

BY WENDY KILMER

February

- 1 MT at Texas Tech, 2 p.m.
 1-2 TR at J.D. Martin Indoor Invitational, Norman, Okla.
 1-3 SB at St. Mary's Tournament
 2 WT, Collin County C.C., 9 a.m.
 MT, Lamar, noon
 BB, Delta State (2), 2 p.m.
 WT, Midwestern State, 2 p.m.
 *WBB at A&M-Kingsville, 2 p.m.
 *MBB at A&M-Kingsville, 4 p.m.
 3 BB, Delta State, 1 p.m.
 MT at SMU, 2 p.m.
 7 *WBB, West Texas A&M, 6 p.m.
 *MBB, West Texas A&M, 8 p.m.
 7-9 SB, CBS Insurance Classic, Abilene
 8 BB, Southern Arkansas (2), 2 p.m.
 WT at Wichita State, TBA
 MT, Trinity, 2 p.m.
 MT, Midwestern State, 7 p.m.
 9 *WBB, Texas Woman's, 2 p.m.
 WT at SMU, Wichita, Kan., TBA
 10 WT, Northeastern State, TBA
 13 *WBB at Eastern N.M., 6:30 p.m.
 *MBB at Eastern N.M., 9 p.m.
 14-16 Theatre Winter Classic: *The Crucible*, Fulks Theatre
 15-16 Sing Song; Spring Preview Weekend
 TR at Tyson Indoor Invitational, Fayetteville, Ark.
 17 *WBB, Angelo State, 2 p.m.
 *MBB, Angelo State, 4 p.m.
 19 BB at St. Mary's, 3 p.m.
 20 *WBB at Tarleton State, 6 p.m.
 *MBB at Tarleton State, 8 p.m.
 21-23 Theatre Winter Classic: *The Crucible*, Fulks Theatre
 22 *BB, Central Oklahoma, 6 p.m.
 WT at Cincinnati, 7 p.m.
 22-23 TR at Sooner Indoor Invitational, Norman, Okla.
 23 SB at Incarnate Word (2), 1 p.m.
 *BB, Central Oklahoma (2), 2 p.m.
 *WBB, Midwestern State, 6 p.m.
 *MBB, Midwestern State, 8 p.m.
 24 WT at Lipscomb, Richmond, Ky., 8 a.m.
 SB at St. Mary's (2), 1 p.m.
 *BB, Central Oklahoma, 2 p.m.
 26 SB, Midwestern State (2), 5 p.m.
 27 *WBB at West Texas A&M, 6 p.m.
 *MBB at West Texas A&M, 8 p.m.
 28 SB, Cameron (2), 5 p.m.
 28-29 TR at New York University Fast Track Invitational, New York

Legend for calendar:

BB, baseball; G, men's golf; MBB, men's basketball; MT, men's tennis; SB, softball; TR, track; WBB, women's basketball; and WT, women's tennis
 *Lone Star Conference

Campus-wide emergency notification system launched

In a continuing effort to ensure the safety of the campus community, ACU recently purchased a new emergency notification system. Powered by e2Campus OMNILERT, ACU ALERT enables the university to send urgent messages to the cell phones and email accounts of all registered students and employees.

"ACU ALERT is a simple, yet effective way to notify subscribers simultaneously of an urgent or emergency situation," said Chief Jimmy Ellison of the ACU Police Department. "In today's society, cell phones and computers have become the preferred method to communicate for most. With ACU ALERT, we will be able to reach subscribers quickly with important information that may end up saving their lives."



While ACU ALERT is a free service to all students and employees, users must enroll in the system. Depending on the users' personal cell phone plan, there may be a nominal fee from the carrier to receive text messages.

"We will continue to alert the ACU community about emergency situations and urgent matters through traditional methods, such as university wide broadcast emails, online updates via myACU and the ACU homepage, and the coordinated use of public media outlets," said Ellison. "One of the great things about the ACU ALERT technology is that we can be confident the maximum number of people are notified of a situation in a timely manner."▲

School of Social Work students and faculty research juvenile diabetes

ACU graduate students and faculty are working to help children diagnosed with juvenile diabetes cope with the social and psychological impact of the disease.

Social work students enrolled in Foundations of Evidence-Based Practice spent the fall semester researching best-practice evidences in treating the psychosocial aspects of juvenile diabetes. This spring, the students will conduct focus groups to further their research.

ACU's School of Social Work is the first in the nation with an emphasis on evidence-based practice (EBP), and this project gave students the chance to apply their research skills to a specific need in the community.

