

INSIDE:

- Board of Regents approves construction of new beef barn after 2018 fire, [Page 2](#)
- No “bored” games for SFA GAME club, [Page 3](#)
- Editorial encourages students to greet rude visitors the SFA way, [Page 5](#)
- Students remember Bryant’s impact after his death, [Page 6](#)

Brightspace removes dyslexia-friendly font

By Kayley Frazee  
Staff Writer

Brightspace, the website used by students to submit assignments and check grades, removed a font setting that was easier for dyslexic students to read in August 2019.

“There was a font called the Open Dyslexic Font, that students or faculty could set up in their user settings in Brightspace,” Laura Osborne, faculty training and certification coordinator, said. “That went away in the early fall.”

According to Osborne, the company said that there is no evidence that the font actually works, but that students can still find ways to use it if preferred.

“The documentation that the company provided said that they couldn’t find any empirical evidence, any research-based evidence, that the font made a huge difference,” Osborne said. “They quoted a fair amount of literature and studies that said the results are really inconclusive. Sometimes it helps. Sometimes it doesn’t. Users have so much control through their browser settings, so they can still use the font if they want. It’s just Brightspace doesn’t support it anymore. There are other major companies that made the same decision. Google being the primary one, but there is still a plug in for Chrome. If users really want the font, they can absolutely have it.”

Students also have control of a dark reader and things like the line and character spacing.

“We did have some people that preferred the dark reader,” Andra Floyd, Brightspace by D2L support specialist, said. “It provides a dark to light contrast. So, we did a bit of research on that last year and found out that the tools are out there. You just have to dig a little deeper to find what you need and implement them for you. We’re finding that with browser settings, you can virtually customize just about any look and feel you want.”

With the changes on the website that everyday users can see, there were also changes happening behind the scenes within the server.

“About a year and a half ago, Brightspace required of us that we no

See **BRIGHTSPACE** on [Page 3](#)



Photo by Cameron Keplinger / **The Pine Log**

The **LGBTQ+ caucus** held its first interest meeting on Monday. The group is the first LGBTQ+ caucus to exist on SFA’s campus. From left, Ashton Maisel, president of the caucus and junior political science major from Plano, Madeline Wheeler, freshman pre-nursing major from Dallas/Fort Worth and Katie Gibson, senior education major from Mabank, introduce themselves to the audience.

Caucus hopes to accurately represent community

By Jocelyn Bradford  
Life & Arts Editor

SFA’s first LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus will focus on bringing awareness and promoting resources for mental health in the LGBTQ+ community, as well as giving back to the Nacogdoches community through service.

“We noticed a lack of LGBTQ+ community service and outreach on campus,” Madeline Wheeler, standing director of communications and freshman pre-nursing major from the Dallas/Fort Worth area, said. “We feel like there’s a huge community here that isn’t being reached out to in a way that they feel like they can give back.”

Ashton Maisel, president and junior political science major from Plano, had the idea to create the caucus in the fall of 2019. It was not until this semester when Katie Gibson, vice president and senior education major from Palestine, reached out to Maisel

to give him the final push to make the organization official.

“I had this idea in my head about starting this [organization because] I am very interested in politics and the whole political aspect of the world, and then also being in the community, I wanted to mix the two together,” Maisel said.

Dr. Eralda Lameborshi, lecturer in the Department of English and Creative Writing, is the organization’s adviser. It was Gibson who reached out to Lameborshi to become a sponsor, and she agreed based on the organization’s goals and what it represents for the LGBTQ+ community.

“Their focus on awareness, mental health and then, particularly, involvement with the community, I think that is very important,” Lameborshi said. “There is this empathy that we can develop for one another through these collaborative projects that are being proposed here.”

Lameborshi hopes the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus will be an opportunity for students and

staff, as well as members of the Nacogdoches community, to see an accurate representation of the LGBTQ+ community that goes beyond a label.

“There are times where we are raised with certain prejudices that we are unaware of, and I think that meeting people through these service-oriented programs will create an opportunity to see the human behind the label,” Lameborshi said.

Members of the organization plan on partnering with other organizations on campus, such as OurLow and Lumberjacks Care, to promote awareness. They also hope to create a safe space for students in the LGBTQ+ community. While this is not the first LGBTQ+ organization to be established at SFA, it is the first LGBTQ+ caucus.

“We want people to be educated and well aware of all the things that they can have and that are available to them,” Maisel said. “We

See **LGBTQ+** on [Page 3](#)

Group of students form first-ever coffee club

By Jocelyn Bradford  
Life & Arts Editor

A group of students joined together to form SFA’s first ever Coffee Club designed to create diversity in the coffee community by encouraging students to get connected and engaged with one another through bi-weekly meetings at various local coffee shops.

The idea for the club first came to mind when club President Iris Rios, sophomore marketing major from Houston, was having a hard time deciding what coffee to get at Starbucks and did not have a friend to ask for suggestions. By creating the club, Rios would allow a community of people to come together to help decide what types of coffee should be tried and have designated friends to study and grab coffee with.

“Awhile back, I couldn’t figure out what I wanted to drink at Starbucks,” Rios said. “I had no one to text, and it was really stressful.”

Before the idea was put on paper, Rios

brought it up to Coffee Club Recruiting Chair Daniel Ciraiz, freshman finance and international economics double major from Mt. Vernon. Being someone who also loves coffee, Ciraiz was able to give Rios one last push to put forming the club into motion.

