



Cutting the ribbon at the dedication of the Ingram School of Engineering are President Denise Trauth, donors Bruce and Gloria Ingram, Texas State University System Chancellor Charles Matthews, Ingram School Director Harold Stern, Dean of Science Hector Flores and Provost Perry Moore. The school was officially dedicated April 17 on the fifth floor of the Mitte Building.

Texas Rangers history in film

Texas State and Texas History Films are teaming up to document the tumultuous history of the Texas Rangers. The multi-part documentary and a companion feature-length version will trace the history of the world-famous law enforcement organization from its paramilitary origins in the early 19th century through the 20th century.

"I can't believe the story has never been done before," said Quincy Lowman, president of Elephant Productions, which is doing the creative work for Texas History Films. "The Texas Rangers were protectors of the frontier, hard-nosed crime fighters, fearsome vigilantes and are now elite investigators. They were legendary and sometimes controversial. It's a remarkable subject for a documentary."

Frank de la Teja, chair of the Department of History, is the university's representative on the project's advisory panel. Graduate students from the public history program will work with Elephant Productions on the project, giving them first-hand experience in historical documentary filmmaking.

The series will be based on a two-volume history by Robert Utley – *Lone Star Justice: the First Century of the Texas Rangers* and *Lone Star Lawmen: The Second Century of the Texas Rangers*. Utley is former chief historian of the National Park Service and author of 16 books on the American West, including the best-selling *The Lance and the Shield: The Life and Times of Sitting Bull*.

Lowman is currently seeking Texas Rangers memorabilia and can be contacted at his office in Austin, 512.302.3130 or by e-mail at qlowman@elephantproductions.com. Financing for the \$1.5 million budget is being sought through grants and private donations to the university for the project.



Chupacabra — it's a coyote

A strange, hairless, bluish, doglike corpse made big news this fall until its identification by Texas State biologists.

The odd beast had turned up during the summer on a ranch outside the small town of Cuero, and almost immediately people began to compare it to the bedtime horror, the chupacabra. Rancher Phyllis Canion found the dead animal and preserved its head in her freezer, creating an opportunity for DNA testing. Hairless creatures have been spotted before in the region, with evidence normally consisting of blurry photography, low-light video and other untestable pieces. But this time was different.

Joe Conger of KENS 5 News provided a tissue sample from Canion's animal to Texas State's John Baccus, director of the Wildlife Ecology Program, who passed it on to biologist Michael Forstner's lab, which does DNA testing on a large number of different kinds of animals from bats to toads. The television station paid for the testing, so it got scoop rights on announcing the results.

"Not often do we have genetic materials available from an animal that has been linked to a legendary myth," Forstner said. "This is fun, not scary, but if people are worried about the chupacabra, it is probably even more important that we explain the mystery."

The suspense built as testing proceeded, then came the answer, far more mundane than the exotic supernatural creature. It turned out to be a coyote (*Canis latrans*). But a question remained: Why did this coyote look so un-coyotelike?

"That is the best part about science: The first answers often lead to more questions and then better explanations of the world we live in," Forstner said. "We've taken additional skin samples, and we'll try to determine the cause of the hair loss. It's been a very different experience for my students as they worked on this with all the media attention. It's been remarkable for them, seeing both the power of the media and their work on this project come together."

Ranch is site for forensic facility

Freeman Ranch, located five miles northwest of San Marcos, is the location of the university's new Forensic Research Facility, a five-acre open-air lab where forensic anthropologists study decomposing bodies.

The acreage is surrounded by high-security fencing and located at least one mile from

all properties bordering the ranch. Within it, human bodies that have been donated to the facility are allowed to decompose in a natural environment.

The facility, an integral part of a graduate program in forensic anthropology, will train scientists and assist law enforcement officials in establishing the time and nature of death when bodies are found. It will also provide training in the identification of skeletal and dental remains. Workshops for law enforcement personnel at the facility will include crime-scene training, human identification, cadaver dog training and numerous other subjects. Support for the facility has come from state and national law enforcement agencies.

During the first several years of operation, there will be no more than five or six bodies at the facility at any one time. Netting and fencing will keep intruders

out of the facility, including scavengers and predators such as vultures and coyotes.

The university has operated the 3,500-acre Freeman Ranch since 1985. The facility at the ranch is the only one like it in the Southwest or West and only the third in the country. Others are located in Tennessee and North Carolina.

Big economic impact

A new study released in the spring quantifies the impressive economic impact that Texas State has on Hays County, the Central Texas region and the State of Texas. Based on data from the fiscal year ending on Aug. 31, 2006, the study concluded that Texas State has a \$545 million annual economic impact on Hays County, a three-quarter billion dollar annual impact (\$749 million) on the region and a near billion dollar annual impact (\$960 million) on

the state of Texas. This translates into an employment impact of 9,314 jobs in Hays County, 11,530 jobs in Central Texas and 13,847 jobs in Texas.

