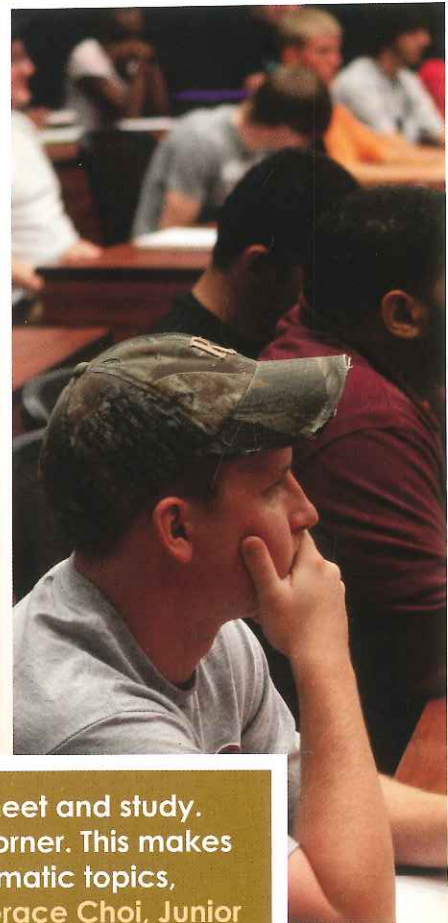
— Myles Mendez, Junior



"The new building will help business students to come together, whether it be for class or for studying, and to gain a better experience from Cameron." – Donald Kern, Freshman



"We're kicking off our second century at Cameron with a vitalizing freshness. I'm looking forward to every aspect of this new building: the pride it brings Cameron, the state-of-the-art facilities and the many positive by-products I believe will follow." – Stacy Carden, Senior



"Business students now have our own place to meet and study. The professors' offices are just right around the corner. This makes it more convenient for students to discuss problematic topics, share notes and study amongst themselves." – Grace Choi, Junior



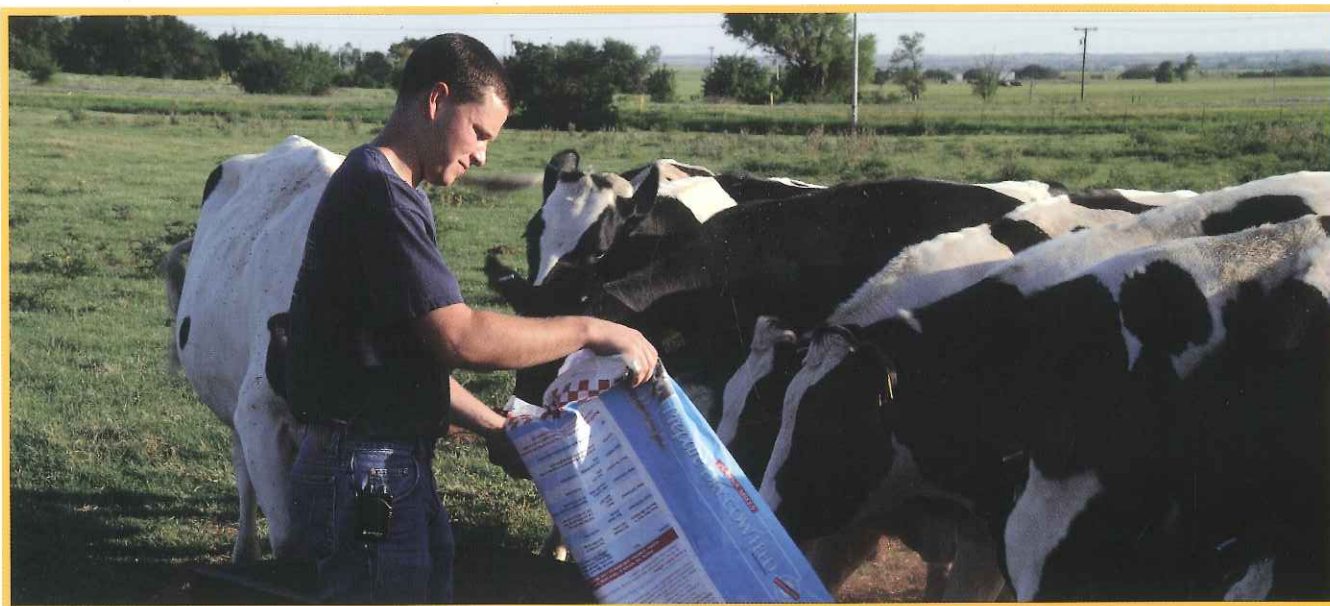


# STUDENT ON A MISSION

From dairy cattle to firefighting to the FBI, senior Wyatt Kennedy is on a mission to succeed.