Rios went to Twitter to create a poll asking students if they would be interested in joining a coffee club. After approximately 700 votes, 64 percent being positive, Rios took the steps to officially form the club through the university. By Jan. 27, the club was approved.

Ciraiz hopes to use his connections with other organizations, as well as his natural abilities to reach out to people, as a means of getting students and staff members involved in the club.

“Coffee comes from all around the world,” Ciraiz said. “Just like coffee has different blends, that’s what we’re hoping for [with connecting] different [types of] people. The only expectation we would have is [to] be yourself.”

While there will be set meetings every other Tuesday, Rios hopes that by creating a GroupMe messaging group, members will be encouraged to reach out to one another any day of the week to study, hang out and, of course, grab a cup of coffee.

“You don’t know how close you can get to someone over a cup of coffee [or] what kind of connection you might develop with them,” Rios said.

The club plans to meet at local coffee shops in Nacogdoches and the surrounding area.

“I thought it would be good because it’s supporting local businesses,” treasurer Halle Chesnutt, sophomore psychology



Photo by Matt Ocasio / **The Pine Log**

Students gather at **Java Jacks** to attend the first Coffee Club meeting of the semester. The group plans to meet every other Tuesday.

major from Cypress, said.

While the club is currently geared toward students, Rios said that it is also open to any staff and faculty members who might be interested in attending meetings.

“Having faculty members at meetings would be great,” Rios said. “That way you drink coffee with them on a Tuesday, and you get to see them out of their element.”

The first club meeting was held Tuesday at Java Jacks, where a raffle for a \$10 Starbucks gift card was held. The expected outcome was to create a fun, light hearted atmosphere through initial introductions from the

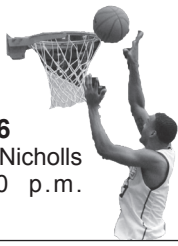
officers, explaining the club’s origin, playing games and allowing students the opportunity to get to know one another.

For those who have a hard time getting involved with campus organizations, Chesnutt encourages those students to join the community Coffee Club hopes to create.

“It’s kind of difficult to [meet people] if you’re not necessarily a part of something, so I think it would be a good [thing] for people to go to the Coffee Club,” Chesnutt said. “[It’s important] to have a common group of people to go out and do things with that you normally wouldn’t do otherwise.”







## Crime Log:

1/29/20

An officer was dispatched to UPD to meet with a complainant in reference to a burglary of a habitation. The complainant advised that between December 2019 and Jan. 28, someone entered her residence located at Wisely Hall and removed her property without her consent. There are no suspects.

1/30/20

An officer was notified of a subject that was at Hall 20 who was criminally trespassing on campus. The officer made contact with the subject at a residence at Hall 20 and placed him under arrest for criminal trespass. The subject was then transported to the Nacogdoches Jail. There is one suspect.

2/1/20

An officer was dispatched to Steen Hall in reference to a drug complaint. The officer made contact with a subject who was found to be in possession of marijuana. The subject was issued a summons to appear before Nacogdoches County Court. There is one suspect.

2/3/20

An officer initiated a traffic stop on Clark Street for a traffic violation. The officer made contact with the driver who was found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia. The driver was issued a citation for possession of drug paraphernalia and released. There is one suspect.

To contact UPD in an emergency, call 9-1-1.

For non-emergencies, call (936) 468-2608.

# Board of Regents approves construction of new beef center after 2018 fire destroys old barn

By Meredith Janning  
Managing Editor

In a recent meeting, the Board of Regents approved the construction of a new beef farm barn after a fire burned down the old facility in November 2018.

The new center is expected to be completed as early as the fall 2020 semester, according to the dean of the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Dr. Hans Williams. There will also be improvements to the space available.

"The University administration and the Board of Regents fully supported our request for replacing the beef farm building with something that was better than what was there before the fire," Williams said. "As a result, we are replacing a 6,000-square-foot facility with a 20,000-square-foot facility. The new facility will include a classroom, bathrooms and an office. This was a University team effort, and all were advocates for a bigger and better structure."

As a result of the fire, faculty members needed to find ways to work around the space limitations and inclement weather.

"As chair, my goal has always been

to provide our students with the best learning environment possible," Department of Agriculture Chair Dr. Joey Bray said. "After the fire, my fellow faculty and I worked diligently to get the temporary structure in place so that courses were able to continue. We did have to modify the timing of certain labs and outside lectures due to weather for both our students and the animals' well-being. This altered the flow of the course material, but our students and faculty did a fantastic job of being flexible in this difficult situation."

Enrollment numbers in the animal sciences program have gone down, as well.

"The enrollment in our animal science and beef cattle courses has decreased since the barn burned down," Bray said. "We have been able to replace the cattle handling equipment to properly care for our beef cattle herd, but we were only able to establish a temporary shelter for this equipment. The temporary shelter has limited the number of students that can safely and effectively participate in the hands-on labs for these courses."

Planning and approval from the Board of Regents to rebuild the center

took 14 months, partially because of the president search and introduction of Dr. Scott Gordon as University president.

"Immediately after the fire, planning began involving Drs. Joey Bray and Erin Brown from the Department of Agriculture, myself and Physical Plant personnel as to the best course of action to replace the beef farm building," Williams said. "Once a sound plan was developed, the action item to replace the beef farm facility was placed on the board agenda at the earliest possible opportunity. As you would expect, the transition in leadership to a new University president probably caused some delay. Once Dr. Gordon arrived last September, he immediately took action to involve the college and [SFA] leadership to finalize a plan and bring the beef farm building replacement item before the Board of Regents this January."

