

Presidential Award for Service: Kym Fox

By Jaime Kilpatrick



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Senior lecturer and journalism sequence head Kym Fox has been awarded the 2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Service, a prestigious honor granted to a Texas State faculty member who exhibits service to the university, their profession and their community.

In addition to winning the 2008 award, Fox was a runner-up for the award twice before. She has yet to hang the plaque or the certificates in her office where the walls are already filled with photos of her two children, Robbie and Emily Boyer; her husband of 18 years, Gary Boyer; and memorabilia from her impressive career at the San Antonio Express-News.

As journalism sequence coordinator, Fox serves on multiple committees in the SJMC and across the university. The meetings and events she attends keep her schedule full from start to finish, but she still finds time to spend with her loved ones. In fact, she is known for grading papers at high school football games.

Always humble, Fox said her work at Texas State wouldn't be possible without collaboration from the entire school. An example of that work is the D.D. Hachar Visiting Hispanic Professionals Program that Fox has coordinated since 2004. As part of this program, high school students from across Texas spend the day at Texas State visiting with working professionals during Mass Communication Week.

In her home community, Fox is a board member of the Boerne Education Foundation, a Sunday School teacher at St. John Lutheran Church, and she has hosted a foreign exchange student from Shanghai.

Graduate student Ashley Wright has gotten to know Fox's busy schedule as her teach-

ing assistant. Wright moved from Alabama to begin graduate school at Texas State this year and said she is grateful to Fox for helping her make the transition to graduate school.

Assisting someone with so many obligations can seem overwhelming at times, but while Wright said Fox keeps her busy facilitating the eight student writing labs under her supervision, Fox always tries to find ways to help her graduate teaching assistants improve. "I've learned a lot by how she manages," Wright said. "She lets you figure things out on your own so it expands you as a person."

Fox's introduction to Texas began in 1985 when she moved from Arizona and her reporting job at the Mesa Tribune to the San Antonio Express-News. Craig Thomason was the metro editor at the Express-News when Fox was promoted to deputy metro editor. He remembers her success at the newspaper and said she is still held in high regard by the staff.

"To this day, Kym is considered a wise and valuable colleague," Thomason said. "In short, if I was starting a newspaper tomorrow, Kym would be the first person I contacted. She's that special."

Fox admits that her shift from the newsroom to the classroom was unexpected at first. Former Texas State journalism professor Fred Blevens convinced her to take a leave of absence from the Express-News to teach his classes when he left in 2002. "I was tricked," Fox said. "But then I really did love it."

Associate professor Susan Weill said Fox is much more than a service-oriented colleague, forward-thinking journalism professor and dedicated sequence head. "Kym is an excellent leader and innovator, and we all cherish her as a friend," Weill said. "She is our rock."