"Now that I know it is part of a larger project, it means a lot more," said Stephanie Daniel, a student in the Master of Science in Social Work program. "It allows me to focus on a topic that will affect people. I'm definitely a lot more knowledgeable than I was before."

For two of the social work faculty involved, the disease has had effects beyond the classroom. Darrell Jordan, assistant professor of social work, co-teaches the course

with Dr. Paul Ammons ('69), professor and director of the School of Social Work. Jordan's mother died of diabetic complications, and he has remained active in awareness and education programs related to diabetes. Dr. Tanya Brice, associate professor of social work, has a 12-year-old daughter who has Type 1 diabetes.

Brice and Jordan had discussed the need for more support and awareness locally, and they saw the potential for their students to explore the research and practice related to the disease.

"I started thinking that if we were going to start up a support group or something similar, we didn't need to reinvent the wheel," Jordan said. "We want to identify the best practices of the research that is already available."

The students identified 80 best-practice studies, and the School of Social Work is working to partner with area diabetic healthcare providers to examine information revealed in research. Physicians, nurses, social workers, parents and juvenile diabetic children are being invited to participate in several focus groups scheduled to begin in January.

Two of the primary practices to be explored are storytelling techniques and bibliotherapy.

"We envision working with the children to create books or even

DVDs that allow children and teens to tell their own stories to their peers," Jordan said.

The stories offered in bibliotherapy are often helpful in offering insight to the issues affecting newly diagnosed children. It also allows patients to examine their illness from a safe distance so they can grasp their situation without facing it directly.

Three types of illness storytelling will be discussed: *chronic stories*, which speak to the disruption that illness causes in the child's life and family; *restitution stories*, which are centered on a desire to find a cure for their illness or learning to be strong and disciplined; and *quest stories*, which share a life story as a journey and express the individual's chronic illness as part of a journey.

Ideally, the books or other media will be made available to healthcare providers of newly diagnosed children, who will then be able to read about their new illness and learn how it has affected the life of someone their age.

The project is designed to be self-sustaining, with a business model in which the youth will elect officers, and create and operate a non-profit agency.

If you are interested in participating in the research focus groups, email Jordan at dwj07a@acu.edu.▲

iTunes U features ACU on its own innovative Web site

ACU was recently selected as one of 28 universities in the nation to be featured on Apple's iTunes U site. Abilene Christian is the only private among three Texas universities featured.

"We are very excited about sharing the list with such schools as MIT, Duke and UC Berkeley," said Carmen (McCollum '79) Foster, director of Web communication.

In May 2006, Apple announced the launch of its iTunes U category in the iTunes Store, dedicated to colleges and universities providing free content to the public. Featured content includes course lectures, language lessons, lab demonstrations and sports highlights.

ACU has made available for download different types of content for the public. Speeches, lectures, academic programs, recordings from student bands, student media publications and videos, as well as information about campus life and ACU history can all be downloaded to an iPod, PC or Macintosh.

"We believe that the content included on ACU's site will appeal to everyone," Foster said. "Whether you're interested in learning something new, or just want to stay connected to ACU, we have something for everyone. And the



best part is that it's available to you anytime, anywhere."

As a featured university, users may find ACU content by searching the iTunes U section of the iTunes Store.

In the summer of 2006, Abilene Christian was invited to participate in Apple's iTunes U through the ACU Online distance education program. That content was only available behind a login.

Later that same semester, ACU's Adams Center for Teaching and Learning launched a pilot program involving several professors to determine the most effective way to present course content to the public. After the research was complete, the university committed resources to sharing ACU's academic content on a larger scale.

"Our involvement in iTunes U raises the visibility of our academic excellence, strengthens our position as a top quality private university and continues our leadership role in the areas of technology and learning," Foster said.

To view ACU on iTunes U,

visit itunes.acu.edu. iTunes software, a free download from apple.com/itunes, is required.▲

ACU named to advisory board for Google Apps

Google recently named ACU to the first Customer Advisory Board for Google Apps, a group consisting of six universities from across the nation. ACU fully deployed Google Apps for education products seven months ago.

"We are excited Google has asked us to join this group," said ACU chief information officer Kevin Roberts ('88). "The number of participating schools on this list is short and includes some of the nation's most elite institutions."

The board also includes Arizona State University, Central Piedmont Community College, Northwestern University, the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and the University of Southern California.

The board will help Google set strategic priorities for their Google Apps for Education product.