Last semester, Maley Green, a junior animal sciences major from Henderson, started a petition to spread the word about the need for a new barn.

"I started the petition to rebuild the beef farm, and with the help of fellow agriculture students, we got over 1,000

signatures on the petition," Green said. "I honestly do think it played a part in the barn re-build. The ag students joined together and said, 'This matters. We will not be ignored,' and we fought for our education. It feels great to know that Dr. Gordon and the Board of Regents have taken action to rebuild after the efforts of all of us agriculture students. While I started the petition, this would not have happened without support from the community and other students. We all came together, and a bunch of us also sent emails to Dr. Gordon regarding the barn. He quickly jumped into action and came to visit us during our lab to assess the damage. So, it meant a lot to have him listen to us and want to help."

Green said the reconstruction is a success for current and future members of the agriculture department.

"I hope that we will have a nice facility with good working pens and a classroom for convenience and also a nice facility for student tours and Breakfast on the Farm, which is an event that the beef science students put on every spring," Green said. "But most importantly, I hope that the barn will be a comfortable place for students to learn and work."



Photos by Christy Murray / The Pine Log

Comedians Matt Rife (left) and Lafayette Wright perform stand up routines at the SAA comedy event "Laugh Your Axe Off." Rife is known for roles in NBC's "Bring Me the Funny" and "Wild N' Out," and Wright has been featured on Kevin Hart's show "Hart of the City" on Comedy Central. The event was inspired by the comedic atmosphere in the SAA office, according to Stephanie Velez, junior sports business major from Houston and member of SAA.

## Art student competes in 'Forged in Fire,' wins prize

Fans of the History Channel's "Forged in Fire" learned Wednesday night what contestant Kevin Burgess has known for months: he won.

The SFA art student from Nacogdoches County competed last year in the "Forged in Fire" reality series, and the episode detailing his participation in the \$10,000 competition was initially supposed to air on Nov. 20. But scheduling changes resulted in the episode being postponed until Jan. 29, and Burgess had to keep the results a secret all this time.

"It was an awesome experience working with three other very talented smiths, and I loved every second of it," Burgess said. "The challenges were hard, to say the least, but I stand on the shoulders of giants that have figured out most of this stuff for me."

Produced by Outpost Entertainment, "Forged in Fire" is a competition in which four bladesmiths compete in timed elimination rounds to forge bladed weapons for a chance to win a \$10,000 prize and be named a "Forged in Fire" champion. In its seventh season, the competition, which is judged by experts in weapon history and use, tests some of the best in the industry as

they attempt to recreate historic weapons.

Burgess first became interested in bladesmithing about four years ago after watching "Man at Arms: Reforged" YouTube videos where skilled bladesmiths recreate weapons from TV shows and video games. He is currently a member in and an apprentice with the American Bladesmith Society, hoping to eventually pursue journeyman distinction.

He started his college career at SFA studying computer science but soon changed his major to art where he could follow his passion. Burgess is an art metals student studying with Lauren Selden, professor of metalworking and jewelry in the School of Art. Following graduation, he plans to earn a master's degree with the hope of teaching bladesmithing at the college level.

Burgess offered the following advice for those who may be looking to learn something new, especially in the area of bladesmithing.

"Seek out those who are willing to teach, not the ones wanting to keep things a secret," he suggested. "Because when people share what they have learned, it shows just how much they actually know."

*"The challenges were hard, to say the least, but I stand on the shoulders of giants that have figured out most of this stuff for me."*  
- Kevin Burgess

## Professor, associate dean's poem published in New York Times

The New York Times Magazine recently published "The Still Life," a poem by SFA's Dr. Mark Sanders, professor of English and associate dean of the College of Liberal and Applied Arts.

Guest poetry editor of the magazine and the Young People's Poet Laureate of the U.S., Naomi Shihab Nye, who recently visited the SFA campus to conduct writing and teaching workshops, selected Sanders's poem for publication in the Dec. 12, 2019 issue.

In the magazine, Nye explained that Sanders's use and interpretation of memory deeply resonated with her.

"Memory permeates awareness again and again, illuminating the absent, suggesting not that we keep it alive but that it may keep us alive," Nye said. "Sometimes the plums or ceramic pitchers in a painting feel more vivid than the ones on our tables right in front of us. It may take, as the poet William Stafford used to say, a certain tilt of the head to perceive it. Here in this poem, no one is gone."

Sanders was thrilled about his inclusion in the magazine, as he is a fan of the publication and Nye.

"The New York Times Magazine is highly regarded, has a huge circulation, and I'm proud to have been included," Sanders said. "I am very fond of Naomi Nye's writing, and it pleases me the poem worked well for her."

His poem was included in his most recent book, "In a Good Time," published in

September 2019 by WSC Press. The poem also won the Stephen Meats Poetry Prize from the Midwest Quarterly.

Sanders wrote the poem shortly after his mother passed away in 2014.

"The poem is not about her, specifically, but about all those we loved and who are no longer with us," Sanders said. "The loss is excruciating, but they're still with us, keeping watch, staying."

Sanders received other awards for his work in 2019, including both the Western Heritage Award and the Poetry Nebraska Award from the Nebraska Center for the Book, for his publication, "Landscapes, with Horses," illustrated by Charles D. Jones.

Additionally, two of his poems were published by Bosque Magazine, "Remembering Nixon" and "Coneflowers," with the latter receiving a nomination for the Pushcart Prize. He also received a Distinguished Alumni Award from his alma mater, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, for his lifelong work in writing and scholarship.

