



THE HISTORY OF ADAMS STATE COLLEGE

Rev. 2006

TEACHERS FOR RURAL COLORADO

Billy Adams, a Colorado legislator who would later become governor, worked for three decades before obtaining the authorization to found Adams State Normal School in 1921. His goal was to educate teachers for remote, rural areas, such as the San Luis Valley.

With only a grade school education himself, Adams came to the SLV in 1879 at the age of 17 to begin ranching. Within three years, he was mayor of Alamosa. Alamosa was a rough-hewn town in those days. The Rio Grande typically flooded each spring, turning Main Street to mud. Once the college was built, a hedge of Russian olive trees had to be planted along the campus edge to keep out herds of horses.

Then, as now, potatoes were the area's primary cash crop. But grain and vegetables were also raised, as well as cattle, sheep and pigs. The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad shipped them east.

The perseverance demonstrated by Billy Adams in founding his teachers college also characterized those who took over the task of making Adams State more than a dream. The communities of Alamosa and the San Luis Valley faithfully supported the efforts of individuals such as Dr. Ira Richardson, the college's first president.

MIDDLE YEARS A TIME OF GROWTH

Despite being tucked away in the isolated San Luis Valley of Colorado, Adams State College was, nevertheless, influenced by the social change that marked the 1950s, '60s, and '70s.

This period witnessed the tenures of two of ASC's most renowned presidents, Dr. Fred Plachy and Dr. John Marvel.

Dr. Plachy came to ASC in 1952. America's post-war tranquility and pros-

perity were accompanied by a period of growing college enrollments across the country. Anticipating the needs of a larger student body, Plachy initiated a ten-year building program, during which the majority of the campus' current facilities were constructed. Plachy's foresight proved accurate: ASC's enrollment grew from 349 in 1950 to over 2,000 fifteen years later. Although he was known as a builder, Plachy maintained that his proudest accomplishment was "Our faculty."

Dr. Marvel assumed leadership of ASC in the late 1960s, presiding over the era of Civil Rights, the Vietnam War, and Woodstock.

Students at ASC, like their counterparts nationwide, were questioning authority and rejecting traditional values. ASC's student unrest peaked with a bomb explosion in Richardson Hall.

Long-time professor, Dr. Marv Motz noted, "Each of our presidents has been a man for the times, but ever so much more for Dr. Marvel. Other presidents might have used strong-arm tactics to 'quell' such problems, but Dr. Marvel 'loved' us through this tough time."

In many ways, Adams State was a different college in 1975, compared to the "little teachers' college" founded 50 years earlier by Billy Adams.

But despite the changes, ASC was still a place that valued and cared for the individual.

As Dr. Marvel said, "Faith in the student is seldom misplaced."

ASC TODAY

The close of the 20th century brought changes to many philosophical and practical aspects of higher education, all of which have played a role in the evolution of Adams State.

Technology has literally changed the face of education, as computers became commonplace in all disciplines, and students participated in classes from a distance, via the World Wide Web.

Financial aid availability decreased as tuition rose well beyond the cost of living. Even public colleges turned to private endowments to provide scholarships and update their facilities. And the focus turned business-like, as colleges and universities began "marketing" themselves in response to intense competition for students.

Thus, in many senses, the Adams State of today is much more sophisticated and complex than the little teachers' college founded amidst the sage brush in 1925. On a campus that originally boasted a single building now stand more than 50. The student body has grown from barely more than 100 to over 2,700, and plans call for even greater growth. ASC's curricular focus has expanded from teacher education to include excellent programs in all disciplines, as well as graduate programs. In addition, the college's Extended Studies program takes credit, non-credit, and professional development courses to more than 12,500 students at a distance.

But more than 75 years of growth and change have not eroded the ethos that has marked Adams State from the beginning: providing students with an exceptional education and the individual care and attention that allow them to succeed.

MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF ADAMS STATE COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 25, 1921

- ◆ Trustees appointed to select site for Adams State Normal School. Sixty acres acquired on the edge of Alamosa.

