



THE PINE LOG
welcomes the
Class of 2027
and incoming
transfer students

WELCOME EDITION 2023

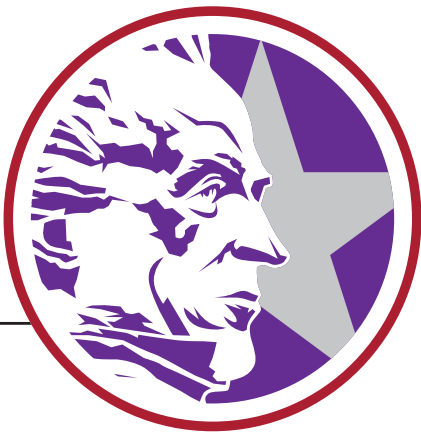
Friday, August 4, 2023

INSIDE:

- Lumberjack spirit, traditions around **Page 1B**
- Center promotes student success **Page 1C**
- University appoints new enrollment vice president **Page 1D**

the PINE LOG

The Independent Voice of Stephen F. Austin State University



Griffith Fine Arts Building ready for fall teaching, performances



Photo courtesy of the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts

The L.E. Griffith Fine Arts Building on the SFA campus is on track to welcome students to new classrooms, studios and performance venues when the 2023-24 academic year gets underway on Aug. 28.

The expansion and renovation of the L.E. Griffith Fine Arts Building on the SFA campus is nearing completion, and faculty and staff have spent much of the summer moving into the building and preparing to welcome students on Aug. 28 as the 2023-24 academic year begins.

From the exterior, the building has looked completed for several weeks, leading many to believe it had already been occupied. Landscaping is in place, adding to the facility's outward welcoming charm. Final details on the interior of the building have been the main focus of the summer, in preparation for the "big move," leading up to the excitement of fall classes getting underway and in anticipation of an opening reception that will coincide with SFA's centennial celebration weekend in September.

The building was vacated in spring 2020 to allow for demolition followed by renovation and new construction over the following three years. Today, Griffith Fine Arts Building will be

operational when fall classes begin, according to Dr. Gary Wurtz, dean of the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts.

"Naturally, we are eager take up residence in the new and improved Griffith Fine Arts Building," Wurtz said. "It's the talk of the town! Just the other day I took a group of about a dozen alumni on a private tour, and they were both thrilled and proud of what they saw."

"They joked about things getting better after they left," he added, "but I told them this building was possible because they had come here and then gone out into the world and become successful. Our successful alumni draw great attention to our college and university."

Adding to the fine arts excitement is the reinstatement of the University Series in the upcoming academic year. "I'm confident we have booked some acts that are going to blow away our audiences, and we're counting on the community to pack the house," Wurtz said.

The Fine Arts Expansion Initiative extended the

Griffith building along North Street. The project involved renovations to W.M. Turner Auditorium. The state-of-the-art building also has two dance studios, two new theatres, recording studio, sound stage, audio and video editing rooms, an art gallery, multiple classrooms, rehearsal facilities, faculty offices and the offices of the College of Fine Arts dean. The facilities will house the ECFA's sound recording technology, filmmaking, theatre, dance and musical theatre programs.

According to Jessica DeWitt, Griffith construction project manager with Project Control, despite early delays pertaining to weather and worldwide supply chain issues, the project remained on track for its original opening date. July and August were scheduled for a phased move-in for the College of Fine Arts and the facilities department.

It's not just students and campus community members who are eager to see the new facilities.

Asking for help, talking to faculty lead to success

Hello, Lumberjacks!

The summer is almost over, which means fall is almost upon us. We are excited for you to come (or return) to campus. Fall is an incredible time at SFA, with so many opportunities to connect, reconnect and get involved. Your first few weeks will be jam packed with tons of activities as part of our Weeks of Welcome.

Speaking of beginnings, the start of the school year is a chance for you to start fresh. Perhaps you are a first-year student or maybe you are returning for another amazing year at SFA. Regardless of where you are coming from, now is the chance to step forward with an optimistic outlook into this new year. It is a chance to develop some new academic skills, let go of some bad habits, and create new connections and relationships. Below are some tips I wish someone had told me when I first went to school.

Get connected. Making connections is quite possibly one of the most important contributors to your success, not only personally but also academically. The great thing is that your connection is specific to you! This could be joining one of the 200-plus student organizations we have on campus. Or maybe it's partnering with a faculty member to do research on something. Or maybe it's getting a job on campus and forming new friendships. Or how about going to support the Lumberjacks and Ladyjacks at one of our athletic events? There are so many different ways you can connect and build that school spirit. This connection will help sustain you and help you be more successful.

Engage with your faculty. We have some of the best faculty in the country here at SFA. They are here to not only help you better yourself academically but also personally and professionally. All of our faculty members are dedicated to your success and want to do what they can to help. Now your grades and academic progression are on you, but faculty members are amazing guides to help you along your journey. Get to know them, and get to know their path and how they got here. This will make your experience much more enriching.

Have an open mind. Part of coming to college is to learn and grow. Much of this learning will occur outside of the classroom. It will occur in your student organization, with your roommate or with another student in class. Sometimes it will occur through conflict. I encourage you to keep an open mind and listen to all perspectives. More importantly, I encourage you to listen to hear rather than listen to respond. It's OK to disagree, but we can still be respectful of each other as fellow human beings. Conflict is bound to happen, but it's how we respond to that conflict that is important.

Ask for help. This is a simple tip, but probably the hardest to follow! Asking for help can be terrifying. It makes us vulnerable and humble. Both of these, by the way, are healthy emotions. There are so many resources here on campus to help you if you are struggling. From the Academic Assistance and Resource Center to the Student Outreach and Support office, to the brand-new Health and Wellness Hub (located in the former health clinic)—all of these resources, and so many more, are here for you. All you have to do is ask! Go to the Lumberjack Wellness Network website at www.sfasu.edu/lwn to learn more about resources and options here on campus.

As my role as dean of students here at SFA, your success is my responsibility. If you are ever struggling, need someone to talk to, or just have a question and don't know where to go, then you should come find me! The Dean of Students Office is located on the third floor of the Rusk Building in the main lobby. We are here to help answer your questions or find someone who can. If you are struggling, we are here to lend a listening ear. We are here to help you navigate college life and all the ups and downs that come with that. I wish you the best of luck this year! Axe 'em, Jacks!



Dr. Andrew Dies
Assistant Vice President of
Student Affairs /
Dean of Students

Interim appointed

By Brooke Miller
Editor-in-Chief

The SFA Board of Regents recently accepted the May 31 retirement of SFA's 10th president, Dr. Steve Westbrook, and appointed Interim President Gina Oglesbee, who has served as the vice president for finance and administration since 2022. Oglesbee will lead SFA until the University of Texas System names SFA's 11th president.

"The SFA community has worked with Gina for almost 20 years," said SFA Board of Regents Chair Karen Gantt.

"She has a deep knowledge of the university's business operations, finances, culture and traditions, and she is an ideal candidate to lead SFA in its transition to The University of Texas System. Officials from the University of Texas system have also had an opportunity to work with Gina during the past several months and independently expressed their excitement about the possibility of her appointment as interim president."

Oglesbee worked closely with the system affiliation evaluation process last fall and was instrumental in giving transition and control to the UT system. According to the University Leadership website, she enjoys being in an educational environment with students.

"It is an honor to serve as the interim president during this historic time with the transition to The University of Texas System and the centennial celebration," Oglesbee said.

The search for the next president is being conducted by the UT System Board of Regents, following legislative approval of SFA's affiliation with the system.



Gina Oglesbee
Interim President

SFA celebrates 100th birthday

By Corrie Martz
Managing Editor

SFA is turning 100 in a few weeks. To kick off the celebrations, a planning committee formed last fall planned celebrations for the four days leading up to Sept. 18, which is the official anniversary of the start of SFA.

On Sept. 15, there is an invitation-only alumni awards event taking place at the Fredonia Hotel. On Sept. 16, the SFA football team will face Northwestern State. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Micky Elliott College Fine Arts and Griffith Fine Arts Building is planned for Sept. 17 and will feature a symphony piece by Karle Wilson Baker. Finally, on Sept. 18, a statue featuring SFA class rings will be revealed, with a luncheon and an academic showcase following. The celebrations will end with a centennial festival.

"I think SFA having been around for 100 years demonstrates the strength and resolve of our community. This is something our students, faculty, staff and alumni can stand proudly on knowing that our alma mater is just as strong today as it ever has been," John Branch, chair of planning committee, said. "It will be a fun weekend of celebration culminating with a big birthday party that only comes around once."

The centennial is considered much more than just a celebration for the people of SFA. Craig Turnage, executive

See CENTENNIAL on Page 2A

"We are here to help you navigate college life and all the ups and downs that come with that."

@ThePineLog
 The Pine Log
 @SFApineLog

Pine Log Channel
Submit story ideas online:
ThePineLog.com

Volume 106
Issue 1

Stay informed

■ The Pine Log is SFA's independent, student-run newspaper. Visit thepinelog.com and follow us on social media for the latest campus news.

SFA starting new era as part of UT Texas System

The bill authorizing SFA's affiliation with the University of Texas System was signed by Gov. Greg Abbott on May 10 after passing unanimously in both the Texas House and Senate. The legislation was the culmination of a months-long process of researching and vetting multiple state university systems before the SFA Board of Regents ultimately voted in late November to affiliate with the UT System. Transfer of management and control of SFA to the UT System Board of Regents was expected to happen in July 2023, just weeks shy of SFA's centennial.

"I want to say once again how much I appreciate our Regents for the action they took last fall that allowed for this new era in history," Dr. Steve Westbrook, SFA's 10th president, said in an email to faculty and staff shortly before his retirement in spring 2023. "Their decision was a true example of selfless service. I am very excited about the 'future bright, 'neath the purple and white!'"

Westbrook announced the university's intention to explore system affiliation in August 2022 during the president's annual fall welcome address to the faculty and staff. At the time, SFA was one of only two remaining institutions in Texas not affiliated with one of the state's seven university systems. (Texas Southern University remains independent.)

A comprehensive process was launched to gather input from the campus community, including students, faculty and staff members, and alumni. A list of questions was formulated and posed to the four state systems interested in adding SFA, which included The Texas A&M System, The Texas Tech University System and the Texas State University System, in addition to UT. Campus groups reported their perceptions of the strengths and weaknesses of each system during an SFA Board of Regents meeting in late October. Simultaneous with the campus-level input process, a subcommittee of SFA Regents met multiple times with representatives of each system throughout the fall.

A new SFA webpage was created to keep the campus community informed throughout the system affiliation evaluation process, providing reports, meeting updates, documents, a timeline and other information, including a summary of financial benefits of affiliation with each system. In late fall 2022, another website called sfafacts.com was created anonymously and warned university stakeholders that joining a system was "Bad for You. Bad for SFA."

Ultimately, the SFA Board of Regents voted Nov. 29 to accept the invitation to join the UT System, one of the largest public university systems in the world, enrolling 243,000 students at academic and health institutions across Texas and maintaining an operating budget of \$25.2 billion. Regent Robert Flores was the only member of the SFA board to vote against the affiliation, expressing his preference for The Texas A&M System over fears the UT system would eventually change SFA's name. During the vetting process, all four university systems gave assurances SFA would be allowed to retain its name, mascot and school colors, which was a top concern for the campus community.

During the special meeting in which the vote took place, SFA regents said promised access to resources from the Permanent University Fund was a critical factor in the decision to accept the UT System's offer. The PUF is a public endowment contributing to the support of eligible institutions within the UT and Texas A&M systems.

"We are excited about the enormous opportunities this affiliation will provide for our students, faculty and staff," SFA Board of Regents Chair Karen Gantt said at the time. "We know that the future of SFA will be enhanced by becoming a member of the leading university system in the country."

Following the vote, Kevin P. Eltife, chair of the UT System board, said the system's regents and administration truly appreciate SFA's rich history and unique traditions.

"We are honored and enthusiastic about taking the next steps together in this process with confidence that this union will make each of us stronger," he said in a statement following the vote. "Our proposal to SFA outlined our sincere commitment to helping the university build upon its programs, traditions and culture that have made the university unique for nearly a century, while adding resources to help amplify those strengths and ultimately serve more Texans."

Just two months after the SFA Regents' vote, the UT system announced its intention to provide at least \$1 million per year in need-based financial aid, allowing an additional 1,200 students to attend SFA tuition free next fall through the university's Purple Promise Guarantee Program. The program currently offers funds to cover the remaining balance for tuition and fees not covered by other financial aid for families with a household income less than \$30,000. The UT System investment will raise that threshold to \$80,000.

According to the UT System website, its institutions produce more than 68,000 graduates annually and award more than a third of undergraduate degrees in Texas and more than 60% of the state's medical degrees. The system is also one of the largest employers in Texas with more than 22,000 faculty members and more than 116,000 other employees.

In addition to SFA, other UT System schools include: The University of Texas at Arlington, The University of Texas at Austin, The University of Texas at Dallas, The University of Texas at El Paso, The University of Texas Permian Basin, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, the University of Teas at San Antonio, The University of Texas at Tyler, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.



CENTENNIAL: Sept. 18 will mark 100 years of SFA

From Page 1A

director of SFA Alumni Association and Office of Alumni Relations, believes that the centennial is something we not only can celebrate within ourselves but also it is something we can show off to the world.

"I think it is important to celebrate our centennial and to share with the world all the great accomplishments of our institution, our alumni base, our faculty and our current students. Knowing that we have been around 100 years sends a message of strength and stability as we continue to grow our institution for the next 100 years," Turnage said.

As part of the centennial celebration, SFA is planting 100 new trees on campus during 2023, and the faculty, staff and students have committed to logging 100,000 community service hours. In addition, Lumberjacks from far and near are invited to display their axe handles in SFA's Centennial Axe Handle Exhibit.

For more information about the centennial and upcoming events, visit sfasu.edu/centennial.

GRIFFITH: SFA building renovations now complete

From Page 1A

"It's fun to experience the excitement I sense throughout the community about the new fine arts building," Wurtz said. "No matter where I go in town, folks ask me when it is going to open, and tell me how eager they are to see it – and for good cause! The exterior of the building is even more striking and intriguing than we could have imagined, but the inside is where all of the magic will take place.

"We are so eager to see SFA students working in the two sound recording studios that rival venues in L.A. or Nashville, or creating films on the soundstage," he said. "Theatre students will have more and better opportunities than ever, thanks to the addition of the new flexible and black box theatres. Dance students will finally have a performance venue and a bevy of support facilities, tailored to their specific needs. We want our new building to serve as the cultural hub for the city, and we look forward to our new future."

The official "grand opening" will coincide with SFA's centennial celebration that will take place Sept. 17 and will feature the choral and orchestral premiere performance of an original composition by Dr. Stephen Lias, professor of composition, honoring SFA's 100 years of educational contributions and service.

Lumberjack Food Pantry debuts pick-up lockers

By Savannah Dean
News Editor

The Lumberjack Food pantry has switched to an online system where they use PantrySoft, an online platform that allows students to shop online for the food they need as well as register for the pantry. There students will select a time and date and pick up their food from the Lumberjack Food Pantry lockers, which are in the Baker Pattillo Student Center, next to the entrance of Food Hall 1923. However, students must first register online before they begin receiving food.

Every SFA student can receive food from the pantry. Students who live off campus are eligible to receive two boxes each month, and students who live on campus are eligible to receive one box each month. Those who register for the pantry can also receive points through their food choices since different items have their own number of points. Students who live off campus receive 100 points per month, while students who do not live on campus receive 50 points per month.

The Lumberjack Food Pantry is held together through generous donations of both money and food. A one-time or recurring tax-deductible donation can be arranged through the pantry's crowdfunding campaign website. The pantry also has a food donation wish list that includes boxed or packaged rice, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti and pasta sauce, soup and boxed cereal, to name a few. Donations and item distributions occur at the Health and Wellness Hub during regular office hours, which are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday through Friday.



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.

GenJacks

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.

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.

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



@SFASuccessCenter



@StudentSuccessCenter_SFA



sfasu.edu/studentsuccess

UT SYSTEM NEWS

Regent Appointments

Gov. Greg Abbott appointed Robert Gauntt and reappointed Vice Chairs Janiece Longoria and James C. “Rad” Weaver to The University of Texas System Board of Regents for terms set to expire on February 1, 2029.

Robert Gauntt of Austin is the co-founder of Capital Creek Partners. He is a trustee of The University of Texas Investment Management Company and former trustee of the Texas Teachers Retirement System.

Janiece Longoria of Houston is a retired attorney. She has served on The University of Texas System Board of Regents since February 2017 and is a member of the UTIMCO Board of Directors. She is the former chair of the Port of Houston Authority.

James C. “Rad” Weaver of San Antonio is CEO and chairman of CW Interests. He has served on The University of Texas System Board of Regents since February 2017 and currently serves as the vice chairman. Previously, he was appointed by Governor Abbott as the presiding officer of the Alamo Regional Mobility Authority.

Recognized for Innovation

University of Texas institutions are among the most innovative in the world and for the sixth consecutive year have earned a top-five global ranking for most patents granted from the National Academy of Inventors.

Having received 225 U.S. utility patents, UT institutions rank No. 4 in the latest NAI listing, increasing total number of patents granted in 2022 from 203 the previous year.

“From the development of FDA-approved COVID vaccines to accelerating transitions to clean energy, UT inventors are not only keeping Texas at the forefront of discovery, they demonstrate that universities are the epicenter for research and innovation and improve lives globally,” UT System Chancellor James B. Milliken said. “I congratulate all the entrepreneurs and inventors who consistently place UT System institutions among the best places in the world to conduct their important work.”

The top five universities worldwide in 2022, in order of ranking, are: The University of California System, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, The University of Texas System and Purdue University.

In addition to its success in securing patents, the UT System set an all-time high in fiscal year 2022 with \$3.8 billion in research expenditures across UT’s 13 academic and health institutions. With more than \$1.7 billion in federally-sponsored research expenditures – a widely-recognized benchmark for research success – the UT System ranks No. 1 in Texas and No. 2 in the nation.

Published annually since 2013, the NAI Report ranks the top 100 universities named as the first assignee on utility patents granted by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the 2022 calendar year.

Promise Plus Endowment

Immediately upon legislative approval of its affiliation with SFA received at least \$1 million per year in need-based financial aid from the UT System Board of Regents through the Regents’ Promise Plus endowment. This investment will provide an allocation that will allow an additional 1,200 students to attend SFA tuition free next fall through the university’s Purple Promise Guarantee Program.

Set to become a UT institution this year, the SFA Board of Regents announced the new, annual allocation at its own board meeting in January. The Purple Promise program currently offers funds to cover the remaining balance for tuition and fees not covered by other financial aid for families whose household income is less than \$30,000 annually; however, the UT investment will raise that threshold to \$80,000 beginning in the fall of 2023.

“On behalf of the entire SFA community, I would like to thank The University of Texas System for investing in our students and in East Texas through the UT Regents’ Promise Plus Endowment,” said then-SFA President-elect Steve Westbrook.

SFA’s Lumberjack Wellness Network approaching one-year anniversary

The Division of Student Affairs launched the Lumberjack Wellness Network in early fall 2022 to prioritize students’ overall health and well-being while strengthening and rebranding existing support resources. The network is a comprehensive web of services encompassing the seven dimensions of wellness: physical, emotional, intellectual, environmental, socio-cultural, spiritual, and career and financial.