Sanders's poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction and literary criticism have been published in the United States, Canada, Great Britain and Australia. He has received multiple awards and recognitions for his literary work.

Currently, he is working on a collection of nonfiction, a grouping of roughly 10 creative essays titled "Homecoming Parade."

*"The New York Times Magazine is highly regarded, has a huge circulation, and I'm proud to have been included."*  
- Dr. Mark Sanders



# LGBTQ+: Organization hopes to spread awareness

**From Page 1**  
also want to get together and have a community aspect. We want people to make friends with people who are like them.”  
Students who join the organization will have the opportunity to help make decisions regarding things that will reflect the LGBTQ+ community, bring up matter’s community members face and find ways to promote change within the community.  
“Generalization happens,” Wheeler said. “I feel that it’s really important that people, especially people in the LGBTQ+ community, are represented in the way they want to be represented in.”  
The LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus held their first meeting at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Baker Pattillo Student Center movie theater on the

second floor. The number of students who responded to the event was unexpected, according to Maisel. The organization plans to meet bi-weekly. Information on when and where future meetings will be held can be found on the organization’s social media pages.  
Maisel hopes, through the organization, for something to be passed within the legislature where members of the LGBTQ+ community can experience equality and safety wherever they go.  
“I want something to be passed to make it where every single person can go [wherever] they want to and feel comfortable, and [where] nobody can do or say anything to harm them,” Maisel said.



Photo by Cameron Keplinger / The Pine Log



Photo illustration by Cameron Keplinger and Meaghan Morton / The Pine Log



## You Don’t Have To Do It Alone!

Free, confidential consultation for options you can live with including:

- Parenting Classes
- Prenatal Referrals
- Limited Obstetrical Ultrasounds
- Adoption Referrals

  
**936-569-6288**  
621 Russell Blvd  
Nacogdoches, TX 75965  
Fax 936-560-3864  
M-TH: 9:00am-5pm  
F: 9:00am-12pm

[www.heartbeat-of-nacogdoches.org](http://www.heartbeat-of-nacogdoches.org)

## Brightspace: Center for Teaching and Learning ready to help students

**From Page 1**  
longer host our own copy of Brightspace here on campus,” Megan Weatherly, interim director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, said. “So, it no longer resides on a server here on campus. It resides on a cloud-based server. We no longer have control over when changes are pushed down. So, those changes come from D2L, which is the company that owns Brightspace.”  
Without as much control over these new changes, updates were put into place by Brightspace to keep the software up to date.  
“They have what they call a continuous delivery release model, [or] when schools get updates on a monthly basis,” Osborne said. “So, our school gets updates, small updates, once a month, usually towards the end of the month. We know a month in advance when changes are going to be made. We don’t have control over most of those. Usually, it’s just things like little fixes, most of which are only on the faculty side. Occasionally, those changes are a little bit bigger, in which case they make announcements, such as when they changed the faculty’s rubric tool. We had control over when we started making some of those changes. But mostly, it comes from the company, and we just roll with it.”  
The staff of the Center for Teaching & Learning explains why changes get made to the Brightspace website.  
“They have extensive technical documentation that explains why changes are made,” Osborne said. “Often, those changes are just in response to usability concerns. They’re always looking to make

improvements.”  
Brightspace also takes suggestions from the institutions that use the program, according to Weatherly.  
“Brightspace is usually very transparent,” Weatherly said. “They also have an incredibly active online community of institutions that use Brightspace. People [in the online community] are talking to Brightspace saying, ‘Well, this doesn’t work. You might want to think about this,’ and they are very responsive. To me, they’re the most responsive of all the companies we have worked with about user input.”  
Weatherly’s opinion of Brightspace and their customer service is also shared with Floyd. With any problem, according to the Floyd, Brightspace is very helpful.  
“I usually get same-day turnaround when I issue a ticket or a case,” Floyd said. “It could be big. It could be small. I’m really pleased with the amount of support we get from the company.”  
D2L has a conference every year that the staff of the Center for Teaching and Learning attends. It is an opportunity for them to see what the company will be doing, understand the direction D2L is taking and what their institutions are telling them.  
“For any student that may have concerns about the fact that this font went away, that may not be familiar with the browser options or how to set the font up in their browser, come see us,” Weatherly said. “That’s part of what we do. We are here to support students and make that learning management system work for you guys. That’s something that we take very seriously. We are all teachers at heart, and we want that learning experience to be robust for our students.”  
- Megan Weatherly



## Ninth annual Nac film fest to feature alumni

**By Amanda Hope**  
*Staff Writer*

Four feature films created by SFA alumni will be shown at the ninth annual Nacogdoches Film Festival Feb. 20-22 at the Fredonia Hotel.

Following each film will be a question-and-answer panel with the film directors and participants. Audience members will get to learn about the steps that took place during the production process and can ask any questions they may have about the films.

Other films will also be featured during the festival, including the winners of the 2020 High School Short Film competition.

■ **“40 Years of Rocky: The Birth of a Classic”** will be the first feature film, playing at 6 p.m. Thursday. The film, a documentary about the process of creating “Rocky,” was directed by alumnus Derek Wayne Johnson and narrated by Sylvester Stallone. Johnson was personally picked by Stallone to direct and produce the film.

■ **“Glenn’s Gotta Go”** is a 2017 SFA student summer film. It will be shown at 8:15 p.m. Friday. It is a dark comedy about a college student who is forced to live with his grandmother and her new husband for the summer. The film was written by SFA alumnus and lecturer Brad Maule and directed by Cinematographer Levie Isaacks.

