



Graduates say goodbye to life at SFA



Photo Illustration by Hannah Russell/ The Pine Log

Graduating seniors (from left) Bethany Miller, middle level education major; Briana Callier, kinesiology major; and Averi Taylor, childhood development major, throw up axes in front of the Austin Building.

By **Andrea Nelson**
Staff Writer

With another semester almost come and gone, many students have found their way to the end of college and at the beginning of the next chapter.

Before taking the next step, however, seniors have to survive one final campus event: graduation.

Beyond having to buy caps and gowns, pick up cords, finish up finals and all the other tasks that come along with wrapping up a college degree, graduation is a

collection of all sorts of people and experiences, all celebrating the fact that they are finally done. There are a lot of different reactions from students preparing themselves for the “real world.”

There is also a diverse group of students in each graduating class, including various majors, transfer students, more than just the millennial age group.

“Being older than most of the other students has given me an interesting perspective,” Bruce Moran, a member of the spring 2017 graduating class, said. “I’m in this weird place where I feel

too old to hang out with other students and too young to hang out with the professors.”

Despite this, Moran stressed the importance of coming back to school to earn his degree.

“I’ve certainly learned a lot in my time here, and I think despite my age I’ve still managed to get that ‘college experience,’” Moran said.

Morgan Shannon, a transfer student from Angelina College, expressed similar struggles and triumphs as a transfer. She explained that since transferring, she still makes the commute to

school from Lufkin every day, and spoke about other challenges that come with being on a new campus to finish out her degree.

“I already had my associates, so when I came to SFA I only had to take classes for my major and minor,” Shannon said, “but it did make it a difficult to make friends.”

For Shannon, graduating means finally joining the real world, which can be something many students are apprehensive about regardless of their graduation date. For others, however, there is a lingering fear that they’ll miss

that opportunity and be unable to graduate for some last-minute reason.

“Nightmarish fever dreams run through my mind’s eye, about failing one class that won’t be offered in the fall,” Moran said, “so I have to wait until the following spring to retake it.”

Despite these worries, graduation still signifies an important achievement for members of any graduating class.

“I knew this day would come when I started this journey, and I am ready for the next thing,” Morgan said.

Online bachelor’s degree ranked eighth in nation

By **Brielle Thomas**
Staff Writer

SFA’s online bachelor’s degree in special education was ranked eighth out of the best 15 schools in the nation by an independent online publication.

According to College Choice, the online degree was ranked by academic quality, return of investment, acceptance rates and early career salaries.

Dr. Kathleen Sheriff, assistant professor and online program coordinator at SFA, said the recognition is a wonderful stamp of approval on the hard work put into the program.

“I worked quite hard to develop the program, having come from public education to higher education,” Sheriff said. “I know what paraprofessionals and

non-traditional students coming back to school really need to do in terms of going into our field of special education.”

The Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary studies is a degree that students major in special education and minor in general education so that they become highly qualified, according to Sheriff.

“They are special education teachers, pre-k through 12, when they pass their certification exam. And then they are also general education teachers, EC (early childhood) through sixth, or fourth through eighth,” Sheriff said. “They actually leave here with three certifications, and sometimes four if they go for a fourth one while they are still here with us.”

Sheriff said it takes the same amount

of time to complete the online degree as it would for a student to complete the degree here on campus.

“It’s the exact same degree plan,” Sheriff said. “They are able to stay in their hometowns across the state. Then our educator prep program hires their student-teacher supervisors in those areas, and they student-teach where they live that very last semester.”

According to Sheriff, there are military wives in the online program as well.

“I’ve got two in Guam, one in Japan, one in Alabama, and another one just applied from Washington state,” Sheriff said. “They will take all of their course work online and do their field experiences and internships in their public schools there. And then when their husbands return to Fort Hood, it’s their plan to do

their student-teaching in Texas.”

Sheriff said she would like to expand this aspect of the program for military families.

“If they are planning on coming back to Texas, they can take everything and be ready to student-teach when they get back to Texas,” Sheriff said.

Paraprofessionals get to keep their jobs until the student-teaching semester, Sheriff said.

“They have to quit their jobs that semester and become a full-time student teacher according to state law,” Sheriff said. “But the way that it benefits them is that they get to do their internships right there in their jobs. Also, they get to keep their health insurance in place.”

DEGREE, PAGE 3

Student teaches art classes for local elementary students

\$ This is the last installment in a series of stories featuring SFA students’ unique on- and off-campus jobs.

By **Jillian Whitney**
Contributing Writer

In a children’s art class, three students make an animal from Popsicle sticks, pom-poms and googly eyes. The boy knows from the beginning that he is making a lion. One little girl starts throwing things together without knowing what it will be; it becomes a cat. Another girl creates a “fuzz-fuzz” named Horton whose favorite color is pink.

Leading these students is Ashton Hughes, an SFA film student, who teaches an art class at the Nacogdoches C.L. Simon Recreation Center in Nacogdoches for an hour every Thursday.

Hughes is a junior who transferred to SFA in fall 2016, having already completed

an associate degree in digital video and cinema production. Hughes said her dream career would be to become a producer who makes psychological thrillers.

She began teaching the art class in January and normally has about three students. Hughes said her art projects have included rainbows, piggybanks, valentines and painting.

“The kids are very excited about art to the point they scream about it,” Hughes said. “One time during class, a girl screamed, ‘I love art!’”

Though Hughes said she loves the students’ excitement, sometimes their high energy can be difficult to manage. “Lately it’s been hard to get them to sit still,” she said.

ART, PAGE 3



Photo by Bastian York/ The Pine Log

SFA film student Ashton Hughes encourages kids’ creativity with a local art class at the Nacogdoches C.L. Simon Recreation Center for an hour every Thursday.

News

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SFA community offers advice on battling stress



Photo Illustration by Hannah Russell/ The Pine Log

During Dead Week, students look for ways to relax. Stress can contribute to an increase in anxiety, high blood pressure, lowered immunity and even weight gain. "You've survived every day so far, just breathe," Jessica Waguespack said. "Find that one thing that you enjoy, that one thing that takes your mind off of school and studying and do it at least once a week."