AUGUST 31, 1923

- ◆ Cornerstone laid for what will become Richardson Hall, after \$75,000 appropriated by the Colorado General Assembly.

MAY 19, 1924

- ◆ Alamosa families and businesses pledge \$27,000 to support Adams State operations, in lieu of state funding. Funds are reimbursed by the state in 1927.

JANUARY 22, 1925

- ◆ Dr. Ira Richardson named first president of Adams State.

JUNE, 1925

- ◆ Helen Eagle, of Monte Vista, is first student of 119 to register for Adams State Normal School's first summer session.

APRIL, 1925

- ◆ Alamosa dentist, Dr. C.P. Rex named trustee, in which capacity he serves until 1949.

SEPTEMBER, 1925

- ◆ Adams State's first fall term enrolls 42 students taught by three faculty members: Dr. Richardson, Elizabeth Briggs, Tessie M. Degan, and student librarian, Harriet Dalzell.

WINTER, 1925-26

- ◆ Adams State's first men's basketball team, consisting of all eight male students, begins competition against area high school teams. College music groups include a male quartet, women's trio, and a girls' glee club, participated in by all female students.

JUNE 14, 1926

- ◆ First student picnic held at Masonic Park. Sixty-five students enrolled at conclusion of school year, 55 female and 10 male.

AUGUST 25, 1926

- ◆ Harriet Dalzell Hester receives first college degree from Adams State. Dr. Richardson notes at Commencement, "First things happen only once."

FALL, 1926

- ◆ Adams State enrolls 132 students.
- ◆ Green and white adopted as school colors, based on Outing Club colors devised by Luther Bean, green for evergreens and white for snow.
- ◆ Library holds 1,165 volumes donated by townspeople and faculty members.

1928

- ◆ Curbs, sidewalks, and curving drive in front of administration building installed, prior to landscaping.

1929

- ◆ General Assembly appropriates \$100,000 for construction of south wing of administration building and heating plant.
- ◆ President's home and faculty apartments (Casa del Sol) constructed.

1930

- ◆ Named changed to Adams State Teachers College. Seventy-one teaching diplomas and 13 A.B. degrees granted since founding.
- ◆ Adams State fields first football team.

1930-31

- ◆ South Coloradan (student newspaper) and Conquistador (yearbook) initiated.

1936

- ◆ Casa Bonita and Kit Carson Hall (women's and men's dorms) constructed.

1937

- ◆ J.L. Kittle named Dean of the College.

1939

- ◆ Men's gym (now Rex Activity Center) constructed.

1940

- ◆ West section of shop constructed.

1942

- ◆ Adams State Teachers College accredited by the American Association of Teachers Colleges.
- ◆ Twelve-month schedule adopted to permit students to complete degree before entering service.
- ◆ Adams State basketball joins New Mexico Athletic Conference; wins first game.

- ◆ To date, college has enrolled 2,297 students, granted 257 degrees.

- ◆ Current enrollment: 450. Faculty: 39.

NOVEMBER 3, 1943

- ◆ College inaugurates San Luis Institute of Arts & Crafts in San Luis, CO, to provide instruction in traditional Hispanic crafts, such as weaving and woodcarving. Later, offers courses to permit veterans to complete high school diploma.

1943-44

- ◆ Enrollment drops, due to World War II. Only four degrees granted. Adams State struggles to remain open.

SUMMER, 1944

- ◆ Adams State offers first graduate classes.

1945

- ◆ Francis (Chisholm) Stong earns first Adams State Master's degree.

1947

- ◆ Adams State initiates Top of the Nation Coaching School.

1949

- ◆ Luther Bean Day celebrated.

1950

- ◆ College celebrates 25th anniversary and earns regional accreditation from North Central Association of Colleges and Universities.

- ◆ Alumni dinner honors Billy Adams and Ira Richardson; 300 attend.

- ◆ Dr. Richardson retires at age of 79; William Newson appointed second president.

- ◆ College enrollment is 349.

FEBRUARY 16, 1951

- ◆ Founder's Day; Billy Adams' 90th birthday.

