Photo students visit Big Bend

In the first field course that SFA's School of Art has been able to offer since COVID-19 shut down the nation in 2020, SFA students traveled to Big Bend National Park in West Texas in May. They spent a week camping and photographing breathtaking desert landscapes before returning to campus to edit and print their images.

Photographing sunsets in the Chisos Mountains, canoeing along the Rio Grande River between the Texas and Mexico borders, and visiting the McDonald Observatory were among the trip highlights designed to broaden the students' views of where and how their desire to pursue a career in photography can take them, according to Amanda Breitbach, assistant professor of art at SFA.

"One thing I think that is really important about the Maymester field class is that it provides an opportunity to expose students to new places, ideas and activities they may never have tried before," Breitbach said. "I often have students who have never camped before on the trip, and by the end, they feel like experts setting up a tent and cooking on a propane stove. I did a survey at the end of the course, and all of them said they are more likely to camp, hike or canoe on their own after taking this class."

Student Kat Bulpitt, a senior from Pearland majoring in filmmaking, said, "I loved being able to meet other photographers, and as a first-time camper, having a group was nice."

"I had a blast," said Tina Pee Glaze, a sophomore from Pollok majoring in art education. "It was fun to photograph in a different environment. There are places around here that are really pretty, but we were able to see all different kinds of scenery, such as the way the sun goes down over the mountains. That's a different kind of light, and you have to take pictures differently."

The field study included visits to Monahans Sandhills State Park, the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, Davis Mountains State Park, and numerous sites in Big Bend. The canoe trip down the Rio Grande River was a favorite activity for many students.

"Only one of the students in the class had ever been in a canoe before," Breitbach said, "so it was an opportunity to try something new and adventurous, and they all loved it."

Past Maymester field trips by the School of Art have included photo trips to Santa Fe, New Mexico; scenic drawing/painting residencies in Iceland; and art history studies in Florence, Italy.

"Another fun thing about the photo Maymester class is that it is open to students of all levels – from advanced photo students to students who have never taken a photo class before," Breitbach said. "That creates a unique dynamic where students share their work on the spot and learn from each other while they are photographing in different environments and lighting situations."

For more information about the School of Art, call (936) 468-4804, or visit art.sfasu.edu.

(Top) Photo students hike into Santa Elena Canyon in the southern part of Big Bend National Park during a Maymester photography field trip. (Bottom left) SFA art students photograph in the desert landscape. (Bottom right) Students enjoy a photo stop during a canoe trip on the Rio Grande.

Photos courtesy of University Marketing Communications

SFA WESLEY FOUNDATION

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Wednesdays
6pm Dinner
7pm Worship

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Open 7am-11pm each day!

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Fall plant sale planned

SFA Gardens will host its annual Fabulous Fall Festival Plant Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 1 and 2 at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, located at 2900 Raguet St. in historic Nacogdoches.

The sale will feature an array of hard-to-find, "Texas-tough" plants, with an emphasis on native, pollinator-friendly selections, garden favorite perennials, and trees, including Japanese maples, magnolias and bald cypress. A list of all available plants will be posted on the SFA Gardens website two weeks prior.

Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications

This very popular event raises money for the operations of all the areas under the SFA Gardens umbrella: Mast Arboretum, PNPC, Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, Gayla Mize Garden, Kingham Children's Garden, Hinds Park and the alternative fruits research program.

Parking will be available at SFA's Janice A. Pattillo Early Childhood Research Center. Visitors are encouraged to arrive early and bring a wagon for their plants.

For more information and a list of available plants, call (936) 468-4404 or visit sfasu.edu/sfagardens.

College of Ed earns grant

SFA's James I. Perkins College of Education earned a grant to create literacy-focused learning modules for teacher candidates that are meant to enhance their ability to teach reading once they enter the field.

Awarded by the T.L.L. Temple Foundation in partnership with Deans for Impact, the grant program also includes Sam Houston State University and Texas A&M University-Texarkana. SFA's grant representatives are Ronda McClain, lecturer; Dr. Lauren Burrow, associate professor; and Dr. Adam Akerson, associate professor, all of the Department of Education Studies.

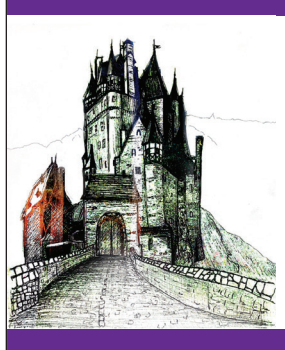
"We are excited to partner with other universities in East Texas to support the preparation of preservice teachers," McClain said. "Equipping the next generation of early childhood educators to deliver effective literacy instruction using research-based, pedagogically sound methods is the goal of this project."

With the grant funds, SFA representatives intend to create learning modules that can be used within a standard college course to train teacher candidates in the use of phonics rather than whole word methods when teaching children how to read. SFA and its partners were chosen because the program is aimed primarily at increasing literacy rates in rural communities, a specialty of all three universities.

Issued in the face of falling literacy rates triggered in part by the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the grant includes stipends for faculty members. During the pilot phase, pre- and post-testing data will be used to fine-tune the program, with the hope that the full pilot can be implemented by spring 2023.

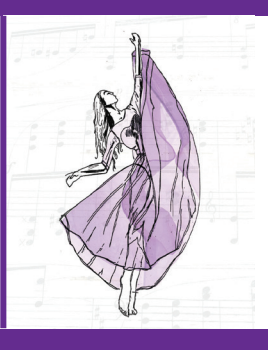
Learn more about SFA's education degree programs at sfasu.edu/coe.

SFA SCHOOL OF THEATRE AND DANCE 2022-23

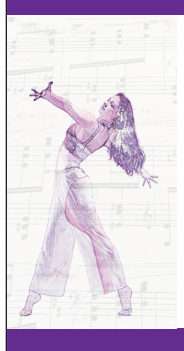


THE MOORS
By Jen Silverman
Sept. 29 - Oct. 2, 2022

LORD OF THE FLIES
By Nigel Williams
Nov. 3-6, 2022

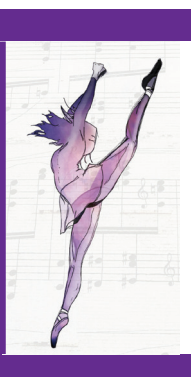


DANCEWORKS CONCERT
Nov. 10-12, 2022



REP DANCE CO. FACULTY CONCERT
Feb. 16-18, 2023

EVERYBODY
By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
Feb. 23-26, 2023



DANCEWORKS CONCERT
April 13-15, 2023

[title of show]
By Jeff Bowen and Hunter Bell
April 20-23, 2023

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

Theatre Tickets:
Adult.....$15
SFA Faculty/Staff.....$8
Senior.....$10
Youth*.....$8
Non-SFA student.....$8
SFA Student.....$5

Season Theatre:
Adult.....$45
Senior.....$36
*high school and younger

Dance Tickets:
General Admission....$10
Faculty/Staff/Senior....$8
Non-SFA student.....$5
SFA Student.....FREE

Theatre Plays:
Thursday-Saturday: 7:30 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday matinees: 2 p.m.

Danceworks Concert:
Thursday-Friday: 7 p.m.
Saturday: 3 p.m.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO BUY TICKETS:
theatre.sfasu.edu | theatre.sfasu.edu/dance
boxoffice.sfasu.edu
936.468.6407 | 888.240.ARTS

Unless otherwise noted, all theatre performances are in SFA's Kennedy Auditorium. Dance performances are in HPE Complex 201.