By Taylor Antwine
Staff Writing

College students often feel stressed for many different reasons. In fact, according to The Odyssey Online, 86 percent of college students have felt overwhelmed.

Recently, SFA's student wellness action team (SWAT), gave students the opportunity to release some of that stress at the DeStress Fest. It has occurred every semester during Dead Week for the past five years. The Destress Fest is "A place where students can come to play with animals, participate in other stress relieving activities and take a break from studying," said Jessica Waguespack, employee wellness coordinator at the Rec. "The event was originally Puppy Palooza," Waguespack said. "Campus Recreation wanted to provide a fun and easy event for students to unwind during the stress of Dead Week. As years progressed, it has evolved into the event it is today."

Stress can have many negative effects on students. "If stress is not managed well, it can have both mental and physical consequences. From a mental health perspective, it can cause an increase in anxiety, frustration, and anger issues," SFA professor Dr. Le'Ann Solmonson said. "That can have a negative impact on memory and learning, as well as many negative physical effects. It lowers your immune system, raises blood pressure, contributes to weight gain and may trigger mental illness."

There are many reasons why college students can feel stressed. Being away from home for the first time can factor into that, Solmonson said.

"The reasons for stress are as unique and individual as the students themselves. College is an important developmental stage in which many students are separating from their parents from the first time and experiencing a higher level of independence," Solmonson said. "For some, that creates stress and anxiety. This may be the first time they do not have adults structuring their time and providing limits. If they have not previously been given opportunities to make decisions, it can be a little scary for

some."

Additionally, the rigorous nature of college coursework might be a stressor, Solmonson said.

"The academic demands of college are very different than most high schools. Students may find that study skills that were previously effective no longer help them be successful," Solmonson said. "Time management is often a cause of stress. I have seen that when students have more time on their hands, they do not manage their time as well. They procrastinate because they have time to put things off. They often get themselves in a time crunch and increase their stress level as they try to meet a deadline." Other reasons for stress include roommate and financial trouble, Solmonson said.

There are however many different ways to deal with stress.

"Breaking things into small manageable chunks helps me. Physical exercise is a great stress reliever for me. Taking a brisk walk or just getting up and moving around for a few minutes helps me. When things get really hectic for me, I start making lists and tackle the things that are the most urgent or that I can quickly take care of so my list gets smaller."

Solmonson makes sure to make time for things that she enjoys.

"When I am on top of my game, I make sure that I do the things that I enjoy like working in my yard and cooking," Solmonson said. "I have backyard chickens and find it very relaxing to go outside and watch them free range while listening to music. I love being outside, and just a few minutes in the fresh air and sunshine is helpful to me."

Dr. Leslie Cecil, department chair and associate professor of sociology, said time management is important. "Schedule time wisely. Do something fun every day," Cecil said. "Don't get behind in school work. Mediate or exercise. Take a walk without electronics."

Waguespack reminds students to slow down and take a break. "You've survived every day so far, just breathe," Waguespack said. "Find that one thing that you enjoy, that one thing that takes your mind off of school and studying and do it at least once a week."

SFA students hold math career carnival

Why is math important?

Stephen F. Austin State University early childhood through sixth grade elementary education online teacher candidates recently hosted a Math Career Carnival at Raguet Elementary School to help answer this question.

Through a variety of interactive booths, SFA students showcased math skills and connected those skills to careers such as aerospace engineering, managing a bakery, landscaping and working as a veterinarian.

Drs. Paula Griffin and Mark Montgomery, assistant professors in SFA's Department of Elementary Education, orchestrated the Math Career Carnival as a way to engage online teacher candidates in a real-world teaching experience.

"SFA online students live all over Texas. Unless they are paraprofessionals in a school district, our online students have limited access to students in public school classrooms," Griffin said. "Participating in the carnival is beneficial for them on many levels. SFA online students have the opportunity to plan and develop a mathematics lesson or activity that truly answers questions many elementary students pose, 'Why is math important?' and 'When am I ever going to use it?'"

More than 40 SFA students participated in the event this semester. SFA students created and implemented activities for

their booths, which served approximately 200 fourth and fifth-grade students at Raguet Elementary School.

"One of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills teachers struggle with is making connections to the real-world. This event helps our students and Raguet teachers see that connections are everywhere and can easily be made for students," Montgomery said. "One SFA student prepared for her booth by visiting her local airport and talking with pilots. By simply seeking out that real-world connection, she was able to design her activities and now has a partnership with the local airport for her future students."

In another booth, SFA students created an activity where participants explored the career of a baker who must use decimals and fractions to correctly portion and serve cake. Students also built another booth where participants discovered how engineers use multiplication of decimals to design and build various aviation and space-flight apparatuses.

"Actual facilitation of the activity at the carnival provided multiple scenarios for SFA students to quickly monitor and adjust instruction to fit the needs of individual learners because fourth and fifth-graders rotated in and out of the booths constantly during the two-hour carnival," Griffin said.

SFA to host semi-annual Big Dip for upperclassmen



Photo by Hannah Russell/ The Pine Log

The Big Dip will be held on Friday for the spring semester. There will be two ceremonies for the various majors with one from 9:30 a.m.-noon and the second from 2-4:30 p.m., held in the Baker Pattillo Student Center Grand Ballroom. The Big Dip honors students who have reached enough hours to purchase their SFA rings and welcomes all family and friends to attend the event.



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Art: SFA Student encourages kids' creativity through art



Photo by Bastian York/ The Pine Log

Ashton Hughes teaches art class to Nacogdoches students on Thursdays at the Nacogdoches Recreation Center.

“The kids are very excited about art to the point they scream about it,” Hughes said. One time during class, a girl screamed, “I love art!”

During the three months she has taught the class, Hughes has heard her students say many interesting things.