“To be featured in the Nacogdoches Film Festival is a wonderful honor because it helps raise scholarships for our film students,” Maule said. “As we all watch ‘Glenn’s Gotta Go’ for the first time with an audience, it will be an exhilarating roller coaster

of emotion.”

“Glenn’s Gotta Go” was not only created by students, but also stars student actors.

Tyler Arnold, senior theatre major from Nacogdoches, played the lead character, Dustin, who is trying to find his place in the world.

“Honestly, it’s kind of unreal,” Arnold said. “Acting on camera was a first for me and definitely something I had to adjust to. It was an incredible experience though simply because of the great people I got to work with and learn from. It was a great month of filming and a summer I will never forget.”

■ **“Let’s Kill Mom”** will play at 10:15 p.m. Friday. The film is directed by alumnus Buddy Ketelle as part of SFA’s 2018 summer feature program. Ketelle said the film is a dark comedy about two siblings who plan on murdering their mother for their inheritance.

“I’ve always been fascinated by stories about seemingly normal, unremarkable people that end up committing crimes and the unforeseen consequences their actions often have,” Ketelle said. “I think that greed and that kind of entitlement are very tangible and relatable flaws, more than we’d like to admit, and there’s something very compelling about that.”

■ **“The In-Between”** will be shown at 9 p.m. Saturday. The film is about two women who head out on a road trip with different missions, and it is directed by alumna Mindy Bledsoe and co-written by alumnus Rob Senska and “Wizards of Waverly Place” star Jennifer Stone.

For ticket information and event schedule, visit [www.nacogdochesfilmfestival.com](http://www.nacogdochesfilmfestival.com).



Photo by Katie Harris / The Pine Log

Zachary Rottman, sophomore computer science major, explains how to play the card game Werebeasts to fellow GAME club members.

## No ‘bored’ games for SFA GAME club

**By Meaghan Morton**  
*Design Editor*

With electronic entertainment being as prevalent as ever, a little bit of nostalgia can be found in the Wyatt Room of the Ralph W. Steen Library where groups huddle around board games, expressing delight in the occasional change of a lead.

The SFA GAME Club focuses solely on the fun and competition that can be gained by sitting around with friends and playing a game. The club holds sessions at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday in the Wyatt Room of the Library.

“The premise is for people to just come and play games,” said club President Tyler Zachary, a senior geology major. “We don’t charge dues. There’s no, ‘Oh, you need to show up every week.’ It’s just, ‘Oh, you have time? It’s a

Thursday. Come out and play games.”

The word “game” within the name of the club is an acronym, meaning “Games and Miscellaneous Entertainment.” Miscellaneous entertainment includes games such as Ultimate Werewolf, which do not require anything but a few cards, imagination and a nose for sniffing out the anonymous werewolves within the group. The club usually ends the night with this game.

“We are looking into branching into trading card games a little bit,” Zachary said. “For people, if they’re interested, there’s a time and a place for other people to do that as well.”

Vice President Zachary Rottman, a sophomore computer science major,

became involved when he decided he wanted to recreate the gaming community he was involved with in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, but soon found out the SFA GAME Club had been established. A goal for the club is to have 30 players at one event, a feat that was almost reached in their last session with 23 remaining players at the end of the night.

“It’s a godsend to have seen the few we started with for GAME Club,” Rottman said. “Having anyone else who enjoys board games as much as I do is like meeting up with family you never knew you had, instant friendship. It’s also great to have enthusiasts to help teach new players how to play the games we enjoy.”

Rottman said friendly learning environments

are key to setting up good gaming communities, especially for board games. He encourages anyone to join and emphasizes that you don’t have to fit a specific stereotype just to play.

“I’ve played and enjoyed board games with people from all walks of life,” Rottman said. “You don’t have to be good at math, science, comics, video games or anything, really. Just be ready to socialize and learn a board game or two; you’ll be having fun in no time.”

Some of the games the group plays are Lords of Waterdeep, Monster Crunch, Splendor and more. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own games as well. In the past, the group has played Cards Against Humanity and Superfight.

## SFA Theatre to present modernized adaptation of ‘Pride and Prejudice’

**By John Ammon**  
*Contributing Writer*

SFA School of Theatre is undergoing an ambitious rendition of the classic book “Pride and Prejudice.”

Adapted by Kate Hamill, SFA is contributing to an overdue movement to bring better gender equity into the American theater.

Based on the novel by Jane Austen, Hamill’s “Pride and Prejudice” the play is a “goofy adaptation” and an “irreverent, fresh and flocking” new take on Austen’s endowed 1813 novel, Scott Shattuck, professor of theatre at SFA and the play’s director, stated in a press release on the SFA College of Fine Arts website.

“With some of the actors playing more than one part and some crazy fast costume changes to go from one character to another, it is done in the style in which a theater company is throwing together the story to the best of their ability with limited resources,” Shattuck said.

The plot is similar to the one you would read in the novel. There are daughters who are being pressured into getting married from a “perennially stressed-out” mother, according to Shattuck.

“Who doesn’t like a good



Courtesy photo by SFA theatre

romance story that can make you laugh?” said Elora Rogers, a freshman theatre student from Bridgeport, who is part of the play’s load-in crew. “I think a lot of people will relate to the story because people are prideful and have prejudice in their own ways, too. However, when you come down to it, love is love. It can help overcome a lot of barriers and a lot of different challenges.”

