



Brooke Taylor-Johnson awarded Olds Family Student Teacher Award

By Joanna Armstrong
News Editor

SFA senior Brooke Taylor-Johnson recently received the Olds Family Student Teacher Award. Taylor-Johnson received the award, given to a student teacher from the Department of Elementary Education each semester, after being nominated by university field supervisor Maryann Bentley.

"I have had the privilege of being Brooke's field supervisor during her student-teaching experience," Bentley said. "She exemplifies leadership, dedication, knowledge, diligence, flexibility, integrity and love of children, which portrays her desire to teach."

A Nacogdoches native, Taylor-Johnson has been student teaching at Thomas J. Rusk Elementary with first-grade teacher Danielle Goff and will graduate with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies with a specialization teaching early childhood through sixth grade.

Taylor-Johnson plans to stay in Nacogdoches after graduation and wants to give back to the community.

"I really want to work with disadvantaged children, especially African-American children and minority children. They need someone strong in their life to look up to and someone who knows them and can connect with them, because that's what matters in the classroom—the connection you make with those students," Taylor-Johnson said. "And if you can't connect with those students, they're just not going to excel in the classroom. That's what I want to do—get in to my community, make differences with children that I know and let them know that, 'Hey, I've been there where you are. I've seen the same thing that you've seen every day, and look at me, and look how I've made it. You can do it too.'"

One thing that Taylor-Johnson focuses on is making a connection with her students. "For me, it's really important to make those connections ... because, once you establish that connection and that relationship, everything blossoms thereafter—classroom management [and] behavior," Taylor-Johnson said. "You don't get as many behavior problems if you make that connection with the students. And also learning, the most important thing, learning really takes off, and it excels once you've established that relationship with the students. I think that's really big, the relationship that you have with those students. They're going to remember you forever."

SFA's James I. Perkins College of Education is the university's largest college, enrolling over 30 percent of Lumberjacks, according to SFA's website. It offers 27 undergraduate/graduate degree programs and 45 educator certifications.

At this year's teacher job fair, held by Career Services from 9:30 a.m. to noon May 6 at the HPE complex, students like Taylor-Johnson will be able to network and meet with potential employers.

"The teacher job fair is an environment designed to bring students, alumni, graduate schools and employers together to network and explore further educational or employment opportunities," Assistant Director of Career Services David Gehrels said. "ISDs attend to promote their open positions for the upcoming summer or school year. Graduate schools will also attend in hopes to attract bright minds to their programs. Finally, students and alumni attend to both take advantage of these opportunities [and] expand their networks and celebrate their achievements."

Over 125 school districts will be in attendance, Gehrels said, as well as some graduate schools, private schools and professional organizations. In addition to the networking opportunities, Gehrels said the College of Education works together with Career Services to provide a celebration of student teachers at the end of the event, complete with awards and refreshments.

"SFA has done an awesome job preparing me for being a teacher," Taylor-Johnson said. "The professors are wonderful. They work with you. They know their material. You get a lot of practice, especially from the SFA Charter (School) and going out into the ISD and seeing that real-world experience."

According to Taylor-Johnson, the teaching program at SFA and her professors have helped prepare her for the next chapter of her life.

"They push you to work with those students," she said, "and you really do make a difference."



Photo by Hannah Russell/ The Pine Log

Final Exam Schedule

Monday, May 9

8 a.m. MWF: 8-10 a.m.
10 a.m. MWF: 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Noon MWF: 1-3 p.m.
4 p.m. MWF or MW: 4-6 p.m.
5 p.m. MWF or 5:30 p.m. MW: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10

8 a.m. TR: 8-10 a.m.
11 a.m. TR: 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
2 p.m. TR: 1-3 p.m.
5 p.m. TR: 4-6 p.m.
6:30 p.m. TR: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 11

9 a.m. MWF - 8-10 a.m.
11 a.m. MWF -10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
1 p.m. MWF or MW - 1-3 p.m.
7 p.m. MWF or MW - 4-6 p.m.
8 p.m. MWF or 5:30 p.m. MW - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 12

9:30 a.m. TR: 8-10 a.m.
12:30 p.m. TR: 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
3:30 p.m. TR: 1-3 p.m.
8 p.m. TR: 8-10 p.m.

Friday, May 13

2 p.m. MWF: 8-10 a.m.
3 p.m. MWF/2:30 p.m. MW: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
6 p.m. MWF: 6-8 p.m.
Conflicts: 1-3 p.m.

28th-ranked online BBA helps non-traditional students succeed

By Michael Herrington
Copy Editor

Since 2011, the Nelson Rusche College of Business has offered a bachelor's degree in business administration that can be, for the most part, completed online. The major is designed specifically for students who have completed core curriculum at a community college, but don't have the time or means to earn a four-year degree through traditional classes.

"It is officially a completer program," said Dr. Susan Jennings, business professor and coordinator of the online degree plan, "[wherein] a student comes to us from a community college with their first two years done ... and then they take all of their upper-level classes from us, and they finish that way."

Though it's possible for a student to complete nearly the entire degree online, Jennings stressed that the online degree is more suited for those who are working full-time, are married, etc. She encourages the vast majority of incoming freshmen to embrace the standard college experience.

"This program is really not for your traditional 18-year-old student out of high school," Jennings said. "To be an online student, there needs to be a degree of maturity and self-motivation ... that you often don't find in the traditional-age student. I also think that the traditional-age student [should] enjoy this time of your life ... if you've got the means to do it, [if] you're not married, you don't have

kids, you don't have work obligations, [then] come enjoy life on campus."

For students like Amy Ulloa, the degree was ideal. In fact, as a wife, mother and business development manager for a Fortune 250 company, she says it was virtually her only option. "I needed something flexible that I could do on my own time," Ulloa said. "I was able to do assignments from anywhere. I have even completed coursework on a plane."

While there are certainly advantages to taking classes online, those who have know that organization and commitment are key if you hope to do well.

"You don't have that time up at class every week, so if you haven't set yourself your own little time aside, a week may pass and you haven't even thought to look at the class and [think] 'did I have something due?'"

One of the things that sets the program apart from others is that, in terms of actual classes, the major is the same whether it's pursued in-person or online. For Jennings, this does away with the notion of the online option seeming inferior.

