Foundation News

Judd Hill Center
Breaking New Ground

Fall 2005
A Practical Purpose

Purpose seems to be making a comeback.

It’s a simple concept, really. So basic and fundamental that it seems to easily become one of those foundational aspects of life that get overlooked. We get so caught up in everything we do; it’s easy for us to lose touch with why we’re actually doing it.

Most of us find ourselves being driven by a schedule that in the grand scheme of things has little purpose at the end of the day. When it’s all said and done, we’ve met our deadlines and achieved our quotas, but every once in a while, we find ourselves wondering what all it means for the greater good.

In the years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, we have seen tangible evidence that all of us are looking for a greater meaning and purpose in life. Just walk into your local bookstore and take a look at the books we’re buying. One such book addressing the issue of purpose has been on the best-seller list for nearly four years now. It’s clear that we’re looking for someone, or something, to help us grapple with the greater meaning of life.

All this has caused me to reflect on the purpose of what we do here at the Arkansas State University Foundation.

Sure, we get to help facilitate some pretty neat things. We enthusiastically watch new buildings reach skyward and alter the vista of our progressive campus; we build new roads, implement new programs and set higher and higher goals that we believe benchmark our success.

In higher education, we’re famous for our meandering mission statements and statements of purpose so convoluted that it’s often a challenge to make meaning of them.

When I think about the ASU Foundation’s role in the momentum we’re experiencing here at ASU, it’s simple. We’re here to help.

A gifted group of committed volunteers now leads the ASU Foundation, and what a help they are. They are enhancing the effectiveness of the Foundation perhaps more so than any time in its history. Charitable contributions are among some of the highest levels we have experienced. Your gifts are helping students, faculty and staff come together for a dynamic educational experience. New and ongoing research on our campus has the potential to help improve quality of life issues in some dramatic ways.

The great writer C.S. Lewis once said, “We are at our best, and most truly ourselves any time in its history. Charitable contributions are among some of the highest levels we have experienced. Your gifts are helping students, faculty and staff come together for a dynamic educational experience. New and ongoing research on our campus has the potential to help improve quality of life issues in some dramatic ways.”

Thanks for giving us your best.

Steve Watkins
There’s dirt being moved by Judd Hill, but this time it’s not for the cultivation of crops. The Judd Hill Foundation has made its third $1 million commitment to Arkansas State University to build a new home for the ASU Foundation, Inc.

A groundbreaking ceremony held September 10 signaled the beginning of construction of Judd Hill Center, home of the ASU Foundation.

“We are very excited and pleased about a new home for the ASU Foundation: the Judd Hill Center,” said ASU vice president for University Advancement Steve Owens, who also serves as president and chief operating officer of the ASU Foundation.

“This new facility will give the foundation its own identity, as well as provide much needed work space in which to conduct the foundation’s business and many outreach activities.”

“Within the 6,300 square-foot complex will be some of the most impressive and functional designs to be found on the ASU campus,” Owens said.

The new facility will be located just east of the new Cooper Alumni Center. Its floor plan recognizes three formal offices, a gallery, formal meeting and board room and kitchen whose spaces will work together and will be suitable for receptions, meeting and conferences. Space for state-of-the-art technology, an open reception area, storage and public restrooms are also incorporated into the design.

Additionally, a porch at Judd Hill Center’s north façade will overlook the lake that lies south of the ASU pavilion.

“It is a pleasure to make this gift on behalf of the Judd Hill Foundation for construction of this wonderful facility,” said Judd Hill Trustee Mike Gibson, who is a 1968 graduate of Arkansas State University and a member of the ASU Board of Trustees.

“I believe Mrs. Esther Chapin would be very pleased with the partnership these two foundations have developed for the betterment of education, conservation and agriculture.”

The philanthropic goals of the Judd Hill Foundation were established in 1994 to honor the wishes of the late Esther Hill Chapin of Poinsett County. Mrs. Chapin, who died in 1991, owned and operated Judd Hill Plantation, named for her father, Judd Hill.

During the 1930s, Judd Hill acquired wooded acreage in Poinsett County and made it a wedding gift to his daughter and her husband, Sam Chapin. The Chapins gradually cleared the land and developed it into one of the largest contiguous row crop farming operations in the Mid-South, with more than 4,600 acres.