“The very real problems and potential barriers to academic success our students are now facing are certainly not unique to SFA,” according to Dr. Andrew Dies, assistant vice president of student affairs and dean of students. “But the holistic, community health approach we are now taking, I believe, is unique in its breadth and depth, and the administration’s commitment to and support of these initiatives has also been exceptional.”

During a 2021 reorganization of student affairs, all units responsible for student health and well-being were re-assembled under the Dean of Students Office. Other responsibilities traditionally held by SFA’s dean of students, including student activities, student government and other engagement programs, were moved under the new Student Life Department.

Under the new Student Affairs structure, Dies oversees Campus Recreation, Counseling Services, Health Services, the Office of Student Conduct and Outreach, and the Behavioral Assessment Team. A new Student Outreach and Support area organized within the Dean of Students Office also helps connect struggling students with appropriate services and programs both on and off campus.

SFA Director of Counseling Services Clare Fite said the lingering mental-health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have placed added strain on college mental health professionals across the country. In response to

growing wait times for SFA students seeking counseling during the peak of the pandemic, the department re-worked its schedule to allow walk-in appointments, virtual sessions and group therapy, which have been well-received by students.

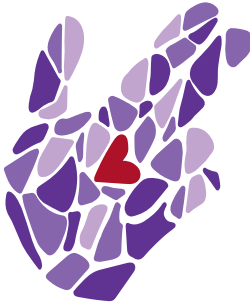
SFA’s new community health approach to student well-being is engaging faculty and staff members across campus who are specially trained as “iCare Ambassadors” to take a more active role in ensuring students are cared for and supported. Depending on the situation, clinical therapy may be helpful, but often students’ needs can be met through other means.

“A lot of good work was already happening across campus, but we were doing much of it in silos,” said Fite, whose professional background is in community health. “Through the Lumberjack Wellness Network, we are better equipping our employees—many of whom are already part of students’ support network just by nature of their SFA roles—to help prevent students from getting lost in the array of services we offer.”

Moving forward, Dies expects LWN will expand to place greater emphasis on protective factors such as campus involvement, positive personal relationships, self-efficacy and resilience, all of which increase the likelihood of students persisting to graduation.

“Historically, research has shown that if students don’t make a strong connection to their institution within the first six weeks of arriving on campus, they are very likely to stop out or transfer to another institution,” he said. “We want our students to not only remain at SFA and graduate but also grow and thrive in our community and get the most they possibly can from their college experience.”

For more information about the Lumberjack Wellness Network and the seven dimensions of wellness, visit sfasu.edu/lwn



LUMBERJACK WELLNESS NETWORK

UPD officers earn commendation letters

Three officers in SFA’s police department were recognized during a dual commissioning ceremony July 10 in the Baker Patillo Student Center Grand Ballroom for their life-saving response to a distress call.

Corporal Justin Henderson, Corporal Ian McDonald and Officer Elijah Lenderman responded to a call from the Rave Guardian application by swiftly and professionally providing the caller with life-saving support. The three were presented with a letter of commendation during the event.

“Their actions are deserving of the recognition for their commitment of serving the Nacogdoches and SFA communities with distinction, bravery and professionalism,” said Craig Goodman, University Police Department deputy chief, during the ceremony.

The Rave Guardian mobile phone application enhances campus safety through real-time interactive features that create a virtual safety network of friends, family and UPD officers. Safety features provided by the application include the following:

Panic button: Offers direct, immediate connection to campus police with GPS location and personal information.

Tip texting: Enables anonymous, two-way, crime tip reporting through text and images.

Personal guardians and safety timers: Allow guardians and/or UPD to check the status of a student during a timer session. Students can set UPD as an automatic “guardian” along with friends, roommates and family when setting their Rave Guardian safety timers. If the safety timer is not deactivated before it expires, the person

selected as a guardian is automatically provided with the student’s Rave Guardian profile to proactively identify and check in on the individual.

Safety profile: Displays information such as residence details and medical conditions to UPD and Smart911-enabled 911 centers nationwide when a student requires assistance on- or off-campus. Students create their safety profiles.

Faculty, staff and students can download the Rave Guardian application for either iPhone or Android phones by selecting the Rave Guardian application in the appropriate app store. To create a personal profile, a user must enter an SFA-issued email address for the profile setup.

For more information about UPD, visit sfasu.edu/upd.



Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications

From left, members of SFA’s police department, Officer Elijah Lenderman, Corporal Ian McDonald and Corporal Justin Henderson, were presented letters of commendation July 10 in recognition of their life-saving response to a Rave Guardian application call.

UPD officers received a dual commission with The University of Texas System’s police force in July on the SFA campus.

On Sept. 1, when SFA officially becomes a member of the UT System, UPD officers will be commissioned only with the system, though their primary role will remain serving the SFA campus.

Start planning now for your official SFA class ring and The Big Dip



File photo

The Big Dip is a beloved Lumberjack tradition. Students dip their hands in purple dye and receive their official SFA rings.

The SFA Alumni Association offers an exciting program to help undergraduate students save for their official SFA class ring now. Students who have completed 60 or more credit hours are eligible to purchase their SFA ring and participate in the Big Dip, which is one of the first steps to graduation and one of the best-loved Lumberjack traditions. Students can sign up for the ring-savings program beginning their freshman year to save up for their ring early and not have to pay for the cost of their ring in one large amount.

To sign up for the program a student should log into their mySFA account and select a savings amount of either \$75 or \$150 to be applied to their bill each fall and spring semester. By visiting www.sfaring.com students and parents can get an idea of the type of ring their student might like and the estimated cost of the ring. Accounts will be billed each semester and saved for the student until their either complete 60 semester credit hours or is ready to purchase his/her ring. If you have Federal Aid, you must approve this charge with the Business Office.

In 2002, the SFA Alumni Association began a tradition called the Big Dip (Dipped in Pride) where students who had purchased rings dipped one hand in a large bowl of purple, grape-scented dye before receiving their rings. The students’ hands remain purple for several days — showcasing

their Lumberjack pride and achievement. This unique tradition has grown tremendously with an average of more than 500 participants each semester in three ceremonies throughout each Big Dip day.

“During the past several years, the cost of rings has escalated, and purchasing a ring is becoming harder for students and their parents to do in one lump sum,” said Craig Turnage, executive director of the SFA Alumni Association. The Alumni Association recognized there was a need to help remedy this situation and began working with several SFA departments and Balfour, the official SFA ring partner, to create an online program to help students start saving for their rings.

Visit www.sfaring.com to view class ring prices, sizes, estimated prices and styles. The Alumni Association also has samples of each ring available for students to see in person. While the Alumni Association hosts SFA Ring Week in the fall and spring semesters, students can visit the Alumni Association’s office anytime from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays in the Tracie D. Pearman Alumni Center, located on the SFA campus. Call (936) 468-3407 if you have questions, or students may visit their mySFA account to view a list of frequently asked questions concerning the ring-savings program.

To learn more ways students and their parents can get involved at SFA and with the Alumni Association, visit www.sfaalumni.com.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Our counselors help students identify goals and potential solutions to problems that cause distress, leading to improved self-esteem and increased coping skills, social connectedness and optimal mental health.

These services are brief interventions with the focus on individualized care. Available to current SFA students, our services are free, confidential and delivered in person and via a telehealth platform. That means only you and your counselor will know why you’re here and the information that you discuss.

CONTACT US:

PHONE: 936.468.2401
EMAIL: counseling@sfasu.edu
Health and Wellness Hub
2106 Raguet Street
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962

OFFICE HOURS:
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Closed during university holidays



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS:

- Initial consultation (your first appointment!)
- Individual counseling
- Couples counseling (for partners and roommates)
- Group counseling
- QPR suicide prevention training
- Crisis counseling

Campus Rec supports student well-being

Group fitness classes, outdoor excursions among center’s offerings

If you attended SFA orientation during the summer, you probably experienced a sneak peek of the SFA Rec Center during the evening hours. Yes, it’s a gym. It’s BIG gym that boasts a weight room and cardio floor, indoor track, 39-foot Climbing Wall and 13-foot Bouldering Cave, two indoor basketball courts, and two racquetball courts. You can’t miss the beautiful outdoor pool with a lazy river, hot tub, and three lap lanes. However, the SFA Rec Center it is so much more than just a gym and a pool.

The Campus Recreation department is housed within the SFA Rec Center and offers several ways to get involved on campus through fitness and wellness programming, outdoor pursuits, intramurals, sport clubs, internships and employment.

Group Axe fitness classes run throughout each semester and include yoga, Zumba and kickboxing. Classes often develop a following, with students attending throughout the entire semester and creating a bond through group exercise. Students interested in careers related to fitness and wellness might want to look into certification prep courses for personal trainers and group fitness instructors.

The Outdoor Pursuits team provides a great escape for SFA students, or rather, several great escapes, through planned outdoor excursions to local, statewide and national outdoor destinations. Explore local lakes and hiking trails during day trips throughout the Nacogdoches area, and escape during overnight adventures to Tyler State Park, Ratcliff Lake and even the Grand Canyon. In addition, students can find outdoor excitement right on the SFA campus through the Experiential Learning Center, a high and low ropes course featuring a zip line and climbing options.

Intramurals and Sport Clubs gives students a competitive sports option outside of official collegiate athletics teams. Through intramurals, groups of students can form teams and play other SFA students throughout the semester in sports like soccer, sand volleyball, basketball and flag football. Students can also participate in one-day tournaments like dodgeball, pickle ball, table tennis and capture the flag. While intramural leagues consist of teams of SFA students, sport clubs offer students the opportunity to join a team and compete against sport clubs from other universities.

With over 150 student employees, Campus Recreation is one of the largest student employers on campus. You don’t have to be an expert in fitness to apply for a job at the SFA Rec Center; there are jobs available in administration, fitness, facility operations, wellness, graphic design and marketing, safety, lifeguarding, sports programming, referring and officiating, summer youth camps, and more. Campus Recreation also offers a flexible internship program. Find more information on how to apply for jobs and internships at www.sfasu.edu/sfarecjobs.

- Facility Highlights:
- Indoor Recreation Space: 80,910 sq/ft
- Main Gym with 2 basketball courts
 - Weight room and cardio floor
 - 2 multipurpose rooms
 - Indoor track
 - 39-foot Climbing Wall and 13-foot Bouldering Cave
 - 2 Racquetball courts

- Outdoor Recreation Space: 72,430 sq/ft
- 4 Intramural fields



File photo

The Student Recreation Center offers numerous ways to stay physically fit, including exercise machines, free weights, fitness classes, basketball courts, an indoor track and a climbing wall.

- 300 sq/ft padded artificial turf outdoor workout area
- Military spec obstacle course with 10 elements
- Schlieff Tennis Complex with 16 courts
- Outdoor Courtyard
- 2 basketball courts
- 2 sand volleyball courts
- 5 miles of multi-use trails
- Low and high element challenge course

- Outdoor Pool: 6,958 sq/ft
- Outdoor Pool Deck 15,738 sq/ft
- Lazy River
 - 3 lap lanes
 - Diving well
 - Hot tub spa with seating for 43
 - Multi-use area with basketball hoop and volleyball net

- Programing Highlights:
- Outdoor Pursuits - The Outdoor Center offers students the chance to experience the outdoors through day and overnight trips and learn skills that enable them to enjoy being outside. Along with various clinics, patrons have access to rent outdoor equipment like kayaks, tents, paddle boards, and bikes. The Outdoor Pursuits team also oversees the rock wall, an indoor/outdoor challenge course, and local walking/biking trails.
 - Intramural Sports - SFA’s intramural basketball team, “The Takeover,” won the Men’s Intramural Division 2019 NIRSA National Championship.
 - Sport Clubs: SFA is home to over 20 sport clubs including rock climbing, rodeo, wake boarding and bass fishing. The Bass Fishing Club won the Abu Garcia College Fishing National

- Championship. An esports Club was formed during the spring 2020 semester along with the development of a new esports Lab that houses 12 computers.
- Aquatics and Safety - The aquatics and safety staff offer a variety of America Red Cross certification courses including CPR/AED and First Aid for Professional Rescuer, CPR Instructor, Lifeguard, and Lifeguard Instructor.
 - Fitness - Beginning in Spring 2021, we started to host Group Fitness Instructor and Certified Personal Trainer certification preparation courses. In partnership with NASM/AFAA, these hybrid courses will provide students with the tools and skills needed to successfully obtain their certification. Upon completion, newly certified fitness professionals will have the ability to interview for employment with the Student Recreation Center and will be further equipped with a nationally accredited certification that can be used outside of the university setting after graduation.

- Fun Facts:
- As part of our outdoor facility, we house a military spec obstacle course with 10 different elements.
 - SFA Campus Rec holds weekly “Group AXE” classes that are free group exercise classes for all members. Classes include yoga, cycling, Zumba and more!
 - SFA Campus Rec is committed to bring fitness and wellness to every student, even online. We hold online options of our some of our Group AXE classes and special events to keep students moving at home.

For more information about the SFA Rec Center and Campus Recreation, visit www.sfasu.edu/campusrec.

FALL 2023

SFA

CAREER FAIRS



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY

Center for Career and
Professional Development

PART TIME JOB AND
VOLUNTEER: SEPT. 6

ACCOUNTING: SEPT. 27

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
AND INTERIOR DESIGN: SEPT. 28

ALL MAJORS: OCT. 18

TEACHER: NOV. 3

Find more information at sfasu.edu/ccpd

Togetherall partnership provides confidential, free mental health support for SFA students

SFA's Health and Wellness Hub recently partnered with Togetherall, a company providing peer-to-peer mental health and well-being support that is free to students and available 24/7 online.

Togetherall is a safe and anonymous online community where SFA students can go if they're feeling down, struggling to cope or just want to connect with others who understand what they are going through.

Through the platform, students can also access free self-guided courses, self-assessments and other well-being resources.

"Staff in the Health and Wellness Hub understand that loneliness and isolation are serious issues for college students, and wait times to meet with on-campus counselors in person can be long at times," Clare Fite, director of SFA's Counseling Services, said. "Togetherall is just an additional layer of support we can provide our students, so they are able to access mental health services when it is convenient for them."

Licensed and registered mental health professionals moderate the online community, which is comprised of college students from around the world. Togetherall can provide students with needed support when primary SFA services are closed, including evenings, weekends and holidays.

"On signing on to Togetherall for the first time, all of a sudden I had a community of people who understood me ... I wasn't alone anymore," according to an anonymous member quoted on the website. Another wrote, "The community is amazing. I've realized that I'm not alone and that helping others in my position makes me feel like I have something to give."

Since the university began the

partnership in late 2022, 230 SFA students have registered on the platform. A report provided by Togetherall shows 57% of those were not accessing more traditional counseling services. "I think that speaks to the fact that we are reaching more diverse populations in a creative way," Fite said.

SFA students registering for Togetherall reported experiencing more than 20 different mental health issues, but the most common were stress (72%), feeling down or depressed (69%), feeling nervous or anxious (65%) and worrying in social situations (53%).

To register for Togetherall using your SFA email, visit www.togetherall.com. If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health issues, contact Counseling Services at counseling@sfasu.edu or (936) 468-2401. The Hub is located on campus in the Tucker Building, 2106 Raguet St.



IF IT'S ON YOUR MIND IT'S ON TOGETHERALL

Anonymous online peer support community here to listen and give your mental wellbeing a boost, 24/7, 365.

No waiting lists. Join now and explore. 16+ only.

Find out more



FREE to all students.

togetherall.com



Pregnant? You Don't Have To Do It Alone!

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

- Information on Medicaid, WIC, CCMS
- Prenatal Referrals
- Limited Obstetrical Ultrasounds
- Adoption Referrals

936-569-6288

619 Russell Blvd
Nacogdoches, TX 75965
Fax: 936-560-3864

M-TH: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
F: *closed*

www.heartbeat-of-nacogdoches.org



IT Services supports students

The Information Technology Services department at SFA provides many services to help students succeed in their journey to graduation. Information about these services is available at help.sfasu.edu by clicking on the "Information for New Students" link.

MySFA, SFA's primary web portal, can be found at mysfa.sfasu.edu. Course listings, campus announcements, financial aid, and other tools and resources can be found there. Students having trouble accessing mySFA or need other assistance may call (936) 468-HELP or visit the Help Desk in the Ralph W. Steen Library.

Brightspace by D2L is SFA's online learning management system and can be accessed via mySFA by clicking on the "Brightspace by D2L" button on the home screen. There, students will find course information, study materials, exams and other resources provided by instructors. Support for Brightspace by D2L can be accessed from the mySFA home screen or by calling (936) 468-1919.

Students' @jacks.sfasu.edu email accounts are their primary means of communication with the university, and this e-mail can be accessed from the mySFA home screen. Information regarding registration, financial aid, admissions, advising and other processes are delivered via SFA email, so it is important students check their email frequently to stay on top of their SFA responsibilities.

Office 365 is the online version of Microsoft Office and can be accessed through a link on the mySFA home screen. All the standard MS Office

programs are provided, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and more. Also included is OneDrive, the cloud storage service from Microsoft that allows students to store documents safely and securely on the internet.

Zoom is the web conferencing tool used by SFA instructors to deliver courses remotely in real time or via recording. Zoom makes live, multimedia-rich, online collaboration possible, and it provides faculty members virtual classrooms for conferencing, lectures and office hours. All SFA faculty members, students and staff members can access Zoom via the mySFA home screen.

Wepa is SFA's cloud-based printing solution that allows students to print at over a dozen kiosks located around campus. The Wepa system allows for printing from a computer, phone, cloud storage solution and Brightspace by D2L. Additional information on the Wepa system can be found at help.sfasu.edu.

Access to any of the SFA online systems requires the use of the Duo two-factor authentication system. Instructions for installing and configuring the Duo app can be found in the "Information for New Students" link at help.sfasu.edu.

JackAlerts is the service used by University Police Department to inform students of emergency situations on the SFA campus. JackText is a service that allows for billing information, grades and other updates to be sent to students via text message. Students can sign up for both services on the mySFA home screen.



Hub combines wellness services

SFA's Health and Wellness Hub celebrated its grand opening in February. The launch was the culmination of more than a year's worth of collaboration among multiple departments and the SFA administration.

Within the Hub are now housed six departments and services that used to work separately: Health Services, Counseling Services, Student Outreach and Support, the Lumberjack Food Pantry, Student Wellness and an on-campus contact for the Family Crisis Center of East Texas.

"The Health and Wellness Hub is the point on campus for students to get their health and wellness needs taken care of," said Dr. Andrew Dies, assistant vice president of student affairs and dean of students said at the time.

"As part of the Lumberjack Wellness Network, this project has been in the works for over a year, and we are so excited to be able to offer this integrated community health approach. We are confident in the positive contribution we are making to student success."

The Hub is in the Tucker Building on the southeast corner of Raguet and East College streets. The soft launch of the facility was in August 2022.

The Hub is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. To learn more, visit sfasu.edu/thehub.