1952

- ◆ Dr. Fred J. Plachy becomes third president of ASC. His comment, "The greatest power on earth is the power to grow," would characterize his 14 years of leadership.

- ◆ Committee appointed to redevelop graduate program in education, which had been discontinued after failing to become accredited.

ited in 1950. Dr. William T. Meyer chairs committee and later becomes Dean of the Graduate Division.

FEBRUARY 16, 1953

◆ Billy Adams awarded honorary Doctorate of Humanics and Public Service at Founder's Day celebration.

FEBRUARY 4, 1954

◆ Billy Adams dies, just shy of 93rd birthday. Leaves \$10,000 to ASC.

1954

◆ New library opened (current School of Business building.)

1955

◆ Several campus buildings named in honor of individuals who were important in the college's growth, including:

- Richardson Hall, named in honor of ASC's first president
- Petteys Hall (new women's dorm), in honor of Anna C. Petteys, longtime member of Board of Trustees
- Girault Hall (men's dorm), in honor of Thomas L. Girault, President of the Board of Trustees
- Dalzell Hall, in honor of ASC's first graduate and first librarian, Harriet Dalzell Hester
- Savage and Houtchens Halls, in honor of two long-time members of the Board of Trustees, Leslie J. Savage and Barnard Houtchens
- Moffatt Hall, in honor of Walter G. Moffatt, a state representative from Alamosa who assisted Billy Adams in introducing and passing the bill that established ASC
- McCurry Hall, in honor of Gordon McCurry, former ASC business manager who was killed in an auto accident in 1964.

1955-60

- ◆ Period of extensive campus growth, including construction of:
 - Student Union Memorial Building, named in honor of students who served in World War II (later to become the art building) through contributions of the One Thousand Club. Final cost of building: \$270,000.
 - Music building, men's & women's dormitories, student family housing, heating plant, electrical primary service plant, and million-dollar science-industrial arts building.

1956

◆ Graduate program accredited by North Central Association.

1957

◆ ASC chosen to participate in the five-year Migrant Education Project.

1960

◆ Leon Memorial Concert Hall completed through nearly quarter-million-dollar gift bequeathed by Ella Leon Grove and Rose Leon.

◆ College enrollment reaches 1,250.

◆ Dr. Vernon Hungate named Dean of Graduate Division.

1960s

- ◆ Campus construction continues:
 - Health & Physical Education building (later named Plachy Hall)
 - Zacheis Planetarium, completely financed through gifts; total cost nearly \$132,769
 - Four new residence halls
 - \$1.5 million Social Science and Education (ES) building.

1962

◆ Adams State College Foundation established, with Harry Zacheis as first president. Other original board members include Dr. Fred Plachy, Leonard McLean, Robert Bartley, Richard Bratton, Willis Fassett, Jr., Thelma Finley, Phil Lorton, Pete Middlemist, and Paul Murphy.

1965

- ◆ Summer tuition increased to \$5 a credit for state residents; \$10 for non-residents.
- ◆ Dr. John P. Turano appointed acting Dean of college; appointment is made permanent in 1966.
- ◆ ASC granted ten-year, unrestricted teacher education accreditation by NCATE (National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Accreditation.)

1966

- ◆ ASC's budget is set at \$1,614,744, an increase of \$200,000 over the previous year.
- ◆ Landscaping in front of Richardson Hall replaces the old circular drive.
- ◆ Funding secured for new dormitory.
- ◆ Plans approved for construction of current College Center.
- ◆ Dr. John A. Marvel named ASC's fourth president, serving until 1977. He brings

shared decision making – including faculty and students – to ASC long before it is fashionable.

◆ Size of faculty doubles in next five years.

1969

◆ Enrollment is 3,073 FTE (full-time equivalent.)

1971

◆ First Billy Adams Award presented to J. Leslie Kittle.

DECEMBER 21, 1972

◆ Dr. Fred J. Plachy dies.

