Regents Scholar recognized

Taaffe third consecutive winner from College of Liberal and Applied Arts

SFA's Board of Regents recently named Dr. Stephen Taaffe, professor of history, the 2022-23 Regents Scholar during April's regularly scheduled meeting.

Dr. Stephen Taaffe

The title of Regents Scholar is the highest honor the university can bestow upon a faculty member. The honor is reserved for faculty members who are exemplary role models to the university community. The title is not an academic rank but an honorary title held for the duration of the recipient's service to the university.

As part of the recognition, Taaffe received a $2,000 grant to support his research efforts.

"Winning the award is an honor for which I'm grateful, especially because there are so many first-rate scholars and teachers at SFA who deserve it as much or more than me," Taaffe said. "I hope that this award reminds everyone that it's not buildings, equipment and teams that enable a university to fulfill its mission, but rather the quality of the interaction between students and faculty."

Dr. Mark Ludorf

The honor makes Taaffe the third consecutive recipient from the College of Liberal and Applied Arts, following Dr. Mark Ludorf, professor of psychology and 2021-22 Regents Scholar, and Dr. Leslie Cecil, professor of anthropology and 2020-21 Regents Scholar.

"Having three consecutive Regents Scholars demonstrates the uncontestable quality of our college's faculty excellence and commitment," said Dr. Mark Sanders, interim dean of the College of Liberal and Applied Arts. "This is not only a matter of an ongoing tradition for our college, it is a distinction that warrants celebration. I couldn't be prouder of their achievements."

Taaffe, who is in his 22nd year as a professor at SFA, has taught several classes at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and has served on a number of councils and senates, including the College of Liberal and Applied Arts' College Council, Faculty Senate, and numerous department committees.

Dr. Leslie Cecil

Along with his service to the university, Taaffe also has written eight books, most of which have centered around generals in various wars. His most recent book, "Commanding the Pacific: Marine Corps Generals in World War II" was published in September 2021.

"Dr. Taaffe is an extremely talented teacher. I have had occasion to read his students' responses to instruction and, while he may hold students to high standards, they are excited about their studies with him," Sanders said.

"He has been a tireless advocate for the university and its faculty members, and his endeavors help to elevate the reputation of both the college and university."

According to Sanders, since the inception of the Regents designation in the 1980s, the College of Liberal and Applied Arts has had 22 recipients.

SFA receives $100K STEM grant

SFA is among 17 Texas universities and community colleges to receive a grant to help fund summer science, technology, engineering and mathematics camps for students ages 14 to 21.

Gov. Greg Abbott made an announcement July 7 that nearly $1.3 million will be distributed through the Governor's Summer Merit Program to provide scholarships for approximately 2,231 students statewide to attend the STEM camps this summer to help prepare them for future high-skill, high-demand jobs. The funds were awarded by the Texas Workforce Commission.

The program introduces young people to one or more of Texas' six focus industry clusters: advanced technologies and manufacturing, aerospace and defense, biotechnology and life sciences, information and computer technology, petroleum refining and chemical products, and energy.

"Texas is home to more Fortune 500 companies than any other state, and those employers want a talented workforce that is flexible, well-rounded and ready to innovate," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Aaron Demerson. "When I talk to employers, they express their interest in finding more skilled employees. A STEM education is a valuable tool and a starting point to helping train the workforce these employers need."

Texas is projected to add more than 300,000 STEM occupations through 2028, according to data projections by the TWC Labor Market Information Department. Several camps are designed to encourage young women and minorities to pursue further education and careers in STEM.

"Texas is a global leader in science and technology, and we will continue offering the best opportunities for young Texans to become engaged in STEM," Abbott said. "Developing a highly skilled, diverse workforce for tomorrow would not be possible without investing in Texas' most valuable asset — students in our classrooms today. Through the Governor's Summer Merit Program, our universities and community colleges will provide life-changing educational experiences for the next generation of engineers, mathematicians, software developers and more in the Lone Star State."

Grants per institution ranged from $36,400 to $100,000. SFA was among four institutions to receive $100,000. This is SFA's second year to be awarded the funding.

"SFA will host more than 800 students during summer camps and single-day events," said Dr. Jana Redfield, SFA's associate director of the STEM Research and Learning Center. "The TWC award will fully sponsor up to 140 students for a weeklong day camp and a weeklong residential camp this summer."

Students attending SFA's camps will participate in activities such as Vex robots, programming and flying drones, virtual reality simulations, computer science coding and programming, crime scene investigations, biology labs, nursing simulations, geology explorations with a fossil hunt and more. Students also will have opportunities for career-focused field trips, faculty- and student-led STEM panel discussions, and a trip to the Perot Museum in Dallas.