The play relies heavily on

*“It not just about going with destiny. She is writing her own story and paving her own way.”*

*- Elora Rogers*

strong female characters to carry the performance.

“It is a really good story because the female is the heroine,” Rogers said. “It is not just about going with destiny. She is writing her own story and paving her own way.”

With so many moving parts

of the play, people behind the scenes are being presented with a different kind of challenge. Jordyn Averitte, senior theatre student from Highlands, was the costume designer for the play.

“Designing for quick changes has been the most challenging but fun hurdle,” Averitte said.

However, designing clothes that the actors wear on stage is a special opportunity, according to Averitte.

“Because costume design is close involvement with the characters and actors, I feel that I am able to provide them with a different, outside element of characterization,” Averitte said.

Shattuck feels the play will provide many fun moments and empower women.

“The play is a celebration of smart, strong and independent women,” Shattuck said in a press release found on the SFA College of Fine Arts website. “It is a celebration of the fact [that] women never have to play second-fiddle to have a full and satisfying life, including having a family, if that is the path they choose.”

The play will be presented in the W.M. Turner Auditorium in the Griffith Fine Arts Building at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, through Saturday, Feb. 22.

## Find Your Focus

**Nacogdoches’ only full-service eye clinic, surgery center and optical boutique staffed by board-certified, fellowship-trained Ophthalmologists, Optometrists and Opticians.**

- 👁 LASIK Procedures Starting at \$100 a Month with Qualifying Credit  
*A free consultation and vision screening is required for exact pricing*
- 👁 Treatment of General Eye Disorders, Comprehensive Exams
- 👁 The latest in Eye Wear Lens Technology, Designer Frames and Contacts
- 👁 Leading-Edge Management and Surgery for Glaucoma, Retina and Cornea Conditions, As Well As State-Of-The-Art Laser Cataract Procedures, Using the Latest In Advanced Multi-Focal Intraocular Lenses

**Cataract, Glaucoma, Cornea & Retina**

CONSULTANTS OF EAST TEXAS

*Medical Arts Surgery Center | Benchmark Optical*

**Shannon L. Smith, M.D., F.A.C.S.**  
Fellowship Trained In Glaucoma and Ocular Pathology

**Orry C. Birdsong, M.D.**  
Fellowship Trained In Cornea

936.564.3600 | 877.810.3937 | [EyesofTexas.us](http://EyesofTexas.us) | [facebook.com/cgrcetxt](https://facebook.com/cgrcetxt)  
3302 N.E. Stallings Drive . Nacogdoches . Texas . 75965



# OPINIONS

@thepinelog

The Pine Log

Page 5



Illustration by Simone Rodriguez / The Pine Log

## Politics deserve to have a place in sports

One day, I was scrolling through Instagram and checked the comments under a sports post. I saw a comment made by a profile called @6048sports. The profile claims to be a media and news company and an ESPN Alternative with its slogan as, “No politics; Just Sports, period.”

Their comment said, “If you are sick of politics in sports, we completely understand—and it’s why we created 6048. Sticking to the 60 minutes on the football field and the 48 minutes on the basketball court, we provide our viewers with non-political sports news, regardless of where they stand on politics. We are sorry about your previous experience with other sports news outlets, because we know that anyone including politics in sports content is just furthering division in the United States. We post daily updates in the world of sports and just stick to the game. Join the movement! Feel free to check out our profile if you have any questions. Thanks – The 6048 Sports Team.”

I understand that people watch sports because it is entertaining, but I don’t believe in sticking to just the things that happen on the court. There are so many important things that happen off the court that influence



By **Deanna Swindell**  
*Sports Editor*

sports. And if a news outlet does not cover that, they are gatekeeping that information.

The SFA basketball team defeated No. 1-ranked Duke last year after senior forward Nathan Bain scored the winning layup. Bain had a GoFundMe for about a month before the game, which had only raised a portion of its initial goal. After the game, he had an interview where he mentioned his family being affected by the hurricane in the Bahamas. This interview was something that affected him and his team, but it was not relevant to things going on in the court. But, because of the win and the conversation that sparked, Bain’s GoFundMe was able to raise twice as much as the original goal.

There are other things that are extremely relevant to sports and politics, such as kneeling during the national anthem or the U.S. women’s national team standing up for equal pay. All of these things are being brought up for a reason with the platform that these athletes have. It is important for people to use their platform to speak out for what they believe in. If they aren’t or the media doesn’t cover it, then it is a waste of time to have that kind of platform.

Politics in sports is not a bad thing. This so-called media outlet is telling its supporters that people shouldn’t speak out on what they believe. Everyone has an opinion and has a right to give their opinion. No one should silence one another just because they don’t agree with them, especially not a media outlet.

## Put effort into pronouncing names correctly

In your life, you’ll meet people from a variety of backgrounds and from all walks of life. You may hear or see some names you’ve never heard of before. Sometimes it’s difficult to say some of those names.

Some people may tell you to call them by a nickname or an “easier” version of their name, which is okay and up to that person. What’s not okay is when you take it upon yourself to give them a nickname because “it’s too hard” to say their name, or mispronouncing one’s name after they’ve corrected you on how to say it. A person’s name is important. It’s part of them and their identity. It’s one thing if you genuinely can’t say it and keep trying to get it right, but constantly mispronouncing someone’s name is another. The lack of effort is disrespectful to the person and their name, and it can easily come across as “I don’t care about getting your name correct, so I don’t care about you.”