1973

- ◆ Current library completed; a human chain transfers 140,000 books hand-to-hand over a half-mile between buildings.
- ◆ Associated Alumni of Adams State College established.

1974

◆ Five hundred receive degrees at spring commencement, bringing total of ASC alumni to 8,171.

1975

- ◆ Following decreased enrollments in the early years of the Vietnam War, ASC enrollments are the best ever for a few years, a result of improved admissions efforts.
- ◆ Adams State celebrates 50th Anniversary.
- ◆ ASC Foundation conducts capital campaign with the goal of raising \$600,000.

1976

- ◆ Dr. John Marvel is president of American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).
- ◆ Dr. Luther E. Bean dies March 5.

1977

- ◆ Dr. Marvel retires from ASC presidency after 12 years and is appointed president of the Consortium of State Colleges of Colorado.
- ◆ ASC Foundation counts assets of nearly \$1.5 million.

1978

◆ Dr. Milton Byrd appointed fifth president of Adams State College.

1979

◆ Academic year tuition is set at \$490 for resident undergraduates, \$514 for non-residents, \$2,252 for graduate students.

1980

- ◆ Major self study results in reorganization of ASC's administrative structure and elimination or modification of several academic programs.
- ◆ By a narrow margin, ASC faculty votes "no confidence" in President Byrd. Trustees vote not to renew Byrd's contract.
- ◆ Dr. Marv Motz appointed interim president of ASC; Dr. Glen Burnham appointed interim VP of Academic Affairs.

1981

- ◆ Dr. William M. Fulkerson, Jr. appointed sixth president of Adams State College. Fall enrollment is up from previous year.

1982

- ◆ ASC announces shift in resources for academic programs in order to emphasize quality instruction and become "the best small public college in Colorado."

1983

- ◆ San Luis Valley financial institutions pledge more than \$50,000 to ASC Endowment Fund.
- ◆ Faculty and staff pledge over \$65,000 to ASC Endowment Fund.
- ◆ Program is approved to guarantee student transfer from ASC to Colorado State University.
- ◆ Cross country teams raise \$20,000 for college endowment fund through "Across the State with Adams State" run; one guest runner is Colorado governor Richard Lamm.
- ◆ Colorado Personnel and Guidance Association names ASC guidance and counseling program an Exemplary Program.

1984

- ◆ Enrollment increases 2% over 1983, while enrollments decline at other Colorado colleges and universities.

1985

- ◆ ASC is one of only two state higher education institutions to meet more stringent admissions standards.
- ◆ ASC is named state's premier institution for Hispanic programs.
- ◆ Luther Bean Museum reopens with new staff, improved exhibition facilities, and automatic security system.
- ◆ Charles and Beryl Woodard are named posthumous recipients of Billy Adams Award, in recognition of their significant

contributions to the college through the Woodard Memorial Scholarship Trust and the Woodard Historical Collection.

- ◆ AT&T donates more than \$22,000 worth of academic computing equipment.

1986

- ◆ Alumni Association initiates Annual Fund to expand scholarships.
- ◆ Colorado Commission on Higher Education names ASC the primary provider of graduate teacher education in southern and western Colorado, with similar programs cut or limited at many state institutions.
- ◆ Computer science program earns \$49,000 quality incentive grant from Colorado Commission on Higher Education to add equipment and software.
- ◆ Alamosa declares "Adams State College Week."
- ◆ Fall enrollment increases 7% over previous year, with a 12% increase in non-resident students. New freshman enrollment increases 12%, and graduate enrollment, 10%.
- ◆ Student radio station, KASF, upgrades transmission tower to reach broader audience.
- ◆ AT&T contributes more than \$162,000 in computer equipment to mathematics and computer science department.

1987

- ◆ 40 ASC students named to prestigious National Dean's List.
- ◆ Woodard Memorial Scholarship Fund provides \$100,620 to 334 incoming students.

1988

- ◆ Enrollment of 1987-88 academic year is highest in ten years; summer session enrollment sets new record for third consecutive year; fall semester enrollment reaches highest level in 11 years, topping previous year by 7%.
- ◆ ASC is among 11 state institutions to share \$378,000 in federal Education for Economic Security grants to improve math and science instruction.
- ◆ Small Business Development Center established at ASC.