One of these moments happened when Hughes cut her hair to a chin-length bob. Hughes said a girl told her, “You have boy hair now.” Another time a student said her future aspirations were “to be a normal person when she grows up.”

Still, Hughes said the weirdest thing that happened at work was when a student managed to get glitter up her nose.

On a recent Thursday afternoon, the students had plenty to say about Hughes. One girl, Scout, said Hughes is a good teacher because “she lets us make art. I think Ashton really likes art.”

Another girl, Stella, said, “I don’t know where to start.” Eventually Stella decided that she liked Hughes a lot because of a nametag-making project. Hughes said this was the first project the students did in her class.

Hughes found her current job at SFA’s Center for Career and Professional Development and interviewed at the Nacogdoches Recreation Center. Besides teaching art, Hughes also works as a desk assistant in SFA’s Residence Life Department. She has been working there since September 2016.

In the past, Hughes has done volunteer work with veterans at hospitals, assisting nurses who cared for veterans during summer vacation.

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Degree: Program ranked by publication

From Page 1

And then, ultimately, they will triple their income when they transfer from being a paraprofessional into being a full, certified teacher.”

The same professors who teach courses on campus teach the courses for the online program.

“We all have our doctorates, and we all have certain courses that each of us teach differently, but we all teach in our face-to-face program, our graduate program and our online program,” Sheriff said. “And we share the load, all the way around.”

Sheriff is the only one who does the recruiting for the program and reviews the transcripts that come in.

“I help them determine what is the best semester for them to transfer here and what they need to continue to take at community college,” Sheriff said. “I have some that won’t start with us until next January or all the way out to the fall of 2018.”

According to Sheriff, all professors in the program make themselves available to their students.

“Of course we use our D2L system, and there’s email in it. We email back and forth,” Sheriff said. “My students tell me that I’m very available online with them. Anytime I’m online they can talk with me. Also, we can set up phone calls, we can use collaborate sessions, I videotape and put things on YouTube and embed those into the courses.”

Sheriff often communicates with Stephanie Strahl, an academic adviser who works in the advising center of the James I. Perkins College of Education.

“I’ll ask her about certain courses from certain junior colleges, like is this [course] one we will take,” Sheriff said.

Janet Kamps, Distance Education Coordinator for CTL, also contributes to the program.

As Distance Education Coordinator, Kamps helps faculty

prepare courses for online delivery.

“I also help departments who want to put programs or entire programs online. Part of that is dealing with state agencies, and SFA has to make sure that everyone is notified and everybody approves of what we do online,” Kamps said. “Also, there are some federal things we have to comply with for distance education so I deal with that.”

According to Kamps, she works closely with Sheriff on the online bachelor’s degree in special education.

“Anytime either one of us has a question, we pick up the phone and we talk through it,” Kamps said.

“Anytime we find areas of commonality, we like to work together and make sure everything is headed in the right direction. She shares with me some things that I need to know in her field so that I can stay current, because when we give instructions to students from out-of-state, there are some federal and state compliances that we have to go through.”

For Sheriff, it is important to her that her teachers are not just teachers.

“They are not just educators, they are professional special educators. That is very important to me,” Sheriff said, “and that our reputation of having really good people in those trenches out there working with kids and families is of paramount importance to me.”

Sheriff said it is fun watching students achieve their goals and that she still gets to help touch the lives of children with disabilities across the state.

“I used to be in a classroom and I did consulting for 60 school districts across the state,” Sheriff said. “This [program] keeps me in touch, knowing that my students are touching those lives and making them better across the state of Texas. I love that.”

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Entertainment

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Artist Spotlight: SFA freshman's latest album is now available on iTunes



Photos By Cori Kallenberger/ The Pine Log

SFA students Jimmy De Los Santos, freshman, (at right in top photo) and Keyshawn Pettieway, sophomore, work in the Boynton Building.

By Devin Hogue
Entertainment Editor

SFA student and rapper Jimmy De Los Santos, also known as “Jimmy of the Saints,” recently released his debut album “The Saint” on iTunes.

“This album is called ‘The Saint’ because I’m trying to introduce myself,” De Los Santos said.

He said that putting his album on iTunes was a huge step in his career, and it influenced the way he finished his album. “This is a whole different ball game,” De Los Santos said. “Everyone has iTunes, everyone has Spotify and everyone has some kind of digital media that they use.”

“From the very first track, it introduces myself and goes from current life to taking a journey of my world and how I view things,” De Los Santos said. “It is basically predicting the future in the end by the last track.” He explains further that they last part of his album is a “ride” that conveys to his audience and supporters what he has to offer.

De Los Santos worked with producer, Keyshawn Pettieway, also known as Key the Producer, a sophomore at SFA. Their music relationship started at SFA in a speech class because of a mutual interest in a specific topic.

“This dude [Pettieway] always wore some Kanye West’s Yeezy shoes, and I was like, ‘I know this dude is going to talk about some beats or something like that,’” De Los Santos said. He explained that he wanted to do his speech over making a song, so after class they talked about their common interest and teamed up together.

Pettieway actually started producing songs when he got

to SFA. “It [producing] started freshman year, but really took off my sophomore year,” said Pettieway. “Coming into college, I really began listening to music. I started paying attention to the art and the structure of creating music.”

He described his process and understanding of creating beats to a song works.

“You start with a simple rhythm, then you build a beat on that and keep building,” Pettieway said, “and I pretty much just take it from there.”

Even though De Los Santos said he met Pettieway when he had already started his album, Pettieway helped produce some songs and also critiqued the finished projects to take the songs to the next level.

The duo is not stopping at this album. They are working on new songs and possibly music videos for “The Saint.” “Right now, we are working on an EP called “Coffee and Donuts,”” Pettieway said.

De Los Santos and Pettieway are trying to include more performances next semester.

“I love performing,” De Los Santos said. “It is just something with crowds, and I like to make sure the audience is feeling what I’m feeling. Hopefully, we can get more shows in, because that [After 7] was just one. I started off late in the semester, but next year I have something to look forward to.”