For example, my name is Caroline (pronounced as Care-o-line). People have incorrectly called me Carolyn (Care-o-LYNN) for years. No matter how often I correct someone, be it a coworker, professor, boss or even a family member, people still



By **Caroline Metersky**  
*Staff Photographer*

call me Carolyn. In some cases (like with my professors), I gave up after repeatedly correcting them for a while. I’m now at the point where I look up if someone says Carolyn. That is not my name. I would like for you to call me CaroLINE, not CaroLYNN. Just the other day, I received a new credit card with my name misspelled as Carorline, so I called the bank to let them know and to try and get it changed to my actual name. I said and spelled out my name to the bank lady on the phone, and she said, “Oh, so it should be Carolyn.” Yep. It’s my name. One many don’t even consider difficult.

This is also an issue for people with more “difficult” or even ethnic names. I had a friend named Annalise. Sounds beautiful and simple, right? She pronounces it as “Ann-a-lee’s”. People kept calling her “Anh-a-lee”.

Eventually, she got so frustrated that she started going as Anna (Ann-a) instead. But even then, people kept calling her Ana (Anh-a), especially after “Frozen” released. Then, there’s my roommate Cortlynn (Court-lynn). People often call her Courtney, “Cort-a-lynn” and once in a while, Caitlyn.

Names are important. They’re often the first thing we say when we meet

someone new, and we’re usually stuck with them from birth. So, saying someone’s name constantly wrong without any effort to get it right is just disrespectful and rude to the name-bearer. We can tell when you’re trying! Effort is always key in any aspect of respect.

“A person’s name is important. It’s part of them and their identity.”

## Greet rude visitors with SFA Way

Over the years, SFA has had their share of guests visiting the campus to spread their message. Recently, the guests have been frequently returning. On Jan. 23 and 24, a group called The Campus Ministry USA was stationed outside of the Baker Patillo Student Center preaching to a large group of students.

Things escalated to the point Dr. Adam Peck, dean of student affairs, released a statement regarding the group and its interactions with passing students. The group held signs that read, “Ask me why you deserve Hell” and other extreme verbiage. It’s every student’s right to voice their concerns about the group; however, we as SFA students need to keep in mind that even though it feels good to fight back against ignorance, how we act carries outside the school and makes others view us in a way we may not want.

Granted, the way some of the members of the ministry talked to the students was not very respectful. And the way they spread their message could have been done differently, like the people who give out the tiny bibles and sit quietly. But after all the yelling and talking with Campus Ministries USA, at the end of the day, they will still feel like they did something. And they do, according to the interview between the Pine Log editor-in-chief and Jed Smock, a representative from the group.

“We’ve provoked a lot of discussion,” Smock said. “I want to get them [students] to think, ‘Where am I going to spend eternity? What is the meaning of life? What’s the purpose of life?’”

Even when everyone did their best to try and get the members to stop their hate and

to spread love instead, they still know their word impacted everyone whether it was good or bad. So, if that doesn’t work, what other options are there? Maybe by applying the SFA way we can be an example for what we expect from those who try and challenge our ideas and morals.

As stated in the SFA Way, “We expect the best from ourselves and from each other, and we hold each other accountable when we fail to maintain these standards.”

Taking this and the five root principles (Respect, Caring, Responsibility, Unity and Integrity), we, as students, should express these principles to those who visit the campus and aren’t treating us with that same mindset. By ignoring those people and following the SFA Way, this can get them to realize their words might not be impacting anyone at all. It can also help newer students to see how to deal with guests like the ministry members in future semesters so they don’t feel like all their actions against the visitors were a waste of time.

If we continue to act this way when groups such as The Campus Ministry USA come to visit and start yelling at students who are just trying to get to their next destination, they might start to back down and realize their method is not going to work. That way when they talk about their visit to our campus it will not be a statement saying we are rude and do not want to listen to other’s opinions, it will be a statement saying the trip was unsuccessful. When others outside of the campus see this, they will know we choose to listen to those who not only respect us as young adults but who also will not try and force us to change our minds.

## Student reflects on Kobe Bryant’s impact

I remember waking up about 2 p.m. on Sunday (it was a late night), and my sister told me, “Kobe died.” I jumped out of my bed and said, “Kobe who?” in a panic. She confirmed it was the only Kobe I came to know and love. All I could think is how and why? How could Kobe Bryant, of all people, die? I rushed to look at my phone, and the stories were flooding every social media app I have.

I kept searching for hope that the news wasn’t true. I had this hopeful feeling of waiting on news that he made it out alive, but that news never came. I have a Kobe poster in my room, along with a few other NBA and music posters. His jersey from 2013 is hanging right above my bed. All I could think about were the times I was obsessed with basketball just getting out of middle school, transitioning into high school. His work ethic inspired me to work every single day. Whether it was watching interviews, mini documentaries, highlights and even live games when he played with Team USA in 2012 during that summer. I watched, and I learned from everything he did. I was motivated to go outside and work on my game. From layups, shots, handling and dribble moves, it was really all because of Kobe. All the moves I practiced were mainly learned from watching Kobe.

I remember being the only Laker fan in the school. That was because of Kobe, when he said, “If you’re a fan of mine, you’re a fan



By **Jimmy De Los Santos**  
*Video Editor*

of winning. You are a fan of the Lakers.” I had a phone case that was purple and gold. People always thought it was because of LSU, but I would say, “Nah, for the Lakers.” Of course, I always had arguments of who was better, Jordan or Kobe, or LeBron versus Kobe, and I would always argue how Kobe was the greatest of all time. I even remember skipping a free Rockets and Warriors game just to go home to watch Kobe’s last game. Even then, I was pretty upset that I wouldn’t watch him play anymore on TV or even had the chance to watch him in real life.