1989

- ◆ Music department is accredited by National Association of Schools of Music.

- ◆ Summer session enrollment increases 7% over previous year. The largest summer graduating class of the decade, 175, is honored at 64th Summer Commencement.

- ◆ ASC reports 30% minority enrollment, with the national average 18.6% and state-wide average at 12.4%.

- ◆ Four years of campus improvements valued at \$3.5 million are completed.

- ◆ Annual Student Appreciation Breakfast feeds largest crowd ever: 1,400.

1990

- ◆ ASC named site for SURGE videotaped graduate courses, making MBA degree available.
- ◆ Colorado capital projects bill authorizes \$57,600 for ASC campus improvements.
- ◆ Alumni Association presents \$20,000 worth of scholarships to ASC students.
- ◆ Four faculty members receive Centennial Outstanding Teacher Awards from Trustees of the State Colleges in Colorado. Honored are: Cloyde Snook, department head and professor of art; Dr. Ted Ellis, business professor; Dr. Karel Rogers, professor of biology and nationally known paleontologist; and Dr. Marvin Motz, alumnus and professor of psychology.
- ◆ Fall enrollment maintains level established in 1989. Freshman class size has increased 46% in last six years.

- ◆ Library receives a \$4,800 grant from Colorado State Board of Education to complete retrospective conversion of 10,000 records to be added to the MARMOT database.

1991

- ◆ Library institutes computerized book checkout system.
- ◆ New, cost-saving method of interactive video employed in Extended Studies courses offered by ASC in Pueblo.
- ◆ School of Education becomes first in state to earn accreditation by National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) under new, more rigorous standards.
- ◆ School of Business received ASC's first Program of Excellence Award from Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE). Award includes \$122,500.

1992

- ◆ Alumnus Bill Moyers' life-size bronze of an SLV cowboy and his horse, *Wind and Rain*, installed in front of Richardson Hall

as result of donations by the artist, SLV Federal Savings & Loan, and others.

- ◆ ASC rejoins the University Press of Colorado, with two faculty books contracted for publication the first year.
- ◆ Men's Cross Country team wins National Championship in first year of NCAA Division II competition with an unprecedented perfect score.
- ◆ AT&T grant provides \$145,000 in computers and data networking products, and Autodesk Education Grant provides \$15,000 in software to create math and science visualization laboratory.
- ◆ Extended Studies implements two-way, interactive compressed video system to further rural education.
- ◆ Writing Studio established.
- ◆ Major in Biochemistry added.

1993

- ◆ Dr. Marv Motz again serves as interim president for a year prior to his retirement.
- ◆ CCHE funds \$145,000 for Project LINK UP, designed to increase interest in mathematics and science among SLV elementary school teachers.
- ◆ Woodard Memorial Scholarship passes \$1 million mark in value of scholarships awarded ASC students since 1982 inception.
- ◆ Luther Bean Museum is remodeled and expanded, creating display areas for its collection of Rio Grande weavings and Santos, as well as the Bill Moyers Collection.

1994

- ◆ President William M. Fulkerson, Jr., appointed President of the State Colleges in Colorado.
- ◆ Innovative scholarship fund established by Professor of History, Dr. John E. McDaniel. He and the ASC Foundation match \$5,000 gifts by scholarship donors.
- ◆ ASC Achieve initiated to allow local high school students to take entry-level college courses.
- ◆ The Lucero Project, established by a generous contribution from alumni Carlos and Dorothy Lucero through the ASC Foundation, places ASC education students as mentors in area elementary and middle schools.

1995

- ◆ Dr. J. Thomas Gilmore '67, '68 named ASC's seventh president, after serving as a professor and Dean of the School of

Business, and Vice President for Development and External Affairs.