ACU has partnered with Google since April 11, 2007, giving students, faculty and staff access to Gmail, Google Calendar, Documents, Spreadsheets and Google Talk.▲

Digest



Bryce

Herridge

New director of ministry events, registrar announced

Brady Bryce ('95) has been named director of ministry events. Bryce earned a B.A., M.S. and M.Div. from ACU, and he will graduate in June 2008 with a Ph.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary. He served as preaching minister at Singing Oaks Church of Christ in Denton the past eight years.

Bart Herridge ('91) is now registrar and director of academic records.

Randolph named MIT chaplain

Dr. Robert Randolph ('62) was officially installed Sept. 30 as the first-ever chaplain of Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. Randolph, a 2001



winner of ACU's Distinguished Alumni Citation, had been senior associate dean in the Office of the Dean for Student Life. His career at MIT has spanned more than 25 years.

Randolph is the grandson of the late E.W. McMillan, former chair of ACU's Bible department and minister of the College Church of Christ (now University Church of Christ).

De La Garzas receive parent award

Mario and Hermila De La Garza of Denton were honored in Chapel Sept. 28 as Wildcat Parents of the Year. The couple was nominated by their daughter, Angie De La Garza, an ACU senior. Three of the four De La Garza children attended ACU.

Mario is a graduate of the Sunset School of Preaching in Lubbock and has spent almost 40 years as a preacher and minister. Hermila is a bilingual teacher in Denton Independent School District.



ACU president Dr. Royce Money with Hermila, Mario and Angie De La Garza.

March

- 1 *WBB, A&M-Kingsville, 2 p.m.
*BB, A&M-Kingsville (2), 3 p.m.
*MBB, A&M-Kingsville, 4 p.m.
- 5 National Bible Bowl
- 7 *BB, West Texas A&M, 6 p.m.
*SB, Texas Woman's, 7 p.m.
TR, ACU Track and Field Open
- 8 *SB, Texas Woman's (2), 1 p.m.
*BB, West Texas A&M (2), 2 p.m.
- 9 *BB, West Texas A&M, 2 p.m.
- 12-15 TR at NCAA Division II Indoor Championships, Mankato, Minn.
- 14 *BB, East Central, 6 p.m.
- 15 *BB, East Central (2), 2 p.m.
- 16 *BB, East Central, 2 p.m.
- 17-21 Spring Break
- 18 SB, Northeastern State (2), 1 p.m.
BB, Hardin-Simmons, ACU, 6 p.m.
- 22 TR at Dr. Pepper Invitational, Waco
- 28 *BB, Eastern N.M., 6 p.m.
TR, Oliver Jackson Open, Abilene
- 28-30 SB at LSC Crossover Tourn., Irving
- 29 *BB, Eastern N.M. (2), 2 p.m.
- 30 *BB, Eastern N.M., 2 p.m.

April

- 2-5 TR at Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays
- 3-5 TR at Stanford Invitational
- 4 *BB, Angelo State, 6 p.m.
*SB, Angelo State, 7 p.m.
- 5 *SB, Angelo State (2), 1 p.m.
*BB, Angelo State (2), 2 p.m.
- 6 *BB, Angelo State, 2 p.m.
- 8 BB, Texas-Permian Basin, 3 p.m.
- 10-12 Spring Dinner Theatre: *Sabrina Fair*, Fulks Theatre
- 11 WT-MT at Harding, 2 p.m.
- 12 TR at Texas Tech Invitational
- 18 *BB, Cameron, 6 p.m.
*SB, Eastern New Mexico, 7 p.m.
- 18-19 Spring Dinner Theatre: *Sabrina Fair*
TR at Michael Johnson Classic, Waco
- 19 *SB, Eastern N.M. (2), 1 p.m.
*BB, Cameron (2), 2 p.m.
- 20 *BB, Cameron, 2 p.m.
- 21-22 G, LSC Championships, Abilene
- 22 BB, Incarnate Word, 3 p.m.
- 23-26 TR at Penn Relays Carnival
- 24-26 TR at Drake Relays
- 25 *BB, Tarleton State, 6 p.m.
- 25-26 Spring Dinner Theatre: *Sabrina Fair*
MT, LSC Tournament, Abilene
- 25-27 WT, LSC Tournament, Abilene
- 26 *BB, Tarleton State (2), 2 p.m.
- 27 *BB, Tarleton State, 2 p.m.



iPhone research groups on campus study uses of new technology

This fall, Abilene Christian University began exploring the campus-wide benefits of converged mobile devices such as the Apple iPhone in higher education.