SFA HEALTH SERVICES

LOCATED IN THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS HUB

SERVICES INCLUDE

Allergy injections (weekly)	Hepatitis B vaccine
Annual well-woman exams	Meningitis vaccine
Depo Provera	Minor wound care
Diagnosis and management of sexually transmitted diseases	Physicals
Flu vaccine	Sick visits
Laboratory	Tdap booster
	Tuberculosis testing

SFA-ENDORSED STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

Students who do not have insurance to cover after-hours emergencies, hospitalization and any other medical needs that are not provided by the University Health Clinic are strongly urged to obtain the university endorsed student health insurance policy or the equivalent. While the university has endorsed this student insurance policy, it is provided by an independent company. If you are interested in insurance coverage, you can obtain a brochure online at sfasu.edu/lifeatsfa/healthclinic.

CLINIC HOURS


Monday through Friday
from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[f @SFAHealthClinic](https://www.facebook.com/SFAHealthClinic)
Follow us to stay up to date on time changes or events that may alter clinic hours.

Required to be enrolled in current semester and have a valid student ID card.

Have health insurance? Bring your insurance card to every visit.

Located on campus at the corner of East College and Raguet streets
For appointment scheduling, call (936) 468-4008 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Providers work by scheduled appointments.



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Health and Wellness Hub

Most SFA grads reporting positive career outcomes

Nearly 90% of SFA's May 2022 graduating class reported positive career outcomes within six months of graduation, according to a class-specific survey conducted by the university's Center for Career and Professional Development.

The First Destination Survey is used to capture information from SFA's new graduates within their first six months after graduation. Specifically, it looks at information related to post-graduation next steps, including whether they are working, continuing education, joining the military or another option.

The survey is meant to provide clear, concise and consistent data on the outcomes associated with SFA students as well as the national outcomes associated with a college education, according to an article on the Handshake website, the platform CCPD uses to connect students with industry professionals. For this reason, the questions in the survey are compliant with the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

The FDS is one way SFA tracks the success of students and those who help prepare them for the job market, said CCPD director Brent McLeMore, "allowing us to tell their stories more completely, celebrate accordingly, and improve more effectively."

Between self-reported student data and the CCPD's post-graduation knowledge rate, overall survey results account for 51% of the May 2022 SFA graduating class. This is just below the previous year's national overall rate of 55% and higher than the southwest U.S. average of 47%. The southwest region includes Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona.

From SFA's results, 60% marked themselves as working, 29% are pursuing some form of continuing education, and less than 1% had joined the military. Of those within the working category, the average annual salary reported by SFA alumni hired within six months of graduation was \$56,309. For those hired within the same time span at an hourly rate, the average salary was \$44,393.

Final national results for 2022 won't be released until the coming fall. However, McLeMore and other SFA administrators were excited to see that SFA's reported employment rate within six months of graduation was 5% higher than the 2021 national average and 14% higher than the 2021 southwest U.S. average.

"These trends are reflective of the good work our faculty members put in each day to educate our students," McLeMore said.

"Their work results in students who are competitive in the job market, bringing significant value to it as potential employees. Our role at CCPD is to help students understand and communicate their value to potential employers and to facilitate connection for our students and employers in both virtual and physical spaces."

To learn more about the CCPD, including its career exploration and employer connections services, visit sfasu.edu/ccpd or visit the office on the third floor of the student center.

SFA administrator chosen for academy

Dr. Michara DeLaney-Fields, SFA's chief diversity officer, was one of three dozen higher education leaders from across the country chosen to participate in the 2023-24 Executive Leadership Academy.

ELA is a yearlong program jointly sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the Council of Independent Colleges and the American Academic Leadership Institute. The selective program prepares experienced provosts and vice presidents to become successful presidents or move to positions of greater responsibility.

DeLaney-Fields said her SFA mentors, including Dr. Steve Westbrook, former SFA president, and Gina Oglesbee, SFA interim president, helped prepare her for this opportunity.

"I am immensely grateful to Dr. Steve Westbrook for his endorsement and leadership throughout the year," she said. "I also appreciate Gina Oglesbee for her mentorship. I am humbled by the opportunity to expand my leadership journey in higher education with mentors and leaders nationwide."

The ELA program includes an individualized professional experience plan designed to fill gaps in the participant's skills and experience; mentorship by the participant's current president and the ELA program director; individualized executive coaching; and peer-to-peer participant-led webinars, regional gatherings and activities.

"Through this experience, I hope to gain the in-depth knowledge necessary to continue anchoring and evolving others to grow and succeed," DeLaney-Fields said.

ELA participants attended their first seminar last month and will return to Washington, D.C., in June 2024 for a second seminar.

"It is more essential than ever that future leaders are well-equipped to serve our growing diverse student population," said Mildred Garcia, AASCU president. "The Executive Leadership Academy offers a critical opportunity to strengthen higher education's leadership pipeline by bringing together equity-minded, purpose-driven leaders who share a common goal of being in service to students."



Dr. Michara DeLaney-Fields
Chief Diversity Officer

Counseling Services expands staff, builds partnerships

SFA's Counseling Services is evolving to meet the unique needs of today's college students by expanding its staff, leveraging on- and off-campus partnerships and offering tailored care for specific groups, including student-athletes and students with disabilities.

The changes are part of a broader initiative by the Division of Student Affairs to prioritize students' overall health and well-being while strengthening and rebranding SFA's network of support personnel and resources. Within the past year, the Dean of Students Office has launched the Lumberjack Wellness Network—a comprehensive web of SFA services encompassing the seven dimensions of wellness—and created the new Health and Wellness Hub where medical, counseling, outreach, support and other wellness services are centralized under one roof.

"A lot of work has been put into reorganizing Counseling Services' staffing model to better serve our students, which aligns with our overall goal of integrated wellness and a more individualized care approach," said Clare Fite, director of counseling services. "All the changes have received tremendous support from our dean and from the vice president's office, as well as our partners across campus, and that has really allowed us to reimagine how we can best serve our students and help them succeed."

In addition to Fite, whose background is in community health, recent counseling staff additions include Holly Randall, who splits her time with SFA Athletics and works primarily with student-athletes. SFA alumna Jenny Baker, who earned her bachelor's degree American Sign Language-English Interpreting and Deaf Studies, joined the counseling staff in February and offers specialized care for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing or have other physical or mental challenges.

"I am a very person-centered counselor, and that fits very well with SFA's overall counseling philosophy," said Baker, whose also is a certified rehabilitation counselor. "Working at a university is always something I strived to do, and SFA was my top choice. So getting to join this amazing team of professionals that has been so supportive of me and committed to our students has been a really wonderful experience."

Rounding out the team are longtime SFA counselors Prici Ceja, a generalist who recently completed counselor-supervisor training and certification, and Ron Smith, who has established a niche serving neurodiverse students. The support staff includes Hub Graduate Assistant Jesse Urbina Ambriz and Graduate Counseling Intern Nicole Adams.

"Jesse's primary function is delivering and organizing outreach for counseling and other departments operating within the Hub, and he also handles all of our social media," Fite said. "Having Nicole with us has strengthened our long-standing relationship with the academic department and allowed us to collaborate on a lot of big initiatives, including campus-wide crisis response."



Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications
Counseling Services staff members pictured (from left) are Holly Randall, Prici Ceja, Clare Fite, Nicole Adams, Ron Smith, Jesse Urbina Ambriz and Jenny Baker.



CAMPUS RECREATION

RECreate Yourself.

Welcome to SFA!

Kick off the fall semester at the SFA Rec Center

with fitness, sports, fun, and more.

Dodgeball Tournament
Aug. 29, 4 p.m. • SFA Campus Rec
Register by 4 p.m. Aug 25 at the competitive sports desk inside the SFA Rec Center

Meet your Fitness Team
Aug. 30, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. • SFA Campus Rec
SFA Rec Center fitness, wellness options, and our campus dietitian

Sand Volleyball Tournament
Sept. 1, 4 p.m. • SFA Campus Rec Court Yard
Register by 4 p.m. Sept. 1 at the competitive sports desk inside the SFA Rec Center

Recpalooza
Sept. 6, 6 – 8 p.m. • SFA Campus Rec
Party at the SFA Rec Center - DJ, games, dancing, and PRIZES

Campus Recreation Job Fair
Sept. 12 & 13, 3 – 6 p.m. • SFA Campus Rec
Apply now at www.sfasu.edu/SFARecJobs

www.sfasu.edu/campusrec

@sfacampusrec    

CELEBRATING Every LUMBERJACK

DISABILITY SERVICES



SFA is committed to providing equal opportunities for all students. The office of Disability Services works collaboratively with students and faculty to facilitate specialized support services and accommodations that meet individual needs. Students who experience temporary limiting conditions as a result of injuries, surgeries, or short-term disabilities may also visit this office for access to resources throughout the duration of the condition.

CONTACT US:

sfasu.edu/disabilityservices
VOICE: 936.468.3004
VIDEO PHONE: 936.205.1944
EMAIL: disabilityservices@sfasu.edu
Human Services Building, Room 325



To-go boxes introduced at dining halls

By Oscar Vazquez
Staff Writer

In early 2023, Dining Services introduced a new to-go box program, where students can pay a one-time fee of \$5.99 for a reusable box to use throughout the semester. The program, known as OZZI, took over for disposable to-go containers and are available in both dining halls, Food Hall 2023 and Eatery on the East.

OZZI is meant to promote sustainability by reducing waste caused by one-time use disposables, such as Styrofoam containers. The program also claims to help in lowering operational costs for businesses that participate in it.

On average, campus dining uses three cases of Styrofoam containers per day.

“Of those single-use containers, a total of 220,000 are estimated to be saved from being wasted during SFA’s first year under the OZZI program, according to Lumberjack Eats,” a flyer circulating around campus said.

The program at SFA currently offers two reusable containers under the namesake, O2GO: a three-compartment to-go box in either green or purple colors, and an 8 oz. cup. Both products can be used for hot or cold consumables.

Students are advised not to worry about washing products after use and to instead return it back to the dining halls where they will be



Photo by Marcus Jackson / The Pine Log

Lumberjack Eats debuted new to-go containers in early 2023. The program makes disposable containers available to students dining in both of SFA’s all-you-care-to-eat dining facilities, Food Hall 1923 in the Baker Pattillo Student Center and Eatery on East across from Steen Hall towers on College Street.

sanitized and handed another sanitized box. If a student returns a box but doesn’t want to get another, they will then instead be handed a carabiner to hold onto. When they next stop to get to-go food, the carabiner will be exchanged for a to-go container.

“I’ve used my box like three times at this point,” Mia Gunn, senior biology major from Deer Park, said.

“So far, I haven’t had any real issues with it. I

mean washing it out after using and carrying it back is kind of annoying, but I guess that’s a small price to pay to help save the planet.”

According to the Lumberjack Eats flyer, the containers are good for around 1,000 washes and are estimated to prevent 5,353 pounds of disposable waste in just one semester. Additionally, each container is also claimed to prevent 66 pounds of waste over the course of its lifetime.

Student Government passes drink tester bill

The Student Government Association Senate passed a Test my Drink Cards bill at an SGA Senate meeting in early 2023.

The bill was signed into effect by then-Student Body President Madison Gartman and Speaker of the Senate Remigio Casanova.

The Test my Drink bill was unanimously voted for by each member, with an amendment being added. The amendment states this bill should only be used in a lawful manner.

The Test-My-Drink cards test for GHB and Ketamine concentrations. According to the Test My Drink website, these odorless and tasteless drugs can be added to an unsuspecting victim’s drink and lead to drug-facilitated sexual assault.

“SFA students deserve access to a safe drinking environment, however, SGA only supports the consumption of alcohol that complies with local, state and federal laws,” then-Communications Director Nathan Lyons said.

SGA has ordered 25 Test my

Drink Card kits, with each kit including 10 cards for a total of 250 cards. Each card also has two sides, totaling to 500 tests to disperse to the student body. The card are available in the SGA office on the first floor of the Baker Pattillo Student Center, Suite 1.203 near the Information Desk.

SGA is the representative body of SFA students and is made up of an administered entirely by students. Its purposes are to serve as the voice of the SFA student body and as a model government (executive, legislative and judicial branches) while fostering leadership development.

The SGA Senate meets biweekly in the student center Commons, Room 3.201, on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. These meetings are open to the student body.

SGA also provides a number of free resources for the student body’s access. These include feminine hygiene products, scantrons and bluebooks, water and snacks, and an area to relax, socialize and watch television shows or movies.

SFA Model UN team earns Best Delegation honors at Model European Union contest

SFA’s Model European Union team, which consists of nine political science majors and one international business major, earned Best Delegation honors at the Midwest Model European Union competition for the second year in a row.

Hosted by Indiana University, the MMEU competition is the second-oldest intercollegiate simulation of the European Union in North America. The purpose of the competition is to increase awareness and knowledge of the EU, its institutions and its processes, according to Dr. Steven Galatas, SFA associate professor of government and Model EU faculty advisor.

“The students gained a deeper appreciation for the EU and its role in the world, as well as the importance of the United States and EU relationship in maintaining peace and stability in Europe and globally,” Galatas said.

SFA’s team represented Germany, which was chosen through a lottery system, during the competition. The team met regularly beginning

in January to review EU legislature processes and research the country’s positions on important or critical issues, including climate change, energy security in Europe, and the Russia-Ukraine war.

“Model EU was an absolutely amazing experience,” said Casper Dirks, international business major from Spaarndam, Netherlands. “I have gained a much better understanding of the European Union, and I improved my debating skills a lot. Experiencing what it is like modeling a legislature includes critically thinking about approving, denying or modifying any proposed legislation within your ministry.”

Nacogdoches senior Rebekah Cook, whose role was European parliament from Germany representing the German Green Party, and Nacogdoches senior Caitlyn Shrewsbury, whose role was European council as the chancellor/prime minister from Germany, each received first place in the competition.

Placing second from SFA were Gentian Kojeli, a senior from Tirana, Albania, representing

economics and finance from Germany, and Ayshia Carr, a senior from Tomball, representing environment minister from Germany.

Edinburg senior Trinity Altemeyer, whose role was justice and home affairs minister from Germany, placed third. Other team members included Trophy Club senior Morgan Harlow, Dallas senior Alexander Gilmour and Rice senior Dacoda Burkholder.

“Going toe to toe with bigger universities and students from their departments is a show of not only how good SFA’s team is but also how good the faculty and the department are in preparing them for the experience,” Kojeli said. “It is an immaculate experience to see how much you have learned and how much of your knowledge you can put into practice. Winning back-to-back honors is an achievement that all of SFA has to be proud of. As the team and the faculty have put SFA on the map as heavy hitters, even against bigger universities with larger endowments such as Notre Dame.”

@SFA_Twiggy



On our beautiful campus in the heart of the Piney Woods, we are proud to be axe-toting Lumberjacks and Ladyjacks! However, we also claim one of the cutest, most bright-eyed and bushy-tailed unofficial mascots you can follow on Instagram and Twitter... it’s Twiggy, the SFA squirrel!

Usually found eating snacks and hanging around his swing outside the Ferguson Building, our furry friend enjoys meeting and greeting anyone who stops by or tosses a few crumbs his way. Join Twiggy’s more than 2,000 followers, and add a little sunshine to your day.




Downtown Art

With stoic expressions on their faces, portraits of Nacogdoches historic figures line the side of a building on the square in downtown. The portraits, painted by local artist and Nacogdoches native Dixie Rose Daniels, are (from left to right) Antonio Gil Y’Barbo, a pioneering settler of Nacogdoches and creator of the Old Stone Fort; Stephen F. Austin, SFA’s namesake; Sam Houston, first and third president of the Republic of Texas an American general; and Adolphus Sterne, an elected representative of Nacogdoches to the House of Representatives for the Second Legislature in 1847 and followed in the Third Legislature. Rose Daniels has several other bright paintings and murals across town. The individualistic style sets her art apart from other paintings and murals around the city.

Photo by Jordan Butts / Stone Fort yearbook

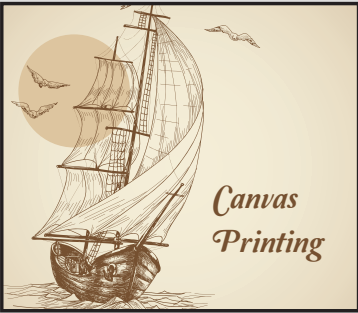
Faculty, Staff and Student ID’S



The staff in the **Graphic Shop** offer a variety of services to help fulfill your printing needs. We can also help with your design and layout for a minimal fee.


We are hiring!
Are you a creative and organized student with an eye for detail?
Go to : <http://www.sfasu.edu/hr/>
Click: Printing and Postal Services
Look: Student Assistant

Large Format




Canvas, Backlit

Yard Signs
Stickers
Foamcore Mounting



Roll Up Banners




Posters:
Gloss and Matte

Banners
Static Cling White/Clear
Wall Vinyl

Regular Format


Prints and copies
Brochures
Handbills
Postcards



Buttons

Fliers
Invitations
Book Binding
Lamination

Baker Pattillo Student Center
Room 1.208A
Phone: (936) 468-1301 • Fax: (936) 468 -1009
graphicshop@sfasu.edu



Jimmy McDaniel,
Supervisor Graphic & Prepress
Phone: (936) 468-2348
mcdanieljw@sfasu.edu



TEXAS

FAMILY WEEKEND SEPT. 22-24

PRESENTED BY ORIENTATION AND TRANSITION PROGRAMS

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Greetings from ...

WEEKS OF WELCOME

STUDENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMS



LUMBERJACKS


Axe'em!


#getinvolved

Aug. 25 - Sept. 9


WoW is designed to welcome new students to campus and introduce them to campus life. For returning students, it offers a way to become involved and interact with new students and campus organizations. WoW programming takes place the first two weeks of every fall and spring semester.


CONTACT US:


 Baker Patillo Student Center
Room 3.300

 (936) 468-6641

FOLLOW US:

 facebook.com/SFAWOW

 @sfawow

 @sfa_wow

Welcome, SFA Class of 2027

Lumberjack experience includes unique college traditions, many opportunities for students to get involved on campus

For almost 100 years, every SFA student's journey has been highlighted with the unique Lumberjack spirit and traditions that set our University apart from all others. As a new Lumberjack, you can get into the spirit by painting your first axe handle at Holler at Homer shortly after the fall semester begins.

Consider joining AXExperience, the university-sponsored student organization responsible for preserving and promoting the spirit and traditions that make the Lumberjack experience unique. The group strives to be the main facilitators of Lumberjack Spirit across campus, supporting SFA athletic teams both at home and away.

AXExperience's core values include showing respect through sportsmanlike behavior, demonstrating responsible actions while representing any aspect of the University; caring for the SFA name and its traditions; maintaining the highest level of integrity; and remaining united by Purple Pride.

AXExperience also works closely with the SFA Alumni Association to plan SFA's annual Homecoming, a weeklong celebration for all students and alumni that includes a concert, bonfire, fireworks, downtown parade, 5K race, court elections, football game, tailgating and much more.

Along with these traditional Homecoming events and activities, students also take part in Spirt Service Week, collecting donations for the Lumberjack Food Pantry, hosting a blood drive and participating in other service-based initiatives across campus. This year, Homecoming will take place Oct. 24 to 29.

Our student sections always bring the Purple Pride and the fun wherever our Lumberjacks and Ladyjacks compete. So, raise your axe high, and start making those "Happy mem'ries!—All hail to SFA!"