- ◆ Completion of \$10.1 million renovation of College Center, Rex Activities Center, and housing is celebrated with Grand Opening.
- ◆ ASC minority graduation rate is 26 percent, exceeding the goal set by CCHE for year 2000.
- ◆ The Indian athletic mascot is retired.
- ◆ Campus One-Card system replaces dorm keys, ID cards, and serves as campus vending debit card.
- ◆ Alumnus Carlos Lucero '61 appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, in Denver
- ◆ Carlos & Dorothy Lucero, both Class of 1961, fund Lucero Project through ASC Foundation. Project provide college students to mentor at-risk students in Alamosa public schools.

1996

- ◆ Biology Department named ASC's second "Program of Excellence" by CCHE. Award includes \$366,000 grant over five years to enhance lab equipment and acquire computer and multi-media technology.

1997

- ◆ North Central Association grants ASC full, ten-year reaccreditation.
- ◆ ASC named "One of America's 100 Best College Buys," in recognition of cost below the national average, combined with academic quality above the average.
- ◆ Music Department named Program of Excellence by CCHE, earns \$528,000 grant to upgrade music instruction labs and technology.
- ◆ Chemistry Department awarded \$99,000 grant from U.S. Department of Defense to update lab instrumentation.
- ◆ ASC Library renamed Nielsen Library in honor of \$1.2 million bequest by Bud '69 and Pat Nielsen.
- ◆ Semillas de la Tierra folklorico dance group celebrates 25th year at ASC.
- ◆ The third volume of ASC history, *Mostly Marvelous*, by Emeritus Professor of English Don Stegman, is published, reviewing college history from 1966-81.
- ◆ ASC named new home of State Knowledge Bowl Championship for high school students.
- ◆ The great grizzly bear is designated as ASC's new athletic symbol.

1998

- ◆ ASC named "One of America's 100 Best College Buys" for second consecutive year.
- ◆ The first new building on ASC's campus in over 25 years, the science and mathematics building is dedicated "William A. Porter Hall," in appreciation of the largest gift made to the college to date: \$4.6 million in E*Trade stock contributed by the company's founder, ASC Class of 1951.
- ◆ ASC completes a strategic plan that calls for increasing enrollment by about 10 percent in the next five years.
- ◆ Approximately \$15 million in construction and remodeling in process on campus.
- ◆ Webmaster hired to improve the college's presence on the Internet.
- ◆ Summer session enrollment increases 22 percent.

1999

- ◆ ASC named "One of America's 100 Best College Buys" for third consecutive year.
- ◆ Construction begins to remodel the old science building for the art and theatre programs.
- ◆ ASC Athletics earns the prestigious Sears Directors' Cup for the best overall performance in the NCAA Division II.
- ◆ ASC joins CO-AMP (Colorado Alliance for Minority Participation); National Science Foundation grant to increase participation by under-represented minority groups in math, the sciences, engineering, and technology.

2000

- ◆ ASC celebrates its 75th Anniversary.
- ◆ ASC named "One of America's 100 Best College Buys" for fourth consecutive year.
- ◆ ASC Foundation assets exceed \$7 million.
- ◆ ASC founder, Billy Adams, and first president, Dr. Ira Richardson, named among the SLV's most influential people of the century by the *Valley Courier*.
- ◆ Master's in Counseling program named ASC's fourth Program of Excellence by CCHE, receives five-year grant of \$524,000 to expand distance education technology.
- ◆ Women's Cross Country team wins eight consecutive NCAA Division II championship and sets new team score record.
- ◆ ASC initiates First-year Interest Groups (FIGS), or "learning communities," which help freshmen build connections to classmates, faculty, and the college. FIG mem-

bers take a core of classes together and live in the same residence hall area.

