Café finds historic new home

The Culinary Café, a real-world restaurant and experience for SFA's hospitality students, has a new location at 1401 N. Mound St. will be open starting at 11:30 a.m. March 3, every Tuesday and Thursday.

The new location was a home previously owned by U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison. It now includes a commercial kitchen.

"The new café house is incredible," Sarah Cook, senior hospitality major from Flower Mound and current volunteer, said. "The old café had a classroom feel to it, whereas the new location feels like the real deal."

The Culinary Café serves themed courses from around the world such as European, Cajun, Latin, Asian, Texas BBQ, Creole, country cooking, fusion, and African. The café is instructed by Chef Todd Barrios who establishes the themes and works with students to prepare menus and recipes based on each theme.

"I love incorporating all the different themes into our menus," Cook said. "I love traveling and trying new foods, so the diversity in our menus has brought so many different types of cuisines right to our kitchen in small-town East Texas."

The café is not only an eating establishment, but a required course (RSTO 4201 and RSTO 4204) for hospitality majors, which gives them the opportunity to become certified in customer service through the "ManageFirst" program. The course gives students the ability to apply their skills to a real world setting by serving guests at the café.

"[...As] a required course for hospitality majors, students attend the lecture sections of each course the first half of the semester in the planning and preparation of menus and recipes as well as learning and practicing customer service skills before serving to the public," Barrios said.

The meals cost $10 per person, and reservations are required. The hospitality students are not "employed" by the café.

"The cost of each meal mainly covers the cost of ingredients and supplies," Barrios said. "The experience is not designed to make a profit, but it allows for minor facility maintenance as needed."

Even though the café does not employ the students, Cook said many still find the work enjoyable, and it provides a friendly environment for them to gain experience.

Chemistry professor earns U.S. patent

Dr. Matibur Zamadar, SFA associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, has received a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for his invention regarding therapeutic treatment of bacteria and cancers, and fluorescence diagnosis.

Zamadar's invention relates to methods and compositions for therapeutic treatment to slow or stop the progression of bacteria and cancers, and fluorescence diagnosis.

"Traditional cancer treatments, such as surgery, radiation and traditional chemotherapy, have limitations," Zamadar said. "In general, these treatments lack selectivity for removing or killing malignant tumor tissues and are costly, highly invasive and/or administer toxic treatments."

Zamadar said studies project worldwide cancer-related deaths will increase 70% by 2040. With cancer-related deaths on the rise, there is a need for improved, nontoxic, noninvasive, low-cost, effective cancer therapy methods enabled by compositions that can be readily prepared without specialized costly synthesis equipment or extensive training.

"This invention relates to multifunctional treatment compositions and methods that can potentially help cure many types of cancer," Zamadar said. "Our data suggest the invention is very effective at producing reactive oxygen species and nontoxic chemotherapeutic agents in various cancerous cell environments, such as aerobic, anaerobic or H2O2-rich environments in the presence of or absence of light," Zamadar said.

The invention's significant advantage is it enables portable treatment and diagnosis under differing field conditions using kits prepared from commercially available materials. These kits can be easily stored, readily transported without activation, and then activated, as needed, at remote treatment sites, such as those in developing countries.

Photos courtesy of University Marketing Communications

Dr. Matibur Zamadar (holding patent), SFA associate professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, received a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for his invention regarding therapeutic treatment of bacteria and cancers, and fluorescence diagnosis. He is pictured with SFA undergraduate students (from left) Jacob Herschmann and Aqeeb Ali, and Dr. Michele Harris, associate dean and professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

"It generates on-site one or more reactive oxygen species and a nontoxic chemotherapeutic agent selected from the group comprising singlet oxygen, hydroxyl radical, chemotherapeutic agent Juglone, or its derivatives, or combinations thereof," Zamadar said. "This suggests that a single composition kills cancer cells via multiple mechanisms within a short treatment time, typically minutes. The composition is only effective against cancer cells. It is nontoxic to healthy cells at a low-dose level and can be used multiple times with no side effects."

Zamadar began the patent application process in 2018. This is the first patent granted to a professor in SFA's College of Sciences and Mathematics within the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

"The patent would not have been possible without support from SFA faculty members and students," Zamadar said.

"Dr. Michele Harris, associate dean and professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and undergraduate students, Aqeeb Ali and Jacob Herschmann, provided technical support throughout the patent process, and retired patent attorney Tom Pruitt provided his expertise to file the patent application."