When Cameron opened its doors in 1908 as an agricultural high school, most students came from rural communities and were accustomed to life on the farm. Over the past 100 years, this link has become less and less prevalent, and a much smaller percentage of today's Cameron students come from farming backgrounds. Wyatt Kennedy is one of those students. A senior majoring in accounting, the Elgin native takes the principles that his parents and rural upbringing bestowed upon him and applies them to his daily life.

Along with his parents, and six brothers and sisters, the 22-year-old helps run the family dairy farm.

Operating the dairy has become a bit of a family tradition. "My grandparents had been doing the dairy farming for 15 or 16 years," Wyatt says. "About four years ago, they wanted to retire, so we took it over."

Wyatt's been helping with the dairy operation every since. After graduating from high school in 2004, he decided to get some work experience of a different nature.

"I was really interested in the medical field," he explains. "My family and I felt like I needed to work for a year before I went to college. I wanted to do something that would allow me to get involved with the community.

That's when I became a firefighter and EMT."

He's found personal fulfillment in his role as an EMT and volunteer firefighter for the Elgin Fire Department.

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**"THE EDUCATION THAT I HAVE GOTTEN AT CAMERON IS OF GREAT QUALITY."**

**- WYATT KENNEDY**

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"It is really rewarding to be able to help someone when they need help," Wyatt says. "When we get a call, it's usually the individual's worst situation that they have ever encountered and they really need someone to be able to help them. I like being able to do that."

By the time Wyatt started attending Cameron in 2006 and with his EMT experience under his belt, he was looking ahead to a career in the medical field.

"My parents said, 'Just look around a little bit, take a course in something and if you like it, then go with that,'" he recalls. "So I took some Criminal Justice courses and got interested in the FBI. I've always been interested in law enforcement, but I wanted to do something on a broader scale than just the local level and the FBI was a route that I thought I could do that in."

In preparation for a career in the FBI, Wyatt is minoring in foreign languages and communication.

"The FBI encouraged me to look at foreign languages," he explains. "They said that they could always recruit fluent Spanish speakers, but they couldn't recruit from abroad, so they encourage you to get a background in a Middle Eastern language or Russian."

With this in mind, he's been taking courses in both Arabic and Farsi. His





dedication has become evident to Dr. George Stanley, Professor of Foreign Languages.

"When you're studying a language, you have to work with it all the time," Dr. Stanley says. "You just have to stay with it and work at it until it eventually takes. That's what Wyatt does."

As he enters his senior year, Wyatt credits Cameron for helping to prepare him for his future goals.

"The education that I have gotten at Cameron is of great quality," he says. "There have been several key professors who really wanted more from their students. They really push their students, and they helped me a lot. I have been inspired by some of the professors because they have been willing to step out there and help their students along and encourage them."

After graduating in Spring 2010, Wyatt plans to stay close to home until he applies for the FBI.

"The FBI usually doesn't hire until an applicant is around 26 or 27 years old, and I would like to be able to stay here and work until that time," he explains.

**"IT IS EXCITING BUT IT IS ALSO REALLY REWARDING TO BE ABLE TO HELP SOMEONE WHEN THEY NEED HELP."**

- WYATT KENNEDY

In addition to helping out at the family dairy and working as a volunteer firefighter and EMT, Wyatt has added a job at the Fort Sill Resource Management Office to his hectic schedule, thanks to a summer internship that turned into a regular position. Add to this his class schedule, and you'd think he wouldn't be able to fit anything else in.

But Wyatt has another priority - service to the community. "The need to serve others is probably in part because of the home schooling and because of my parents' values," he

says. "They always taught me that it is important to give back and to help others."

That's why he plans on finding time for community service even after getting into law enforcement.

"The FBI involves a lot of travel, and I know that for the first five or six years I might not be able to do everything that I am doing now," he says. "But eventually I would like to be able to do community service and be involved in helping people. That is something that I really enjoy doing."

Just as Cameron's first students were prepared for an agricultural life in meeting the school's then-mission, Wyatt Kennedy is a shining example of a CU student who is on track to fulfill the goals of Cameron's present mission: preparing students for professional success, responsible citizenship, life-long learning, and meaningful contributions to a rapidly changing world.

- Jim Horinek





# CRUISE ON HOME

CAMERON UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2010

**FEB. 15-20, 2010**

## MAIN EVENTS

**FRIDAY, FEB. 19**

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT  
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME BANQUET  
BONFIRE**

**SATURDAY, FEB. 20**

**AGGIE FAMILY AND FRIENDS AWARDS BRUNCH  
TAILGATE PARTY  
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. EAST CENTRAL**

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO ONLINE AT [WWW.CAMERON.EDU/HOMECOMING](http://WWW.CAMERON.EDU/HOMECOMING)  
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