The economic impact study was the work of James LeSage, holder of the McCoy Endowed Chair in Urban and Regional Economics in the Department of Finance and Economics in the McCoy College of Business Administration.

People

Recently named members of The Texas State University System Board of Regents are **Charlie Amato** of San Antonio, chairman of Southwest Business Corpora-



Champion water skiers are, front from left bottom, Kevin Shimek, Katy Brantley, Bobby Hall, Christa Hamilton, John Bryant, Ashley Goddard; middle row, Megan Benton, Taylor Newton, Cody Packer, Braden Echols, Travis Hall, Sean Whitehead, Wes Pratt; top, Allison Pasch, Sydney Belcher.

Country's best water skiers

Texas State's water ski sports club team swept the national title at the 29th Collegiate Water Ski National Championships this fall in Zachary, La. The 13-member team competed against 20 of the nation's best collegiate teams. After Texas State's top finish came teams from the University of California-Davis; the universities of Michigan, Illinois and North Carolina, Texas A&M and San Diego State.

Under direction of the Department of Campus Recreation, the water ski team is the university's oldest active sport club, established in the 1970s. The team practices at Utopia River Ranch, a private water ski training facility near Staples.

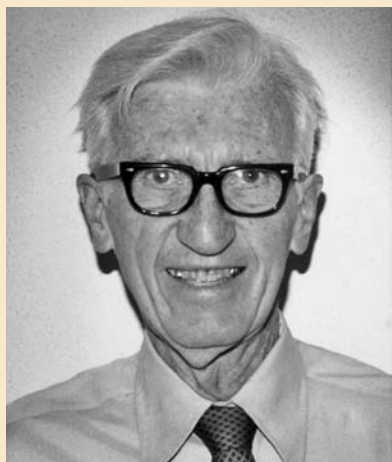


Joann Mitte 1932-2007

Joann Cole Mitte, who graduated in the class of 1953 and became a major donor to the university, died Dec. 4 in Austin at age 75.

Her husband, Roy F. Mitte, had preceded her in death on Jan. 27, 2007. The Joann Cole Mitte Art Building bears her name. Joann Mitte was named a Distinguished Alumna in 1998, and she and her husband were awarded honorary degrees in 2005 and received the President's Excellence Award in 1997.

tion and graduate of Sam Houston State University; **Ron Blatchley** of Bryan, co-owner of BMB Homes residential construction company and graduate of Sam Houston; and **Michael Truncale** of Beaumont, senior partner at Orgain Bell & Tucker, graduate of Lamar University and the University of North Texas with a law degree from Southern Methodist University. **Trisha Pollard** of Bellaire, vice president of Pollard Development and a graduate of Sam Houston and South Texas College of Law, was appointed to the board last year.



Norman Whalen 1920-2008

Norman Whalen, Department of Anthropology professor emeritus, died Feb. 27 at age 87 in Tucson, Ariz., where he had retired after 31 years of teaching at Texas State.

Whalen was a decorated pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II, having flown 75 successful missions over Europe and North Africa. After the war he went to seminary and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest, serving Arizona parishes and the Diocese of Tucson as historian for more than 25 years.

He dedicated the last half of his life to research and teaching. He came to Texas State in 1971, the year he earned his PhD in anthropology. For the next three decades he taught the ancient cultures of the American Southwest, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. He conducted archaeological surveys in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Jordan and Oman, his last at age 83. He was a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and the Explorers Club.

Faculty-Staff

Hyun Jung Yun, political science, made history at the University of Florida-Gainesville by earning two doctorates — one in political science and one in journalism — at the same time. She picked up both PhD's in May 2007 before joining the Texas State faculty.

Jack Ransone, health, physical education and recreation, director of the Athletic Training Program, has been selected to be medical coordinator for the U.S. track and field team during the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, China.

Jian Shen, mathematics, was named a Kavli Frontiers Fellow by the National Academy of Science and invited to participate in the Kavli Frontiers of Science Symposium in the fall, the academy's premiere activity to train young scientists to be future leaders in the field. He was one of only two Texans invited.

Final Conversations: Helping the Living and the Dying Talk to Each Other by **Maureen Keeley**, communication studies, has been named Book of the Year 2007 in the consumer health category by the *American Journal of Nursing*.

Wayne Sorensen, health administration, has been named the recipient of one of two American College of Healthcare Executives 2008 Gold Medal Awards, the highest award given by the ACHE.

Annie Brooks, educational administration and psychological services, won the Best Article of the Year award from the research journal *Human Resource Development Quarterly* at the 2008 Academy of Human Resource Development International Conference for her research on race and ethnicity in the workplace, co-authored by doctoral student **Tamara Clunis**.