In a pilot study of faculty and educational technology developers, the group is researching learning applications for smart phones and media players. In addition, ACU is exploring how these converged mobile devices can help foster community on campus and facilitate administrative tasks.

For a number of years, ACU faculty and technology staff have been studying strategic opportunities presented by handheld devices in higher education. Changing technology has enabled various companies to release PDAs and smart phones that allow users to send text messages, check email, take pictures, listen to music and download information, said ACU chief information officer Kevin Roberts ('88).

"The creation of Apple's iPhone – which offers many popular services in one device – has made what we see as the first really compelling solution," Roberts said.

A small case study group has been analyzing ways to use the iPhone as a learning tool – both in and out of the classroom – and as a way to enhance the university community.

"We are very excited about the possibilities that the iPhone offers the learning process, both inside and outside the classroom," said Dr. Bill Rankin, associate professor of English and director of ACU's iPhone educational research team. "We have a vision for creative ways to enhance the learning experience

using a portable device, and we hope to learn more as our pilot group uses the iPhone every day in the academic setting."

ACU also developed a group of student researchers to investigate different ways to use the iPhone in higher education.

"We are excited about adding a group of students to our research teams," Rankin said. "The high energy each team will bring to the table will most certainly help us discover richer uses of this technology."

Fifty faculty and staff have been equipped with iPhones or iPod touches. The iPod touch has many of the same features as the iPhone, including a touch screen, WiFi internet, and the ability to play music, movies and podcasts. The iPod touch, however, does not include phone and camera capabilities.

Each faculty/staff research team is charged with testing the devices in classroom settings or social settings, exploring how this technology might enhance university life. During the course of the two-year study, each researcher will be required to produce a minimum of two minor projects per semester and one major project per year. Blogging about their findings and experiences, as well as writing white papers and making presentations, will be expected from all researchers.

"Our task is to 'make knowledge' about the use of converged devices like the iPhone in higher education," Rankin said. "This is an emerging technology that, to date, has had little in-depth study of benefits and challenges.

Through its concerted research efforts, ACU wants to change that and make the results of such studies available to others."

Like their faculty and staff counterparts, the student researchers will work to

produce useful results.

"Student involvement in this research will help us think through how converged mobile devices will connect students socially, in the classroom and in their communities," Rankin said.

ACU also sponsors a blog – iThinkEd.com – dedicated to information about iPhones and other media devices.▲

Sixteen online degree programs now offered

This spring, ACU is offering 16 online bachelor's and master's degree programs. In addition to its current two master's degrees, ACU will add six master's degrees, a graduate certificate, and a bachelor's degree-completion program with seven areas of emphasis.

The university has partnered with Embanet Unlimited Corporation, a pioneer in full-service online education provision, to provide these new opportunities.

ACU Online's Bachelor of Applied Studies degree-completion program offers emphases in Family and Community Services, Gerontology, Human and Professional Administration, Information Technology Services and Administration, Liberal Arts, Sociology and Sociology/Criminal Justice. In addition to the current master's degree that prepares school principals, ACU Online now offers several other options for the Master of Education, including Reading Specialist and Special Education. Master's degrees in Higher Education and Organizational and Human Resource Development round out the new degrees.

Building on the strength of ACU's current master's degree in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation, all online master's degrees include courses in conflict resolution.

"By expanding our offerings to non-residential adults, we allow people from literally all over the world to obtain a high-quality Christian education," said Dr. Carol Williams, associate provost for distance education.

For more information, visit www.onlineacu.com.▲

Sing Song to take audiences on a 'World Tour'

The 2008 Sing Song "World Tour" hits Moody Coliseum Feb. 15-16. Tickets are available at www.acu.edu/singsong.

The theme reflects the idea of a rock concert tour, and host/hostess performances will showcase the idea of various destinations.

This year's hosts and hostesses are Kari Anderson, senior from Inkster, Mich.; Isaac Bray, junior from Abilene; Benay Dennis, senior from Rio Vista; Ben Reeves, junior from Abilene; Marci Rodriguez, senior from Snyder; Elizabeth Anne Russell, senior from College Station; and Anna Peters, junior from Houston.

"These individuals represent an enormous amount of talent at ACU," said Tom Craig ('89), director of student productions.

Co-chairs this year are Ashlea Allred, senior from Bedford; Jana Atchley, senior from Grapevine; Matt Greenberg, senior from Grand Prairie; and Britton New, senior from Fort Worth.



In the group acts, a new group joins the "mixed voices" category – a blended group from International Students' Association, Essence of Ebony and Hispanos Unidos.