"This is our degree," Jennings said. "You might choose to always take your classes from the online section, but it's the same degree [and] the same class ... this is not an 'online degree.' It is our degree, and some people take it online. To me, that's a distinction."

For business students considering the degree, SFA offers the best program in the state and the 28th best in the country, according to the website College Choice.

"I chose the program at SFA specifically because of

the reputation of the university," Ulloa said. "I highly recommend an online degree to anyone who has a busy lifestyle that prevents them from being able to attend classes on campus."

For more information, contact Jennings at (936) 468-1634 or sjennings@sfasu.edu.



Photo by Hannah Russell/ The Pine Log



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News

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Student from Swaziland finds new home at SFA

By Emily Brown
Contributing Writer

Since the beginning of the spring semester, there has been a new, smiling face on campus. Ntfonjeni Dlamini arrived from Swaziland to spend the next two years at SFA and work on his master's degree in English and literature.

Dlamini wants to become a professor at the University of Swaziland and use his passion for English to teach others.

However, he said answered God's call to ministry in 2006 and, since then, he has pastored "Hailing Jesus Prayer Center." When he first arrived, Dlamini said the culture shock was difficult to adjust to.

"I am the kind of person who is determined to make it regardless of any obstacle," Dlamini said. "The biggest obstacle was the time difference, and it was the first time away from family and home. I keep communication with my wife through Skype every weekday."

Dlamini married his wife, Londiwe, on Dec. 26, 2013, and they have a daughter who was born in April 2015.

One of the first things Dlamini hoped to do quickly after he arrived was find a Christian community to join. Grace Bible Church was not on his radar until the Lord guided him after he was lost, he said.

"During MLK weekend, I was trying to find my way back to my dorm when I ended up in front of Grace," Dlamini said. "So I saw a sign and went online to see service times. The following Sunday during worship, I fell in love with the church."

Dlamini plans to take in as much information from the people of Grace as he can and use it back home as he pastors his church.

"As a minister, I want to grow," he said. "I

want to nourish my ministry and learn a lot from the pastors."

Since his first time at Grace, Dlamini said that the church has been kind to him, and he is thankful for the people who have supported him in different ways.

"I will always be grateful for the kindness that Grace has shown me," Dlamini said. "They have made it easy to live in America. They support me in many ways, and I am grateful for that. I have known these people for three months, and they have done things for me that people I've known my whole life never have done."

While his experience with Grace has been a highlight, his entire time at SFA has been a dream come true.

"My No. 1 motivation is studying in the U.S., which is every African child's dream," Dlamini said. "I am walking and living that dream. My motivation is intrinsic. I was always a student who commits to studies."

A difference Dlamini has noticed between SFA and the University of Swaziland is the relationship between students and professors.

"Back home, there is a gap, but here the professor has a relationship with the student," Dlamini said. "I have had professors talk with me and invite me over for dinner."

Dlamini plans to take back everything he has learned from SFA and Grace when he moves back home in two years. Until then, he is focusing on getting the most out of his time here in Nacogdoches and at SFA.

"It has been phenomenal at SFA," Dlamini said. "The SFA program is enjoyable. It keeps me awake a lot, because there is a lot of reading, but because I am doing what I love, I don't struggle. The professors are kind and supportive to me, which makes it easy to appreciate classes."

Halls to be torn down for new STEM building



Photo by Audra Bridges/ The Pine Log

By Haley Pogue
Staff Writer

Residence halls Todd, Gibbs and University Woods will close in May and are set to be demolished this summer in order to accommodate the new SFA STEM building.

"The university has been approved to build a new STEM building on the location where Todd Hall and Gibbs Hall are currently located," said D'nese Haddox, associate director of residence life. "Gibbs Hall housed the Residence Life Operations maintenance and custodial operations."

According to Haddox, these offices and staff members have been relocated around campus until a new Residence Life Operations facility is completed. This new structure will be built on the current site of University Woods.

"As far as employees, they told us we'll have the jobs still," said Jessica Ener, desk assistant at Todd. "It'll just be at another dorm."

Haddox said that the residents in Todd Hall and University Woods were given first priority in selecting their new rooms for the Fall 2016 semester, since the halls will be torn down.

"The resident hall director over here is graduating, and me and my co-worker got promoted, so there are no jobs that are being voided," said Jake Martin, community assistant at University Woods. "Residence-wise, what's going to happen is halls like

Todd, Gibbs and University Woods residence halls will close in May and be demolished this summer to make room for the new SFA STEM building. Residence Life Operations, housed in Gibbs Hall, will be relocated around campus until a new facility is completed.

Griffith and Kerr, which have a lot of private rooms, are going to have less private rooms."

According to Haddox, the number of students housed in Todd and University Woods will be absorbed in other residence halls on campus.

"Speaking to a lot of residents out here, they're planning on moving off-campus, because having the kitchen is a big deal," Martin said. "The cool thing about Woods is that it's apartment-style, so it's kind of secluded, and it's cheaper than all the other halls. The closest is Village and, since that's almost a \$5,000 investment, a lot of people are moving off-campus instead."

Haddox said that there are plenty of beds available in Hall 10 and Griffith, which are very similar to the Todd Hall floor plan. The cost is almost the same as the cost of Todd.

"I got hired at North Hall and my roommate will be in Mays, so we'll be in the horseshoe, which is definitely a different style than this," Martin said. "The cool thing about this place is it's literally in the middle of the woods. There's so much privacy."

Todd, Gibbs and University Woods will be demolished after the conclusion of this semester, and construction will begin this summer.

"I think the campus community is excited about future construction of the STEM building and growing interest in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics," Haddox said.

'Best Week Ever' held by Residence Hall Association



Photo by Audra Bridges/ The Pine Log

SFA's RHA held its 'Best Week Ever,' a series of programs throughout the week that students participated in. "Best week ever is a week for students to come out before dead week and finals," said Rosie Vega, RHA president. "We hold a lot of programs on campus, and we use all the resources that we have to make sure everyone has a good stress-free time."

By Devin Hogue
Staff Writer

SFA's Residence Hall Association hosted its annual Best Week Ever, a series of programs throughout the week that students can participate in to win prizes and get a free T-shirt.