“The Saint” is available on iTunes and Apple Music along with and other music outlets like Spotify and Spinderella.

For more information about Jimmy of the Saints, follow him on Twitter at @JimmyoftheSaints and Key the Producer @PapiShawn1.



Courtesy Photo

Review: Student raves about new Hulu show based on a classic novel

By Parastoo Nikravesh
Managing Editor

There’s nothing that I love more than a strong, feminist novel becoming a strong, feminist television show. Sadly, that’s not something that happens on a regular basis. However, I’m delighted to report that on April 26, Hulu streamed the first three episodes of its original adaptation of “The Handmaid’s Tale.”

“The Handmaid’s Tale” was a novel published in 1985 by Margaret Atwood. The novel, and the television show, are set in a near future where Christian fundamentalists stage a coup on the United States government and create the nation of Gilead. Gilead is an extremist nation that very loosely based their laws off of Christian ideas. The government targets non-believers, the LGBTQ and political dissenters. Additionally, women become second-class citizens who can either be a Wife, a Martha, which is the servant class, or a Handmaid.

The Handmaids are a response to the atrocious environmental conditions that created a fertility crisis in the nation. To put it simply, they’re the last people who can get a bun in the oven.

The story centers on a Handmaid, Offred, portrayed by Elisabeth Moss (“Mad Men”), and her life in modern day Gilead with flashbacks to her past as a normal, American woman. She must follow along with the odd rituals and terrifying circumstance of her new life in order to try to return to her daughter from whom she had been separated. But danger creeps at every corner.

Although many people have it bad in this future, the worst off are the women. They all belong to men. Even the Handmaids lose their name and become of (enter whatever man they belong to). For example, Offred belongs to her commander Fred. Their only jobs are to stay healthy and clean enough to have a child. They can’t own money or property, they can’t read or write and they can’t expose themselves as a non-believers or they’re forced to the outskirts of civilization where the “unwomen” are forced to clean up toxic waste until they die.

The show is compelling, and I can’t commend it enough. Although there were things I expected to see, the surprises are what made the first three episodes all the better.

The setting that I pictured when I read the novel vacillated between a hyper-futuristic world and medieval times due to the archaic practices. However, the show is placed in what you would expect if you stepped outside right now, but with heavily armed guards at every corner, women walking by in puritan style red dresses and people in black vans slowly driving by trying to figure out if they should arrest you or not. It was unsettling, but captivating.

The voice of Offred that I loved so much in the book was still there. Offred expresses to us her reaction to her frustratingly sexist and terrifying new life. It was relatable to see a character who has to live with her current situation but scheme and rebel in her mind. We can’t all take a bow and arrow to the government, Katniss.

Lastly, even in just the three episodes, the expansions of characters’ stories beyond what we got in the novel were great. Although I’m typically a die-hard “follow the book” kind of person, it added so much more depth to the world the women now suffered through.

“The Handmaid’s Tale” did not disappoint me and is sure to stand on its own in the boom of great television we can now stream. I’m excited about what Hulu has in store for the rest of the adaptation and what other nightmares I’ll get from this riveting series.

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SFA students find place to hang out at The Bosslight



Photos by Ronnie Chapman/ The Pine Log

Tim Bryant owns The Bosslight, a bookstore on Main Street in Nacogdoches. The bookstore specializes in local writing. "I appreciate the fact that they are a locally owned store that supports local talent in the community," John L. Davis IV, a senior at SFA, said.

By Parastoo Nikravesh
Managing Editor

The smell of books fills the historic building at 123 Main St. in downtown Nacogdoches. The large windows at the front of the building illuminate the shelves of novels, vinyls and art that hang from almost every corner. At The Bosslight, local creativity and local writing converge into a charming bookstore, run by native writer Tim Bryant.

The Bosslight is a Nacogdoches-based bookstore that opened in October 2016 and is in the progress of expanding its business to create more community engagement.

Bryant is a writer and musician who is not new to the world of business. His family operated The Runaway Mule, a Nacogdoches themed t-shirt company. While they sold t-shirts, Bryant also sold his and a few other Texas authors' novels. But the inventory eventually grew.

"The more I wrote, the more I was meeting a lot of writers, and I really came at the bookstore from that angle instead of being a book seller," Bryant said. "It just became the thing to do. You know, sometimes your future just comes to you

and it was like, 'Okay, this is what we need to do.'"

The Bosslight is the only bookstore of its kind in Nacogdoches after the closing of Hastings last fall.

While there are Christian bookstores and textbook stores, people still have a place to go and relax while enjoying the writing and art of the area.

"We are a bookstore because that's the way that I think of it as. That's the primary reason we're here. We specialize in local and area and Texas authors, but not totally the Stephen Kings and Neil Gaimans and everything," Bryant said. "We wanted to be something more than a bookstore and something a little different for downtown Nacogdoches. We do have our shirts, which are Nacogdoches-themed shirts primarily, and we have a lot of arts and crafts, and they're all from local people. We don't bring in anything from China or something like that. It's all local."

Additionally, The Bosslight does offer special orders for the books readers can't



find in the store. While it is a task that can be accomplished online, Bryant suggests his customer service is hard to beat.

"You'd be surprised how many people come in here and tell me that they know they could order it on Amazon, but they'd rather order it from us because we're local and they can talk to me," Bryant said. "They get to know me. I try to establish relationships with the people that come in so I know them. I had a lady come in here that liked a particular mystery series, but there were only five books in the series, so she read them pretty fast. So I found another series that had eight or nine and she loved them, and now I've got a third for her. I get to know people, and they get to know me. And I think that's something that Amazon, for all it's got, will never be able to do."

The Bosslight has already begun creating more community engagement with their most recent addition of the Main Pecan. The Main Pecan is the back of the store where they hope to have book signings, a book club, poetry readings, literary readings and more.

"Just different things, just shake it up and do different things. We want to be the kind of bookstore that you never know what you're going to see when you go in. There's always something new going on," Bryant said.

"My point is that we want this to be a place of creativity where people can come and we would be able to offer some kind of service to help facilitate whatever you're doing."