- ◆ Ira Zuckerman '66, '67, named School of Business Distinguished Executive in Residence.
- ◆ Alumni Association initiates endowment fund to support its scholarship program.
- ◆ ASC Athletics revives the annual Hall of Fame by honoring the six original inductees and adding six more.
- ◆ New art facility is opened, resulting from renovation of former science building.
- ◆ U.S. Dept. of Education recognizes ASC as an Hispanic Serving Institution and awards ASC a \$1.85 million grant through Title V to expand services for Hispanic and low-income students.
- ◆ Writing Across the Curriculum program adopted

2001

- ◆ ASC redesigns college logo and launches integrated marketing project designed to increase enrollment and retention.
- ◆ ASC's teacher education program is first in state to be recertified under new state requirements by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.
- ◆ Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) developed with funding from Title V grant to help professors create more learner-centered classrooms.
- ◆ nearly \$40 million spent between 1994 & 2001 on campus improvements, including:
 - \$10.4 million science building opened fall, 1998
 - renovated art building - open fall 2000
 - \$6 million theatre building, opens 2001
 - remodeled business building
 - renovated College Center
 - Track replaced
 - remodeled Plachy Field House and gym
 - Campus technology upgrade, including SMART classrooms
 - \$2 million in campus renovations for Americans with Disability Act requirements
- ◆ "Corazon del Valle," ASC's mariachi group, is launched, with scholarships for participants provided by the ASC Foundation.
- ◆ ASC adds Women's soccer team.
- ◆ "Semillas de la Tierra, Grupo Folklorico," celebrates 30 years of keeping Hispanic culture vital at ASC.

- ◆ First-time freshman enrollment increases 18.1 percent over previous year, contributing to an overall enrollment increase of 6.3 percent.
- ◆ Student Life opens Cross Cultural Center and celebrates ASC's first Diversity Week.
- ◆ ASC receives over \$1 million in grants from U.S. Dept. of Education Title VII, Hewlett-Packard, National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, and Eisenhower Title II Teacher Education Grant.
- ◆ ASC SBDC initiates partnerships with China to assist local small businesses; works with CAST (Chinese Association of Science and Technology)

2002

- ◆ Process begins to dissolve State College System and establish independent governing boards for Adams State, Mesa State, and Western State Colleges.
- ◆ Dr. J. Thomas Gilmore, ASC's seventh president, retires after seven years in that post, and a total of 29 serving Adams State.
- ◆ Dr. Lee Halgren, president of the Office of State Colleges, appointed interim president of Adams State.
- ◆ Commencement is celebrated in La Junta by the first graduation class of REAP (Rural Education Access Program), developed through ASC Extended Studies to allow "place-bound" students with associate's degrees to complete an ASC bachelor's degree in their communities.
- ◆ \$2.5 million in grants to ASC to improve literacy achievement in public schools through READ-ELA (Rural Educators Accelerating Development of English Language Acquisition), Teacher Quality Enhancement
- ◆ ASC alumni, Dale Mingilton '85 and Tim Walters '73, presented Outstanding Alumnus Award and Billy Adams Award, respectively. Estate of Rio Grande County farmer L.B. "Mike" Waters presented with Willis Fassett, Jr., Award in recognition of generous support of scholarships for ASC students.

2003

- ◆ State Colleges in Colorado system dissolved, independent Board of Trustees appointed for Adams State College, including: Vickie Ford '71, Center; LeRoy Salazar, Manassa; Timothy Walters '73, Alamosa; Dr. Charles Scoggin, Boulder; Mark Cavanaugh, Denver; Kathleen Eck, Vail; Juan Daniel Rodriguez, Colorado Springs;

Peggy Lamm, Superior; and Meyer Saltzman, Denver, as well as a student and faculty trustee in advisory capacity

- ◆ Regional Education Provider status designated to strengthen educational opportunity, economic development, and cultural enrichment in the southern Colorado region
- ◆ \$3.5 million School of Business building renovation completed, features high-tech classrooms
- ◆ ASC hosts "Toward Peaceful Times, Peaceful Selves, Peaceful World" a 3-day conference co-sponsored by campus and community groups
- ◆ Alumni Association initiates Hispanic Alumni Chapter
- ◆ Vickie Ford '71 named 2003 Outstanding Alumnus; Billy Adams Award presented to Dr. Joe Vigil '59, renowned former track and cross country coach and Emeritus Professor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. The Willis Fassett, Jr., Award, is presented to Eldo Wall, of Wall Smith Bateman and Associates, a prominent Alamosa CPA firm.