SFA music alumna, soprano receives top prize

SFA music alumna and soprano Amanda Sheriff was awarded first prize in the 24th Lotte Lenya Competition in New York City. Sheriff earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education in 2016 and Master of Music in Vocal Performance in 2018 from the SFA School of Music.

The Kurt Weill Foundation for Music announced the competition winners. The final round took place at Merkin Hall on May 6, the first time the competition has been presented publicly before a New York City audience.

As first-prize winner, Sheriff was awarded $20,000. Reflecting on her first-place performance, the judges stated that "she did it all," citing her "sensual, funny and heartbreaking" realization of a program that showed her willingness to embrace "risky repertory and acting choices." The 2022 competition drew 259 applicants from 39 U.S. states and 21 countries.

Later this year, Sheriff will perform concerted works with Penn Square Music Festival, Clifford Brown Jazz Festival and Wilmington Concert Opera.

In 2021, Sheriff made her debut at Opera Delaware as Norina in "Don Pasquale" and Monica in "The Medium" with Baltimore Concert Opera. She was also an apprentice artist at Des Moines Metro Opera where she performed Miss Lightfoot in "Fellow Travelers" and covered Clarine and L'amour in "Platée." She was a studio artist at Florida Grand Opera and performed the roles Beatrice in "Three Decembers," 1st Trio member in "Trouble in Tahiti," and Célie in "Signor Deluso' and Babs in "New York Stories."

During 2020, Sheriff sang Pamina in "Die Zauberflöte" and Little Red in "Little Red's Most Unusual Day" with Opera Iowa and participated in DMMO's virtual season due to COVID. In 2019, she was an emerging artist at the Seagle Festival and sang Susanna in "Le Nozze di Figaro."

At SFA, Sheriff sang Lauretta in "Gianni Schicchi," Rosabella in "The Most Happy Fella," Marenka in "The Bartered Bride," Anne in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" and Pamina in "The Magic Flute." She was named Recitalist of the Year in 2016 and 2018 and Alumnus of the Year in 2019. She studied with soprano and vocal coach Debbie Berry while attending SFA.

For more information about Sheriff, visit amandasheriff-soprano.com.

In 1998, to honor the centenary of the birth of Lotte Lenya (1898-1981), singer/actress and one of the foremost interpreters of the music of her husband, Kurt Weill (1900-1950), the Kurt Weill Foundation for Music established an annual Lotte Lenya Competition.

The competition recognizes talented singer/actors of all nationalities, ages 19 to 32, who are "dramatically and musically convincing in repertoire" ranging from contemporary Broadway scores to opera/operetta, including the works of Weill.

More information about the Lotte Lenya Competition is available at kwf.org/2022Finals.

Photo Courtesy of
Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts

SFA alumna Amanda Sheriff recently won first prize in New York City's Lotte Lenya Competition.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER
FROM ORIENTATION TO GRADUATION

Navigating college can be difficult. Let the **Student Success Center** help you find your way. The center comprises critical resources and programs designed to help you succeed as an SFA student.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

Academic Advising
The center provides advising services for undeclared/exploratory students, assisting with course selections and major options.

Generation Jacks
GenJacks is a program for first-generation college students that include academic and residential learning communities, service learning, mentor opportunities and a summer leadership academy.

Jacks PASS
First-semester freshman applicants who do not meet SFA's admission requirements may become eligible for admission by enrolling in the Jacks Pathway to Accelerated Student Success program.

Peer Mentors
Upperclassmen who support other Lumberjacks as they navigate the university, encouraging academic success and student involvement while providing guidance across SFA's campus.

Texas Success Initiative
The center is the campus liaison for the Texas Success Initiative, a statewide program that promotes academic success for all students by ensuring they are prepared for college coursework.

SFAS 1101 - New Lumberjack Experience
A one-credit course designed for first-semester and transfer students to promote student success as they transition to SFA.

Smith-Hutson Scholarship
The Smith-Hutson Scholarship is intended for entering freshmen and transfer students who are seeking an undergraduate degree and have proven financial need.

CONTACT US:

Steen Library, First Floor, Room 104
Phone: 936.468.5803
Fax: 936.468.7611
Email: studentsuccess@sfasu.edu

@SFAStudentSuccessCenter @StudentSuccessCenter_SFA

sfasu.edu/studentsuccess