This year, 30 judges will assess the competing groups. Judges are a mix of alumni, friends and professional musicians. Former



2007 Sing Song hostess Shalea Rhodes

Sing Song brings alumni together to re-live the excitement

Former Sing Song hostess Sharon (Hickey '89) Fuston was so excited when she received an invitation to be Sing Song judge that she had to pull her car over on the side of the road.

"I have always wanted to come back and judge Sing Song," Fuston said. "Any chance I get to be a part of Sing Song is wonderful, and now my daughters and husband can experience the excitement with me."

The management team for Sing Song is making the annual production more of a reunion event, including asking former Sing Song leaders to be judges for the club and class competitions.

"For more than 50 years, students have bonded during Sing Song, so it's a natural time to come back and relive those memories," said Tom Craig ('89), director of Student Productions. "It's a great opportunity to capitalize on synergy that already exists."

A total of 30 judges will be involved in Sing Song, including three vocal judges for each performance and seven category judges per show. They will evaluate appearance on Friday night, originality on Saturday



ALUMNI NOTES
Amber Peck

afternoon and entertainment on Saturday night. Judges will include alumni and music professionals.

Joey Roberts ('99) also has agreed to serve as a judge. When he was in school, he worked on the technical crew and served on the production staff, in addition to performing with his class for two years.

"As a student, we always wanted to put on a good show for the alumni, our friends and our family," he said. "Sing Song is known throughout the nation, even to people not linked to ACU. This production is more than just another Homecoming-type event, it's an outreach tool. I was, and will be this year, glad to be a part of the tradition of excellence."

Craig said, "Sing Song is like a mini-Homecoming, but without as many activities, so there's more time

hosts, hostesses, co-chairs and production staff members from 10, 20 and 30 years ago were especially targeted this year. These 10-, 20- and 30-year groups also will be the target audience for the second Backstage Reunion after the Saturday night show in Scruggs Gym.

"It's a time and place where alumni, family and friends can visit with each other and students," Craig said. "We did this last year, and it was a great success."

A team of people coordinate and advise the students who create Sing Song. Along with Craig, the team includes Mauri (Marzolino '02) Westbrook, director of student organizations; Mark Lewis (M.M.F.T. '95), director of student spiritual formation; Amber (McElyea '96) Peck, assistant vice president for alumni relations and university events; Kristin (Behrends '92) Ward, adjunct music faculty; and Dr. Steven Ward ('92), director of bands.

For the first time, Sing Song has received support in the form of grants from the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council, the City of Abilene and the Texas

Digest

A&E Homecoming honors presented

Billy Kniffen ('71) was named Outstanding Aggie Alumnus for 2005 at the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Aggie Homecoming Banquet in October. For 24 years, Kniffen has been a County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources with the Texas Cooperative Extension.

The department also named Alvaro Bellini ('98) and Brent Jameson ('98) as Outstanding Young Professionals. Bellini is partner and president of JLA:Brazil, which provides technical support for the international food and beverage industry, and Jameson is corporate human resources director for J-W Operating Company.

Jacob's Dream a family affair

Surrounded by friends, family and a towering bronze sculpture, Matt ('07)



and Katie (Riggs'07) Maxwell said their "I do"s. Of course, the *Jacob's Dream* sculpture is like family for Matt, whose father, Jack Maxwell ('78) is its creator. Not only was it the first wedding to be performed at the sculpture site, but as minister Mike Cope put it, "No father

ever spent so much time preparing for his son's wedding as Matt's dad has."

New scholarship endowments

Recently created endowed scholarships at ACU include:

- Smitty and Carl Brecheen Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Edwin Dubose Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Dwain Hart Endowed Scholarship
- Paul and Margaret Southern Endowed Scholarship

For information about contributing to or creating an endowed scholarship, call Barbara (Tubbs '71) Hejl in the Stewardship Office at 325-674-2600.

Errata

On page 24 of the Fall 2007 issue, we incorrectly stated the number of countries from which ACU and other Christian universities its size attract students. ACU typically enrolls students from 60 nations. The information was intended to be from a 2005 Open Doors report, based on data submitted to the Institute for International Education. It should have read:

Harding University has 53 countries represented in its student body, while Oklahoma Christian University has approximately 40. Azusa Pacific and Anderson University – members of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, like ACU and OCU – have 71 and 53, respectively. The total number of those enrolled at ACU in 2006-07 who held non-immigrant student visas (F-1 and J-1) was approximately 210.