According to the website, RHA promotes a positive on-campus living experience that encourages residents to make positive contributions and become leaders within each of their residence hall communities, and Best Week Ever is a program put together every year before the spring semester dead week.

"Best Week Ever is a week for students to come out before dead week and finals," said Rosie Vega, RHA president. "We hold a lot of programs around campus, and we use all the resources that we have to make sure everyone has a good, stress-free time."

She said the motivation behind Best Week Ever is to help students destress before finals.

"The month of April is stressful," Vega said. "We want students to have a week where they can come out and have fun with free activities, free T-shirts, free swag, free scantrons and Blue Books."

This year's Best Week Ever consisted of games like Dizzy Wars, Silent Library, Splatter Beat, Escape the Stress and Zumba Fest. Escape the Stress was a black-light maze set up in the Lumberjack Village game room. Students had to go through it while being quizzed on RHA trivia and other things. Zumba Fest was a program for students to take a break during the day to exercise.

Silent Library, a program based on the

MTV show, was "a way for us to test the students on how far they were willing to go for a Cane's basket," Vega said.

To win the basket, students had to eat an ice cream cone filled with various items that included spaghetti and meatballs, whipped cream and dog food.

Thursday was Dizzy Wars. This program made students aware of the dangers of drinking and driving.

"Dizzy Wars consisted of inflatable jousting with drunk goggles on," said Abrecia Barree, RHA secretary. There was an inflatable race course that you had to maneuver your way through with drunk goggles and a partner. The purpose of the drunk race course was to show it is not OK [to drink and drive]. It shows it is hard to drive a car or even operate a scooter under the influence."

Jessica Ener, a student that attended the event, was excited to do the course.

"I was struggling to go through the course," Ener said. "The goggles made it worse to see."

After experiencing the course, she said "people should not drink and drive."

Lastly, RHA had Splatter Beat. Students were supposed to wear white T-shirts. They hit trash cans full of water and paint and got the colors all over their shirts. This was a stress-relief program that made students channel their inner elementary-school days.

While Best Week Ever is only once a year, RHA has many other programs during the fall semester, like Holiday Extravaganza and Fall Fest. For more information, visit the RHA office in Lumberjack Village or their website <http://www.sfasu.edu/reslife/>.

U.S. National Arboretum geneticist to speak at series

SFA Gardens will host the monthly Theresa and Les Reeves Lecture Series at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 12, in the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building at the Pinewoods Native Plant Center, 2900 Raguet St. Dr. Lisa Alexander, United States National Arboretum geneticist, will present "Improving the World One Plant at a Time."

Alexander is a U.S. Department of Agriculture research geneticist working to improve woody ornamental landscape plants for the USNA. She received a Bachelor of Science in biology in 2005 from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where she conducted research on American chestnut tree restoration.

She received her doctoral degree in molecular genetics from Purdue University in 2010. Her dissertation focused on using molecular markers for oak seed orchard management.

Her current research focuses on breeding hydrangeas and other ornamental land-

scape species for improved disease resistance and cold tolerance, and introducing unique traits to popular ornamental species through hybridization and other advanced-breeding techniques. More information on Alexander's work can be found online at <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Research/sy-info.html>.

The Theresa and Les Reeves Lecture Series is held the second Thursday of each month at SFA's Pinewoods Native Plant Center. A rare plant raffle will be held after the program. The lecture is free and open to the public, but donations to the Theresa and Les Reeves Lecture Series fund are always appreciated.

Parking is available at the nearby Raguet Elementary School, 2428 Raguet St., with continual shuttle service to the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building.

For more information about the event, call (936) 468-1832 or email grantdamon@sfasu.edu.

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Opinions

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Cartoon by Olivia Boan/ The Pine Log

Beyoncé shines light on black lives in ‘Lemonade’

In the 21st century, this country has taken a step back. Even though we went through a Civil Rights Movement and learned that all humans deserve equal rights, it seems like the people in charge want to take it back. We’ve tried to erase the history in textbooks, we’ve tried to take away the rights of those of different sexualities when they were just granted freedom—you could argue that we’ve reverted right back to white supremacy. It seems, however, that anyone who opens his or her mouth to fight the injustice is made out to be the bad guy. Because of this, people trying to make a statement have been silenced. Fortunately, those fighting for human rights have gotten creative.

Last week, the world was given a surprise. Beyoncé, one of the world’s most-well known musical performers, released an hour-long visual album called “Lemonade.” If you watch it once, you’ll get a message of betrayal. The songs and their lyrics point in the direction of a cheating husband and Beyoncé’s stages of recovering from such heartbreak. And yes, this album is in fact about her husband’s betrayal, but those are just the words. If you watch the visual performance, a message of a race’s struggle is painted. This entire album shows the viewer the power and strength of black women and how this world has taken that away.

This visual album shows what these women have been through for centuries and how they are still at a disadvantage. There is a part before a song begins that features a speech given by Malcolm X during the Civil Rights Movement in which he says, “The most disrespected person in America is the black woman. The most unprotected person in American is the black woman.

The most neglected person in America is the black woman.” It is beautifully tragic.

This entire album is a message to the world about love and rights. It is wonderful in its ability to show what this country is trying to cover up and pretend never happened. The strongest women of the world have been through struggle. During the times of oppression, black women were under fire for everything. They were beaten, broken, raped and killed. Their history is horrendous, and it is the fault of those who sought control. To this day, they are given less and judged on names and color. As a country, we cannot ignore what they have been through and still struggle with.

This album, in all of its glory, shines a light on how we have to fight in different ways. Beyoncé talks about heartache, but she shows oppression through poetry and images of plantation homes. Women of color in white, the color known for their “freedom” from slavery, lined up in silence, showing their still oppressed lives. The entirety of it shows a culture we have ignored and a beautiful and inspirational group of people that we could learn from, but too often ignore.

This cannot be ignored anymore. The injustice it brings to the history of these women and the entire African-American race is inexcusable. Beyoncé has given us a starting point, one that shouldn’t be ignored. She has given the world a much-needed message through visualization, and she didn’t even have to incorporate it into her lyrics for it to be clear. People may not see it, but this is a perfect way to fight an ongoing war for peace and equality.