I can’t stress how much Kobe inspired me not only in basketball but even other things in life. He taught me not to give up and to always work on your craft. If you fall, get back up. I felt a piece of my youth had died when I came to accept that Kobe Bryant was really gone along with his daughter. Her death hurt me even more, with her being so young and just getting started with her love for basketball. I can’t lie. I’m still heartbroken over Kobe’s death. It’s so hard to accept that when I Google, “Kobe,” I get Wikipedia results that say “Kobe Bryant, Born: August 23, 1978, Died: January 26, 2020.” Although I never got the chance to meet him, I always felt like I knew him in my heart.

It’s still hard to write this column, but day by day it gets better. Last week, I would’ve told you I don’t know how I would come to accept his departure. Now, I have come to think that Kobe wouldn’t want us to be this way. He would want us to push through this tough time and continue to better ourselves. I could write much more, but it goes beyond words of what I’ve learned from Kobe and his legacy for me. I’m a Kobe fan for life. 24, 8 and now 2. So, with that I’m going to leave off how Kobe would: Mamba forever, “Mamba out.”

## Give us YOUR VIEW...

We’re asking YOU!  
Write a letter to the editor or connect with us on social media to share your opinions.

The Pine Log  
 @ThePineLog  
 @SFApineLog  
[Thepinelog.com](http://thepinelog.com)



### Spring 2020 Editorial Board

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Raquel Torres  
**COPY EDITOR**  
Alyssa Coker  
**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Meredith Janning  
**OPINIONS EDITOR**  
Isabell Tenorio

**SPORTS EDITOR**  
Deanna Swindell  
**SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR**  
Odalis Zapata  
**LIFE & ARTS EDITOR**  
Jocelyn Bradford  
**WEB EDITOR**  
Grayson Porter

**PHOTO EDITOR**  
Cameron Keplinger  
**VIDEO EDITOR**  
Jimmy De Los Santos  
**DESIGN EDITOR**  
Meaghan Morton  
**CIRCULATION MANAGER**  
Andres Jaimes

### Opinion and feedback policy

Opinions expressed in columns on this page 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 to the editor should be typed and should include the student’s hometown, classification, campus ID number and phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for space, spelling, grammar and potentially libelous material.



BOWLING

■ The Ladyjacks bowling team will be competing in the Wildcat Classic tournament Friday through Sunday in Orlando, Florida.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

■ SFA will play Nicholls State at 6 p.m. Wednesday in Thibodaux, Louisiana, and will play the University of New Orleans at 2 p.m. Saturday in William R. Johnson Coliseum.

BASEBALL

■ The SFA baseball team will begin its season against Arkansas State Feb. 14 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. The Lumberjacks will have their home opener with a tournament Feb. 21-23.

TENNIS

■ The SFA tennis team will play Louisiana-Tech at 1 p.m. Friday in Nacogdoches and will also play at home against Jackson State at 11 a.m. Sunday.

SFA students influenced by ‘Mamba Mentality’ remember Bryant’s impact after his death

By John Ammon  
Contributing Writer

Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna, were among nine people who died in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California, two weeks ago.

The exact cause of the crash is still unknown. However, thick fog seems to be one of the main culprits in making the helicopter crash onto a hillside, instantly killing those on board.

Bryant’s sudden death sent shockwaves across the world, not just the world of sports. With millions trying to figure out what went wrong and how it could happen to someone like Bryant, people are left to reflect on what he meant and continues to mean to them.

“Kobe has done so much for the women’s game and has shown a great deal of

support for the Women’s National Basketball Association,” said Marissa Banfield, junior guard for the Ladyjack basketball team and sports business major from Friendswood.

Bryant has always been known for his support of women in sports. In 2018, he opened the Mamba Sports Academy, where kids from all backgrounds were welcome to come and compete in tournaments.

“His development of young girls looking to get to that next level is incredible, and it was great to see him give back his talents and wisdom to the youth, especially young women,” Banfield said.

Bryant began his career unconventionally, by forgoing college and immediately

turning to the NBA. He would proclaim he was the best player in the world. To freshman SFA long snapper Joshua Smetzer, a mass communication major from San Antonio, Bryant inspired him to follow his dreams.

“When I was around 6 years old, I first noticed Kobe,” Smetzer said. “He was a

guy out of high school that went to the NBA and tore it up. I thought one day I could become a professional basketball, baseball or football player, too, if I kept the right mindset and worked hard enough.”

The term, “Mamba mentality” is linked to Bryant, and it seems to resonate across athletes from different sports.

“‘Mamba mentality’ follows the morals I take as an athlete,” Smetzer said. “Always going to workouts,

going 110 percent and doing your best no matter what the outcome will be.”

Bryant’s sudden death unquestionably impacted any athlete who looked up to him as a role model. However, according to John Cervantes, a sophomore from Cypress majoring in criminal justice, he did more than impact athletes.

“I still listen to some of his interviews in the mornings and before class,” Cervantes said. “The words he says can make you want to drop

everything and grind.”

College provides many new challenges for incoming students. Though Cervantes is not currently an athlete, he uses Bryant as a role model in his own life.

“Kobe has given me motivation for my studies,” Cervantes said. “Because either you are going to be the hardest working person in the room, or why are you even there? If you’re not challenging yourself, what is the point?”

&lt;