



See page 4 for a faculty member's story on her struggle with breast cancer.

News in Brief

4th Annual Buster Keaton birthday movie show took place Tuesday by the AC Buster Keaton Appreciation Society.

Pool Tournament results from the ATC campus are first place, Wendell Love, an engineering major; second place, Terrell Jennings, a computer major; and third place, Shane Williams, a general studies major. Winners received a trophy and T-shirt from ATC Student Activities.

Secret Pal sign-up for the ACCEA is today. Registration and \$5 dues are due.

Last day to drop classes is Nov. 19.

Flu Shots will be given for \$13.75 for students, faculty, staff and family members. The Student Nursing Association will give the shots at the following times at the following campuses:

Washington Street, Oct. 14, 8 a.m.-noon

West Campus, Oct. 14, 1:30-3 p.m.

Moore County, Oct. 15, 2-4 p.m.

ATC Activity Center, Oct. 15, 10 a.m.-noon

The Miss Firecracker Contest will be the first show the new theatre director, Lynae Jacob, will direct. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. today at the Experimental Theatre and will continue at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Thursday, Oct. 18 and Oct. 19 and at 3 p.m. Sunday.

ATC Evening Cookout will be 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. today at the ATC campus for students taking evening classes.

Bookstore Sale, all Halloween items 30 percent off now through Oct. 31.

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TIF grants \$390,000 to online programs

BY TANYA WETHINGTON
The Ranger Reporter

A \$250,000 grant from the Telecommunication Infrastructure Fund will provide a streaming video database for health care majors.

TIF also provided Amarillo College a \$140,000 grant which will enhance development of online classes.

"TIF is a state organization that was created in 1995 to build the telecommunication infrastructure for the state of Texas," said Karen Ruddy, director of the AC Library Network.

"They add a small tax on telecommunication bills over the next 10 years, and they will collect a total of \$1.5 billion from telecom-

munication companies for grants.

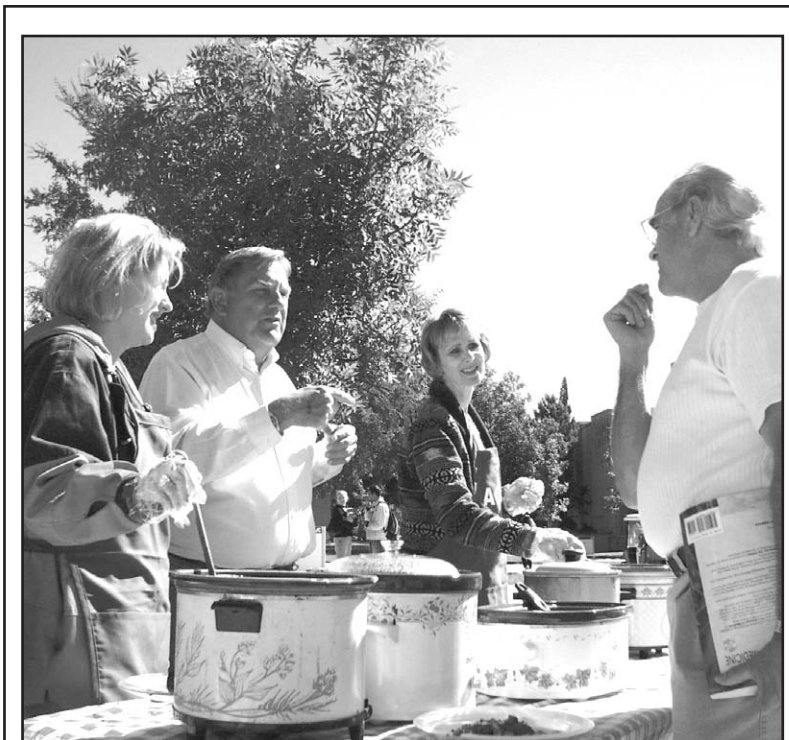
"These grants will be given to libraries, public schools, higher education and health care programs."

More than 1,000 nursing student are enrolled at AC, and 7,000-plus health care professionals attend classes or seminars provided by AC. More than half of them live in rural parts of the Texas Panhandle.

