



TEXAS TECH U

***AROUND THE SYSTEM***

## **Ram and Red Raider Judy Parker Begins New Chapter in the Courtroom**

After serving the justice system and her communities for more than 30 years, Angelo State University and Texas Tech University School of Law alumna Judy Parker was sworn in by Gov. Greg Abbott as a justice on the Seventh Court of Appeals of Texas on Oct. 19.

Parker, a native of Central Texas, graduated from ASU in 1982 and made the move to Lubbock to attend law school. Parker remained in Lubbock after graduating law school to practice privately and serve as a judge on various courts before her appointment to the Seventh Court of Appeals.

When asked if the TTU System motto – “From Here, It’s Possible” – reflects her time at system institutions, Parker didn’t hesitate.

“Oh most certainly. My college and legal education gave me the background and foundation to enter a profession that had been my dream since I was a young girl, and it has led to a long and meaningful career, and any success I have enjoyed was made possible by the excellent education I received at ASU and TTU School of Law. I am profoundly grateful.”

Parker will run for election to a full term on the Seventh Court in 2018.

## **Facility Spotlight: TTU Sports Performance Center**

On Oct. 20, Texas Tech Athletics hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Sports Performance Center (SPC), a \$48 million, 154,889-square-foot multi-purpose facility that will impact all 17 intercollegiate athletics programs.

The SPC was funded entirely by philanthropic gifts to The Campaign for Fearless Champions and is among

the first multi-sport venues in the country, providing Texas Tech student-athletes a state-of-the-art facility for daily training and competition.

The facility includes the Petersen Family Indoor Football Practice Facility, an indoor track and field competition complex with seating for 1,500 fans, a strength and conditioning area, the Becky and Kelly Joy Family Sports Medicine Center and the PlainsCapital Bank Nutrition Center.

The facility is designed to impact Texas Tech’s more than 450 student-athletes. The PlainsCapital Bank Nutrition Center will be the hub for the athletics department’s investment in nutrition and wellness. The Becky and Kelly Joy Family Sports Medicine Center will provide the Texas Tech sports medicine staff with first-class equipment to diagnose injuries as well as a rehab area to assist student-athletes in recovery.

As part of the TTU System Public Art Program, “Run” (2017) by Simon Donovan and Ben Olmstead stands prominently outside of the SPC. The artwork, made of 240 separate metal layers held together by 12,000 welded pins, depicts a female runner during five phases of motion. The 12-foot tall stainless steel sculpture stands on a 6-foot tall concrete base resulting in a towering 18-foot installation complete with state-of-the-art LED lighting to create an impressive red glow in the evening.

## **Texas Tech Athletics Announces Lead Gift, Plans for Basketball Practice Facility**

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Opportunity of the House Committee on Veterans, which was represented by Congressman and subcommittee chairman Jodey Arrington (TX, 19th District) and Congressman and subcommittee ranking member Beto O'Rourke (TX, 16th District).

The witnesses' testimonies highlighted the best practices shared across Texas and nationwide so that veterans can have enhanced educational opportunities, resources and support receiving higher education.

## **TTU System Athletics Programs Advance to Postseason Competition**

The fall semester provided numerous highlights from TTU System athletics programs, including a pair of bowl games, Texas Tech volleyball reaching the postseason for the first time since 2001 and Angelo State volleyball and soccer advancing to the NCAA postseason while the Rambelles captured ASU's third all-time regular season soccer Lone Star Conference championship.

Texas Tech football finished its regular season with a dramatic come-from-behind victory at Texas, giving the Red Raiders back-to-back wins over the Long-

horns in Austin for the first time. The win also guaranteed the Red Raiders their 38th all-time bowl appearance, a total that ranks 19th nationally, as Texas Tech faces the University of South Florida in the Birmingham Bowl on Dec. 23.

The Red Raider volleyball team has experienced a memorable campaign with the program's first post-season appearance since 2001 as they were selected to the National Invitational Volleyball Championship (NIVC). Texas Tech finished the regular season with a winning record for the first time in 16 years. As of Dec. 1, the Red Raiders posted back-to-back three-set sweeps in the NIVC over SMU and Texas State.

The Rams made their first bowl game appearance since 1972 and participated in the postseason for the first time since 2014 with a trip to the C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl in Copperas Cove, Texas against the Washburn Ichabods. The Rams suffered a 41-25 loss to Washburn to wrap up their 2017 campaign with a 6-5 overall record.

The ASU soccer program advanced to the NCAA South Central Regional where they were defeated 1-0 by West Texas A&M in the first round. The Rambelles posted a 13-5-1 overall record.

The Belles volleyball team made its seventh trip to the NCAA Tournament and earned the No. 5 seed of the South Central Regional following a third-place finish in the Lone Star Conference standings with a 21-10 overall record.

## **TTU Vietnam Archive Renamed to Honor War Veteran**

The Texas Tech University Vietnam Archive was renamed the Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive on Oct. 18 in honor of the U.S. Congressman who has worked tirelessly to benefit troops and veterans since his own 29-year career in the U.S. Air Force.

U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson, 87, flew combat missions in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars and endured nearly seven years as a prisoner of war (POW), including 42 months in solitary confinement. He chronicled his experience in an oral history now housed in the Vietnam Center and Archive, the nation's largest and most comprehensive collection of information on the Vietnam War.

After his military service, Johnson returned home to the Dallas area, where he served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1985 to 1991 and in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1991.

The Vietnam Center and Archive houses the Virtual Vietnam Archive, which has been used by a wide range of researchers, scholars, documentary film makers, teachers and students as the world continues to learn about the Vietnam War. It also has been used by various U.S. governmental agencies in providing lessons learned for more contemporary conflicts and in accounting for the more than 1,600 U.S. personnel still listed as missing from the war.

Johnson was an advocate for the creation of the Virtual Vietnam Archive, and his late wife, Shirley, donated her personal collection of papers and materials.



*The Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, is now the Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive.*