The ASU Board of Trustees, with Gibson abstaining, voted on September 9 to name the new facility “Judd Hill Center, home of the ASU Foundation” in recognition of the Judd Hill Foundation’s gift of $1 million toward construction of the facility.

The Judd Hill Foundation made its first $1 million gift to ASU in May 1994 to establish the Judd Hill Chair in Environmental Biology. Dr. Robyn Hannigan, director of the ASU Environmental Sciences program, is the current chair holder.

A second million dollar gift was made in April 2004, creating an endowment to fund the Judd Hill Chair in Agricultural Biotechnology, which will support a distinguished faculty member who can devote research and service toward the study of disease resistance among plant varieties and the development of plant varieties that tolerate various soil types.

Since its inception in 1977, the Arkansas State University Foundation has evolved to play a primary role in the university’s growth. The foundation has more than $33.25 million in assets.

“As the ASU Foundation’s role has expanded, its operations, staff and the need for independent facilities has grown,” Owens said. “This new home for the foundation is an opportunity for greater understanding by all our constituencies — faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends — of the value the foundation adds to the overall mission of the university.”

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Judd Hill Center will house ASU Foundation
Mr. & Mrs. Loberg had five children, but in his mind, he had family that extended to his 700-plus employees, who he believed were just as important.

Tom Loberg believed if you treated people with dignity and respect, you’d get the same, and more, in return.

As a testament to their respect for Loberg, his friends and family have fully endowed a scholarship named in his memory, to benefit students in the College of Engineering at Arkansas State University. The announcement was made November 8 on the first anniversary of Loberg’s death.

Tom Loberg was the owner of Hytrol Conveyor, a company he founded in 1945 as Hydro-Controls in Milwaukee, Wis., that initially manufactured hydraulic pumps, as well as conveyors for agricultural feed and seed-related businesses.

Thanks to his natural curiosity and his abilities at drafting and engineering, Loberg revolutionized the design of his conveyors, creating a wider market that extended to multiple uses, including industrial manufacturing and assembly work.

Along with a hand-picked team of professionals, Loberg grew the company. So much so, that in 1962 Hytrol relocated its headquarters to a new 26,000 square foot manufacturing facility with 40 employees in Jonesboro.

Today, Hytrol is still in Jonesboro, but the site has expanded to more than 500,000 square feet, and is Jonesboro’s largest industrial employer. The company has 60 U.S. and 24 international distributors of its conveyors, selling them in 15 countries worldwide.

When Loberg died last year, his death prompted many questions by friends in Jonesboro and across the country about how they could honor his memory.

“The Loberg family decided Tom would have liked a scholarship at Arkansas State University because of Hytrol’s 40-plus years as a part of the community,” said Sherry Stringer, Hytrol’s chief financial officer. “Engineering was his first love, so the family believed it would be a fitting tribute.”

Family was important to Loberg, Stringer said, and not just his immediate family.

“Mr. & Mrs. Loberg had five children, but in his mind, he had family that extended to his 700-plus employees, who he believed were just as important,” she said. “He installed a family medical clinic and state-of-the-art fitness facility on site, and Hytrol has about the largest holiday party in the area. Close to 2,000 employees and their families, the Hytrol family, attend that party and receive gifts each year.”

Stringer said Hytrol employs many Arkansas State graduates in several different disciplines, including engineers. The company also trains ASU student engineers through an internship program.

Hytrol also has a scholarship program for children of its employees, many of whom choose to attend Arkansas State. Additionally, several ASU students work the second shift at Hytrol after attending classes during the day.

The Tom Loberg Memorial Scholarship will be available to junior- or senior-level students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering with a professional concentration in mechanical engineering.

What makes the Loberg scholarship unique is that part-time students, enrolled in at least six credit hours, will be eligible to apply for the award — the first privately funded scholarship available at ASU for a part-time student.

Tom long dreamed of becoming an engineer, according to Debra Lewis, Hytrol’s manager of administration. Because he was supporting a wife and family, she said, he was unable to attend school full-time, so he earned his degree by attending night school.

“Based on Tom’s experiences as a part-time student, his family believed if students are trying to make a better life for themselves and their families, even though they can only attend classes part-time, they should have an opportunity to qualify for this scholarship,” Lewis said.

