Dance Marathon raises $26K

Photos courtesy of Student Engagement

Students participate in the 2022 Dance Marathon event in the Baker Pattillo Student Center in April. The annual program raises funds for patients of CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health Systems in Tyler, a Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

SFA's seventh-annual Dance Marathon raised $26,439.69 benefitting the Children's Miracle Network, far exceeding the organizers' goal of raising $20,000 "For the Kids." The April 1 celebration event was themed "Dancing Through the Decades" and was the culmination of a year of fundraising efforts by members of the Dance Marathon student organization.

Dancers Against Cancer members led attendees in fun dances during the celebration, which also featured food, games, prizes, activities and unique fundraisers. Vice President Brandon Frye, Dean of Students Andrew Dies, Student Life Executive Director Hollie Smith and Student Engagement Director Lacey Folsom all took multiple pies to the face to support the cause!

Dance Marathon is a nationwide program of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, which raises funds for 170 children's hospitals supporting the health of 10 million kids across the U.S. and Canada each year.

Donations go to local hospitals to fund life-saving treatments and healthcare services, along with research and equipment needed to help young patients and their families through difficult and expensive hospital stays. Donations from SFA's annual Dance Marathon benefit CHRISTUS Trinity Mother Frances Health Systems in Tyler.

Student media win state awards

Photos courtesy of Student Publications

SFA Student Publications student staff members attended the annual Texas Intercollegiate Press Association conference and competition March 23-26 in Fort Worth. Pictured are: (back row from left) Sandra Carranza, Emma Crisp, Alyssa Coker, Jordan Armstrong, and Ella Bolton and (front row from left) Kaylee Lopez, Meaghan Morton, Abigail Archibald, and Renee Fain.

SFA student journalists received 25 awards from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association for their performance at a statewide journalism competition and for their contributions to campus media outlets throughout 2021.

The Pine Log, SFA's student newspaper, earned 12 awards for previously published/broadcast content, and the Stone Fort yearbook won nine awards for its 2020-21 volume. KSAU, SFA's student-run radio station, also received a first-place award in the advertising/PSA/Promo-Audio category.

Nine student members of The Pine Log and Stone Fort staffs attended the annual TIPA conference in late March and competed in on-site competitions against student journalists from other TIPA-member institutions. The Pine Log Editor-in-Chief Alyssa Coker won third place in Critical Review, and Stone Fort section editor Emma Crisp won first place in Print Advertising Design and honorable mention in Sports Photo. Approximately 300 student journalists and advisors representing 34 Texas colleges and universities attended the three-day event held in Fort Worth.

"Our students work exceptionally hard throughout the year to produce high-quality content for our student publications and other media outlets, and accolades from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association reinforce the value of that work and the importance of student media's role on a college campus," said Amy Roquemore, SFA director of student publications and divisional media.

"I'm obviously very pleased with their latest recognition, but I'm even more proud of the hard work our students put in each day to keep the campus community informed and to provide a forum for discussion of important issues facing our campus and our society as a whole."

Meaghan Morton, Stone Fort editor-in-chief and graduate assistant for the Student Publications department, attended the conference this year for the fifth time. Graduate students are not eligible to compete; however, Morton attended workshops and assisted undergraduates in navigating the conference and preparing for competition.

"I like to describe TIPA as a revival for the journalist's spirit," Morton said. "These students are truly put on the spot in their competitions, which often present them with the most challenging journalistic obstacles they have been up against so far in their career. Watching them network, grow in their field and gain confidence as young journalists is rewarding."

Coker, a senior, said she was grateful for the opportunity to attend the annual TIPA conference and competition, which was canceled in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

"Participating in the TIPA convention was such a rewarding experience in itself," she said. "Besides the fact that Student Publications staff members earned several awards, the staff deserves every ounce of recognition they get, and it's so nice to applaud them for their hard work with a fun learning experience."

Established in 1909 at Baylor University, TIPA is the largest and oldest collegiate press association in the United States. The organization works to recognize excellence in campus media and open channels of communication and cooperation among student media programs at two and four-year universities in Texas.

The following is a complete listing of TIPA awards SFA students earned for work produced during the 2021 calendar year:

The Pine Log

First place, Breaking News – Alyssa Coker, editor-in-chief

Third place, Breaking News – Alyssa Coker, editor-in-chief

Third place, Overall Web Design – staff

Third place, General News Photo – Emily Nava, photographer

Honorable mention, Sports Column – Renee Fain, managing editor

Honorable mention, Multimedia Feature – Emma Hill, former news editor; Renee Fain,

managing editor; Elena Barnes, former video coordinator

Honorable mention, Editorial – Emma Hill, former news editor

Honorable mention, Feature Story – Emma Hill, former news editor

Honorable mention, General Column – Emma Hill, former news editor

Honorable mention, Editorial Cartoon – Mary Mone, former illustrator

Honorable mention, Photo Story – Lizeth Rodriguez, former photo coordinator

Honorable mention, In-Depth News Reporting Video – Emma Hill, former news editor

Stone Fort

First place, Environment Portrait – D'Marcus McDowell, former photographer

First place, Feature Photo – Nick Andrews, former photographer

Second place, Illustration – Jordan Butts, section editor

Second place, Sports Page Design – Jordan Butts, section editor; Porter Newman, former

section editor; Meaghan Morton, editor-in-chief

Second place, Cover Design – Staff

Third place, Static Information graphic – Staff

Third place, Sports Feature Photo – D'Marcus McDowell, former photographer

Honorable mention, Inside News Spread Design – Jordan Butts, section editor

Honorable mention, Sports Feature Photo – Lizeth Rodriguez, former photographer

Mass Communication Department

First place, Advertising/PSA/Promo-Audio – Shaylin Simmons (KSAU)