Some SFA students have made the trip to The Bosslight and have found it satisfies their needs.

"I love The Bosslight. It's like a little corner of Austin! Tim Bryant, the owner and author, is very welcoming," Cheyenne

Connors, an Austin native, said. "He sincerely likes to get to know his patrons. The biggest reason I love The Bosslight is that Tim wants the shop to be a place where ideas meet creative and caring locals. He recently had a cat-themed book signing for an author who wrote a book on how to care for cats. He plans to have poetry readings and much more. He sells a lot of local authors books, music and art. He even hired a local painter to put in a large mural. I think it'll be a local staple for years to come." Additionally, Bryant does make an emphasis on art as anyone can see in the store. A large mural takes up the back of the store, and Bryant mentioned his willingness to help local artists sell and show their pieces.

"I went to the bookstore because Tyson Davis, a local artist, was hosting an art show at the bookstore. I appreciate the fact that they are a locally owned store that supports local talent in the community," John L. Davis IV, a senior at SFA, said.

"The store isn't a library, so there isn't a wide range of materials to choose from; however, they did have some exclusives. If you're looking for a cool place, with cool people to browse around and find new books, I would recommend the store any day."

The Bosslight has a Facebook and Instagram for those who are interested in finding out more about upcoming events.

"All you have to do is come in once, look around and talk to me, get a feel for what we're doing. It's more than just the books," Bryant said. "I mean, go up and down the rows of books and look, and you'll find something, and maybe there will be a book that calls out to you, but it's the whole environment. We're just trying to create something down here that's a refreshing environment for downtown Nacogdoches."

New apartments on North Street to hold grand opening

3220 North, Nacogdoches' newest student living community, is celebrating its grand opening from 2 to 6 p.m., Friday, May 5.

Developers Eduardo Litterio of ELO Investment Fund; Hunter Wheeler and Sutton Wheeler of Hunter Wheeler Homes, commuted from Austin to work with local architect Laura Culpepper to create modern living spaces with community-focused amenities.

"We're really excited to see our vision come to life," Litterio said. "Every inch of this property has been transformed."

In addition to efficiency, one- and two-bedroom apartments, 3220 North features a beautifully landscaped courtyard with a resort-style pool, patio and community BBQ Station, a 5,000-square-foot student center offering a 24/7 fitness suite, and 7,500 square feet of retail space.

"The apartments are sleek and comfortable, and we have the coolest amenity center and the hottest courtyard in Nacogdoches," Hunter Wheeler said.

"We also have beautiful new spaces that are perfect for restaurants, salons and retail."

3220 North was designed to facilitate a fun and successful college experience. All bills are paid, including cable and internet, and appliances are provided. All apartments are wired with high-speed, Cat 5e gaming cable, and Wi-fi is available in community areas. The Student Center features a study room and laundry, and 3220 offers an on-site ATM and vending machines. 3220 North is pet-friendly, with ample green space for relaxing with four- or two-legged friends.

"We can't wait for everyone in Nacogdoches - students, parents, business owners, everyone - to see what we have to offer," Property Manager Nicole Jones said.

For apartment rental information, contact Jones at (936) 569-3220.

Businesses interested in expanding to North Street can build to suit in up to 8,400 of retail space. CPRE Commercial manages retail leasing for the property and tours are available by calling (936) 564-2622.



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Class Period		Exam Time
Monday, May 8		
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 MW 5:30 p.m.	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 9		
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 10		
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 MW 8:30 p.m.	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 11		
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 12		
2 p.m.	MWF	8 - 10 a.m.
3 p.m.	MWF or MW 2:30 p.m.	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
6 p.m.	MWF	6 - 8 p.m.
Conflicts		1 - 3 p.m.

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Professor retires after 36 years of teaching

Skillfully carved into a fishhook, the Hei Matau bone necklace dangles around his neck making a simple yet profound statement. At first glance, it seems out of place — a natural artifact juxtaposed against his business attire — but after a quick conversation with Dr. Tim Clipson, professor at Stephen F. Austin State University, the meaning of the symbolic ornament is revealed.



SFA professor Dr. Tim Clipson

“I wear this necklace to represent the fact that I’m hooked. I’m hooked on my faith, family, friends, fun, food and being fearless,” Clipson said.

While presenting research in Hawaii two years ago, Clipson discovered the hook necklace in a store and asked a local what it symbolized.

“He said if you wear it, you’ll catch a lot of fish. I don’t fish much, but I love the water,” Clipson said. “I researched it more and found the Hei Matau had a deeper meaning.”

At the end of May, Clipson will be spending more time on the open water as he enters his retirement after 36 years of service to SFA.

“I often say being a university professor is by far one of the best jobs anyone could have. It has allowed me to fulfill what I believe I was called to do,” Clipson said. “My personal mission is to do as much good for as many people as I possibly can in my life. Teaching became the vehicle to live my mission. Whether in public school, at the university or in corporate training, I have been blessed to help others during my life as a teacher.”

Prior to joining SFA in 1981, Clipson taught public school at the junior high and high school levels. He also is president of a corporate leadership company, Leadership Is For Everyone (LIFE!).

During his tenure at SFA, Clipson has held the ranks of assistant professor, associate professor and professor in the Rusche College of Business’ Department of Business Communication and Legal Studies where he teaches specialized courses on executive leadership. Recently, Clipson was named professor emeritus for the Department of Business Communication and Legal Studies.

“Dr. Clipson’s innovative undergraduate and graduate courses on executive leadership have been highly sought after and widely acclaimed by current and former students,” said Dr. Marsha Bayless, chair of the Department of Business Communication and Legal Studies at SFA. “Successful alumni serving on our department and college advisory councils comment on the courses’ value to their careers and inspiration to their personal lives.”

Clipson developed many of the courses

he has taught at SFA as well as the training development course and leadership courses for the College of Business. He views his classrooms as non-threatening learning laboratories where students aren’t afraid to make mistakes.