Lessons learned from freshman year

By ToColla Holley
Contributing Writer

As my second semester at SFA comes to a close, I cannot help but feel I was underprepared as an incoming freshman. I am an introvert troubled by anxiety, so to live in a new place surrounded by new and varying people was a challenge and an adventure. There are things on campus I loved and looked forward to, like the organizations and groups set up outside of the BPSC, but there were also aspects of college life I did not like so much, like 8 a.m. classes. As a student who shies away from people but wants to join in on the fun and gets stressed easily from classes, I learned three things about this campus that incoming freshmen should know.

No. 1—If you can go to any of your class SI (or supplemental instruction) groups, go. An hour may seem long

and wasteful of your time and energy, but they are extremely helpful. They are instructed by students who have taken the class and did well. SIs are especially helpful if you lack studying techniques and were never taught how to efficiently study. The extra time you take to attend each SI for your classes shows in your final grade.

No. 2—If you are stressed, depressed or just need someone to talk to, consider visiting counseling services. It’s located on the third floor of the Rusk Building, and you can make an appointment in person or by phone. Counseling can address addiction, depression, anxiety, gender identity, sexual orientation and much more. Every session is confidential. They completely understand if you are nervous or worried about seeming weak or flawed when you go to see a counselor.

No. 3—Go to the involvement fair. I can attest that you will find like-minded people at this event. Because it is hosted at the start of every semester, if you did not like one club you joined, you can always start fresh. On top of that, you will be able to get a glimpse of how diverse everyone on our campus is. You will discover new groups of people or activities that you never knew existed. So, if you have trouble coming out of your shell but want to meet new people and have a fun meeting to look forward to every week, I highly suggest popping into the next involvement fair.

Most of all, never forget that the faculty and staff are here to educate you and aid you so that you can have a successful college career. Because I learned all this sooner rather than later, my freshman year was quite successful.

Farewell from PL editor-in-chief

Fifth semester comes to an end



By Taylor
RAGLIN

Well, I put this off as long as I possibly could. It’s become a tradition at The Pine Log to have the departing editor-in-chief leave with a farewell note, and I’m thrilled to be able to take part and share what my time at this paper has meant to me.

I just didn’t think it would come so soon.

I began working at The Pine Log in the spring of 2014, contributing an article per week (usually having something to do with SFA’s athletic teams). If you read any of my work at all back then, know that you were fueling the passion of a guy that had found his calling in life. From a contributor, I became a staff writer, a copy editor, a sports editor and, now, the editor-in-chief. It’s been a wild ride—the kind of roller coaster that puts you on top of the world but is over far too soon. This place means so much to me, and I still haven’t wrapped my head around the fact that they’re making me leave it behind. They say time flies when you’re having fun, but I think “flies” is too slow a word to do the phenomenon justice.

This paper taught me the ins and outs of what will eventually become my career, but I’m leaving here with so much more than that. I’ve found a second family in those with whom I’ve worked so closely. I’ve learned lessons that extend far beyond the walls of a newsroom, and I’ve no doubt that they’ll serve me well as I get ready to write the next chapter of my life. I can’t stress this enough—if you have a passion for something, there’s no better way to let that bloom than to practice it with people who share the same passion. I’ve been fortunate enough to do just that for the last two and a half years, and I wouldn’t trade my experience for anything in the world.

I could go on and on about the things this place has given me, but I’m going to end this by focusing on the people who helped me get to where I am today.

To my friends and family and especially to my parents, Amy and Tom, and my beautiful girlfriend, Kailyn—thank you for always having my back. The long nights, stressful days and constant work take a

toll on everyone, but you guys have never ceased to lift me up and encourage me to chase my dreams. You all are exactly what I need when seas are the roughest, and you never fail me. You’ll never know how much of an impact you have on me every single day.

To my incredible staff — I wouldn’t be sitting here writing this if it weren’t for you. This paper doesn’t work without the efforts of what I truly believe is the most talented college newspaper staff in the country. You guys did some incredible work this semester, and I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that this paper is only getting better. If you need me, you know how to reach me.

To Pat Spence and Amy Roquemore—where do I even begin? When you go off to college, you hope that you’re able to come away with lasting friendships. However, not everyone is fortunate enough to form those bonds with their professors or advisers. I would not be where I am today were it not for both of you constantly spurring me on, picking me up when I fall and teaching me more than you could ever know about what it means to be a journalist. When I get that first reporting job, you know whose phones will be ringing first. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Finally, to you, the reader—you’re the reason we do what we do. Whether you pick up The Pine Log every week or this is your very first issue, thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting us in what we love. I don’t do this for myself. I do it for the love of telling stories, informing people and, hopefully, having a positive impact in this world. Each and every person who has ever picked up our work is a part of that mission, and I can’t express how grateful I am for that.

Man. It’s really time to stop. This will be the last time I’ll write for this paper, and that’s something I knew I would never be prepared for. I know this much—I’ll never truly leave this place behind. The Pine Log will always be a part of who I am, and I hope that I’ve given this paper even half of what it’s given back to me. Thank you all, and I’ll see you down the road.

Opinions Policy

Opinions expressed in this section of The Pine Log are those of the individual writer or cartoonist and do not necessarily reflect those of the university, its administrative officers or its Board of Regents.

Letters should be typed and should include the student’s hometown, classification, campus identification number and phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for space, spelling, grammar and potentially libelous material. Letters should not be longer than 300 words. Any letter that does not follow this criteria will not be published.