Whether you love athletics or just love to be around people who are super excited to be Lumberjacks, joining the Purple Haze student section is one of the best ways to demonstrate your SFA pride!

One of the Lumberjacks' favorite athletic traditions, Purple Haze is the nickname for the student cheering section at all sporting events. Everyone becomes a member of the Purple Haze student section after receiving their Purple Haze T-shirt at Orientation. What are your duties as a member? Simply unite with your fellow Lumberjacks, and scream for the home team in the Purple Haze section. Don't forget to wear your purple!

Of course, there's more to Purple Haze than cheering: Jacks' Charge is a special tradition for football season, when the Purple Haze section rushes the field before kickoff, waving their axe handles proudly.

During basketball season, members of the Purple Haze put on crazy costumes, sit right behind the visitors' hoop and do their best to distract the opposing team.



Photo by Cody Gill / Stone Fort yearbook

Lumberjack Orientation attendees throw up their axes for a massive group photo June 30 in the atrium of the Baker Pattillo Student Center. Hundreds of first-year and transfer students attended Orientation sessions throughout the summer months in preparation for their first fall semester as Lumberjacks. Orientation Leaders hosted the events designed to familiarize new Lumberjacks with campus, introduce them to new and current students, faculty and staff, and prepare for them for the transition to life at SFA.

Not sure how to get involved? SFA's Involvement Center on the third floor of the Baker Pattillo Student Center is here to connect students with organizations and other engagement opportunities to help them make friends, have fun and gain valuable skills outside the classroom.

To get started, email getinvolved@sfasu.edu, and schedule a meeting with an involvement expert. They take the time to get to know students and help match them with involvement opportunities that fit your interests, hobbies, talents and field of study. All of SFA's registered organizations are listed on The Handle, the University's virtual student engagement platform. Students may also start their own SFA club with a few friends.

Virtual Advising

Are you a remote student or otherwise have trouble fitting a face-to-face meeting into your schedule? No worries—students are welcome to access our online involvement advising services. Call (936) 468-3703 or email getinvolved@sfasu.edu to set up a virtual appointment via Zoom.

Involvement Fairs

One of the best ways to get involved at SFA is to visit an involvement fair. The Office of Student Engagement hosts involvement fairs on the second Thursday of each fall and spring semester. Members of our student organizations set up display tables, talk to visitors about their clubs and activities, sign up new members, and pass out swag.

Promote Your Organization

Student organizations, SFA departments and community partners are invited to promote their upcoming activities through the Involvement Center. We will gladly display flyers, brochures and publications in the Student Engagement office.

SEAS 1101 Presentations

Faculty members wishing to help their SEAS 1101 students navigate the more than 200 on-campus organizations are encouraged to schedule an advising presentation during one of their class meeting times. One of our knowledgeable presenters will share information about SFA's unique involvement advising process and answer students' questions about getting involved on campus. Call (936) 468-3703 or email getinvolved@sfasu.edu to schedule a presentation.

Enjoy your time at SFA, Lumberjacks!



Dr. Hollie Smith
Executive Director
of Student Life

Welcome to SFA!

College should be a time that challenges you academically while also providing opportunities to learn about yourself, hone your passions and develop lifelong friends. SFA's Department of Student Life is dedicated to developing students outside the classroom

through exciting involvement, leadership and engagement opportunities to help you get the most out of your experience as a Lumberjack.

Toward that end, I encourage you to explore the following areas housed within the Student Life pillar: Student Engagement, Orientation and Transition Programs, Student Publications, and Center for Career and Professional Development

If you're like most students, you'll find tips

about college success are never in short supply. Even so, I would like to offer just a bit of my own advice that is specific to your success here at SFA.

Get involved. Involved students are more likely to graduate and enjoy their collegiate experience.

I encourage you to use your free time to participate in a student organization or a club sports team, work on a project with a faculty member, join a fraternity or sorority, or find another way to get involved. Don't know where to start? Visit The Handle, attend an involvement fair or swing by the Student Life office for help finding what's right for you!

Invest in yourself. The more time and energy you commit to yourself, the more you will benefit. Be intentional in setting aside time to foster personal relationships, learn new skills, relieve stress and just have fun. I promise you that if you treat your college experience as an opportunity to develop and grow, you can be successful here at SFA.

Seek help when you need it. While attending SFA, you will undoubtedly face challenges, and you may need help overcoming them. We find that the most successful Lumberjacks students take advantage of the resources available to help them when they are struggling. Our Lumberjack Wellness Network can connect you with targeted SFA resources to support every dimension of your well-being.

Lastly, if I can help you at any point during your Lumberjack journey, please don't hesitate to reach out. My office is located on the third floor of the Baker Pattillo Student Center (Room 3.105).

Axe 'em, Jacks!

“The more time and energy you commit to yourself, the more you will benefit. Be intentional in setting aside time to foster personal relationships, learn new skills, relieve stress and just have fun”

Free career center services include student résumé critiques, job fairs

SFA's Center for Career and Professional Development offers many free services to all students, regardless of major or classification.

These services have been designed with Lumberjacks' present and future in mind, and students are encouraged to engage with the CCPD many times during their time at SFA. It's never too early for even incoming students to begin planning for their future careers, according to CCPD Director Brent McLemore.

“In fact, the first steps toward that career have already been taken,” he said. “Students choose to attend college because they think it is a good career decision. They choose a major because they think it will help them achieve a career that best fits them.”

CCPD's services are designed to assist students as they journey toward the start of their careers, he said. “Our purpose is to help students make the most of their time while attending SFA by helping them keep their respective careers in mind with an end goal of finding meaningful employment,” he said.

Early on, students can take advantage of CCPD services that help them explore the possibilities through individual coaching appointments, self-assessments, online databases of informational interviews with working professionals and more.

“Students arrive to campus sometimes knowing exactly what they want to do when they graduate; they just may not be sure how to get there,” McLemore said.

“Sometimes students are not sure at all what they want to do, but they feel very confident about their major. And, sometimes students very honestly and bravely admit they have no clue. In any case, the CCPD can help students feel better about their steps forward through intentional exploration with our office.”

Students can also rest assured they are meeting with a team that is dedicated to better understanding the career fields and industries related to their major and interest, he said.

The CCPD operates within a career liaison model, which allows the professional staff to cater to specific student populations based on their college and major. The result is a career coach who can specialize in ways to best help students find success on the career paths particular to them.

Along the way, students can have their résumés and cover letters critiqued, practice interviewing, learn about CCPD resources for job and internship searching, participate in career-related workshops, and attend one of the many career fairs hosted each year.

The CCPD also has connections to thousands of employers who are actively recruiting SFA students and posting jobs and internships to our online job board through Handshake, an online career management platform. Students can also schedule appointments with CCPD through Handshake by visiting <http://sfasu.edu/handshake>.



Photo courtesy of the Center for Career and Professional Development

The Center for Career and Professional Development hosts job fairs, conducts mock interviews, provides résumé critiques and more to help students prepare for a successful career after graduation. To learn more about CCPD services, resources and upcoming career fairs, visit <https://www.sfasu.edu/ccpd> or stop by the CCPD office on the third floor of the Baker Pattillo Student Center, Room 3.302, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Dance Marathon raises more than \$151K for Tyler hospital



Photo courtesy of Student Engagement

Dance Marathon raised more than \$20,000 benefitting the Children's Miracle Network "to Change Kids' Health" last spring. Since the program started at SFA, students have raised a grand total of more than \$151,000 to fund healthcare services and equipment for children.

SFA's eighth-annual Dance Marathon raised \$20,068.21 benefitting the Children's Miracle Network "to Change Kids' Health." The March 31 celebration event was themed "Once Upon a Miracle" and was the culmination of a year of fundraising efforts by members of the Dance Marathon student organization.

The celebration featured music and dancing, food, games, prizes, activities, and unique fundraisers, including Student Engagement Assistant Director Morgan Pulliam, Coordinator Amanda West, and other staff members and students getting pies in 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. Since SFA began participating in Dance Marathon, Lumberjacks have raised a grand total of \$151,160.14!

Donations go to local hospitals to fund critical 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.

For more info, email dancemarathon@sfasu.edu.



Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications

The statue of Stephen F. Austin is one of the most iconic landmarks on campus. Located in front of Ralph W. Steen Library, the fountain water is traditionally dyed purple during Homecoming week.



Photo courtesy of Rachel Clark

SFA student journalists earned 24 awards from the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association in March for work completed during the 2022 calendar year, as well as on-site contests held at the annual convention in Fort Worth. The Pine Log student newspaper earned five awards, while the Stone Fort yearbook received nine awards and SFA's radio/TV programs earned seven awards. Pictured are students who attended the 2023 TIPPA conference, from left, Emily Stuart, Brooke Miller, Laney Wise, Cody Gill, Renee Fain and Corrie Martz.

SFA student mail should be addressed to:

Student's Full Name
P.O. Box XXXXX, SFA Station
Nacogdoches, TX 75962

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

SPirit & TRADITIONS

Join AXExperience to help promote that Lumberjack spirit across campus! And while you're at it, come out to athletic games and events to be apart of Purple Haze!

CONNECT & GET INVOLVED

Join Student Activities Association to create unique events for your fellow Lumberjacks!

Join a fraternity or sorority and grow interpersonal skills through scholarship, service, and brotherhood/sisterhood!

Be a Jack Camp Counselor to help welcome students to SFA every summer in a unique Lumberjack experience.

OR JOIN ONE OF OUR 200+ STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS!

LEAD & SERVE

Join one of our leadership and service opportunities to make a difference in the local Nacogdoches area.

Not sure where to start? Use The Handle to explore our options.

#JACKSGETINVOLVED

Follow us on social media to keep with us!

SFA Sylvans win 64th annual Southern Forestry Conclave

The Sylvans, SFA's forestry club and timbersports team, claimed top honors at the 64th annual Southern Forestry Conclave, marking the fifth consecutive conclave SFA has been crowned. The event was hosted by Louisiana Tech University March 9-11 at the Lincoln Parish Park in Ruston, Louisiana.

The accomplishment marks the eighth win of the past nine conclaves and 17 wins total.

"I told the team going into this year's Conclave there was only one team we needed to worry about this year – SFA," said Dr. Jeremy Stovall, Bone Hill Distinguished Professor of Silviculture and Sylvans faculty advisor.

"Winning the previous four conclaves wasn't by chance. We'd put in the practice, worked hard to earn and raise money for the right equipment, did our homework, and learned our events inside and out."

"The Sylvans team has the right culture and is focused on collegiality, fun and sportsmanship," he continued. "We all bought in and truly worked together as a team. The significance of claiming top honors at this year's conclave validated our core beliefs: we have one of the best undergraduate forestry programs in the country, the best students and a successful club culture."

Consisting of 28 students — and with the help of Stovall, 10 alumni and the team's coach, Chelsea Lopez — the Sylvans scored 293.5 points overall. Clemson University placed second with 236 points. The margin of victory stands as the largest in the event's 64 years, according to Stovall. Louisiana Tech University finished in third place with 216.5 points.

The Sylvans finished first in both physical and technical events. The physical events are based on the historical logging and forestry events, using tools such as axes or saws. Technical events are based on subjects learned in forestry courses, testing the academic preparation of the students and their ability to recall and deploy information in the field.

Along with the hours of work the competitors practiced to reach their goal, which totaled more than 100 practices in

an academic year, Stovall credits this year's win to something more special: the team's camaraderie.

"The students genuinely love learning about the events and working with each other as a team to see how good they can become,"

he said. "They teach and coach each other, and they are all each other's biggest fans. The level of sportsmanship they displayed with each other and in support of the other clubs was really phenomenal. As an advisor, I've got it easy with this group. I trust them

and know they'll do everything they can to succeed. They've made me work harder so I don't let them down."

While the Sylvans primarily comprise forestry students, all majors are welcome to join. Visit sylvanstimbersports.com.



Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications

The Sylvans, SFA's timbersports team, claimed top honors at the 64th annual Southern Forestry Conclave, marking the fifth consecutive conclave SFA has won.

Check out The Handle!

The Office of Student Engagement researched and implemented a cloud-based campus engagement platform designed to help SFA manage, track, assess and improve student involvement across campus.

The new software, called Presence, has streamlined registration, approval, training and other administrative workflows for SFA student organizations and departments. Known as The Handle at SFA, the platform also is being used to connect students with leadership opportunities and programs, helping them get the most out of their college experience. Students use The Handle to explore active organizations, plan and attend campus events, engage on social media, connect with resources and much more.

"The implementation of The Handle allows our office to more easily communicate with student leaders, track student involvement numbers and watch for trends in programming and organization participation" said Lacey Folsom, director of student engagement.

"One of our divisional goals is to foster an engaged and connected Lumberjack experience, and The Handle provides a platform that enables us to do that more effectively. Some of the most-used features allow students to directly message other organization leaders and save events to their personal calendars."

Additional features of the Presence software include digital signage, skill assessment, gamified learning pathways, event check-in, charting, real-time involvement analytics, targeted polling, and more. There is also a finance management tool, which allows SFA staff to allocate funds to student organizations, track transactions, and monitor budgets and funding streams.

"The initial response from the students has been better than expected," Folsom said. "Between the web and mobile apps, students were able to easily integrate the platform into their lives, and we were able to almost completely eliminate paper forms."

Presence uses SmartTranscript technology to track ongoing and completed learning experiences, service hours, rewards, skills and certifications of students and update student profiles in real time. It also with third-party applications used frequently by students such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

"The Handle has endless opportunities for growth at SFA, and we are excited to expand its use to more on-campus departments and also find ways to engage potential students as a recruitment tool," Folsom said.

"Providing a resource like The Handle is a gamechanger for student involvement, and we are excited to explore how we can best meet the needs of our future student leaders."



Photo courtesy of Student Engagement

Save the dates for Weeks of Welcome

By Ryleigh McCoy
News Editor

The Office of Orientation and Transition Programs has planned 16 days of special events and activities to encourage students to get involved on campus.

Weeks of Welcome aren't just for incoming students—the events are geared toward transfer students and returning students, as well.

"There are events scheduled with every student in mind," said Katelyn Childress, assistant director of orientation and transition programs.

The point of the WoW is to make everyone feel at home at SFA with the help of fun, free events and plenty of opportunities to make new friends.

Weeks of Welcome will be held from Aug. 25 to Sept. 9. During this time, students can look forward to events such as raffles, the involvement fair, a silent disco, a class photo and much more.

If that wasn't enough, this year the fun

will be turned up to 100. SFA's centennial will be celebrated with #WoW100, a commemoration of 100 years of Lumberjack pride.

"My favorite WoW memory is being a part of the Class-of Photo that occurs every year. Come join in on this tradition, as we take a group picture in the shape of 100," Childress said.

For more information and timely updates about the Weeks of Welcome, check out the SFA WOW Instagram page, @sfawow, or the Facebook page "SFA Weeks of Welcome."



PANDORA

**SHOP LOCAL.
SHOP THE
MUSTARD SEED.**

**1330 N UNIVERSITY DRIVE
936-569-7794**

**THE
MUSTARD
SEED**
FAITH & INSPIRATIONAL BOOKS & GIFTS

Fraternity and Sorority Life promotes friendship, service

Fraternities and sororities provide students with opportunities for personal growth and development of interpersonal skills. Scholarship, service, cultural appreciation and brotherhood/sisterhood are common fraternal principles among our fraternities and sororities.

Fraternity and sorority members have the opportunity to challenge themselves in a supportive atmosphere in which they learn new skills to enrich their lives and prepare them for career challenges and fulfilling relationships.

Joining a fraternity or sorority is a lifetime commitment that will benefit you now and in the future. The Fraternity and Sorority Life community at SFA has so much to offer you. Each chapter is unique, but together they create a united, vibrant community. We encourage you to explore all that Fraternity and Sorority Life has to offer.

SFA's Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life strives

to create transformative leadership opportunities in a learner-centered environment that promotes academic excellence, service to others, cultural awareness, and inclusion and lasting relationships with the university, other fraternal organizations, alumni, and the surrounding community.

SFA's four Greek councils include: Interfraternity Council, Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and Panhellenic Council. More information about each council can be found at sfas.edu/student-life/student-engagement.

SFA fraternities and sororities participate in the STAR Standards of Excellence program. It was designed to encourage the overall improvement of individual chapters and to advance Fraternity and Sorority Life at SFA. Each year, chapters are evaluated and recognized based on a point system.



SFA Fraternities and sororities take an active role in SFA's annual Homecoming activities, including the parade in downtown Nacogdoches pictured at left.

Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications

Lumberjacks help community



Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications

Lumberjacks prepare to take part in The Big Event, an annual SFA day of service designed to show appreciation to the community.

The leadership and service opportunities offered through SFA's Office of Student Engagement allow Lumberjacks to help the local community and lay the foundation for a lifetime of contributions to the greater good.

SFA students raise more than \$20,000 annually for the Children's Miracle Network through SFA Dance Marathon, and hundreds of Lumberjacks perform service projects across Nacogdoches County during The BIG Event

each spring.

Small teams of students fan out across Nacogdoches County to complete projects for local residents and tell them "thank you." Projects include painting, yardwork, cleaning, trash collecting, window washing, and more.

Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society recognizes top SFA student leaders from across campus. New ODK members are inducted each spring and enjoy scholarship opportunities, leadership development programs, career resources and access to a national network of like-minded students working to make a difference in their communities.

All student leaders are celebrated at the annual Lumberjack Achievement Awards, which include Top 23 Freshmen, Student Leader of the Year and Student Organization of the Year honors.

Get connected to campus, peers

Students who are connected and engaged within their institutions do better academically, feel a stronger connection to their school and peers, are more likely to persist to graduation, and develop key skills that make them more employable after college. SFA offers countless ways for Lumberjacks to get involved, starting the day they arrive on campus.

Opportunities include Jack Camp, Fraternity and Sorority Life, Student Activities Association and more than 200 registered student organizations. (If we don't have the club you're looking for, you and a few friends can start your own!)

Visit the Involvement Center on the third floor of the Baker Pattillo Student Center, check out one of our involvement fairs or email getinvolved@sfas.edu to schedule a meeting with one of our SFA involvement experts. We can help you connect with a student organization or find other engagement

opportunities to help you get the most out of your Lumberjack experience.

Student Engagement is committed to



Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications

Members of the Student Activities Association take part in SAACHella, a music event organized by the group in spring 2022.

providing support for students with disabilities. If you are a student who needs accommodation to attend or participate in one of our events or student organizations, you are encouraged to stop by Room 325 in the Human Services Building to make your request.

The Handle is SFA's virtual student engagement platform, helping you make the most out of your college experience.

sfas.presence.io

DON'T FORGET TO DRESS ...

Help celebrate and promote the traditions and spirit that make SFA's college experience so special.

We encourage all students and faculty and staff members to show their pride for SFA's educational mission and colorful history by wearing apparel bearing the colors and insignias of the university each and every Friday!



OPINIONS

Page 5B

The Pine Log

@thepinelog

Resist temptation to skip classes



Corrie Martz
Managing Editor

College is all about finding independence. However, sometimes we need a little help from others, especially when we are going through it for the first time. So, for those of you who have questions, allow me to be your older sister for the duration of this article. Here are my do's and don'ts for surviving college from a senior who would never have made it this far if someone didn't help her along the way.