For more information about SFA's STEM summer camps, contact the STEM Research and Learning Center by phone at (936) 468-5814 or email STEMcenter@sfasu.edu.

Charter school earns recognition

SFA's Charter School was recently ranked the second best charter elementary school in Texas by U.S. News & World Report. The high ranking also marks the school's first appearance on the media company's gold standard list.

"It is with great pride that we receive this wonderful news regarding our ranking," said Lysa Hagan, CEO and principal of the school.

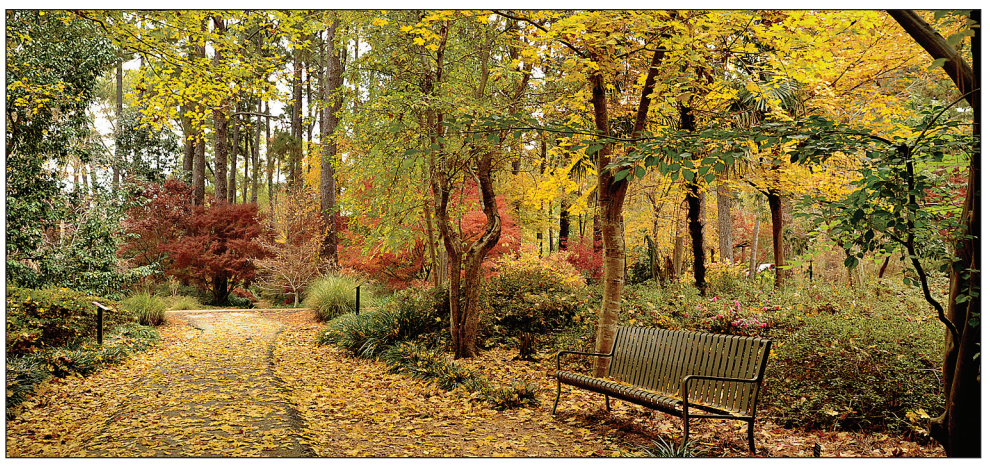
"This recognition belongs first to our dedicated, hard-working students who truly want to learn. Secondly, our success rests on the shoulders of our parents, who get them to school each day and support reading at home. Lastly, we have an exceptional group of teachers who support learning in the classrooms through rigor, urgency and a constructivist learning environment."

The K-5 school is also listed as the fourth best in the state by educational rating agency Niche.

Located in the Janice A. Pattillo Early Childhood Research Center, the SFA Charter School opened in August 2008 with a focus on the twin goals of improving public education and enhancing the preparation of future educators and school psychologists.

The school has 255 students, 87% of which scored above the proficient level in both math and reading. Its minority student enrollment is 31%. The school enrolls 9% economically disadvantaged students.

To learn more, visit sfasu.edu/charterschool.



No matter the time of year, SFA Gardens provide some of the most beautiful settings on campus. Together, the five gardens include 128 acres of natural space. They offer scenic spots for taking walks, snapping selfies or just relaxing and enjoying the fresh air.

Photos courtesy of University Marketing Communications

WELCOME LUMBERJACKS!

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Student Business Services

IMPORTANT FALL 2022 DATES

FALL PAYMENT DEADLINE
Aug. 21 at 4 p.m.

CASH ADVANCES SENT VIA BANKMOBILE
Start processing Aug. 23

STUDENT REFUNDS
Start processing Sept. 2

MOVE-IN WEEKEND OFFICE HOURS
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Aug. 20 through Aug. 21

FALL INSTALLMENT PLAN

ENROLLMENT
Aug. 1 through Aug. 20

Payment 1	25%	Aug. 21*
Payment 2	25%	Sept. 16
Payment 3	25%	Oct. 14
Payment 4	25%	Nov. 11

*payment deadline/drop at 4 p.m.

TWO PLANS AVAILABLE
1. Applies aid toward first installment
2. Applies aid equally to all payments

Student Business Services
936.468.6860
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Austin Building, Room 204

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

LUMBERJACKS!

Have you been hired by SFA to work on campus?

If so, congratulations! Human Resources is the place to go for help so you can be ready for your first day on the job.

Our office is located on the second floor of the Austin Building. Our friendly staff members are here to help walk you through each step of the onboarding process.

Come see us today, and **WELCOME** to SFA!

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Human Resources

Contact us at (936) 468-2304 or **hr@sfasu.edu**.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A JOB?

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