"There are students who travel over 170 miles a day to classes," Ruddy said.

She said that obstacle makes it harder for students to find time and money that is needed to obtain a college degree or to further their education.

"A database of streaming
continued on page 5



Ryan Riley/The Ranger

The Amarillo College Classified Employees Association raised \$228 at the Frito Pie fund-raiser Oct. 4. Above, Toni Brasher, left, assistant director of criminal justice; Robert Banks, professor substance abuse counseling; and Brenda Wilkes, coordinator of Accessibility, serve Rex Martin, a radiography major, at the fund-raiser.

General studies is top major chosen

BY TORI DURST
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General studies is the top major at the college, totaling 2,188 of the 9,299 students.

"Many students are university-bound and we don't offer the major here, so students choose general studies," said Brad Johnson, director of enrollment management.

"General studies is a major that includes students who are going in many different directions, and some students are just taking their basics here, so they choose general studies as their major."

Another reason general studies is so popular is that a student applying for a Pell grant or scholarship is required to declare a major.

Cheri Clifton, head of advising and counseling, said one reason general studies is chosen is that "it gives students electives and classes that will transfer to their senior institutions."

Students and faculty said they are not surprised that general studies is the top major. "It is a community college, so most people just come here to get their basics," said Amber Macias, a mass communication major.

Alix Christian, a graphic design instructor, said, "We are undecided, and I think you should be when you are 20."

"Students don't know what they want to do

Top Five Majors at AC

Allied Health.....	955
Nursing.....	1201
Science & Engineering.....	1417
Business.....	1478
General Studies.....	2188

Jeni Ward/The Ranger

in community colleges and universities," said Beverly Vinson, coordinator of the real estate program.

The second most chosen major is business. AC offers six degrees in the Business Division, and more students choose business management, according to a report provided by Johnson.

"Business management has always been a popular major because of the demand," said Anne Nail, chairman of business management. "The neatest thing is that what you learn in business is also valuable in everyday life."

"I think business would be the No. 1 career because there are so many job opportunities," Christian said.

Science and engineering came in only 61 students behind business as the third most chosen division major.

"The engineering field is really being sought after by all the industries in the United States," said Art Schneider, chairman of the division of science and engineering.

"There are lots of different ways to go into the engineering field, whether chemical, petroleum, electrical or civil engineering."

Schneider said mathematics also falls under science and engineering. "Students are also sought after in teaching in the areas of math and science," he said.

The next most chosen division major is nursing, followed by allied health. Dolores Thompson, coordinator of vocational nursing, said, "In the health care field, there is a shortage right now for nurses."

Carol Salazar, a radio-TV major, said she thought nursing would be the top major. "It is a smart choice, because it is always in demand," Salazar said.

Eleven degrees are offered in the Allied Health Division. The field is especially important in this region, because Amarillo is a health care center, said Bill Crawford, Allied Health Division chairman.

"The nature of the job is health, and in general it is important to everyone," he said. Crawford and Schneider both said their divisions offer students modern equipment, well-trained faculty and facilities for lab activities.

Motivational speaker postponed, to visit Nov. 20

BY JORDAN BAILEY
The Ranger Online Reporter



Erin Gruwell

The Oct. 12 Circle of Learning Conference has been postponed to Nov. 20.

The conference will be hosted by Erin Gruwell, two-time Teacher of the Year in California. She will discuss teaching tolerance.

The conference is aimed at education majors from AC, but teachers from around the area are welcome to attend.

Gruwell will speak on "Teaching Tolerance" and "How to Change the Way Kids Look at the World and Change the World."

Teachers who still need to earn continuing education credit can meet their requirement by attending. She and her students have appeared on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Prime Time Live*.

Students in the teaching field said they will attend the conference. Melissa Dennis, an early childhood major, said she will attend. Cirstin Minkley, an early childhood education major, said, "It is on the weekend, so then I will be there."

Early registration for the conference costs \$30 for students and \$55 for teachers. Tickets purchased at the door will cost \$5 more.

Thousands in scholarships available for students through AC Foundation

BY JONI MAXWELL
The Ranger Reporter

About \$399,000 in scholarships is available through the Amarillo College Foundation for awards based on academics and financial need.