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Entertainment

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Resident playwright teaches students not to fear writing, instills love for craft

By **Andrea Nelson**
Staff Writer

SFA is known for providing its students unique and inspiring opportunities during their pursuit of higher education. Some of these opportunities come in the form of extracurricular activities, Greek life or guest speakers and professors. Jack Heifner, resident playwright of the SFA School of Theatre, is an example of these special guests. Heifner is a playwright based in New York, though he was born and raised in the state of Texas. Every spring semester, he returns to SFA to teach an annual playwrighting and screenwriting course, as well as to direct a mainstage production or host the Festival of New American Plays. Heifner is credited in many writings both on the stage and on the screen, and is the author of “Vanies,” which ran in New York. “I was working in Hollywood and getting very tired of it. I have always lived in New York but went to [Los Angeles] for six years to work in movies and television,” Heifner said. “I wanted to get back to Texas for a few months out of the year and sent out 10 letters to Texas schools.” Heifner came to SFA in 1977 and has taught one academic semester per year since. His writing classes offer an opportunity for students in all departments to get some experience in what it takes to write a scene or a full script or screenplay. It also offers students a way to see how audiences react to their work via collaborative processes with other students in the classroom. Twice in the semester, for midterms and for finals, the students are required to write a

short script to read aloud in the class. This is followed by critiques from both Heifner and the students so that writers can get a feel for what their strengths and weaknesses are in a familiar, academic setting. “I want them get over their fear of writing,” Heifner said. “My students write a lot and then read their work out loud ... You can view the reaction to you work. You can’t do that if someone is reading or viewing your work in their home.” Heifner also hosts the Festival of New American Plays, a biennial event. The festival features new works from both Heifner and other prolific or prominent writers, and multiple staged readings are presented during festival week for public audiences. The festival offers a unique experience, and students involved get a feel for what it’s like to do a show that isn’t simply tap dancing and memorizing a 20-year-old book of dialogue. Though Heifner has gotten offers elsewhere since he has joined the SFA family, he has stuck firmly to the University for the past 39 years, even turning down a later offer from his alma mater to continue teaching SFA students. “Theatre students have a real love for what they do, and it’s more than learning a craft,” Heifner said. “It’s about a love for the theatre and the rich history of the performing that you need to learn and respect in order to do it properly.” Above all else, Heifner emphasizes the importance of education and learning the skills students later need to apply to the professional world. He commends his own education and how prepared he feels it made him for his success. “I hope that is what we are doing here by giving the students a solid foundation to build upon in their careers,” Heifner said.

Four choirs come together for ‘An American Requiem’

By **James Burns**
Contributing Writer

The SFA A Cappella Choir, Choral Union, Women’s Chorus and the Orchestra of the Pines will be performing “An American Requiem” by Richard Danielpour under the direction of Dr. Tim King, director of choral studies, at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Turner Auditorium. “It’s really, really difficult music,” choir member Austin Davis said. “We’ll be singing tritones, and it sounds really cool ... when we were listening to it originally, I was like, ‘Is this the Jurassic Park soundtrack?’” The concert will also feature constant observances to September 11th, choir member Kathleen Easterling said. “All of the choirs have been working on this,” Easterling said. “Choral Union, A

Cappella choir and Women’s Choir—all of the different choirs came together for this masterwork recital.” Easterling recommended the concert because of the uniqueness of the piece. “It sounds really cool,” Easterling said. “It’s very different than anything I’ve ever heard with the choral union because, when you think of a choir, you think of the Handel’s Messiah and the ‘Hallelujahs’ and all that, but it’s just very strange sounding, in a good way.” Guest soloists will be SFA alum Erin Roth, mezzo-soprano; Richard Novak, tenor; and Casey Jones Parrish, baritone. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$3 for students and youth. For tickets or more information, call the SFA Fine Arts Box Office at (936) 468-6407 or visit <http://www.finearts.sfasu.edu>.

Top things to do in Nacogdoches (according to a May graduate):

- **Country dance at Banita Creek Hall**
- **Find new nature trails around Nacogdoches**
- **Eat at Liberty Bell and Olde Towne General Store in historic downtown**
- **Eat all of the green sauce at Jalepeño Tree**
- **Go to any sporting event, especially men’s basketball—there are always giveaways!**

Column: Senior’s farewell, thank you to Nacogdoches

By **Evie Sweeten**
Entertainment Editor

If anyone would have told me at 17 that I would be upset while writing about how much I’ll miss a place called Nacogdoches, I would have laughed in their face. Despite all my best efforts, here I am, near tears while writing this column. After figuring out how to properly pronounce Nacogdoches, I started calling it home. I have loved and explored almost every inch of this town. The energy in this town is like no other place I’ve ever been. Crazy Fridays and sleepy Sundays have become an easy way of life. I have spent most every Friday night two-stepping at Banita Creek Hall, followed by finding new trails to explore each Saturday morning. Downtown Nacogdoches holds my heart, thanks to Liberty Bell and Olde Towne General Store. I can never ask for more than extra green sauce at The Jalepeño Tree. I learned service quicker than at Cook Discount Tire is not possible. Though the town itself is mesmerizing in its own right, the people are what make it truly amazing.

Each day, the employees at campus recreation greet me with a smile. My co-workers make me laugh so hard I forget I’m working. My professors know my name and truly believe in me to succeed. The priest shakes my hand and smiles every Sunday. I joined a sorority to find a group of girls so caring, loyal and goofy that life without them by my side each day seems impossible. I found my best friends that can carry me through this phase of my life along to the next. At home, my life revolved around work, my family and football. Living in Nacogdoches came with an entirely new set of priorities: outdoor activities, work and, of course, basketball. I think it would be an understatement to say electricity was in the air in the Coliseum when we played Sam Houston last year. School pride felt almost tangible at the 8 a.m. ESPN game. Tears are a lost cause on me, but I definitely cried in the middle of Alabama during spring break when the Jacks won the first round of March Madness. I also definitely cried in the middle of Frogs with a group of students when we lost to Notre Dame. Through the past few years, I think we’ve truly been able to come together as Lumberjacks to make one huge, excitable and obsessed family. Leaving my hometown when almost everyone I knew decided to stay was scary, to say the least. I felt like I had made a huge mistake for the first few months. Everyone was so sure I would come running back home by the end of the first year, if not the first semester. Given time, I was able to make this place my home. Now that I’m leaving this stage of my life behind, I’m not entirely sure where home is. Going back to my family in my hometown is always an option, but it just doesn’t feel right. I feel I’ve been gone too long; it won’t be the place I remember. Maybe I’ll take a page from 17-year-old me’s book. I’ll find a new place to fall in love with. I think, despite my classes and everything I was taught in them, the most important thing I learned in these three years is to find people who can make anywhere feel like home. Thank you, and axe ‘em, Jacks!