“I believe the more students enjoy the learning experience the more they tend to take away from the classroom,” Clipson said. “The toughest thing about retirement is thinking about leaving the classroom.”

Clipson may be embarking on a new journey, but his contributions to SFA will have a lasting impact on future generations.

“An outstanding experience for me was helping build the SFA 101 program and seeing how it has made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of young people. I’ve also enjoyed working with the program instructors and staff members,” Clipson said.

Additionally, Clipson has served as chapter president of the international business honor society Beta Gamma Sigma for 16 years and is currently the Alpha Tau Omega national president.

His accolades include the Meada Gibbs Outstanding Teacher-Scholar Award for the Association for Business Communication, Outstanding Educator Award in 2016 for the Federation of Business Disciplines, Distinguished Paper Award for the Association for Business Communication-Southwestern United States, Teaching Innovation Award from the Rusche College of Business, Marlin C. Young Teaching Excellence Award, SFA Teaching Excellence Award and Distinguished Professor.

“Dr. Clipson is the epitome of sincere dedication to his students, colleagues, SFA, the profession and all who come in contact with him,” Bayless said. “His impact has been and is tremendous, and his profound influence enduring.”

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Kirstin Farrell	Braxton Berthot	Kayla Fitzgerald
Alia Hall	Hamilton Davis	Matthew Fulkerson
Jerrod Lively	Wesley Hickman	Danielle Gray
Kayla Lyons	Meagan Holyfield	Sarah Guinn
Laura Robbins	John Hymel	Elizabeth Jordan
Victoria Vasquez	Carli Ivey	Susan Maikranz
Lauren Williamson	Mark McLean	Ryan McEntee
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Reese Campbell	Shaye Smith	Lori Watson
Jennifer Cardenas	Brandon Sparks	Sandi Whiteman
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Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is the highest recognition a business student anywhere in the world can receive in a baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate (master’s) program at a school accredited by AACSB International.

Opinions

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Illustration by Olivia Boan/ The Pine Log

Dead Week policy fosters stress among students

Final exams at SFA, and across the country, are less than a week away, and stress among the student population has risen to the highest point of the semester. It is the last opportunity for students to change their academic standing in courses they spent months learning material in and being tested over.

Known by many as Dead Week, students cram their last assignments in as if it were a normal week, but also add the stress of studying for finals. So why is it called Dead Week when the most active part of the semester happens during this time?

Many faculty use this time to cover additional material they were unable to during prior weeks.

Students may have been confused about the topic of Dead Week as some larger universities give students a week, or a couple days, off to prepare for finals week. What is the point of having a Dead Week policy if it is treated as a regular class week?

Dead Week, as described by SFA's university policy, "is an established tradition in higher education to allow students the necessary time to prepare for final examinations."

The policy does not state what the university and faculty considers a necessary amount of time. So it is up to the professors' discretion when they decide to stop adding new material.

Though time to prepare for exams is crucial toward students' academic success, SFA policy does loosely state that if a professor details an assignment in the syllabus prior to the 12th day of class, then there is no issue with them assigning material the week before final exams.

This seems to be a contradiction to the original intent of dead week and could present an unfair advantage to some students.

If a student has three teachers assign major assignments that will be due during the week before finals and another three tests during finals, then how has necessary time to study been offered to the student?

This time is supposed to alleviate the amount of stress students are faced with all semester, and that should be the university and faculty's main goal.

The only thing officially dead during this time is university sponsored student organizations.

They are not allowed to hold events, advertise or reserve campus facilities. Student organizations are even unable to advertise to students about activities being held off-campus.

The policy on what student organizations are not allowed to do during this time is far more specific and lengthy than the policy being

applied to professors.

The latest revision of SFA's Dead Week policy was in 2015 and another may be soon to come. What is clear is that this university has no Dead Week.

For some students, the week presents additional tests before finals, while others just view it as a normal class week.

The policy also does not take into account unforeseeable incidents that may delay professors being able to assign material. Some professors scrap the assignment altogether, or make adjustments to other assignments that will take the place of the one missed. Many professors attempt to still assign the missed material, which only pushes other assignments back.

The policy is unclear on whether professors are allowed to use Dead Week as a "make up week," as the material was originally on the syllabus but got skipped due to conflicts.

A revision is needed to the university's policy to explain how professors should view this week.

In the meantime, students should prepare themselves for a couple more weeks of late night working, high quantities of caffeine drinking and hardcore studying. We've been here before, so let's finish this semester strong.

Sexism advertised through children's clothing brands



By Shannon POE

I was browsing Facebook the other day and noticed an ad for a women's blazer at Gap described as "The Tenure-Track Professor." At first sight, the ad did not offend me in any way; I just saw it as a piece of clothing.

As I looked at the ad more, I realized that it was made to look as if a woman needed a blazer to look like she is capable of achieving tenure. This ad hit a nerve in me not only as a woman, but also as a student.

After a little research, I realized that this is not the first time the Gap has done something like this. In 2016, Gap Children's released an ad for kid shirts that said "Social Butterfly" for the little girl and "The Little Scholar" for the little boy. What kind of message does an ad like this show to a little girl?

It shows her that she should socialize and talk instead of thinking as herself as the next Albert Einstein. There are many other clothing stores besides Gap that sell boys and girls clothing to display a different message, most of those putting girls in a lower category than boys.

Not only is this bad for a little girl's view of herself, it also tells young boys to view girls as brainless and talkative. Soon, those young boys will grow up with that mind set and treat women with disrespect and hold them to a lower standard.

Another way sexist clothing presents itself is through the design. Most young girl clothing is pink and sparkly, while the young boy's clothing has dinosaurs and is usually blue. Girls are allowed to like dinosaurs and the color blue as well as

"Girls are allowed to like dinosaurs and the color blue ... something as simple as clothing on a child can make them believe they are required to act a certain way."

boys liking pink sparkly clothing.

The reason that this is such a big deal to me is because the people children grow up to be are going to shape the world. If the world tells those children that they are not good enough to achieve certain things, they are going to believe that while growing up.