My first and main piece of advice, as cliché as it sounds, is never skip class. As tempting as it may be, on some days you need to just fight the urge. As soon as you do it once, it will be hard to break that habit. You find yourself finding so many excuses to skip class and before you know it you missed half the semester, and your grade suffers. If your academics weren't enough to keep you going, one way that has helped me when it comes to not skipping class is to do the math and figure out how much money you are paying per each class session. I'm positive once you do the math and figure out you're wasting hundreds of dollars, you will think twice before skipping.

Another thing that is important is to find a good group of friends. I cannot stress this enough—your friends will be your family, so it's essential to find a good group. These will be the people who you can

lean on, who you can laugh with, who you can walk to Whataburger at three in the morning with just because you are bored. These people will be your lifeline. While I don't know the recipe to finding the perfect friends, I do know that once you have them, you need to hold them close and never let them go.

My last piece of advice is to make yourself your number-one priority. Mental health is a real thing, and it is so easy to fall into the negative downward spiral. One way to help yourself out before you get to that point is to go outside at least once a day. SFA is full of beautiful trails. All it takes is 15 minutes of walking around to make a huge difference. Another thing that helps is to have a good school and life balance. Obviously, school is important, but you should never get to the point where it is affecting your mental health. That is why it is better to plan out your time so that it never gets to that point.

On the flip side, if you feel like you are already spiraling, don't fret. There are resources that you can use to help you. There are student therapy and support group sessions, as well as academic resources you can use so that your grades don't suffer. And of course, you can always turn to your friends. Mental health can make or break your college career, so it's important to check up on yourself and make sure you have your head on straight.

I am sure there are many other pieces of advice I can give, but these, in my opinion, are the most important. These ideas are what helped me survive these last four years, and I am certain I would not have made it this far without following this advice. So, this is my surviving college from start to finish guide. I hope this helps you as much as it helped me.

‘Let every responsible person put his shoulder to the wheel’

In honor of SFA's centennial, The Pine Log is printing below an editorial appearing in Nacogdoches' Daily Sentinel newspaper when the school first opened its doors in September 1923.

“The Stephen F. Austin State Teachers' College is going to open on September 18, 1923. With the dash of youth it is going to set up shop and start the process of education. The Board of Regents has decreed that it shall be so. The president of the college has been on the job a year. His task has been multifarious, but he has had twenty-four hours a day in which to accomplish it. There are, it is true, many obstacles in the way, but the obstacles are now fewer than they once were. There has been assembled a faculty of men and women in the prime of life. It is a fighting faculty, and they are on the field looking for trouble. Furthermore, while the college building is being completed, temporary accommodations for classes are to be had on the high school grounds. Books and equipment are here, and still coming. Stated simply the Stephen F. Austin State Teachers' College has an organization, a president and a faculty; it has a place to operate; it has equipment; and it is going to have a student body. Nacogdoches is ready to go. In other words, the college is going to open on September 18, 1923.”

The college invites student who are high-minded ladies and gentlemen. . . . Students who enter the Stephen F. Austin Teachers' College this year have an opportunity that no other body of its students will ever have. The traditions of the college are largely in their hands. What they accomplish in the way of constructive organizations, varied student activities, will set the precedent for the years to come. This opportunity and responsibility will challenge the best thought, the firmest courage, the noblest sentiment of the student body, the faculty, and the community.”

“Nacogdoches is noted for her hospitable citizenship. Nacogdoches will do what it can to provide comfortable living quarters for college students. . . . [SFA] is a full-grown organization. It will be seasoned with age and experience, but it today has a man's task and responsibility. It came into being by the same process as its sister institution in the state of Texas; by legislative action. It has its destined field of service. It has its mission to fulfill. So far as it is given vision and wisdom, it will start right, for it has a long way to go. The machinery is set. A few more days, and it will be put in motion. Let every responsible person put his shoulder to the wheel.”



Brooke Miller
Editor-in-Chief

Keep your focus on academics

You did it. You graduated high school, walked across the stage, and now you're here after a summer of waiting. You're finally getting the chance to study your passion in life and the opportunity to find yourself. With endless clubs and chances to make new friends around every corner, it can be easy to forget what you came here for: a degree.

College isn't just a grand adventure, it's also an investment. The degree that you signed up for is going to open doors for you in the future. It's important as a new student not to lose sight of that. Your GPA is built from the classes and grades you make your freshman year, so starting off strong is an important part of coming to college. Any grade calculator will tell you that it's hard to pull up a really low GPA from freshman year. That could result in loss of scholarships and make it harder for students to enroll in master's programs or even internships. No pressure, am I right? Never fear, Lumberjack. Keeping up your grades this first year isn't as intimidating as it seems.

Communicate with your professors and classmates. I promise you,

there are no stupid questions. Go to class – yes, even that 8 a.m. you're dreading. I've been there, slept through that, and all I did was regret it. Utilize resources like the Academic Assistance and Resource Center and the Online Writing Lab. The AARC is a free tutoring service offered at SFA on the first floor of Steen Library, taught by students who aced the class. To be honest, it got me through my nursing classes before I switched majors (which is also normal and a common thing to do.) The OWL offers free editing and writing help for any class paper, from essays to projects. These free tutoring resources can help you find your study style and stick to it!

Be honest with yourself about what extracurriculars you can commit to. It's easy to join seven clubs in the first week of school and become overwhelmed. Make sure you're prioritizing the proper amount of study time that you need before enjoying extracurriculars.

And the most important tip of all is to simply do your best. That really is all you can do. No one knows all the answers, and you will mess up. What matters is how you get back up and if you learn from the experience.

As you come into your new life as a college student, it's important to remember that slacking off on your studies isn't the best way to start your journey. Have fun, but study well. You came here for a degree – the rest of the fun is a bonus.



Ryleigh McCoy
News Editor

Make time for favorite pastimes

First things first: I'm a freshman. I can't tell you what you should've brought to your dorm or where the best places to study on campus are—I'm still figuring that out myself. I can, however, speak with the authority of someone who has experienced change by the bucketful the past year.

Of all the lessons I learned, the most important so far is this: you should get a hobby.

That may be a task at the very end of your list right now, but I encourage you to give it some weight. Hobbies can give you stability, a feeling of productivity and even a sense of community. When I was juggling all the different parts of a big change, I found a routine. Rain or shine, I would wake up early on Sunday and haul myself down to the Barnes & Noble Cafe. Then, I'd settle in and get ready to cross-stitch for hours. My hobby gave me a safe place to focus

on one thing, not everything else going on in my life. It's a great way to deal with school stress while not avoiding school entirely.

Every week, try to devote some of your time to a hobby that lets you zone out. Hobbies that aren't super creative can let you turn your brain off easier. Repetitive hobbies can give you the perfect chance to do something productive but manageable—without ending up in bed watching Netflix. Crochet, gardening or even jumping rope can be the perfect escape.

Here's another plus to having a hobby. Let's say you're showing off your cool new jump rope skills on campus and another Lumberjack comes up to tell you how much they love jump rope. Now you've found a friend, and all you were doing was something you already enjoy. Hobbies can be important for forming routines, but also for forming connections.

So, whether you're bringing your hobby from home or picking up a whole new skill, give it a shot. College is a great chance to branch out and have fun with your interests—or so I hear.



Abigail Barnard
News Editor

Build your network, find your spot

College is one of the most important times during your life. You find yourself working toward new goals, studying your major and gaining new life experience. College can be so much fun, but it can be hard. A lot of students come from different places, and it can be stressful. Moving to a new town full of strangers and being away from family can be hard. So, I want to share some advice on how to survive in college.

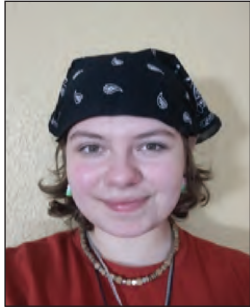
Find your people. It's great to have lots of friends, but you can't do life with everyone. Pick a few people from your friends to do life with in an intentional way. Do more than just have fun, watch movies, study and talk about boyfriends/girlfriends.

Do life with people. Finding them might feel impossible, but they are out there. Seek them out. The things you do in college will set up your life, but so will the people you call friends.

Find your mentor. College is hard, and big decisions are made almost every day. You need to find someone to pour into your life, to guide you during your college years. Your mentor doesn't have to be an adviser, but someone who you can trust will give you solid advice.

Find your spot. Find a spot where you can be completely be alone, not your dorm or the cafeteria. But somewhere where it's quiet, peaceful and you feel safe. Just a place with you and your thoughts without the stress. Use this spot as an escape to get away from all the crazy, the anxiety, the disappointments.

College is hard and stressful. But it is a great place for you to grow and work on your future. Find your place, find your people and commit.



Savannah Dean
News Editor

Keep yourself safe around campus

As summer comes to an end, college freshmen start the transition into adulthood as they pour into colleges and universities across the country. Campuses are busy places with many characters, and with new sights and sounds, it can be easy to get mixed up in the crowd. To keep SFA students and staff safe, the UPD have created a variety of safety measures you should plan to take advantage of once you arrive to campus.

JackAlert is a campus wide emergency alert system that automatically sends text messages, emails and voice alerts to the SFA community. Registering for Jack Alert starts by logging in to your mySFA account. Click on “Sign up for Campus Alerts” and select the My Account tab to register your mobile phone number or email address. You can also register up to three devices or addresses in each category.

The newest addition to SFA safety is the Rave Guardian App that creates a network between the family and friends of SFA students and staff. The app includes safety profiles, two-way crime tip texting, and a panic button with connection to campus police with GPS location. The Rave Guardian App is free to students, faculty and staff and can be downloaded on both iPhone and Android phones. SFA also has emergency call boxes which have been placed at various locations on campus. These call boxes are white and bright yellow and are labeled “EMERGENCY” or “POLICE” in black letters, with a red button for 911 and a black button for non-emergency calls.

Campus police highly recommend students to lock dorm doors every time they leave and before they go to sleep. Do not walk alone at night and report suspicious people or circumstances to stop a crime before it happens. Through using these resources, students can remain safe this school year. For more information on emergency procedures, safety policies and more on Jack Alert and the Rave Guardian App visit the SFA website at <https://www.sfasu.edu/upd/emergency-management>.

Get to know your faculty



Nathan Thompson
Former News Editor

Stepping into your first SFA classroom is exhilarating. Behind those doors is a sea of endless possibilities, potential, and... stress. I am sure you have heard about the challenges waiting for you in college. High school teachers emphasize the absurd amount of homework you receive and the extreme callousness of your professors. However, as frightening as those rumors may be, they are far from the truth.

In college, the structure of your class is largely determined by your professor. With some exceptions due to University or state policies, your professor will determine your reading material, schedule and assignments. Professors are the medium by which you will receive your

education, and with how important they are, it is vital to know how to create good relationships with them.

The first step in creating a relationship with your professor is understanding them. Professors come in a variety of forms. Some are rigid and strict and will do anything to stay on schedule, while others are more flexible and will rearrange their schedule if needed.

It is important to know which kind of professor is going to fit best with your personality. If you're deadline oriented and want to work ahead, then find one that will stick to their schedule. If you want to go with the flow and complete your work one week at a time, then find a professor who isn't afraid to change the pace of the class if needed.

Do research on your professors before you take their class. There is plenty of information out there, whether you use ratemyprofessors.com, ask some of your friends, or ask an SFA student group (there are numerous on Facebook), you will be able to find a professor who best suits your learning style.

After you have found a professor that matches your needs, the second step is to read their syllabus after your first day of class. As I am sure you have heard, the syllabus is the single most important document you will read in each class. It contains all your homework procedures, class policies, class schedule and the most important thing for our purposes, contact information for your professor.

In your syllabus, your professor will list out their office hours, location and phone number, along with their email address and specify which way of contacting them is best. This is how you will get in contact with your professor outside of class hours in order to ask questions, request that they review your work for a project or discuss other material related to your education. Not only will doing this boost your grade in the class but it's also one of the best ways you can build a relationship with your professor, since you are interacting with them one on one. Your professors will accumulate a sense of your academic needs, while you will learn how your professors teach.

Lastly, the third step is to pay attention in class and be engaged in the classroom discussion. This doesn't necessarily mean that you must answer every question, although attempting to answer questions will be beneficial. But it means that you will want to pay attention to your professor the best way you can and allow yourself to become absorbed in the learning experience. You don't want to be on your phone or zone out throughout the class, because that is something your professor will notice (especially in smaller classes) and will harm your reputation with them.

Building a relationship with your professor will be one of your most important steps in succeeding at college. Later down the road, you may find yourself choosing certain classes simply because they are taught by professors you love.

Transitioning to college can be scary, but by building relationships with your professors, you will fill your new home with more familiar faces.



Fall 2023 Editorial Board

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Brooke Miller

MANAGING EDITOR
Corrie Martz

NEWS EDITOR
Abigail Barnard

NEWS EDITOR
Savannah Dean

NEWS EDITOR
Ryleigh McCoy

Opinion and feedback policy

Opinions expressed in columns on this page are those of the individual writers. Their views do not necessarily reflect those of Stephen F. Austin State University, its administration or The University of Texas System Board of Regents.

See you
Around
Town



(Above) Located on Main Street, the Bosslight bookstore is a local favorite, giving SFA student discounts and selling local artwork and novels. The store also holds events like poetry night and hosts lively debates between owner Tim Bryant and author Joe Landsdale. (Left) The Main Street Theater marque is a landmark of downtown Nacogdoches. The rear area has been renovated for apartments, and the storefront is home to Monograms on Main.

As one of the oldest towns in Texas, there is no doubt that Nacogdoches has character, ranging from family owned “mom and pop” shops, to quaint bookstores and coffee shops and crowded bar tops on the weekends. But it isn’t just the town that is special; the community here has character of its own. Breakfast at Dollie’s Diner, Thursdays at Banita Creek Hall, study nights at University Coffee are all things that make Nacogdoches a home for students and locals.



(Right) A Nacogdoches staple, Dollie’s Diner opens early, ready to welcome customers and prepare delicious breakfasts and other food with an Americana flair.



(Left) Established in 2019, University Coffee is one of the most popular study spots in town with convenient hours, delicious coffee and occasional live music.

Story and photos by
Jordan Butts /
Stone Fort yearbook

Best of SFA Awards honor students for leadership, scholarship

The SFA Division of Student Affairs announced Michalla Byrd of Joaquin, Heath Sharr of Jacksonville, Jay Teamer of Lewisville, and Curtis Tran of Nacogdoches as recipients of this year's Best of SFA Awards.

"The committee was overwhelmed with the amazing pool of candidates for the awards this year, yet it was clear these students exemplify the SFA spirit and genuine passion for the institution," said Lacey Folsom, director of Student Engagement. "We were honored to celebrate these individuals and their achievements."

The awards are given annually to recognize students who excel in the areas of scholarship, participation and leadership in academic and co-curricular activities as well as service and loyalty to the university. These exemplary students are honored during the Lumberjack Achievement Awards Banquet held each spring semester and go on to represent SFA throughout the following academic year.



Michalla Byrd



Heath Sharr



Jay Teamer



Curtis Tran

Michalla Byrd
Byrd is a communication sciences and disorders major. A graduate of Joaquin High School where she was valedictorian, she is the daughter of Teri and Michael Joe Byrd.

She is a Twirl-o-Jack in the Lumberjack Marching Band, a member of the National Student Speech and Language Hearing Association, and a former member of Sigma Phi Lambda. In her spare time, she volunteers at food pantries and sings at nursing homes. She also leads vacation Bible school at the First Baptist Church of Joaquin.

Byrd is a Dean's List recipient and was voted sweetest Twirl-o-Jack and Twirl-o-Jack of the year by her peers. Upon her graduation in December, Byrd plans to apply for the speech-pathology graduate program. Her dream is to work as a speech-language pathologist assistant to help children with their speech and language in a supportive environment.

Heath Sharr
Sharr is a graphic design major with a film minor. He is a Jacksonville High School graduate and the son of Heather and Paul Sharr.

During his time at SFA, Sharr has been involved in Omega Delta Phi Fraternity as the social media chair, historian and social chair. He was a Jack Walker and served as the social media chair for the organization. In addition, he has participated in the American Institute of Graphic Artists, American Advertising Federation and Jack Camp as well as served as the Men's Volleyball

Club president.

Sharr also worked with Campus Recreation for promotions and facilities as a student employee. He plans to work as a full-time employee for Campus Rec upon graduation in May and continue his education at SFA. Sharr hopes to impact the next generation the same way he was impacted by seeing how exciting and interesting the behind-the-scenes work can be.

Jay Teamer
Teamer is a music education major with a concentration in voice and an art minor with a focus on graphic design. He is a Lewisville High School graduate and son of Kim and Dwayne Teamer.

Teamer has been a self-employed musician since 2018 and has performed with SFA's A Cappella Choir, Opera Theatre and Chamber Singers. He's held several positions at SFA, including stage manager, usher and music theory tutor. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity and served as vice president and music director.

Outside his passion for music, Teamer was involved in SFA Student Engagement as lead content creator; Omega Delta Phi Fraternity as president, vice president, secretary, service chair and fundraising chair; and Multicultural Greek Council as vice president and public relations chair. He also has contributed to Jack Camp, Orientation, Weeks of Welcome, Order of Omega, Jack Walkers and the Student Activities Association.

His academic achievements include being named to the

President's List two times, to the Dean's List four times, as a Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts Top Scholar for the Undergraduate Research Conference and as a recipient of numerous scholarships.

Upon his graduation from SFA in May, Teamer will continue his education at Oklahoma City University to earn his Master of Music in vocal coaching and work as a graduate student collaborative piano accompanist. His dream jobs include being a teacher to impact upcoming generations using music as a vehicle and being a music director at a theater company to direct musicals and conduct pit orchestras.

Curtis Tran
Tran is a finance major and Nacogdoches High School graduate. He is the son of Sandy Huynh and Binh Tran.

Tran is a Jack Walker, a member of the Rusche Business Mentor and Mentee Program, and an intern at Oakwood Management. A member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, he has served as the secretary and public relations chair. Tran is the president and founder of the Organization of Asian Excellence, a student organization that promotes education for Asian culture.

Tran served on the Office of Multicultural Affairs' Presidents Council and received the 2023 undergraduate DEI Student Excellence Award. After graduation, he plans to work for Oakwood Management as an asset management associate. His dream job is to be a chief financial officer for a real estate company and help better the community by offering and being able to build homes for all.

Student job fair kicks off fall CCPD calendar

Students seeking volunteer opportunities or a part-time job off or on campus should consider attending the Center for Career and Professional Development's first career fair of the fall semester.

The Part-Time Job and Volunteer Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 6, in the BPSC Grand Ballroom. It is free for students to attend.

"Opportunities for employment both on campus and off campus will be represented at the fair," Brent McLemore, CCPD director, said.

"If students are looking for opportunities to help them gain career-related experience or just pay the bills, this

is a great place to do so right at the start of the semester. There will also be volunteer opportunities on campus and within the community they can learn about through this fair."

Students are encouraged to bring a résumé to the fair, though it is not required. The CCPD offers virtual and in-person options for résumé development and critiques via Handshake, its career management platform. Students can also view a list of all employers attending the fair through Handshake. Sign in to Handshake at <https://sfasu.joinhandshake.com/>.