“The Tom Loberg Memorial Scholarship will meet a great need in the College of Engineering,” said Steve Watkins, ASU director of University Development. “We are very pleased his friends and family honored him through this scholarship. It’s a wonderful legacy for a pioneer of Jonesboro’s manufacturing community.”
A FRIENDLY VOICE

Scholarship Honors Legacy Of Cleat Stanfill

He was “Mr. Radio” in Southeast Missouri. Although his voice has been silenced, Cleat Stanfill will long be remembered by the community surrounding Caruthersville, Mo.; so much so that the community came together before his death to honor him with a celebration that resulted in a gift to Arkansas State University's College of Communications.

Stanfill was one of the first graduates of the new Radio and Television Department in 1958 at Arkansas State College. Much of his career was spent broadcasting from KCRV, the town’s AM radio station.

“Cleat had a passion for radio and broadcast journalism,” said Caruthersville Mayor Diane Sayre. “He used his skills to impact our city—he was the man, the mouth of the Bootheel. His love for his work and his community was second only to his love for his family.”

Sayre said Stanfill used his broadcasting and journalistic skills to impact the city, whether it was through broadcasting school football and basketball games, serving in the Knights of Columbus, or with the “Meat on the Mississippi” committee, a local barbeque contest.

Eventually, the radio station sold, Sayre said, and Stanfill became public relations manager for the Southeast Missouri Workforce Investment Board, but continued to serve Caruthersville.

“We had no trouble selling tickets,” Sayre said. “It was such a small thing to do for such a big guy who was so devoted to his family and his community.”

Sayre said Stanfill and his entire family were present for the event, which was a sell-out. Prior to the concert, several civic groups presented Stanfill with certificates and plaques of appreciation for his community involvement. She said he was very pleased that his alma mater would benefit from the community’s generosity.

The community presented a gift of more than $33,000 to ASU Director of University Development Steve Watkins to fully endow the Cleat Stanfill Scholarship in Broadcast Journalism. The scholarship will benefit students from southeast Missouri coming to Arkansas State.

Sadly, Stanfill died in August. Sayre said the community has felt a tremendous void, and grieves along with the Stanfill family. But citizens of Caruthersville are happy that Cleat Stanfill will be remembered in perpetuity through the scholarship.

“You know, ASU is a family in itself — close to us here in Caruthersville, and folks like us feel at home with Arkansas State; it’s a good place and the community felt good enough about Cleat to help. That says a lot for ASU. The training he received is a tribute to his success as well as to the university.”

We think of the impact people make on our lives, and many times we wait too long to show our appreciation of them. We didn’t want to miss the opportunity to show Cleat how much he was loved in southeast Missouri.
Much more than a tip, privately funded scholarships have made countless differences in the lives of students at Arkansas State University.

One such scholarship, one of the oldest in existence, is the Orien and Eda Garner Horn Scholarship. Established as a memorial to their parents in 1978 by the four children of the Horns, the scholarship has aided more than 25 students with their college education in chemistry and the social sciences.

“The most valuable part of the Horn’s Scholarship for me was the free time it allowed me to be involved with campus life,” said Cheryl Hinck Speights, ’92. “I’m a child of educators, so the scholarship kept me from having to work while I went to school.”

Speights said she spent more time on campus, where she participated in a sorority and student groups. She also served as a student orientation director and was Student Government Association president. The social sciences graduate is now a counselor to fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at Nettleton’s Fox Meadow Intermediate Center in Jonesboro.

“I was a typical student,” said Mark Green, ’95. “My high school chemistry teacher started my interest in chemistry.”

Green said he started college at the University of Arkansas as a chemical engineering major but dropped out and went to work. Eventually he received a two-year math degree from ASU-Beebe before coming to ASU-Jonesboro.

Green was the first college graduate in his family. Now a lab technician at the Eastman Chemical Company in Barlettsville, Green said he uses chemistry every day “in some form or fashion.” In his work, Green is in charge of the spectroscopy portion of the lab, where he calibrates high-tech equipment.

“The Horn’s Scholarship was a big help and I was glad to get it,” he said. “It allowed me to do what I love. I am very grateful.”

Dr. Diann Schneider Thomas went through graduation exercises in 1994 with her two brothers; they, too, were the first college graduates in their immediate family. She said the Horn’s Scholarship enabled her to focus on chemistry and not on financing her education by working other jobs.

As a student at ASU, she served as president of the American Chemical Society for a semester and participated in NASA space and science research under the late Dr. David Chittenden.