Column: Prince’s songs leave proof of icon status

By **Michael Herrington**
Copy Editor

Let’s assume that you’re a pop-cultural oddity who has somehow missed out entirely on Prince’s music. Throughout the past nearly two weeks, you’ve seen the constant TV tributes, mourning and remembrances of the man and wondered just what all the fuss is about. Well, listen to a song like “1999,” from the 1982 album of the same name. Yes, you’ll be weirded out by the first few seconds (“Don’t worry, I won’t hurt you,” a deep voice booms. “I only want you to have some fun...”). Then the drum snaps into life, the cymbals sizzle and the synth lays down one of the most infectious, unforgettable grooves you’ll ever hear. Listen to how each singer (Lisa Coleman and Jill Jones, soft and lustrous; Dez Dickerson, brash and confident; Prince, smooth and unpredictably fierce), complement and mingle with each other so well. First and foremost, listen to Prince. Like James Brown and Michael Jackson, every single sound that comes out of this man’s mouth, and I mean every shriek, gasp, squeal, or scream, feels both spontaneous and obviously deliberate. So, listen to this song, then move on to “Little Red Corvette,” which somehow manages to top “1999,” then you might as well finish off the rest of the album, a masterpiece of rock, funk and, most of all, pop. Listen to how a catchy, ‘50s rock ‘n’ roll tune is crafted out of goofy keyboards with “Delirious.” Listen to the deliciously dirty “Let’s Pretend We’re Married” and clutch your pearls. Listen to the towering “Free” and get goosebumps. Listen, listen, listen and realize that an artist like this is to be cherished, valued and remembered.

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Photos by Hannah Russell/ The Pine Log

The SFA Student Activities Association held its Springfest event April 29 outside the BPSC. The free event, held at the end of every spring semester, featured free food, energy drinks provided by SFA Dining, a station to tie-dye shirts, music and games, such as mini golf.



‘Mann Up’ event offers advice for maintaining long-term relationships

By Devin Hogue
Staff Writer

Is monogamy impossible in college? Many people believe that it is hard to find and maintain a relationship, especially in college. SFA senior Darrell Peel started a program called Mann Up to help men find a long-term partner.

He recently held two seminars, one for men and the other for both women and men, in which he spoke about his perspective on life, love and success.

“Basically, Mann Up is an organization that me and my girlfriend came up with,” Peel said. “It’s an organization to help men learn the essentials of life and how to value different things in life—to help them become more of a man.”

Peel spoke on his views of what he thought made a successful lesson. He spoke about his past experience with relationships, admitting to the audience that, before his relationship with his current girlfriend, he hadn’t had a relationship longer than four months. In his seminar, he gave details on how his relationship with his girlfriend made him change his bachelor ways.

One piece of advice offered to men and women alike was to stay single for a while.

“When you do find someone, you can do for them because you already do for yourself,” Peel said. “I learned from a wise man. Take, for example, this building. They had to have a solid foundation for it to stay put in the right place. Before you go into a relationship, make sure your foundation is stable, because one little crack can mess up the building.”

Peel covered many topics, such as independent women, making a man feel like a man, cheating, staying loyal and finding someone who wants the same thing as you.

Peel also let the audience members interject their own opinions. He also gave an opportunity during the last part of the seminar for women and men to ask each other different questions pertaining to stereotypes each of them have, like “Why do men cheat and expect the woman to stay with them?”

Senior Lauren Tutt, who has been in a long-lasting relationship, spoke about her opinions and advice for women. She gave her perspective on why she thinks commitment can be hard for men.

“I feel like, when men find the right person, they are able to do a monogamous relationship,” Tutt said. “But while in college, especially in the younger years, it is easier for them to stray away from one person.”

Peel and Tutt gave their last remarks about how they feel people in college students can find a relationship.

“Don’t go out to find a relationship,” Tutt said. “Focus on you, and that right man will come along when God feels it’s time for you to be in a relationship.”

“My advice for someone who is trying to find a relationship is to be patient, because there is always someone that is out there for someone,” Peel said. “Find yourself, and that someone will find you as well.”

For more information on Mann Up or a peer’s relationship advice, contact Darrell Peel on Twitter at @_DPeel7.

SFA faculty members honored for years of service

10, 20, 30, 40 and 50-year tenures and retirees recognized for dedication to the university

SFA faculty members were recently honored for their years of service to the institution during the annual Faculty Service Awards ceremony.

10-year Honorees

Faculty members honored for 10 years of service included Brad Maule, theatre and art; Wesley A. Brown, geology; Brian Daniel Beavers, mathematics and statistics; Mark Seaman and Mary Catherine Breen, secondary education and educational leadership; Daniel G. Scognamiglio, wildlife ecology and conservation/GIS; Laura Osborne, English and creative writing; Ashley A. Hall, business, communication and legal studies; Le’Ann Solomonson, human services; J.D. Salas, music; Todd A. Brown, College of Business; and Laura Logan, nursing. Also honored, but not pictured, were Mario P. Ajero and Gene Moon, music; Bryan Scott Bailey and Linda Black, secondary education and educational leadership; Jeremy J. Becnel, Kent Edward Riggs and John Burian Sullivan, mathematics and statistics; Lynsey Carol Cortines, human sciences; Jillian Renee Defore, Deborah Michell Kirkland, Steven J. Marsden and Dylan Edward Parkhurst, English and

creative writing; Dianne Eileen Dentice, anthropology, geography and sociology; Cynthia Marshall Devin and M. Scott Sosebee, history; Delbert L. Graves, kinesiology and health sciences; Matthew Alex Kwiatkowski, biology; Alan Bruce Larson and Michael P. Munro, human services; Michael Maurer, agriculture; Emmerentie Oliphant, social work; Kefa Karimu Onchoke, chemistry; Lee W. Payne, political science; and Karren S. Price, government.

20-year Honorees

Faculty members recently honored for 20 years of service at Stephen F. Austin State University faculty members included Steven Arthur Josephsen, elementary education; Deborah A. Pace and Kimberly M. Childs, College of Sciences and Mathematics; Donald Brent Burt, Stephen Charles Wagner and Beatrice Ann Clack, biology; Brian P. Oswald, forestry; Elizabeth Vaughan, elementary education; William Dan Bruton, physics and astronomy; and Robert Culpepper, management, marketing and international business. Kenneth Farrish, environmental science and forestry, also was honored for 20 years of service.