The career center will offer four additional career fairs this fall: Accounting

Job Fair on Sept. 27; Construction Management and Interior Design Job Fair on Sept. 28; Fall All Majors Career and Internship Fair on Oct. 18; and Teacher Job Fair on Nov. 3.

Students needing professional clothing to wear to a career fair are encouraged to utilize the CCPD Career Closet offering a wide range of business casual and business professional clothing appropriate for any interview or career fair. Students can borrow clothing for free, and the CCPD closet partner, VIP Cleaners, takes care of all the dry cleaning in between each use.

More information about all of CCPD's fall events can be found at <https://www.sfasu.edu/ccpd/upcoming-events>.



Photo courtesy of CCPD

The Center for Career and Professional Development will host five career fairs this fall, including a Sept. 6 Part-Time Job and Volunteer Fair.



**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY**
Center for Career and
Professional Development

**PART-TIME JOB
AND VOLUNTEER
CAREER FAIR**

**Wednesday, Sept. 6
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Grand Ballroom
Second Floor, Baker Pattillo Student Center
Stephen F. Austin State University

Find more information at sfasu.edu/ccpd

The RIGHT FIT for Lumberjacks



Bryan
Davis, MD

Jennings
Naranjo, FNP

If you're looking for a doctor who fits your active Lumberjack lifestyle, look no further!

Located just down the street from SFA, we provide accessible one-stop primary care.

- + Walk-ins Welcome
- + Cash Labs
- + Annual Check-ups
- + Sutures & Splinting

From annual check-ups to preventive care, and a wide range of in-office services, our goal is to build caring relationships and true partnerships that promote a healthier community.



Bryan Davis, M.D.

FAMILY MEDICINE

936.205.5949 + BryanDavisMD.com

129 Creekbend Boulevard, Nacogdoches, Texas 75965



PUT YOUR BEST SMILE FORWARD!

TEETH WHITENING
DENTAL IMPLANTS
COSMETIC DENTISTRY
ORTHODONTICS



Brent A. Stephens, DDS



nacogdoches dental

COSMETIC AND FAMILY DENTISTRY

4703 NE Stallings | nacdental.com | 936.560.0698

ACADEMICS

Page 1C

The Pine Log

@thepinelog

School of Honors promotes research, critical thinking

The SFA School of Honors is celebrating over 30 years of enhancing our students' educational experience. The School promotes the intellectual curiosity of the University's most capable students, enabling them to confront complex issues. The program offers small classes specifically designed to develop critical thinking skills, expand the scope of investigation of a topic and explore issues in greater depth than can be done in conventional classes.

"All students in the School of Honors engage in research, which is a major focal point," said Dr. Michael Tkacik, director of the School of Honors. "Research improves resumes, provides opportunities such as internships and conference attendance, and increases engagement in college leading to improved understanding of material in class as well as increased networking with professors and peers."

Many Honors students have presented their work at professional or academic conferences across the nation, as well as at the annual Undergraduate Research Conference at SFA.

The program endeavors to develop students who are prepared to become active and thoughtful members of the University community by involving faculty working together with honors students on challenging topics. The program features small class sections that provide many opportunities for collaboration with professors. A wide variety of intellectually stimulating activities is offered, including Honors study abroad trips.

"While many of our students have directly entered the work world, others have gone on to attend medical school, law school and graduate school at a variety of internationally recognized universities," he said. "Whatever the Honors students' goal, we strive to prepare them for success while sharpening those attributes that make each student an individual."

There are many advantages to School of Honors membership. Honors students are entitled to early registration, have the opportunity to take Honors-only courses and earn the University Scholar diploma. The program has a computer lab, a research center, and other services, including free printing, reserved exclusively for honors students.

"These quiet spaces facilitate good study habits, which is the cornerstone of success in college," Tkacik said. "Not everyone who is in Honors uses the facilities, but those who do also find camaraderie amongst their peers and support from the office staff that can serve them later in college and after graduation."

The School of Honors also offers study abroad scholarships and regularly organizes unique trips for students.

"We believe deeper cultural understanding is one key to success in a globalized society and consequently encourage study abroad," Tkacik said.

"We also support individual study abroad, immersive experiences and learning critical languages."

"SFA prides itself on personalizing your future," he said. "We have ingrained this mantra in the School of Honors because we believe it is one of the keys to success in college and beyond."

The application to join SFA's School of Honors is available online via mySFA.

For more information about the SFA School of Honors, visit sfasu.edu/honors or call (936) 468-2813.

The Finishing Touches



Photo courtesy of the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts

The stone reliefs by German/American sculptor Anton Grauel at the former entrance of Griffith Fine Arts Building on the SFA campus were carefully preserved and now incorporated into the interior of the newly renovated and expanded building, as was the SFA seal in the former foyer/lobby. After three years of construction and renovation, the building will re-open for classes and performances for the fall semester.

Center promotes student success

The Student Success Center, a hub for support and resources for SFA students, is located on the first floor of Ralph W. Steen Library in Room 104. The center houses a variety of programs, including: SFAS 1101—New Lumberjack Experience; Academic Advising for Undeclared/Exploratory Majors; GenJacks; Texas Success Initiative; Smith-Hutson Scholarship; and Peer Mentors. All of these initiatives were designed with one goal in mind—helping you succeed at SFA.

"We understand that navigating college is very challenging, and it can feel confusing and even overwhelming at times," said Raquel Skidmore, director of the Student Success Center. "Our team works hard to ensure all our students know how to access the critical resources and programs we offer to not only help them accomplish their SFA goals but also to prepare them for success after graduation."

Many incoming SFA students are first introduced to the Student Success Center through academic advising, which is required for course registration. The SSC provides advising services for all students who have not yet declared an academic major. Full-time advisors are available to help students select courses, explore SFA majors and areas of study, and access career-exploration resources.

SFAS 1101—New Lumberjack Experience is a one-credit course

designed especially for first-semester college students that provides a roadmap for success in college. These intimate classes are capped at 25 students, and each is led by an experienced SFA instructor along with a successful junior or senior student. The Student Success Center also offers SFAS 1101 sections tailored for specific majors, as well as for transfer students.

"We help new Lumberjacks understand how the university operates and provide valuable insights to help them be successful at SFA," said Brittany Beck, director of orientation and transition programs and an SFAS 1101 instructor. "The class helps students sharpen their study and critical-thinking skills and also teaches important life lessons like time and money management, goal setting, and how to plan for a successful career. It's also a great way to make friends at SFA!"

GenJacks is a program designed for first-generation college students, meaning they do not have a parent or guardian who has graduated from a four-year college or institution. Benefits of the program include academic learning communities, service learning and mentor opportunities, the Summer Leadership Academy, Residential Learning Communities, early course registration and designated study rooms.

"The GenJacks organization helped me believe in myself," said Stephanie Limon, a Liverpool junior majoring in human sciences. "It allowed me to meet my closest friends and counselors who have been my greatest support during

proven financial need by covering the cost of tuition, books and other college expenses for up to four years.

Sometimes the biggest key to student success is the help of a supportive friend who is willing share their knowledge and experience, Skidmore said. That's why the Student Success Center operates a Peer Mentors program that matches new students with upperclassmen who have a passion for supporting other Lumberjacks.

"Our peer mentors do a wonderful job of helping incoming students reach their academic and personal goals, and they become an important part of their mentees' support network as they work through the inevitable challenges of college life," she said. "Many of the students who take advantage of this program eventually go on to become peer mentors themselves."

Students are invited to check out the new Learning Lounge multi-purpose space next door to SSC. The area has recently been renovated with students in mind and is a quiet place to study, collaborate, eat or just relax between classes.

For more information about the SSC, visit sfasu.edu/studentsuccess or email studentsuccess@sfasu.edu.



my first year of college. I am extremely thankful and blessed for being part of the GenJacks family."

The Student Success Center serves as SFA's liaison to the Texas Success Initiative, a statewide program that promotes academic success by ensuring students are prepared for college-level work. SCC advisors oversee the completion of developmental classes by hundreds of SFA students each semester to ensure they are prepared for more advanced coursework. In addition, the center manages the Smith-Hutson Scholarship program, which benefits promising incoming students with



Photo by Cody Gill / Stone Fort yearbook

A Lumberjack Marching Band trombone player joins fellow student musicians in belting out the SFA Fight Song during 2022 Homecoming festivities. "The Boldest Sound from the Oldest Town" dates back to the early years of the University. The band has performed around the world and is an integral part of the gameday experience at Homer Bryce Stadium.

Get free tutoring at the AARC

Center offers peer tutoring, online study tools

SFA's award-winning Academic Assistance and Resource Center offers free peer tutoring for many entry-level classes, and students don't have to be struggling academically in order to benefit from these targeted services.

Located on the first floor of Steen Library, the AARC makes getting help easy through walk-in services, Supplemental Instruction groups and learning teams, one-on-one assistance, and online academic support. All of the AARC's tutors are SFA students who have successfully completed the course for which they provide tutoring.

The AARC has been in existence at SFA since 1983 and has received many prestigious recognitions, including the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Star Award and the Distinguished Program Award from the Texas Association of Developmental Education.

"The AARC presents an array of opportunities for students to maximize their full potential," said M.E. McWilliams, director of the AARC.

"We have data that prove that coming to the AARC



Photo by Lizeth Rodriguez / The Pine Log

The Academic Assistance and Resource Center is located in the library and offers free, award-winning peer tutoring, SI groups, walk-in tables and an Online Writing Lab.

regularly during the first semester of college can significantly impact grades and GPA."

The AARC boasts a 96% course pass rate for students who use the services at least five times a semester for the same subject. About 25,000 individual visit the center each year, with approximately 3,000 SFA students accessing services annually.

To learn more about the AARC's services, including descriptions of the types of help available and a list of SFA courses paired with SI groups, visit www.sfasu.edu/aarc. The website is updated regularly and is easy to navigate on any smartphone.

"If you don't see the specific help you need, remember that your professor is your No. 1 resource for success," McWilliams said. "The AARC is a proud No. 2!"

Welcome Home to SFA



(Above) When the East Texas weather permits, students can often be found hammocking in the wooded areas of campus.



Photos courtesy University Marketing Communications
(Above) SFA Gardens offer students, visitors and area residents 128 acres of lush landscapes that offer a new experience with each changing season. Be sure to take time to stroll through all five gardens this fall. (Left) The sun rises behind the Ag Pond and Hall 20 near Homer Bryce Stadium. (Below) The main entrance to campus from North Street and the American flag are illuminated at night.



Ready for a GREEN CAREER?

Agriculture Environmental Science Forestry Geospatial Science

In-field Experiences
Innovative Technology
Increasing Job Opportunities



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY
ARTHUR TEMPLE
COLLEGE OF FORESTRY
AND AGRICULTURE

f i t
sfasu.edu/atcofa



Take *Ownership* *and Be the Boss* of your future

At the Arnold Center for Entrepreneurship!

- ✓ BUILD YOUR OWN BUSINESS
- ✓ BLAZE NEW TRAILS
- ✓ WORK FOR YOURSELF
- ✓ CONTROL YOUR OWN DESTINY

The Arnold Center for Entrepreneurship, or ACE, is designed to inspire, nurture, attract and promote entrepreneurship across campus and in the community

ARE YOU A COMPETITOR?

The Rusche College of Business has two competitions this year!

The **POP-UP PITCH** and the **LUMBERJACK ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMPETITION**.
For more information contact Matthew Smilor at matthew.smilor@sfasu.edu.

\$15,000+
in
CASH & AWARDS



ARNOLD CENTER FOR
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- ✓ PITCH YOUR BUSINESS or JUST AN IDEA
- ✓ OPEN TO ALL SFA STUDENTS!
- ✓ INDIVIDUALS & TEAMS
- ✓ EARN MONEY, NOTRIETY & ACCLAIM

STOP BY ACE, MCGEE BUILDING SUITE 377, and say HI. Mention you saw this ad and receive a free welcome to campus gift!

A place to *Learn* and discover new ideas, take action and *Launch*
those ideas into reality, while developing entrepreneurial *Leadership!*

ENTREPRENEURSHIP MAJOR AND MINOR



The entrepreneurship major focuses on encouraging the entrepreneurial mindset in order to equip you with the knowledge and experience that will prepare you to enter a dynamic environment and **achieve greater success** in your professional career.

The entrepreneurship minor will help you **enhance your degree** and improve your understanding of the entrepreneurial process and prepare you to evaluate an idea, structure a management team and assemble resources in the pursuit of opportunity

SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS & PROGRAMS

Over **\$50,000** in scholarships are offered **each year** to students who declare entrepreneurship as their major or add the entrepreneurship minor!!!!



ACE offers **paid** entrepreneurship internships each semester. Get real-life, hands-on experience from startups and entrepreneurs in a variety of fields and industries!

Learn from entrepreneurs, speakers, and workshops. **Take** fieldtrips and **attend** conferences. **Network** with like-minded individuals, students and business leaders. **Join** the student club--Society for Entrepreneurship Advancement (SEA),

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE HUB



Works to promote economic growth, innovation and expansion within the university and small business community.

They **provide services** for students and small businesses that include loan proposals, marketing, retailing, advertising, budgeting, business planning and personnel management



Check out more
information about the
major and minor
programs



**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY**
NELSON RUSCHE
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

CONTACT US:
Arnold Center for Entrepreneurship
McGee Business Building, Suite 377
Phone: 936.468.4024



University Series returns with The Centennial Season

Touring performances return to SFA after three-year hiatus due to pandemic, renovations

After a three-year hiatus, the University Series at SFA will return for the 2023-24 academic year with exciting touring performances that audiences are sure to love.

The series, sponsored by the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts, was suspended during the pandemic and during the renovation of the Griffith Fine Arts Building that included upgrades to William M. Turner Auditorium, home to University Series shows.

The series returns with performances by a jazz and blues legend, Grammy and Dove award winners, a popular comedian and a world-renowned jazz trombonist. The line-up offers a great “comeback” for the series, which celebrates SFA’s 100th birthday with The Centennial Season, according to Dr. Gary Wurtz, dean of the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts.

“Having been forced into a several year hiatus, we have been told by numerous friends that folks are enthusiastic about the return of the series,” Wurtz said. “We would love to hear from people in the community regarding the types of acts they would like to see in the future, and we also want to invite event sponsorships by local businesses and individuals.”

Adding to the excitement of the series’ return is a recently refreshed and welcoming Turner Auditorium, with new comfortable seating and furnishings, all part of the renovation and expansion of Griffith Fine Arts Building. The building and Fine Arts Box Office are scheduled to be open in time for the first day of class this fall.

The Centennial Season opens with Grammy-nominated American singer-songwriter of blues and folk Ruthie Foster performing at SFA on Thursday, Oct. 12. Foster, who tours extensively around the world, was raised in a family of gospel singers and performs gospel and blues, jazz, folk and soul, often being compared to Bonnie Raitt and Aretha Franklin. Foster’s ninth studio album, “Healing Times,” represents a new high water mark for the veteran blues artist – a collection of songs possessing pure power, “like a tidal wave of musical generosity.”

SFA welcomes back Dailey & Vincent for another performance that’s sure to sell out Turner Auditorium once again. Grand Ole Opry members, five-time Grammy Award winners individually, three-time Grammy Award nominees collectively, four-time Dove Award winners and winners of 35 IBMA Awards altogether, Jamie Dailey and Darrin Vincent and their world-class band offer a unique and modernized spin on American music, offering the best of country, bluegrass and gospel this side of heaven. Dailey & Vincent performs their holiday show Thursday, Dec. 14.

American stand-up comedian Joe Zimmerman has appeared on “The Late Show,” “The Tonight Show,” “Last Comic Standing,” “Comedy Central” and other TV shows. He has also contributed humor pieces to The New York Times and has his own weekly comedy podcast called “A Great Listening Experience.” He has performed at many university and corporate events and is currently touring venues across the U.S. Zimmerman brings his “clean” comedy to SFA Thursday, Feb. 22.

An acclaimed trombonist, composer and producer, Delfeayo Marsalis has also dedicated his prolific career to music theatre and education. A member of the legendary Marsalis family of musicians, Delfeayo was destined to a life in music, touring internationally with jazz legends such as Ray Charles, Art Blakey, Max Roach, Elvin Jones and Slide Hampton, as well as leading his own groups. He has founded three non-profit organizations that strengthen the arts community in New Orleans: Uptown Music Theatre, Uptown Jazz Orchestra, and Keep New Orleans Music Alive. Marsalis joins SFA’s Swingin’ Axes in a performance Friday, April 19.

All performances are at 7:30 p.m. in Turner Auditorium in the Griffith Fine Arts Building, 2222 Alumni Drive, on the SFA campus.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit sfasu.edu/boxoffice, stop by the Box Office in Griffith Fine Arts Building, or call (936) 468-6407 or (888) 240-ARTS. Ticket prices range from \$3 for SFA students to \$35 for adults. Tickets go on sale Sept. 1.



The 2023-24 University Series will include performances by (clockwise from top) musicians Dailey & Vincent; singer-songwriter Ruthie Foster; comedian Joe Zimmerman; and trombonist Delfeayo Marsalis.

Photos courtesy of the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts



Newly renovated and expanded L.E. Griffith Fine Arts Building

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

MICKY ELLIOTT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Collaborate with talented, friendly, diverse, enthusiastic fellow students on projects ranging from musical theatre to feature films, choral concerts to improv comedy, digital media to marching band.

Create your own work in music, plays, choreography, video, photography, drawing and painting, sculpture and ceramics, metals and jewelry, printmaking and book art. Use state-of-the-art technology for lighting, acting, editing, recording, animating, writing, projecting and printing.

Prepare for exciting careers in performance, design, production, education, technology, fine arts, crafts, arts management and more. Work in stunning galleries, concert halls, theaters, classrooms, studios and rehearsal facilities from the intimate to the grandiose.

The College of Fine Arts enrolls almost 1,000 students. It also has one of the highest retention rates at SFA.



School of Art
School of Music
School of Theatre
and Dance

Ready to join us?

sfasu.edu/admissions-and-aid

Phone: 936.468.2801 Fax: 936.468.1168

The University Series is back!

Join us for an exciting
2023-24 season.

sfasu.edu/finearts

SFA School of Theatre and Dance announces 2023-24 performances

The School of Theatre and Dance at SFA has an exciting production schedule for the 2023-24 academic year that will, in part, celebrate both the 100th year of SFA and the new theatre and dance performance venues in the renovated Griffith Fine Arts Building.

Cleo House Jr., director of the School of Theatre and Dance, and Heather Samuelson, associate director of the school and associate professor of dance, are looking forward to the opportunities the new facilities will offer theatre/dance students as well as patrons who attend performances.

“The unveiling of the new theatre and dance facilities is an extraordinary moment in our history for our students and faculty alike,” House said. “This state-of-the-art addition is set to ignite a surge of creativity, serving as a catalyst for artistic innovation and expression. I am confident this will not only attract top talent during recruitment, but also provide a nurturing environment for our students to flourish and showcase their talents.

“I am also excited because this development promises to invigorate and expand our audience base, making the performing arts more accessible and engaging,” he added. “Ultimately, the new facilities will transform the working environment for our esteemed faculty, fostering collaboration and pushing the boundaries of artistic excellence. This exciting chapter marks a remarkable leap forward for our institution and the wider community.”