Thomas currently is a part of the faculty at Missouri State University, where she is chemistry lab supervisor in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences. She designs curriculum for undergraduate laboratories and is heavily involved in the education aspect of the undergraduate programs in chemistry and women’s studies. Additionally, she works with middle school girls in southwest Missouri to nurture their interest in science.

“Receiving the Orien and Eda Garner Horn Scholarship allowed me to realize I did know what I was doing,” Thomas said. “It showed me there was someone who had faith in me and in my ability.”

The Horn’s connection to ASU was mostly through their children, all of whom attended Arkansas State. John Horn of Bartlesville, Okla. and his late sister, Alice Horn Bryant, were 1938 graduates; Orieda Horn Anderson of Moline, Ill., graduated from ASC in 1942, and the late Virgene Horn also attended Arkansas State. The family lived on what is now State Street in Jonesboro.

“The Orien and Eda Garner Horn Scholarship showed me there was someone who had faith in me and my ability.” — WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY

WHAT MONEY IS BETTER BESTOWED THAN THAT OF A SCHOOLBOY’S TIP? HOW THE KINDNESS IS RECALLED BY THE RECIPIENT IN AFTER DAYS!

— WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY

THE ORIEN AND EDA GARNER HORN SCHOLARSHIP SHOWED ME THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO HAD FAITH IN ME AND MY ABILITY.
The National Endowment for the Humanities in June awarded a $1 million challenge grant to Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, recognizing it as a part of NEH’s “We the People” initiative, which supports projects that strengthen the teaching, study and understanding of American history and culture.

The Lakeport Plantation Museum in Chicot County will receive $750,000 of the grant money toward its restoration, while $250,000 will be used to complete flooring, landscaping and disability access to the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum at Tyronza.

This new grant requires ASU to match the offered funds on a three-to-one basis, meaning ASU will be required to raise $3 million to match the grant amount within the next five years. Dr. Ruth Hawkins, director of ASU’s museums, said about two-thirds of that goal has been reached.

“This new grant requires ASU to match the offered funds on a three-to-one basis, meaning ASU will be required to raise $3 million to match the grant amount within the next five years. Dr. Ruth Hawkins, director of ASU’s museums, said about two-thirds of that goal has been reached.

“For example, if you consider Lakeport Plantation, you see the beginnings of agriculture through slave labor in the early 1800s, with clearing of the land and draining the swamps,” she explained. “We then see the collapse of that system and the rise of the tenant farmer system, a hard life in which tenants rose up in the 1930s to form what became a national union at Tyronza, whose leadership included women and minorities, to counter the abuses of some landowners.”

“At that era, we move on to Piggott, to see a positive side of that system in the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum, where Paul Pfeiffer, a country gentleman, served as a model landlord renting to tenants, many to whom he later sold the land they were farming. It’s really a great historical snapshot of Delta farming.

Hawkins said the museums at Lakeport and Tyronza will follow the lead of Hemingway-Pfeiffer in offering programs to a variety of publics, including seminars and conferences, distance learning and laboratories to enhance the classroom experience. At present, the Piggott museum offers programs to students from elementary school to ASU’s Heritage Studies doctoral students, as well as to interested individuals in the community. Additionally, the museum conducts several in-service training sessions for K-12 teachers.

When completed, Lakeport Plantation will feature exhibits about the families that lived and worked at Lakeport, and the transition in farming the land — from the use of slave labor to clear the frontier, to sharecropping and tenant farming, to farm mechanization and the exodus of African Americans to northern factories, to large-scale corporate farming.

At the Southern Tenant Farmers Museum, exhibits will chronologically tell the story of tenant life — from clearing the land in the earliest parts of the 20th century, to abuses of the tenant farmer system, which resulted in the formation of the union, led by H.L. Mitchell, who owned a dry cleaner, and Clay East, a filling station operator who shared building space with H.L. Mitchell. It is in the restored Mitchell-East building that the museum is located.

Hawkins said ASU competed with other institutions throughout the country, and was the only one to receive a grant as large as $1 million, an amount not typically awarded by the national Endowment for the Humanities. She said outside humanities experts review all applications and advise NEH on the quality and significance of each proposed project.

“NEH challenge grants contribute to the long-term viability and strength of America’s leading cultural institutions and their humanities programs,” said NEH Chairman Bruce Cole. “These grants encourage support from individual, foundation and corporate donors to benefit the cultural life of our communities and our nation.”