◆ The Honorable Carlos Lucero '61 addresses spring graduates .

◆ Both men's and women's cross country teams sweep the National Titles at 2003 NCAA Division II National Championships, coached by Damon Martin.

2004

- ◆ Richard A. Wueste named eighth president of ASC April 1
- ◆ Professors who change students' lives for the better, who are friends and mentors - Associated Students & Faculty (AS&F) honors five such members at inaugural Faculty Awards dinner. Honorees include: Dr. Ted McNeilsmith, professor of interdisciplinary studies and Director of the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT); Dr. John Taylor, assistant professor of speech/theatre; Dr. Elizabeth Schauer, associate professor of music and director of Choral Activities; Deborah Nelson, director of Student Life and Recreation; and Dr. Margery Herrington, associate professor of biology.
- ◆ Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) begun to support rural health care, ASC's first initiative as a Regional Education Provider, in cooperation with Trinidad State Junior College
- ◆ ASC hosts first symposium on Water and the Issues Affecting the San Luis Valley.

- ◆ Donor Dinner initiated with presentation of Foundation's Willis Fassett, Jr., Award, to Alice Acheson '68; Billy Adams Award, to Billy J. Bond, Jr. Bond, outgoing president of the ASC Foundation; and first Grizzly Club Corporate Partner of the Year award, to Ignacio "Nacho" Martinez.
 - ◆ Zoila Gomez named the 2004 Collegiate Women Sports Awards NCAA Division II Athlete of the Year. Sponsored by Honda.
 - ◆ Rosalie Martinez '86 named 2004 Outstanding Alumna.
 - ◆ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awards \$600,000 grant through HUD's Hispanic-Serving Institutions Assisting Communities Program.
 - ◆ Autumn at Adams, a new, week-long community and academic celebration showcases achievements of students and faculty, innovation of academic programs, and richness of the region's culture.
 - ◆ Talk Straight with Adams State Community Forum series begins
 - ◆ Edward M. Ryan Geological Museum opens in the science building.
 - ◆ John Salazar '81 elected Congressman for the 3rd Congressional District; Liane "Buffie" McFadyen '91, '93, of Pueblo West, retains seat in Colorado House District 47.
 - ◆ Community Partnerships Office initiated to use college's resources, facilities, and grant opportunities to support organizations building prosperity region, with projects identified to develop alternative energy use, develop a business and academic exchange program with China, and support the area's cultural arts. The office also manages ASC's Small Business Development Center, established in 1988, which doubles number of clients assisted since 1997.
- 2005**
- ◆ ASC introduces new majors in Anthropology, Physical Geography, Sports Psychology, and a new emphasis in Creative Writing
 - ◆ ASC opens One Stop Student Services Center Student Union Building, combining services of offices of Registration and Records, Student Business Services, and Financial Aid.
 - ◆ Economic Impact Analysis and Report, conducted by San Luis Valley Development Resources Group pegs ASC's total economic impact in the region at more than \$70 million a year.
 - ◆ ASC collaborates with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley and the Alamosa School District to present Kids on Campus, summer enrichment classes.
 - ◆ ASC sponsors two-week math camp for middle and high school students and teachers, part of continuing goal to foster academic growth among K-12 students in the Valley and promote teacher networking through all school districts.
 - ◆ ASC dedicates Japanese-American Memorial Garden, initiated by anonymous donor.
 - ◆ Wireless technology project completes high-speed internet connectivity campus.
 - ◆ Amanda Martinez, a freshman from Center, Colo., receives Student of the Year Award - and \$8,000 scholarship - from Denver's Latin American Educational Foundation.
 - ◆ ASC theatre students again sweep Rocky Mountain Theatre Festival, winning 6 out of 8 awards, including Best Actor and Best Designer.
 - ◆ ASC named exclusive provider of graduate credit for the Public Broadcasting Company's (PBS) TeacherLine® courses.
 - ◆ Dr. David Svaldi named interim president.