Regardless of gender, anyone can do anything, and yet they do not always believe that they can. Something as simple as clothing on a child can make them believe they are required to act a certain way.

For as long as I can remember, women have been presented as weak or unable to do simple tasks in either movies, shows, books and now fashion. This goes back to the 1950's when women were expected to stay home to cook, clean and take care of the children while the man worked. It's 2017.

We had a female presidential candidate, so it's time to get rid of the sexist clothing and start producing clothing that inspires young children to be anything, not just a social butterfly.

The Pine Log Opinions Page regularly features the Axe 'Em Advice Column. The staff answers questions about everything from relationships to general life issues. To submit your question, email sfasupinelog@gmail.com.



By Joanna ARMSTRONG

"I was given a place on staff, and from that point on, I knew I'd found my place at SFA...I'll never be able to say thank you enough."

Editor-in-chief shares farewell thoughts on time with publication

The first word they teach you in journalism is "deadline," and yet here I am, a day past the deadline I set for myself, struggling to find the words to say goodbye.

How do you say goodbye to a job you never in your wildest dreams imagined you would have? When my adviser first told me she wanted me to apply for editor-in-chief last fall, I almost spit the breakfast I was eating all over the table. I thought I'd bamboozled The Pine Log into giving me the position of news editor, so when she asked if I'd ever considered taking the position, I honestly replied no.

When I took the position, I was terrified. As I sit here writing this and thinking about the looming production deadline for the last issue, I'm still terrified. Working for The Pine Log has taught me a lot of things, one of which is some things you can't really prepare for.

You can't prepare for having the weight of an entire publication hanging over you. If you mess up, it's your fault. If one of your writers messes up, it's still your fault. And you better believe someone else will catch it and let you know about it.

Some things you just have to jump into and hope you make it out on the other side alive and are better for it. (And I'll let you in on a secret — you will.)

My time at The Pine Log has been a relatively short one, four semesters full of learning and growing and hoping for the future. The first week I transferred to SFA in the fall of 2015, I made up my mind I belonged on The Pine Log staff.

I ran across campus in the August heat and up the steps of the student center and arrived at the publication office a very sweaty mess, practically begging for a job.

To my surprise, I was given a

place on staff, and from that point on, I knew I'd found my place at SFA. There have been so many people who have gotten me to the point I'm at now, and I'll never be able to say thank you enough.

To my editors, there's no one I'd rather have gone through this journey with. When we were underprepared for the issue on production nights, you rolled with it. When I was scatterbrained and unorganized, you helped gently helped me along.

You've become some of my best friends, and I'll never be able to think of my time at SFA without being grateful for you, and all you've done for me.

To my staff, there's nothing better than watching your work progress over the course of a semester. You guys keep getting better and better, and it's a joy to watch.

You're the future of the media

industry, and it will be a pleasure to work with you when we get out into the real world and find our niches.

To my adviser Amy Roquemore, we made it! Two semesters after taking the job, I've never been more grateful for the chance you took on me. I've made a lot of mistakes. (I repeat — I've made a lot of mistakes). But after two semesters of waking up to texts from me on publication days beginning with "sorry!" you've never done anything but encourage me to work harder the next time.

As I gear up to graduate in December and find my place in the media industry, I know that The Pine Log will always be a part of me. I won't forget the friends I've made and the way you all pushed me to grow and be better. I don't know how to say goodbye to something like that, so I don't think I will. I'll just say see you later, and axe 'em, Jacks.

Opinions Policy

Opinions expressed in columns on this page of The Pine Log are those of the individual writer. Unsigned editorials, as well as editorial cartoons, are the opinion of The Pine Log editors 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.

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Sports

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SFA Scoreboard

FOOTBALL: Zach Conque signs free agent contract with Houston Texans

GOLF: Three Lumberjacks receive All-SLC team honors

TRACK & FIELD: SFA secures nine individual titles in Bobcat Classic

SOFTBALL: Ladyjacks drop three games to SLC foe McNeese

BASEBALL: Lumberjacks dominated by Lions, lose series 0-3

Photo by Bastian York/ The Pine Log

Playing in familiar territory

Former SFA standout QB Conque signs contract with Texans, will play tight end in the NFL



Laython Washington

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The NFL draft is where dreams become reality and teams start looking for that new superstar to turn their franchise around. For the team management, it can be one of the most stressful times of the year knowing that you could choose the right or wrong person. And the players wait for that one phone call that could change their life.

Plenty of former Lumberjacks have played in the NFL, including Jeremiah Trotter,

Derrick Blaylock and Super Bowl Champion Larry Centers. We can now add quarterback Zach Conque to that list as he signed with the Houston Texans after the draft. Conque became the 76th Lumberjack football player to sign a contract with an NFL team. Despite the fact that he was undrafted, Conque's great showing at the SFA Pro Day and the Baylor Pro Day got him noticed by many NFL scouts. Conque also participated in a private workout with the Texans leading up to the draft. After the draft, Conque was signed as an undrafted free agent to the Houston Texans, a team and a place that Conque is very familiar with. Conque's signing marks the third straight year that a Lumberjack has been signed to an NFL team, despite being an undrafted free agent. The previous two Lumberjacks were signed by the Oakland/Las Vegas Raiders. Gus Johnson was signed in 2015, and Terran Vaughn was drafted in 2016.

Now there is a question to why they would sign him because the team traded up in the first round to pick Deshaun Watson, who many think is the answer. Conque signed as an undrafted free agent with the Texans. He will also run reps at the tight end position as well because of his 6-foot, 5-inch, 237-pound frame which brings some size, and

that could be where he earns a spot on the team. Conque will be fighting for the quarterback position with newly drafted national champion Watson and Tom Savage. He will also spend time playing at the tight end position behind C.J. Fiedorowicz, Ryan Griffin and Stephen Anderson. Some wonder why the Texans wasted time signing him after his disappointing career as far as wins go. The 2014 Southland Conference Newcomer of the Year had an impressive first season with the Lumberjack earning a playoff spot while completing 64 percent of his passes throwing for over 2,500 yards and rushing for 626 yards.