Hawkins said $750,000 of the grant has already been released to ASU. The balance will be released after final matching funds are raised.
The Dean B. Ellis Library on the Arkansas State University campus has implemented a program in which alumni, parents, students and friends may recognize others through charitable giving.

The Library Gift Book Program began during the celebration of the library's 90th anniversary as a depository for U.S. government documents, according to Dr. George Grant, dean of the Dean B. Ellis Library.

"The Dean B. Ellis Library at Arkansas State University is the second oldest federal depository library in Arkansas," Grant said. "The library was designated a federal depository library in 1913, and we believe Congressman Thaddeus H. Caraway was responsible for securing depository library status for ASU."

Grant said in recognition of the anniversary celebration, books were donated to the Dean B. Ellis Library to commemorate the occasion.

"There were books donated in memory of Dean Ellis and his wife, Helen Heinemann Ellis, and a book was donated in appreciation for each of the participants in the celebration, including U.S. Superintendent of Documents Judith Russell, Rep. Marion Berry and Dr. Les Wyatt. We believed it was an excellent way to recognize this important date in the life of the library."

Grant said the celebration was a great launching event for the Library Gift Program. Interested persons may now make a charitable gift to honor or memorialize a friend, acknowledge a mentorship, celebrate a special event (like a birth, marriage or wedding anniversary) or say "thank you" in a way that will create a lasting remembrance.

He noted the procedure to participate in the Library Gift Program has been created to take the guesswork out of choosing an appropriate title.

"Gifts of $50, or the actual cost of the book if it’s more than that amount, can be made to the ASU Foundation and designated to the Library Gift Program," Grant said. "Donors may suggest titles or areas of interest, or they may choose from a list of titles we have suggested on the program’s web page."

"Once the book has been procured and we receive it into the library, a permanent bookplate listing the origin of the gift and the occasion will be placed into the book. We’ll also list that book in the card catalog as a part of the Library Book Program, so a person searching online could enter the honoree’s name into a search, and the title would appear."

Grant said a certificate recognizing the gift will be presented to the donor, and the gift will also be recognized in regularly scheduled exhibits of the donated items in the library and on the library’s website.

"The Library Gift Book Program is an excellent way to let someone know you’re proud of them," said Jeff Bailey, head of the library’s Public Services Division.

"While we were developing this program, I was thinking of ways to make use of the program myself," Bailey said. "My daughter graduated from ASU shortly after the program was launched, so my wife and I donated a book in celebration of her graduation. She was genuinely touched by our donation, and she was very happy when she searched for her name in the library catalog and found it in the record."

"This is also a great way in which students can begin a lifetime of giving," Grant said. "What an excellent way to honor one’s parents—make a gift at graduation to say thanks to mom and dad. And it’s in the card catalog for as long as there’s a Dean B. Ellis Library."

Grant also suggested persons might wish to give a book a year, perhaps to honor one’s children, thank a professor, recognize a retirement or memorialize a member of the military.

"It’s a way to focus on the things we can do to make the campus work," he said. "It’s a way to focus on the things we can do to make the campus work, he said."

On the web: http://www.library.astate.edu/giftbook/
Retired Hairdresser Establishes Scholarship

Mrs. Fryer had known her second husband, Orby, since the tenth grade. After high school, Orby Fryer joined the U.S. Navy and later settled in the Midwest, where he was an inspector for an insurance company. The two met again 40 years later as they were planning the 50th anniversary of their high school graduation. He came back to Craighead County for the reunion and they started a friendship that resulted in their marriage a little over two years later. They were married 14 years.

The former Thylde Lee Merker grew up in as a member of one of Craighead County's pioneer families; she had five sisters and two brothers. She said her parents were strong role models who lead by example — especially when it came to learning.

“I can remember my mother reading the Kansas City Star to me and my siblings,” she said. “My parents always encouraged us in our school work.”

Growing up during the Great Depression, there wasn’t money to attend college, she said. The top student in her graduating class, Mrs. Fryer opted to marry while still in her teens, and then attended the LaVera Beauty School in Jonesboro. For more than 57 years, Mrs. Fryer was a hairdresser in Jonesboro. Her business, The Beauty Clinic, was first located on South Church Street and then on Matthews Avenue. Before retiring, the business was located on Buffalo Street. Her business partner for almost 40 years was Cordie Bishop.