30, 40 and 50-year Honorees

Four long-term employees of Stephen F. Austin State University were among those honored in a ceremony held recently. Honorees included Bill Weber, human services, 40 years of service; Sally Ann Swearingen, human sciences, 30 years of service; and, with 50 years of service each, SFA President Baker Pattillo and Jim E. Towns, languages, cultures and communication.

Retirements

Faculty members retiring from Stephen F. Austin State University were honored during a recent ceremony. Honorees included Volker Gobel, geology; Rebecca Greer, human sciences; Melissa McMillian-Cunningham, theatre; Violet Rogers, accounting; John W. Goodall, music; Kathleen Belanger, social work; Elizabeth Rhodes, dance; and Robert Strader, computer science. Retirees honored but not pictured include Dennis Bradford, history; Wade Carter, Steen Library; Sheila Dyer, human services; Dale Spradling, accounting; Barbara Stump, horticulture; and Mark Turner, music.

Paddie to speak at commencement

State Rep. Chris Paddie will offer the commencement address during SFA's spring graduation ceremonies Saturday, May 14.

Serving his second legislative term representing the Texas House of Representatives District 9, Paddie, a native of Center, served as the vice chairman of the House Energy Resources Committee as well as a member of the Transportation and House Administration Committees.

He also served on the Transportation Subcommittee on Long-term Transportation Planning and Infrastructure, and was the House of Representatives appointee to the Texas Bioenergy Policy Counsel.

Paddie is a member of the Texas Conservative Coalition, a vice-chair of the Texas Energy Caucus, vice-chair of the Young Texans Legislative Caucus, a member of the Texas Tourism Caucus and the Fine Arts Caucus.

The Texas Conservative Coalition honored Paddie as a Courageous Conservative for his work during the 83rd Legislative Session, and the Texas Conservative Roundtable recognized

him as a Lone Star Conservative Leader.

The Texas Association of Business named Paddie a Champion of Free Enterprise and the Combined Law Enforcement Agencies of Texas called Paddie one of the Best in the House.

Paddie currently serves as the chairman of the Texas Association of Broadcasters. Previously, he served as the chairman of the Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce and on the board of directors for the Marshall Harrison County Literacy Council. He is a past president of the Boys and Girls Club of the Big Pines.

Paddie received his bachelor's degree in industrial distribution from Texas A&M University. After graduation, he worked in Houston selling safety equipment and industrial products.

While in Houston, he married his high school sweetheart, Brooke Hanszen. The couple returned to East Texas and settled in Marshall, where Paddie worked as the general manager of KMHT radio. He was elected to the Marshall City Commission in 2008 and served as mayor, where he

became known for his leadership and values.

The Paddies have two sons, Christopher and Noah.

Graduates from SFA's James I. Perkins College of Education and College of Fine Arts will participate in a 9:30 a.m. ceremony in William R. Johnson Coliseum. Candidates from the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, the Nelson Rusche College of Business, the College of Liberal and Applied Arts, and the College of Sciences and Mathematics will participate in a 2 p.m. ceremony.

An estimated 1,453 degrees will be awarded, including 1,145 bachelor's degrees, 294 master's degrees and 14 doctoral degrees. More than 320 students will graduate with honors, including 132 cum laude, 103 magna cum laude and 85 summa cum laude. Also, there will be more than 60 university scholar honors.

Master's and doctoral degree candidates will graduate with their respective colleges, and Paddie will provide the commencement address at both ceremonies.

SFA to host free screening of ‘Thunder Soul’ Friday at Cole Concert Hall

The Audio Engineering Society at SFA will present a free screening of “Thunder Soul,” a documentary about bandleader Conrad “Prof” Johnson and the Kashmere High School Stage Band, at 2 p.m. Friday in Cole Concert Hall on the SFA campus.

Produced by Jamie Foxx and directed by Mark Landsman, the film tells the story of alumni from Houston's storied Kashmere High School Stage Band who return home after 35 years to play a tribute concert for their beloved bandleader who turned the struggling jazz band into a world-class funk powerhouse in the early 1970s, according to the IMDb description.

Now, years later, Johnson's students prepare to pay tribute to the man—age 92 at the time the film was made—who changed their lives.

Some haven't played their horns in decades, yet they dust off their instruments, determined to retake the stage to show Prof and the world that they've still got it with the making of a CD release, “528-0728.”

The film is one hour, 23 minutes and is rated PG for language and momentary smoking. A question-and-answer session will follow.

The Cole Concert Hall is located in Room 100 of Tom & Peggy Wright Music Building.



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Photo by Audra Bridges/ The Pine Log

SFA alum Josh Tucker, a former member of SFA Wake, the university’s wakeboarding team, practices at Lake Nacogdoches.

Veronica Weaver new face of SFA’s Office of Multicultural Affairs

Sitting in a purple room with purple axe handles pinned above her desk, Veronica Weaver talks about her decade-long transition from student to orientation supervisor and, just this year, to head of the SFAOffice of Multicultural Affairs.

“OMA was what I expected as far as the programs it hosts,” said Weaver, the campus organization’s new director. “What I wasn’t expecting is just how passionate the students would be about everything - politics, social justice. I also underestimated the power of the community and its support of OMA events.”

A native of Longview, Weaver began at SFA as a student in 2005. She graduated four years later with a bachelor’s degree in biology with the goal of becoming a physical therapist before “converting,” she chuckled.

“During undergrad, I worked as a physical therapy technician in the mornings and then as an orientation leader in the afternoons,” Weaver said. “But I was finding that I was loving going to orientation but wasn’t so excited to go to the hospital every day. And that’s no one’s fault, I just had more passion to help students.”

Weaver accepted a supervisory job with SFA orientation soon after graduation. She went on to study educational

leadership at SFA and graduated with a master’s degree in that field in 2011.

Through orientation, Weaver had worked with OMA staff on projects, such as the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and various diversity presentations, among others. The directorship wasn’t a thought in her mind until she heard former OMA director Dr. Osaro Airen had accepted a job in Dallas earlier this year. Airen had been in the position for approximately three years.

“Osaro made the announcement to leave, and when the position opened, there was an opportunity I wasn’t expecting,” Weaver said. “It’s just funny how life throws things at you.”

The transition has been a pleasant surprise. While still able to use the same passion for helping others that prompted her interest in physical therapy, Weaver is excited to make a difference in students’ lives.