Conque is a dual-threat quarterback with a big frame, but his throwing ability is questionable. At times, he can be inaccurate with his throws, and his throwing power could use improvement.

Also, Conque has faced some knee problems in the past, so his durability could be questionable. His wins may not add up to his stats, with only one winning season during his career. That does not take away from his achievements as he was a three-time honorable

mention for All-SLC performer, leading in conference in touchdowns responsible for in 2015 with 27 total touchdowns (16 passing, 11 rushing). The game which really opened some eyes was in 2014 against sixth-ranked McNeese.

Conque leaves SFA ranking in the top 10 in seven statistical categories. He's second in both career rushing touchdowns (34), third in touchdowns responsible for (81) and third in career pass completions (611). He's fourth in career passing yards (6,867) and career total offense (8,476). Conque achieved all these record-breaking numbers in four years behind center.

Although none of that matters in the league, every spot is open (except JJ Watt and DeAndre Hopkins). The real journey for Conque starts when he shows up on his first day for training camp.

"Although none of that matters in the league, every spot is open (except JJ Watt and DeAndre Hopkins). The real journey for Conque starts when he shows up on his day for training camp."

Home turf invaded by Southeastern Lions



Photos by Bastian York/ The Pine Log

The Lumberjacks dropped three-straight games to SLC foe Southeastern Louisiana last weekend. This series loss ends the Jacks' five-game series winning streak. The Jacks lost Game 1, 7-0; Game 2, 11-5; and Game 3, 11-7. The Jacks' defense couldn't hold during this series, which is why they came out on the wrong side of the competition in this SLC matchup.



'Bama slayer' heads to brand new home in Houston

Texans trade up to draft quarterback; nab Clemson standout Deshaun Watson at 12th overall



Nick Irene

STAFF WRITER

The Houston Texans became the talk of the NFL Draft after the Bears' debacle, when they traded up to the 12th overall pick to take Clemson standout Deshaun Watson. The move will prove to be the Texans' brightest decision going forward.

It has been a position that has haunted this franchise more than any evil spirit—the quarterback.

Since its inception in 2002, the Houston Texans have run through 16 different starting quarterbacks, none of whom could seem to be defined as the face of the franchise. More than ever, Houston suffered from inept quarterback play from the \$72 million man, Brock Osweiler. Even a playoff victory over a depleted Oakland Raiders squad could not camouflage how awful he was and the way it hindered this team's Super Bowl chances. Now with Osweiler off to Cleveland and a roster loaded with talent on both sides of the ball, the Texans pulled out a gutsy but, in my mind, worthwhile trade up to secure their 17th option, Watson.

Watson will finally be the one who can lock down this position for decades to come. The 6-foot-2-inch, 221-pound rookie was a red shirt junior with all three years at Clemson as the starting quarterback. Watson was a diamond in the rough and by his sophomore year was already in the College Football Playoff. Watson and the Tigers demolished

Oklahoma in the semifinals, but it was the performance against the defense of Alabama got people talking. Watson dismantled an Alabama defense that had five NFL draftees, throwing for 405 yards with four touchdowns.

Even in a loss, Watson gained super stardom status with superstar expectations. The "wow" factor was there from the start. His junior year proved to outshine any doubts that I have had with a season that was able to serve as his invitation to New York for the Heisman. Watson would not get the Heisman, but he would get a more important trophy. Watson was able to get revenge from the previous season and upset Alabama with an MVP performance. The game-winning drive that won the Tigers their second national championship ended a three-decade championship

"It has been a position that has haunted this franchise more than any evil spirit—the quarterback."

drought. Watson then declared for the NFL Draft.

April 29, 2017, could be a night that Texans fans never forget. Sitting at the 25th spot, Houston would sit there, lying in wait to try and find their next attempt at a franchise quarterback. The Chicago Bears pulled off a shocker by trading up one spot to the second pick to draft North Carolina's Mitchell Trubisky, a move that sent shock waves throughout the entire sports universe. The Kansas City Chiefs then traded up to the 10th spot to take Texas Tech gunslinger Patrick Mahomes II. In what can be described as a gutsy but desperate move, Houston traded to Cleveland's 12th to take Watson.

Watson has the best chance to succeed out of any of these "top prospects" for a multitude of reasons. First, I never understood the fascination with Trubisky; he is good-sized

kid, but only has one year of college ball. He could not beat out starter Marquise Williams in college. Trubisky would start 13 games and would win eight of them, ending with a lackluster performance in the Sun Bowl and Christian McCaffery, Stanford team, throwing two ugly interceptions. Mahomes is a product of the Big 12, and it just seems that air-raid style just doesn't work in the NFL. Some of the Big 12's finest have already evaporated into thin air: Robert Griffin III, bust; Brandon Weeden, bust; Geno Smith, bust. Mahomes is a project that will see his best chances of success waiting and learning behind Alex Smith. Watson can be thrust into the starting position today, and I doubt he would feel the pressure.

Watson played his best games in the biggest games of the college scene. His performances against Alabama were jaw-dropping, and he eventually was able to get the job done. I also feel that Watson is on the best team of any of the three by a long shot. Kansas City is solid, and Chicago is a drop of gasoline short of a dumpster fire. The Texans are equipped with a No. 1 ranked NFL defense, even when JJ Watt was hurt for the majority of the season. Watson is always equipped with an arsenal of weapons to choose from. Lamar Miller was a 1,000-yard running back last season. Will Fuller V has big time potential, two tight ends in CJ Fiedorowicz and Ryan Griffin, Braxton Miller and last but definitely not least, one of the NFL premiere wide outs, DeAndre Hopkins.

With a star-studded roster, his experience and maturity and his ability to perform on the big stages, I feel it is just a matter of time before Watson will be considered one of the best decisions the team has made and will make the Bears, Chiefs and the Browns regret ever passing on the Clemson Bama slayer.