“The addition of the dance program to the School of Theatre and Dance, within the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts, is a historic milestone within this centennial year at SFA,” Samuelson said. “Students, faculty and staff anticipate the potential for collaboration, with all programs within the college, and the opportunity for campus exposure and growth. This facility will cultivate a modernization of programs and disciplines allowing for advanced creativity and artistry in presentations. Personally,

I look forward to the involvement of performance art at SFA and what it can provide our students and East Texas community.”

Mainstage shows at SFA offer audience options in weekend matinees for theatre-goers. Mainstage performances are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Plays are presented in either the Flex Theatre or the Black Box Theatre.

This season’s Mainstage shows include August Wilson’s “The Piano Lesson” Sept. 28 through Oct. 1; the musical “Once Upon a Mattress” Nov. 2 through 5; “The 39 Steps” Feb. 29 through March 3; and “Real Women Have Curves” by Josefina Lopez April 18 through 21 and April 25 through 28. Student-directed one-act and full-length plays are also offered.

In Wilson’s Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork “The Piano Lesson,” a battle is brewing in the Charles household. At the center lies the family’s prized piano as a symbol of how family dynamics can reach into the souls of the present, revealing startling truths about how we perceive our past and who gets to define our legacy. This show hosts a reunion of SFA theatre students from the ’60s and ’70s.

“Once Upon a Mattress” is the hilarious musical version of the fairy tale “The Princess and the Pea,” with music by Mary Rodgers, lyrics by Marshall Barer, and book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller and Marshall Barer. Princess Winnifred is an ungainly, brash girl competing for the hand of Prince Dauntless, whose domineering mother Queen Aggravain has declared he must marry a “true” princess before anyone else in the kingdom can marry. This show hosts a reunion of SFA theatre students from the 2000s.

“The 39 Steps” is adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan and from the movie by Alfred Hitchcock. Bored with life, a dull Richard craves “something mindless” when he thinks of the theatre. This play is what he needs: an “absurdly enjoyable, gleefully theatrical riff” on

Hitchcock’s witty thriller. Packed with fast-paced chases, schemes, secrets, surprises, suspense and romance, this wacky show celebrates live-stage magic and is a fun feast for classic-movie buffs. This show hosts a reunion of SFA theatre students from the 2010s.

“Real Women Have Curves,” a funny Latina coming-of-age story set in a tiny sewing factory in East Los Angeles follows five full-figured Mexican-American women as they race to meet a nearly impossible production deadline and talk about their families, loves, dreams and fears. This play by Josefina López celebrates the immigrant experience, body positivity and the wisdom and strength of Latinas. This show hosts a reunion of SFA theatre students from the ’80s and ’90s.

Danceworks Concerts are scheduled for Nov. 9 through 11 for the fall show, and April 11 through 13 for the spring show. Danceworks is the senior choreographic concert in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Science in Dance. The performance features choreography based on a wide range of research topics and dance genres chosen by senior choreographers.

The Repertory Dance Company Faculty Concert is Feb. 15 through 17. Choreographic works created by the dance faculty and select guest artists are performed by the Repertory Dance Company. This concert exhibits multiple dance genres and the research interests of the faculty and guest artists. Select choreography from this concert will be presented at the American College Dance Association Conference for adjudication.

Dance concerts are at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday with 2 p.m. Saturday matinee performances in the Dance Performance Studio in Griffith Fine Arts Building, and Repertory Dance Company Faculty Concerts will be in Turner Auditorium.

For ticketing information or to purchase tickets for theatre and dance performances, call the Fine Arts Box Office at (936) 468-6407 or (888) 240-ARTS, or visit sfasu.edu/boxoffice. Ticket sales open Sept. 1.



Photos courtesy of Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts

(Top) Danceworks Concerts in the coming year will be presented in the new Dance Performance Studio, and the Repertory Dance Company concert will be in the improved Turner Auditorium in Griffith Fine Arts Building. (Above) Another exciting lineup of performances is planned for the 2023-24 academic year by the SFA School of Theatre and Dance at SFA. In this file photo, “The Lord of the Flies” was presented in fall 2022. Plays in the coming year will be presented in the new Flex Theatre and Black Box Theatre in the renovated Griffith Fine Arts Building.

Students prepare to tour show at prestigious Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland

The School of Theatre and Dance at SFA recently presented a community preview of an original play students will perform this month at the prestigious Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The preview performance of “Grandfather Frog’s Tales of the Meadow” was in Kennedy Auditorium. The event is a fundraiser to offset travel costs of the Scotland trip.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the largest performing arts festival in the world. SFA theatre students started attending the event and touring a play

in the summer of 2015. This year’s festival runs Aug. 4 though 28. SFA’s performances are Aug. 4, 5, 8, and 9 in Venue 45, one of the oldest venues used by the festival, and the venue in which SFA performed in 2015 and 2017.

Theatre Professor Angela Bacarisse organized the first Scotland experience in 2015 as credit coursework using student actors to perform new works by student playwrights and works by former SFA Playwright-in-Residence Jack Hefner. When no student playwrights came forward for the 2019 trip, Bacarisse used the story

of J.M. Barrie’s fictional character Peter Pan to create a new work that incorporated dance.

“It was so great, for faculty and for the students, to collaborate with dance, that we decided to do it again this year,” she said.

“Grandfather Frog’s Tales of the Meadow” is based on the “Mother West Wind” books by Thornton Burgess. Bacarisse interpreted the stories into scenes for the play, and Heather Samuelson, associate professor of dance and assistant director of the school, choreographed the

movement and dance. “We worked together to create a piece that is both movement and words. It is a series of stories, many told by Grandfather Frog, about the animals that live in and near the meadow and stream and how they learn to get along.”

In Edinburgh, student actors and dancers will learn how to build a show quickly with limited resources and how to travel a show across the globe to perform. It can be stressful – working on costumes and props, and setting up and striking each performance, she explained.



WELCOME SFA CLASS of 2027

JAMES I. PERKINS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION MAJORS

The Student Services and Advising Center has full-time professional advisors who meet with students every semester for the following programs:

- Aviation Sciences
- Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Construction Management
- Dance
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Dietetics and Nutritional Sciences
- Elementary Education
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- Food and Nutrition

- Health Science
- Hospitality Administration
- Human Development and Family Studies
- Human Services
- Interior Design
- Kinesiology
- Merchandising
- Pre-Audiology
- Rehabilitation Services
- Special Education




STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY

James I. Perkins
College of Education

McKibben Education Building, Room 118
coestudentervices@sfasu.edu

936.468.2901
@SFA_COEadvising

sfasu.edu/coeadvising



SFA JacksTeach JTCH 1101 Step 1

EXPLORE TEACHING

REGISTER TODAY

CRN 12957 T
3:30 - 5:20 p.m.

CONTACT JACKSTEACH

Physical Location
Bush Mathematical Sciences Building, Suite 103

Phone
936.468.3960

Email
jacksteach@sfasu.edu

Web
sfasu.edu/jacksteach

Whether you are interested in STEM teaching or unsure if it's the career choice for you, Step 1 is a one-hour-credit course meeting once a week for a semester through which you can try out teaching in a supportive environment. You will

- become part of a STEM learning community
- gain valuable experience inside actual classrooms
- learn from master teachers
- improve your leadership skills and resumé
- inspire young minds
- and earn a course completion scholarship.

Step 1 is open to all STEM majors and allows you to explore teaching without the stress of quizzes, exams or a long-term commitment.

If you are undecided but curious about teaching, give Step 1 a try!



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY

JacksTeach

Perkins College of Education joins national PREP Coalition

SFA's James I. Perkins College of Education has joined the University-School Partnerships for the Renewal of Educator Preparation Coalition, a national organization dedicated to supporting educator preparation programs to meet the needs of future pre-K-12 students.

The US PREP Coalition is an organization of universities that provides resources and guidance to educator preparation programs to prepare teacher candidates to be classroom ready from the very first day of their careers. It helps teachers develop the knowledge and competency to meet the needs of all K-12 students, especially those who have been historically under served such as Black, Latino, Native American and/or economically disadvantaged students.

According to Dr. Jannah Nerren, chair of SFA's Department of Education Studies, the US PREP Coalition will provide \$300,000 in grant funds; travel funds for faculty and staff to attend professional development events conducted by US PREP over the next four years; the support of a regional transformation specialist and a clinical coach; access to materials and learning resources; and opportunities to collaborate

with a coalition of educator preparation programs across the country.

"Embarking on this transformation process will entail a number of improvements, most notably moving to a yearlong clinical experience from what is currently a semester-long experience," Nerren said. "It also will deepen the existing school district partnerships that are most effective in our collaborative preparation of preservice teachers."

PCOE leadership and faculty members completed a rigorous selection process involving surveys, meetings with US PREP and interviews to demonstrate their commitment to transform their educator preparation programs and join the ranks of the other provider institutions in the coalition.

As a member of the coalition, PCOE will undergo a four-year transformation process to pilot, refine, scale and sustain the quality objectives across all pathways and programs. PCOE will also work with Lufkin Independent School District as its partner school district during its membership in US PREP. This partnership list will grow over the implementation process.

SFA joins Tree Campus Higher Education



Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications

Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture Dean Hans Williams, forestry professor David Kulhavy, and forestry students Devin Stage, Miranda Cleveland, Christian Boser and Morgan Metcalf present SFA's Board of Regents with an Arbor Day banner.

SFA recently became a recognized member of Tree Campus Higher Education, and as a symbol of this distinction, students and faculty from the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture presented an Arbor Day banner to the SFA Board of Regents during their meeting in April.

Tree Campus Higher Education is an Arbor Day Foundation program that recognizes colleges and universities for promoting healthy trees and engaging faculty, students and staff in conservation efforts. Since 2008, the program has strived to establish and support thriving community forests across the country.

As a newly recognized campus, SFA joins over 400 universities in the U.S. in planting thousands of trees each year. In 2022, SFA students, faculty, staff and administrators contributed 950 volunteer hours planting, mulching, pruning and evaluating tree care and health on campus.

To receive the recognition, SFA met five Tree Campus Higher Education standards, including forming an advisory committee, developing a care plan, allocating funds to the program, observing Arbor Day and completing a service-learning project.

Students and faculty applied a novel approach to meeting the standards by utilizing drones to hazard rate trees for mistletoe, crape myrtle bark scale and tree health.

"The use of drones is expanding in the tree care industry, and this use will continue to expand with better sensors, cameras and multispectral use," said Dr. David Kulhavy, Laurence C Walker Distinguished professor of forestry.

In celebration of the Tree Campus Higher Education recognition, a drone video titled "The Colors of Fall Across Stephen F. Austin State University Campus" was also produced by Dr. Daniel Unger, Kenneth Nelson Distinguished Professor, and Victoria Williams, graduate research and teaching assistant, using a DJI Mavic 3 CINE drone.

"We are grateful to the Arbor Day Foundation for awarding SFA the Tree Campus Higher Education designation," said Dr. Hans Williams, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture dean.

"Their recognition is a testimony to the 100-year commitment by the campus community and leadership to the outstanding learning and living environment at SFA."

During the board meeting recognition, Kulhavy extended a special thanks to several departments and personnel that were influential in obtaining the recognition, including Williams; John Branch, Physical Plant Department director; and Chris Dempsey, SFA arborist.

CAN'T GET IN TO SEE YOUR DOCTOR?
WHY WAIT TO GET WELL? OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



URGENT CARE &
PATIENT ACCESS CENTER

Labs • X-Ray • Injections • Cut and Scrape Care • Vaccinations • IV Fluids
Walk in for quality care the moment you need it.

Voted Best Urgent Care in Nacogdoches!

StriveExpressCare.com • (936) 585-8000 • 3205 N. University Dr., Ste. E



936.468.4301

ecofin@sfasu.edu

Banking Degree = Rewarding Career

A Bachelor of Business Administration in banking from Stephen F. Austin State University's Rusche College of Business will prepare you for a future in a dynamic industry welcoming the next generation of leaders.

▶ Step into the **VAULT**

A banking degree never loses its value, giving you the ability to write your own story wherever you go. Start your journey in SFA's Chadwick Family Banking Program.

SCHOLARSHIPS

INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS

CAREER PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE

The Centennial 1923-2023

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Scan the QR code to learn more.

Foundation announces Faculty Achievement Awards

The Stephen F. Austin State University Foundation announced its Faculty Achievement Award recipients for 2023. Dr. Deb Scott, professor in the School of Music, was presented the Faculty Achievement Award for research and creativity, and Dr. Jeremy Stovall, professor in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, was presented the Faculty Achievement Award for teaching.

As an expression of its support for excellence in teaching, the SFASU Foundation board of trustees established these two awards in 1994 to honor outstanding faculty members each year in recognition of innovation and/or excellence in teaching, research and creative activity.

"I'm deeply honored to be chosen for this award," Scott said. "So many of my colleagues across the university are doing incredible work, so it is particularly meaningful. This is one of the biggest highlights of my career, and I'm grateful to the SFASU Foundation."

Scott is professor of trombone and bass trombone at SFA. She teaches and performs internationally and is a performing artist for Rath Trombones, which are custom trombones created in England by Michael Rath. She is also the director of the International Trombone Festival's composers workshop.

Scott is a performing member of Monarch Brass, a group touted as the best female brass players in the world. She has also been a featured artist at Trombonanza in Argentina as well as other international venues. Scott has

performed many times as a soloist and within groups at the International Trombone Festival, and under her direction, the SFA Trombone Octet has been featured at the festival twice. She also performs regularly throughout North America with her trio, TexiCali.

Stovall is the Bone Hill Foundation Distinguished Professor of Silviculture at SFA. He teaches dendrology and a variety of courses focused on silviculture and is actively involved in research focused on invasive species management, mineland reclamation and bottomland hardwood regeneration dynamics. Stovall also advises the Sylvans, SFA's timbersports team that has won eight of the past nine annual Southern Forestry Conclaves.

"I am fortunate to get to work with our SFA forestry students in the classroom and in the forest every week," Stovall said. "They've provided many great ideas over the years that have made me a better teacher. I am grateful for my students and the SFASU Foundation for this fantastic recognition."

Since 2010, Stovall's research has resulted in more than 20 peer-reviewed publications, \$1.5 million in extramural research funding, 70 conference presentations, and the mentorship of more than a dozen graduate students. He has chaired the SFA Faculty Senate and the Lufkin-Nacogdoches Chapter of the Society of American Foresters and has served on the board of the Texas Forestry Association. He currently manages the Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture's greenhouses.



Dr. Jeremy Stovall (left), professor in the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, and Dr. Deb Scott, professor in the School of Music, received 2023 Faculty Achievement awards from the SFASU Foundation.

Ceramicist retires

The SFA Board of Regents promoted Piero Fenci, professor of art, to professor emeritus during a special meeting in May.

Dr. Steve Westbrook, who was serving as SFA president at the time, presented the recommendation promoting Fenci to professor emeritus.

"It would really be impossible to measure the impact that Piero has had on hundreds of students during his time here," Westbrook said

Fenci, who is a Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts Dean's Circle Endowed Professor award recipient, has been with SFA since 1975 and has distinguished himself as both an artist and an educator. His ceramic vessels have been featured in Ceramics Monthly, American Ceramics, The Contemporary Potter, and Clay and Glazes for the Potter. In 2004, he founded the first university program in contemporary ceramic art in the history of northern Mexico at la Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua in Chihuahua City, and he continues to travel there to mentor the program.



Dr. Piero Fenci
Professor Emeritus

Fenci has earned an international reputation as a ceramist, exhibiting his work from coast to coast and in Italy, Russia and Mexico. He was named "Texas Master" by the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, becoming the fourth person (and the first ceramist) in the state to be honored with the award.

"Thank you to the board and the university for making it possible for me to have a glorious career here in Nac," said Fenci, who is scheduled to retire Aug. 31.

"I am not leaving, though," he added. "I love this emeritus position because I can continue to mentor my students. I am here and will continue to be supportive of you all. Just give me a holler."

Fenci lives and shares a studio with his sculptor wife, Elizabeth Akamatsu. His work is represented in private and public collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art, Alfred, New York; and in the Tyler Museum of Art, Tyler. His latest exhibition, "Grand Voyage: The Art of Piero Fenci," runs through September at Dallas' Museum of Biblical Art.

Business students earn scholarships

SFA students received monetary awards and scholarships — many donated by Nacogdoches-area financial institutions — during an April 19 ceremony.

Award and scholarship recipients were chosen by faculty members from the SFA Rusche College of Business' Department of Economics and Finance.

"Students were selected based on their academic achievement in their coursework, engagement in research projects, participation in conferences, and pursuit of their future career goals — whether employment, entrepreneurship or graduate study," said Dr. Mikhail Kouliavtsev, chair of the department.

Nathan Hanzelka, finance senior from Eastland, received the Entrepreneurship Award, and Dan Nguyen, finance junior from Vietnam, received the Portfolio Management Award — both of which were sponsored by Buchanan Wealth Management.

Other achievement award recipients included Sergio Diaz-Montiel, finance senior from Lufkin,

who received the Asset Liability Management Award sponsored by Citizens 1st Bank, and Tina Packard, finance and banking senior from Nacogdoches, who received the Financial Institutions Award sponsored by Cadence Bank.

The Economics Reading Group presented Alexander Ornelaz, sports business senior from McKinney, with the Economic Pursuits Award; Barret Williams, economics freshman from Wake Forest, North Carolina, with the Economic Interest Award; and Emily Herrell, social work senior from Arp, with the Economics Reading Group Officer Award. All three awards were sponsored by the Charles Koch Foundation.

The High-Ranking Economics Major Award, sponsored by the Charles Koch Foundation, went to Preston Sahs, Frisco senior. The High-Ranking Finance Junior and High-Ranking Finance Senior awards, both sponsored by Southside Bank, went to Robert Leslie of The Woodlands and Diaz-Montiel, respectively. Tom Nguyen, a junior from Vietnam, received the High-Ranking Banking Major Award from SFA's Chadwick

Family Banking Program.

Spencer Carmichael of Spring received the Outstanding Economics/Finance Graduate Award, and Ngoc Hoang, finance sophomore from Vietnam, and Salma Ben-Salah, economics exchange student from Tunisia, received the Undergraduate Scholar Award. All three awards were sponsored by the ECON 3339 Packet Fund.

The Dustin C. Harrison Memorial Scholarship was presented to Tristen Adams, finance senior from Lufkin. The scholarship benefits finance majors who display upstanding character and maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher.

Harrison graduated summa cum laude from SFA in 2018 with a degree in finance and then worked as an analyst at Ayco Goldman Sachs in Dallas before his death in March 2021. Ronnie and Chloe Cnaan-Chapman, both 2018 SFA graduates and friends of Harrison, established the scholarship.

For more information on these awards and SFA's Department of Economics and Finance, visit sfasu.edu/ecofin.

Social Work students help local food pantry

Graduate students in SFA's School of Social Work have helped prep for and promote the fundraising event "Christmas in July for H.O.P.E.," which invites the community to restock and support the food pantry, Nacogdoches H.O.P.E., or Helping Other People Eat.