“I had to think first about whether I wanted to cross over into multicultural affairs and then assess what the needs were and if I could add to it,” she explained. “I’m very happy I made the decision. Switching over has been really exciting.”

As Weaver settles into her new role, she is eager to continue

making a name for the organization not only on campus but in the Nacogdoches community as well.

“I started sending out emails regarding our upcoming events, and the number of people who responded was wonderful,” Weaver said. “I value everyone’s time. I believe you can dedicate your time to anything you want, but to go out of your way to take your family to OMA events means a lot. And I attribute a lot of that community outreach to Osaro. I think he had great ties in the community.”

Weaver began assessing the OMA’s future and the organization’s goals the moment she began as director. Her main focus is branching out to draw in a bigger student base.

“I do want to have programs that appeal to every demographic here at the university,” Weaver said. “That’s Asian American, Native American, African American, Caucasian - everyone. My other goal is focusing on getting students engaged, especially with under-represented populations. If you look at the research, they are the ones falling behind in retention. My goal is to get them in here and engage them. I’m a big advocate about that.”

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Photo by Hannah Russell/ The Pine Log

SFA Scoreboard

MEN'S GOLF: Luke Sheehan named to All-SLC First Team

WOMEN'S GOLF: Jesse White named to All-SLC Second Team

BASEBALL: Jacks complete sweep of ACU with 7-2 win Sunday

SOFTBALL: SFA clinches SLC tourney berth with 7-6 win over NSU

TRACK: MyLik Kerley claims SLC Track Athlete of the Week honor

Motivated by tragedy, fueled for success

Sophomore SFA track star Tedrick ‘Fast Teddy’ Hawkins uses his father’s unexpected death and the lessons he left behind as inspiration to succeed on the track, in the classroom and in the arena of life

Laython Washington
Contributing Writer

Tedrick Hawkins, a sophomore member of the SFA track and field team from Tyler, is a student who defines what the phrase “don’t be a spectator” means. Hawkins committed to SFA to run track during his collegiate career, but he didn’t start running track until his sophomore year of high school. Since his first semester, Hawkins has made a name for himself. He runs the 200m and 400m, the 4x400m relay, and the 4x100m relay. He was a part of the indoor and outdoor conference championship team last season, a huge way to start his career here. However, around campus, “Fast Teddy” is known for more than just blazing past opponents.

You can catch him at an event with his camera, taking photos of the people and scenery—just type in “#TeddyTookIt” on Twitter and his you’ll see his pictures, taken around the SFA campus. Photography is a passion he never thought would be an important aspect of his life.

“Because I’m an athlete, I don’t have time to get a job. I’m a very social person. I like to be out at events,” Hawkins said. “Honestly I can’t tell you—[photography] came out of nowhere.”

Photography is a way for him to make money while attending school. A few weeks ago, another milestone was achieved in his collegiate career. Hawkins was inducted into the prestigious fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha, the first African-American fraternity ever founded. Two of his teammates were already a part of the organization.

“I found out about [Alpha Phi Alpha] from Torrin Stark, a member of the frat and my recruit guide on my visit,” Hawkins said. “I just liked the way they dress, and everything about them made me want to join them.”

Hawkins broke the school record for the 400-meter leg of the indoor distance medley relay with a time of 10:00.48, which he couldn’t believe.

“I ran so horribly,” he said with a laugh. “I didn’t feel like I was running as hard as I could.”

Hawkins can usually be found with a bright smile across his face, but there was a day when that smile wasn’t as bright. Losing his dad in a car crash at a young age made him tougher as he grew older, and he said his dad is the reason why he works so hard, because that’s what his father was—a hard-working man.

“He instilled something in me while I was young on what a man does, like looking a man in his eye while shaking his hand—that I’ll never forget,” Hawkins said.

To this day, Hawkins will never forget his father’s teachings and the morals he learned very young, which make him the man he is today. Just like his father, Hawkins is a hard-

working young man, and his peers have made sure it doesn’t go unnoticed. Two years in a row, they have has voted him “Mr. SFA18” at the SFA Grammys, which he doesn’t take for granted.

“I’m just thankful and blessed to receive that award,” Hawkins said. “It means a lot to me.”




Photo courtesy of SFA Athletics

Tedrick Hawkins (right) runs alongside his competition in hopes of gaining an edge on them during an SFA track event this season. Hawkins recently broke the SFA school record for the 400m relay and has been voted Mr. SFA18 at the SFA Grammys in two consecutive years.

SFA administrators investigating complaint made by student-athlete

SFA officials are investigating a complaint made by a member of the Ladyjack Basketball team, who claims that head coach Mark Kellogg treated her unfairly during the season. Because this is a personnel issue, the university will not comment on the matter while the investigation continues.

“The well-being of all SFA students is our primary concern,” said Dr. Baker Pattillo, SFA president. “Our investigation, which began (in mid-April), will be thorough. We will take any appropriate action based on what is found.”



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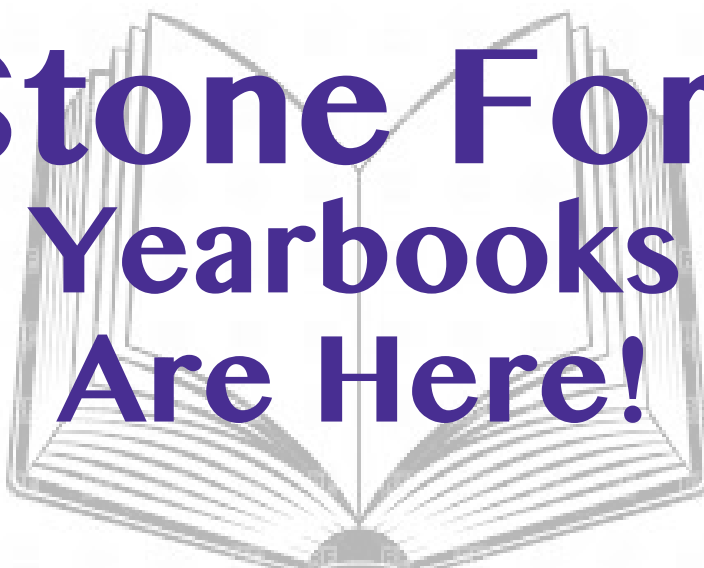
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