"The awards depend upon the criteria of the scholarship," said Betty Howell, executive director of the foundation. Considerations usually are academic performance, need and service to the college, but they can vary depending on donor standards, Howell said. Departmental rewards also are available.

Jason Fields, an AC graduate with an associate degree in mathematics, receives \$2,500 per year from the Computer Science Engineering Math Scholarship.

"It was truly a godsend, because I could take a large number of hours and only worry about the work associated with it, not the cost," Fields said. Specialized scholarships exist for students in the Honor Society, Student Government Association and the Adult Students Program.

Financial aid from awards may pay for tuition, books or, in Laure Connolley's case, it provides her with more ability to attend clinicals. As a radiation therapy major, she must travel to Lubbock every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to train at a cancer treatment facility.

"The more I go to school, the more I have to cut back my work hours, so it becomes harder and harder to pay upcoming school expenses," Connolley said. She received \$1,000 combined from scholarships and the Amarillo Area Challenge.

"Applying is a simple process that 10 minutes of your time could be worth \$300 to \$500," Howell

said.

General applications can be obtained in the Student Service Center. "Any student with a 2.0 or higher GPA should submit one," Howell said. Students must send a high school or college transcript on their application along with a short essay on why they are deserving of assistance.

Since last year, the college has seen a 60 percent increase in applicants. There was not a relationship between enrollment and availability of financial aid. "Growth has been steady for 10 years," said Brad Johnson, director of enrollment management.

The money is allocated between March 1 and July 1, with every student evaluated beforehand. "Ordinarily, a scholarship committee reviews eligible applicants and using a points system to choose the most appropriate students," Johnson said, "We try to be equitable to all students."

If a recipient declines an award, it is pooled by the foundation committee and is distributed to the next most deserving person.

"Most of our scholarships are endowed funds, which means we award the investment returns based on the market value," Howell said.

"The total endowment for this year was a little over \$10 million, but only a percentage can be given away. A portion of about \$2 million is part of a federal endowment fund."

"Scholarships are only available because someone gave to the college, and we as a college are very grateful," Johnson said.

Predominately individual community members, AC staff, regents and businesses have been donating since the establishment of the foundation in 1962.

Register, vote or feel the impact

BY KENNETH MALONE
The Ranger Reporter

Barbecue grills, parties, pumping-the-flesh, mud-slinging and kissing babies are common traits this time of year for anyone seeking elected office, and the 2002 election is no different.

"The students and residents of Texas will be called upon to make a difference at the ballot box," said Ted Wood, former Randall County judge who has taught government part-time at Amarillo College.

In 2003, the 78th Texas Legislature is predicted to find a budget deficit that requires cutting state-funded benefits, services and eligibility requirements to reduce costs.

"Usually higher education and community colleges actually feel the pinch first," said state Rep. John Smithee of Amarillo.

Minnie Venable, a speech instructor, said Voices for Choice provided voter registration cards for AC students.

"We passed out about 50 voter registration cards in and outside the CUB and had three students register," Venable said.

It is a simple process to vote in Texas, which has few requirements, including being registered at least 30 days before election day, Nov. 5.

"You must be registered by October 7, 2002, to vote in this year's election because the 30th day actually falls on a Monday, which moves it back a day," Wood said.

"There is not a length of residence requirement for voter registration eligibility," said Sue Daniel, Potter County clerk.

A person is eligible to submit a voter registration application once they have established a residence address in the county they reside in, such as Potter or Randall.

"Once you register, you will receive a voter registration certificate within 30 days," Daniel said. "You need to check your certificate to make sure all information is correct.

"After they become registered, they will remain registered as long as they do not move or change their mailing address."

On election day, a voter must present the voting certificate or a state-issued ID such as a driver's license.

"You will receive a color-coded certificate every two years," Daniel said.

"You must register to vote and then exercise that right when it comes your time," Wood said.

Voter registration cards are available at the College Union Building on the Washington Street Campus, from the county clerk's office or from the Texas secretary of state.

To be eligible to vote:

- You must be a U.S. citizen,
- a resident of the county,
- be 18 years old,
- not a convicted felon
- and not declared mentally incapacitated by a court.