The Stevens-Fryer Scholarship Endowment will be available to students in any academic discipline, with financial need being a priority consideration.

“Too many people in my generation couldn’t go to college,” Mrs. Fryer said. “I wanted to help some student who’d like to go to college but might be held back because of the cost.”

“Mrs. Fryer’s generosity has created a lasting gift that will have far-reaching effects at Arkansas State University,” said Deborah Parker Turner, ASU director of Planned Giving. “Students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend college will be aided by this wonderful gift honoring both her husbands.”

Mrs. Fryer said neither of her husbands ever stopped learning, and neither has she. An avid reader, she knits baby booties and donates them to the Arkansas Children’s Hospital, sending a boxful each month.

“The best thing anyone can do,” she said, “is to give with joy.”

A CUT ABOVE

A love for continual learning has prompted a retired Jonesboro hairdresser to make a gift to the Arkansas State University Foundation to fully endow a general academic scholarship at ASU.

The Stevens-Fryer Scholarship Endowment honors “the two most important people in my life, other than my sons,” said Mrs. Thyda Stevens Fryer.

Otis Stevens, Mrs. Fryer’s first husband, died in April 1984. A foreman for many years in the water department of Jonesboro City, Water and Light, Stevens was an enthusiastic deer hunter and fisherman who could have been a frontiersman, Mrs. Fryer said. Their two sons, Jerry and Rex, are both ASU graduates.

SMART SET

1909 Society Supports Future Students

A program recently initiated for graduating seniors at Arkansas State University is teaching a lesson about the benefits of charitable giving, and will establish a scholarship fund for future ASU students.

The idea behind the 1909 Society was sparked by ASU alumna Martha Wilford McFerron, a 1971 journalism graduate, according to Molly Mayer Phillips, coordinator of Alumni Chapters in the ASU Alumni Relations office.

“Martha was concerned there was no lasting signature for students who graduate and leave the campus,” Phillips said. She suggested the idea of a class gift that could be put into one large endowment for scholarships. “What a great legacy for a senior to leave!”

The 1909 Society soon began to take shape. Phillips said it is a unique program in Arkansas.

“IT’s an educational process in which students learn to give back to ASU and support future students, especially when they learn that only 40 percent of their tuition actually pays for their education.”

The program is promoted each semester through ads in The Herald, and also when seniors come to be measured for their graduation caps and gowns.

“Most students think giving back to the university only matters if you’re giving in the thousands or millions of dollars,” Phillips said. “We’re trying to teach seniors that every gift, no matter how big or small, is important to the future of ASU.

Graduating seniors make a gift to the ASU Foundation, she explained, earmarked for the (continued at top of page 15)

1909 Society. The $30 gift, which she give to the price of a cell phone bill or a couple of large pizzas, will be placed in a fund that will build toward an endowment to fund student scholarships. Phillips said she believes the program will have a positive impact on seniors as well as future generations of ASU students.

“The 1909 Society endowment will give recognition to these participating seniors, many of whom are the first generation of their families to become college graduates,” she said. “It’s an excellent way to show seniors how their gift makes a difference in another person’s life.”

The 1909 Society has allowed the Future Alumni Network (FAN), the student chapter of the ASU Alumni Association, to work more closely with University Development, Phillips said, since there was no student organization affiliated with the program.

Phillips said once the funds collected reach the endowment level, FAN members will work with University Development to determine guidelines for scholarships to be awarded.

Additionally, society members’ names will be placed on bronze plaques each year and displayed on the 1909 Society Wall outside the Student Union. When members return to campus many years from now, they’ll be able to “point out with pride” their participation.

Eighty seniors of the Class of 2004, students who graduated in May, August and December, chose to become members of the inaugural class of the 1909 Society. Phillips noted.

“A legacy is being started with the 1909 Society that we believe will prompt seniors to see beyond themselves while making a life-long commitment of support to Arkansas State University.”


AROUND ASU:

The Leadership Jonesboro Class of 2003 made a gift to the Jake West Memorial Scholarship in ASU’s Department of Theatre. Steve Watkins (left), ASU director of University Development accepted the gift. Also present were Bob West (second from left), Jake’s father; and, representing the 2003 Leadership Class, Jeff Chastain (second from right), Chamber public relations director, and Ted Fortenberry (right), KAIT General Manager.