Paul Chapa, University Police Department, and his brother Anthony, who is with the Secret Service in Washington, D.C., both received the Aguila (Eagle) Award from the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, the association's highest honor, in October.

Students

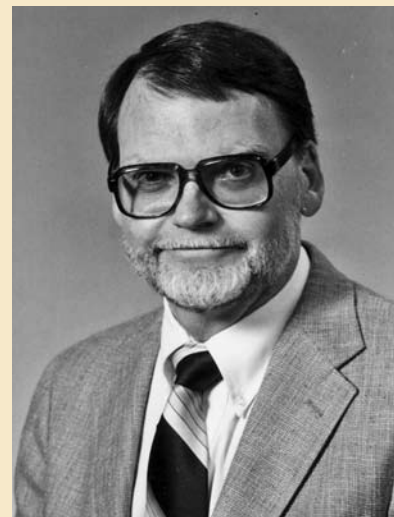
The Texas State **Wind Ensemble** was one of only three college bands invited to play for the College Band Directors National Association meeting in Kansas City in March.

Marc Speir, mass communication graduate student, was one of six winners in the annual "Filming Austin's Lives" contest hosted by KLRU-TV and News 8 Austin with this year's theme "Austin-tatious

Landmarks." The contest invited amateur and professional filmmakers to compose short films about true Austin landmarks, and Speir chose Chateau Bellevue, a mansion in downtown Austin that was built in 1874 and now houses the Austin Women's Club.

The **Texas State Renegades**, men's rugby team affiliated with Campus Recreation, captured the Division 2 State Championship at the Texas Rugby Union Championships held in March. The two-day final four consisted of the top men's competition in the state — the University of Dallas, North Texas, Texas State and Angelo State. The team has represented the university in intercollegiate rugby competitions since the late 1970s with the last state championship in 1987.

Brett Baker of Beaumont and **Jason Moore** of Dripping Springs were elected president and vice president of the Associated Student Government for 2008-09.



Jack Gravitt 1936-2008

Garland Jack Gravitt, dean of the College of Liberal Arts 1981-2000, died Feb. 23 at the age of 71.

Gravitt had joined the Department of English faculty in 1971 as an instructor and rose through the academic ranks to full professor before being named chair of English and then dean. He had taught at Wharton County Junior College and Southern Illinois before coming to Texas State. He was named a Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus upon his retirement in 2000.

Angela Ramirez, senior biology major from Raymondville, has been recognized as the National Representative of the Year for the Southern Region of the Hispanic Business Students Association for her exemplary student leadership.

Texas State's student chapter of the **Alpha Kappa Psi** professional business fraternity received the Chapter of Excellence Award at the organization's biennial convention in Washington, D.C., in the fall.

Maggie Lajaunie, graduate business student, was one of 15 students in the state to receive a \$10,000 scholarship from the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation in the fall, recognizing her entrepreneurial spirit and scholastic accomplishments.

Kappa Delta Pi student honor education society received the Achieving Chapter of Excellence Award at the biennial convention of the organization in the fall in Louisville, Ky., for completion of a rigorous two-year portfolio. The chapter was one of 22 out of 567 nationwide receiving the award.

Texas State's **Marcsmen Barbershop Chorus** was awarded the trophy for top honors at the Barbershop Harmony Society's first International Barbershop Youth

Chorus Festival in San Antonio on Jan. 26. The chorus, composed of 35 members under the direction of Brent Dunavant, competed against 200 students from six states, Canada and New Zealand.

The student chapter of the **American Marketing Association** finished second overall this spring in the AMA Case competition during the annual AMA International Collegiate Conference in New Orleans. Texas State was one of

eight finalists from a field of 56 entries in the competition. First place went to the University of Pennsylvania.

Sophomore **Elizabeth Loving** has been accepted to perform as an opera singer for the Schlern International Music Festival in Voels am Schlern, Italy, this summer. Schlern is a premier classical music festival set apart from other summer programs by its unique combination of studying with some of the finest musicians. ★



Receiving honorary degrees at the morning commencement May 9 were Miriam and Emmett McCoy of San Marcos. At right is their son Brian McCoy. The McCoy, for whom the McCoy College of Business Administration and McCoy Hall are named, are donors of the largest gift ever received by the university, \$20 million to the business school. Brian McCoy spoke for his parents at the commencement.



Get ready.

In life, you get to choose your own destinations:

- advanced education
- new home
- growing family
- your own business
- comfortable retirement

But in the long run, you'll want someone you trust to come along. So give Broadway a call. We'll be with you every step of the way.

B BROADWAY BANK
Member FDIC

Charlton Laird, Market Manager
301 N. CM Allen Pkwy • San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 805-0972

28 other neighborhood locations
(210) 283-6500 • (800) 531-7650
broadwaybank.com

BB11581 0308