Irene Martz, right, shares a laugh with Dr. Susan Allen during a reception in Mrs. Martz’s honor on July 14. Mrs. Martz, who retired from Arkansas State University after 48 years of service, was presented with a computer and printer. Pictured in the background is Robin Hicks.
ASU-Searcy actually started in 1966 as a technical campus of ASU-Beebe. Harlan said the campus serves as many as 4,700 in several different program areas:

- The daily enrollment of about 350 students are typically enrolled in short-term training programs like diesel technology, automotive technology, licensed practical nursing, training operations education, heating and air-conditioning, electronics, machining technology, computer repair and medical information assistance. The institution also offers an apprenticeship program in electronics, plumbing, air-conditioning and childcare.

- The campus also serves as a secondary area career center that services 450 11th and 12th grade students, many from Bald Knob, with courses in automotive, machine shop, collision repair and medical services. They also offer two satellite programs at ASU-Hoehn Springs.

- ASU-Searcy offers an adult education program for high school equivalency exams. They served more than 1,200 adult students last year.

- Short-term continuing education programs are a popular part of ASU-Searcy’s offerings. More than 2,700 people enrolled last year. The campus also offers 27 credit hours at night by ASU-Beebe instructors.

Harlan said while the campus mostly serves students from White, Clarkston and Lonoke counties, students have come from as far away as Louisiana and Texas to continue their educations. The average student-teacher ratio is 15 to one.

Community support is also in place for the campus. Each program has an advisory committee of six to eight people, who monitor programs, alert instructors to changes in the industry and make suggestions for continued quality improvement. Additionally, the “Big Three” auto makers advise institutional committees and provide vehicles for classroom instruction.

Harlan came to the Searcy campus in 2001, after a 25-year career with the Arkansas Department of Workforce Education, the agency that had oversight of technical institutions in the state. Talks began in 2002 about Foothills merging into the ASU system, and the merger was approved in 2003. “It was a resource-driven merger that’s been good for both campuses,” he noted. “It’s been fun and challenging, and I believe it’s worked out well.”

Harlan said the campus has begun a series of community meetings to form a campus master plan to determine future growth. The campus is looking to expand during the next three to five years, and he said renovations will not only improve the campus’ services, but change the campus look, too.

For more information about ASU-Searcy, visit the ASU-Beebe website at http://www.asub.edu/.

**OF NOTE**

Donors Of “Clyde” Plaque Honored

Arkansas State University recognized Jay and Liz Flanagan in the Student Union on September 8 for their gift of a plaque telling the story of the statue of “Clyde.” Jay Flanagan came to ASU as an assistant track coach in 1987, and followed Guy Pettiford to become head track and field coach in 1989. Elizabeth “Liz” Gowans Flanagan received an Associate in General Studies degree in 1991 and a Bachelor in General Studies degree in 1996 from ASU. She currently serves as an academic adviser at the Support Center for Student Athletes.

Clyde, a 1,000-pound statue hand-carved from Italian Carrara marble portrays a Native American Chief, and was purchased by the Student Government Association and placed on campus in 1959. Standing more than seven feet tall, it was noted at the time when Clyde was placed on campus that he was charged with keeping watch over the students of Arkansas State.

The Flanagans said they’ve spent a lot of their lives together on the ASU campus, which included passing Clyde. “For the longest time we’d walk past Clyde, but we knew very little was generally known about Clyde other than being mentioned at ‘Orders of the Toady,”’ Coach Flanagan said. “There is as no permanent way of explaining what the statue is, is it and where it came from. It’s a great tradition and we just felt it should be honored.”

The statue resides in Wilson Hall and the Reng Center before being moved to the ASU Student Center in 2004. The statue’s name evolved from the Clyde Springs Monument Company of Jonesboro, from whom it was purchased. Up until the discontinuation of beanie-wearing in 1972, freshmen students were expected to tip their beanie whenever they passed Clyde. If a freshman passed Clyde faking to tip his beanie and was caught by an upperclassman, the freshman was required to sing “The Beanie Song” on the spot.

The civic activities included serving on the leadership team for District 6150 of Rotary International, along with several offices with Jonesboro University Rotary Club. He also is active in the Greater Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce and is an alumnus of the Leadership Jonesboro class of 1987.

Frey completed his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at ASU, then earned his doctoral degree in business administration, with a major in organizational behavior, at the University of Memphis.