The fundraiser, which will take place from 3 to 9 p.m. Friday, July 14, at the Cottage Wine Bar in Nacogdoches, will directly benefit H.O.P.E. and its soup kitchen, Jo's Diner. It's free to attend, but monetary and canned food donations will be accepted and go directly to the pantry. Canned meats, fruit and vegetables are preferred, as well as cereal and peanut butter.

Four graduate assistants pursuing a Master of Social Work at SFA have contributed to the

creation of the event by designing flyers to share in the community and through social media. They also will be present the day of the event to accept donations.

"The pantry now serves 2,400 families per month — a big increase since before COVID-19," said Wilma Cordova, professor and H.O.P.E. board member.

"However, there has been a shortage of food since then. Food is rescued from local food stores, including stores in Lufkin. The pantry is able to buy food from the East Texas Food Bank at a low cost. However, at times, even the food bank does not have food to purchase."

The event will feature live music from local musician Johnny Mullins and the band, The

Love Peddlers. Additionally, local artists will sell their creations during the event. Appetizers and alcoholic beverages also will be available to purchase from the Cottage Wine Bar.

According to the website, H.O.P.E. provides supplemental food to Nacogdoches County residents in need, and clients can visit the pantry once per week to obtain food. Food-insecure families and individuals may include senior citizens, people with disabilities, veterans, homeless individuals and others.

H.O.P.E. is a client-choice food pantry, which allows individuals to select the food most appropriate for their dietary needs and storage.

For more information, contact Cordova at wcordova@sfasu.edu.

CONSUELA

THE MUSTARD SEED

FAITH & INSPIRATIONAL BOOKS & GIFTS

1330 N UNIVERSITY DRIVE
936-569-7794

SHOP LOCAL. SHOP THE MUSTARD SEED.



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS



official Your Office of the Registrar Guide

Welcome to SFA! Here is a quick guide to familiarize you with the services our office provides:

FERPA Forms

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act states your parent or guardian’s rights to your educational records ceased when you enrolled at SFA. If you have a parent or guardian who pays your bills or makes decisions on your behalf, however, you need to complete a student information release authorization form, which allows our office to work with your parents and to share your educational record. Authorization forms can be completed in the Academic tab in mySFA. If you have questions about the form, contact the registrar’s office.

Registration

Registering for classes doesn’t have to be confusing – here are some tips to help. Pay attention to registration dates, which will include when registration starts and ends, and learn how to register online. Visit us at gosfa.com/registration for information on both. For further assistance in registering, call our Registration Help Desk at (936) 468-1370, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Dropping Classes

If you are feeling bogged down, keep in mind that you’re not permitted to drop more than six courses during your entire undergraduate career, including transfer courses. Dropping courses also may cause you to lose financial aid, affect your medical and/or other insurance, and affect your academic status. Deadlines for dropping classes can be found at gosfa.com/dropping-classes.

Requesting Transcripts

The easiest way for first-year students to request a transcript is by visiting gosfa.com/transcript.

Registration/Transcript Holds

You may occasionally be unable to register or receive a transcript because of holds on your account. These must be cleared before you can register. If you need help understanding your holds, visit the Registration tab of your mySFA.

Proving Good Grades for Insurance Purposes

You may qualify for a Good Student discount if you have commendable grades. Contact your insurance agent for further details to see if they carry such a policy.

Verifications for Insurance Purposes

Students often need to prove they are enrolled in college in order to stay on their parent or guardian’s insurance policy. You can get a verification of enrollment on the Academics tab in mySFA, or stop by the Rusk Building, Room 202, with a picture ID during normal business hours.

The registrar’s office hopes this guide was presented in a fun and easy-to-read format. It is our desire to serve you the best way possible and reduce stress you may experience during your first year at SFA.



ANNUAL NOTIFICATION TO STUDENTS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights are:

- 1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the university receives a request for access.** Students should submit to the registrar, dean or head of the academic department [or appropriate official] written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The university official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the university official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.
- 2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records the student believes is inaccurate or misleading.** Students may ask the university to amend a record they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the university official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the university decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the university will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- 3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.** One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is defined as a person employed by the university in an administrative, supervisory, academic, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit and health staff); a person or company with whom the university has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or assisting another school official in performing their tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility. Upon request, the university discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
- 4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the university to comply with the requirements of FERPA.** The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

U.S. Department of Education
Student Privacy Policy Office
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

Available for download at studentprivacy.ed.gov/file-a-complaint

The following items are considered **DIRECTORY INFORMATION** by the university and the university may disclose any of these items without prior written consent, unless the student notifies the registrar by completing a Request to Prevent Disclosure of Directory Information form in the registrar’s office, located in Room 202 of the Rusk Building.

- A. Name
- B. All addresses, including university issued email address
- C. All telephone numbers
- D. Major field of study
- E. Academic classification
- F. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- G. Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- H. Dates of attendance and enrollment status
- I. Degrees and awards received
- J. Previous schools attended
- K. Photograph

For additional information regarding FERPA, contact the registrar’s office, or visit gosfa.com/registrar.

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday • Location: Rusk Building, second floor
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 13050, SFA Station Nacogdoches, TX 75962
Phone: (936) 468-2501 • Fax: (936) 468-2261 or (936) 468-7638 • Email: registrar@sfasu.edu

Dr. Lee Furbeck begins tenure as first enrollment VP

With goals to emphasize cross-campus collaboration, Dr. Lee Furbeck was named SFA's inaugural vice president of enrollment management and began her tenure in the position in February.

"I am thrilled to join the SFA family," Furbeck said. "I am looking forward to collaborating with colleagues on campus and in Texas. I'm also eager to get to know SFA's students. As a believer in and beneficiary of the power of public higher education, I'm poised to make a positive contribution to the institution, our students and the community. SFA has a strong brand, untapped potential and some exciting possibilities. I'm looking forward to creating and exploring the options."

The vice president of enrollment management role is a reworking and expansion of the previous executive director of enrollment management position. Erma Nieto Brecht held the executive director role beginning in June 2018 until her departure this past June. Rachele' Garrett, Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships director, has served in the interim.

Administrators saw the role's vacancy as an opportunity to reimagine its responsibilities within the ever-changing higher education landscape. According to Dr. Michara DeLaney-Fields, SFA's chief diversity officer and hiring committee chair for the new vice president role, the decision to transition the position from an executive directorship to a vice presidency

was to obtain a more competitive applicant pool and align with best practices in higher education.

Furbeck, who earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in English from the University of Kentucky and a doctorate in English from the University of Missouri, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. She has served more than 17 years in higher education with directorial positions in admissions at Central Michigan University, Cleveland State University and the University of Kansas, among others.

Additionally, Furbeck served as director for the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers' Technology and Transfer Conference in Washington, D.C.

Furbeck has seen a great deal of success throughout her career, most of which she attributes to her emphasis on in-depth collaboration with colleagues. She believes her success has been in achieving targeted growth through the intersections of policy, marketing, relationship building, scholarship and financial aid allocations, and customer service.

In her most recent stint as executive director of admissions at CMU, Furbeck increased new

international enrollment 200% for spring 2022, devised a merit award structure for leveraging financial aid strategies, and implemented the common application and test-optional admissions.

Furbeck looks to continue such successes in Nacogdoches.

"SFA isn't sitting still, and change allows me to do my best work," Furbeck said. "I am excited by the challenges and opportunities of a new



Photo by Marcus Jackson / The Pine Log

Dr. Lee Furbeck was named SFA's inaugural vice president of enrollment management in early 2023. Furbeck brings a wealth of experience to the position, including more than 17 years in higher education.

position, new leadership, pending system affiliation, and the chance to contribute in a cabinet-level role. I'll start by getting to know the institution and the people of SFA and exploring how we can work together to articulate and meet shared goals."

"These are changing times for higher education, and a market- and data-driven approach is key to institutional success," Furbeck continued. "I'm looking forward to using the information we have and/or can obtain to improve service, efficiency and outcomes."

Furbeck's hiring came after a comprehensive nationwide search that involved a committee comprised of SFA faculty, staff and students in collaboration with search firm Spelman Johnson. The search began in September 2022 following a charge from SFA President-elect Dr. Steve Westbrook, and it concluded in December.

"As a result of Dr. Furbeck's foresight, creativity, vision and innovations that produced successes throughout her career, she was selected as the top candidate out of a competitive group," DeLaney-Fields said. "In addition, she stood out as someone who could steer SFA's efforts and strategies for undergraduate and graduate recruitment, retention, and relationships within the Nacogdoches community."



Photo by Cody Gill / Stone Fort yearbook

Jack Camp Counselor Harrison Haines leads Lumberjack chants for members of the incoming SFA Class of 2026 who attended Jack Camp during August 2022. Jack Camp is a unique opportunity for new students to meet friends, have fun and learn about life at SFA.

Alumnus, musician writes book set in fictionalized East Texas

By Corrie Martz
Managing Editor

Chris Edwards, a 2007 and 2011 SFA graduate, has written a short story collection set in a fictionalized East Texas.

In his time at SFA, Edwards wrote for The Pine Log and made lots of friends. He focused his studies on English, communications and print journalism. He fell in love with the small town of Nacogdoches, and its rich history inspired many of the short stories in his collection.

"I had a great time here at SFA," he said. "It's always a great place to find kindred spirits if you're of the creative mindset."

The book "Nobody Comes to Visit Anymore" is a collection of short fiction, ranging from sweet tales to dark stories. The short fiction offers a historical gothic vibe with local and regional history weaved into the pages. All but one story is set around deep East Texas. The rest is pretty local, even mentioning local places like Flashback Café within it.

"It's literary fiction, but it's literary fiction for people who

can appreciate fart jokes," Edwards said when summarizing the appreciation of the book.

While the stories are mostly fiction, he incorporated some of the darker elements of small towns and life in general, topics such as drug problems and the sadness of losing loved ones.

"Most every story in here is really heavily invested in the characters. The people are the stories," Edwards said. "A lot of these stories at their core are about lost people."

Edwards doesn't just write books, either. He is a musician, who often plays live in Nacogdoches around town. Before he played music, though, his first love was writing.

With this book, Edwards is



Photo by Marcus Jackson / The Pine Log
Chris Edwards, an SFA alumnus, recently released his fiction short story collection "Nobody Comes to Visit Anymore."

Edwards said. "You're really happy just to work and do it another day."

"Nobody Comes to Visit Anymore" is available on all major book selling platforms. It's also available at the local library and the Bosslight Bookstore.

Citizens support campus police

A group of citizens aiming to support local law enforcement, including SFA's police department, have banded together to create the Nacogdoches Law Enforcement Foundation.

Korey Kahler, lecturer of computer science at SFA, said the idea to create this nonprofit came after an opportunity to help a family who suffered a loss in 2021.

"I felt a sincere purpose to help others. After much prayer and reflection, I felt the Lord guide me to help our local law enforcement officers," Kahler said. "After days of research, I connected with many local people who thought it would be

a fantastic idea to start a foundation. On March 16, 2022, the Nacogdoches Law Enforcement Foundation became incorporated."

Due to budget restraints, local law enforcement agencies need assistance with buying equipment, pursuing professional development opportunities, and covering unforeseen medical and other costs that accrue in the event of an on-the-job officer injury or tragedy.

"Many times, our officers choose to purchase equipment out of their own pockets," Kahler said. "Our goal is to provide this equipment and training when budgets do not allow for it."

SFA alumnus, fraternity member wins Season 43 of 'Survivor'

SFA alum Mike Gabler celebrates with Jeff Probst after he was announced the winner of Season 43 of "Survivor."

Courtesy photo



By Corrie Martz
Managing Editor

Mike Gabler, a heart valve specialist, graduated SFA in 1993, and 19 years later he made history by being the first winner of "Survivor" to donate all of his million-dollar winnings to charity.

During his time at SFA, Gabler was very active on campus. He was the president of Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and he was a part of an organization called University Programs where he helped plan activities for students all around campus to enjoy. He even participated in a fight night for charity and won for his fraternity.

"We at Texas Eta are always proud when a fellow brother represents our fraternity. We are more than ecstatic that one of our own won the 43rd season of Survivor. We are proud of our fellow Phi," Samuel Jones, Phi Delta Theta public relations director, said.

Gabler graduated SFA with a bachelor's degree in speech communications and a minor in marketing. He then went to BOND University in Australia to get his

master's.

Being a contestant on "Survivor" had been on his bucket list since the show started in 2000. Gabler said everything he did during his time at school is what helped him win.

"With my communication management background, I was able to read my tribemates, plant seeds without being a target and call all of the shots," Gabler said.

Gabler told Jeff Probst, "Survivor" host, right as he got on the show that he knew he was going to win.

After he found out he won, he told Probst that it was a roller coaster getting to where he was, but he knew who he was doing it for. Gabler pledged to donate 100% of his winnings to veterans in need.

"Gabler, it is a really beautiful gesture," Probst said on the show.

Gabler said he got everything he wanted to get out of this adventure. His advice to current SFA students and to people in general is to work hard because the harder you work, the luckier you get.

"Life is short. Life is now, live it," Gabler said.

Students give back at The Big Event



Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications

The Big Event brings student volunteers together in spring for one huge day of service to express SFA's gratitude for the support it receives from the Nacogdoches community. Small teams of students fan out across the county to complete projects for local residents, including painting, yardwork, cleaning, trash collecting, window washing and more. Local residents are encouraged to request a service project each year.

Recent grads recognized

Five SFA graduates — Sofia Dettmers, Aaliyah Johnson, Ashton Maisel, Paige Vadnais and Marisa Wood — were recognized as inaugural inductees in the student affairs and higher education program's honor society, Chi Sigma Alpha, during a ceremony held prior to their graduation in May.

Founded in 2001 at Virginia Tech, Chi Sigma Alpha is an international honor society to promote and recognize excellence in academics, research and service to the profession of student affairs and higher education administration.

An SFA chapter of the society was founded this year to acknowledge the recent expanded interest in the Master of Arts in student affairs and higher education program, according to Dr. Pietro A. Sasso, associate professor in human services and educational leadership and program co-director. To be inducted, candidates must possess at least a 3.7 GPA by graduation.

"The honor society recognizes the important contributions that student affairs and higher education professionals contribute to student success and student development," Sasso said. "The society identifies the highest achieving candidates from higher education administration graduate programs across the country."

The ceremony was held in SFA's Baker Pattillo Student Center, and students were inducted in front of program faculty members, fellow students and parents. Trina Menefee, academic advisor for the College of Sciences and Mathematics, served as a guest speaker.

Dr. Hollie Smith, executive director of student life and Virginia Tech, Chi Sigma Alpha co-director, swore in the candidates; Dr. Michara DeLaney-Fields, chief diversity officer, presented the candidates with the Chi Sigma Alpha graduation stole; and Dr. Veronica Beavers, deputy chief diversity officer and director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, presented candidates with the honor society certificates.

Sasso concluded the ceremony by presenting awards. Vadnais received the Dr. Adam Eugene Peck SAHE Student of the Year Award, which was named after the late Dr. Adam Peck who formerly served as SFA assistant vice president and dean of student affairs. Maisel received the Outstanding Contributions by a SAHE Student for Inclusion Award.

The mission of the degree program is to develop and advance higher education professionals across the competencies of diversity, assessment, college student development and student success who will become industry leaders.

SFA hosts first Drone Day

SFA's Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture and the Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation hosted its inaugural Drone Day 2023 on April 27.

The event, organized by the Student Association of Spatial Scientists under the guidance of Dr. David Kulhavy, the Lawrence C. Walker Distinguished Professor, featured multiple presentations and demonstrations on real-world drone applications from different entities.

In addition to the college, participating entities included the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, LeTourneau University, Arch Aerial, Raven Environmental Services, Hydrex Drone Division, and SFA's Department of Biology. Participating entities

flew equipment such as the Splash drone, the DJI Enterprise Dual drone and the DJI Mavic 3 CINE.

"Over 80 people attended Drone Day 2023 and shared in professional presentations on drones, field demonstrations, and questions and answers on use of drones now and in the future," Kulhavy said.

"Drone use is expanding in natural resources, and we need to continue to provide up-to-date information and use of the technology."

Faculty members, industry professionals, and graduate and undergraduate students demonstrated how drones can be effectively used to gather valuable data in urban, rural and aquatic environments.



Photos courtesy of University Marketing Communications

(Above) SFA graduate teaching and research assistant Victoria Williams demonstrates drone use to students and Mary Ann Rojas, executive director of SFA's Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation. (Upper right) Students and faculty have their image captured from above by a drone at the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture's inaugural Drone Day last spring.

Students volunteer at Final Four

When the NCAA selected Houston as the location for its 2023 men's basketball Final Four, a request for volunteers was sent across Texas in January. Several SFA hospitality administration and sports business students answered the call.

Responsibilities included checking in guests, assisting with event activations, scanning tickets and helping fans meet basketball players at the fan fest.

"People were being sought in all areas to assist in putting on an unforgettable experience in Houston," said Dr. Robert McDermand, senior lecturer in the Nelson Rusche College of Business' sports business program. "We knew SFA students would be a great fit."

Students gained insight into managing one of the biggest sports events of the year, said Dr. Mary Olle, associate professor in the James I. Perkins College of Education's hospitality administration program.

"I am so proud of our students who participated in this event," she said. "What a great opportunity for them to experience and learn more about what it takes to organize and execute a national sporting event, including the coordination of thousands of volunteers."

Kailey Leighty, a senior from Waco majoring in sports business, volunteered to help with logistics and operations.

"My role was to assist in fan fest activities and ensure that the event was running smoothly," she said.

Leighty said her career goal is to work in sports industry events.

"An event like the Final Four is exactly like something I want to be a part of," she said. "Plus, I got to see celebrity basketball players like Magic Johnson do meet-and-greets at the fan fest."

Emma Grotemat, a first-year student from Lindale majoring in hospitality administration, ran the photo booth at the fan fest event.

"I have always had a love and passion for sports and events; however, growing up in school, I thought working in sports just meant being a coach," she said. "But there are so many jobs out there that are sports-related, and that's what I'm starting to dive in to."

Grotemat said she likes the gametime atmosphere. "I love seeing people all excited for the games and just getting to welcome them in. For some of them, the Final Four is a once-in-a-lifetime event, so I wanted to help make their experience the best one."

Register to Vote!

The 2024 elections will be critical!
Register now to vote next year

Why?

It's your right as a citizen, a right not everyone in the world has.
Your vote matters. Election outcomes affect your life.
Your vote contributes to the changes for the greater good.
Politicians won't address student needs without student votes.

Who?

You must be a US citizen, at least 17 years 10 months old to register, and at least 18 years old to vote on Election Day.

Where?

As a student you can register either here in Nacogdoches (since you are a resident here) or where you came from (if you maintain a residence there) - but not both.

When?

Last day to register or change your address is 30 days before an election, but why wait?

How?

In person at the voter registrar's office, 203 West Main St.
Or with the SFA College Democrats on campus!
Or on-line, at MyTexasVotes.com.



 Nacogdoches County Democrats

 @Nac Democrats

Paid for by the Nacogdoches County Democratic Party

Students construct tiny homes

By Kaylee Lopez
Former News Editor

SFA Construction Jacks members built four tiny homes for the residents of Village Nac on Feb. 10.

Construction Jacks is a club for students majoring or minoring in interior design or construction management. Kyle Hudson, club president and junior construction management major from Conroe, said it has been rewarding being able to do this service project for Village Nac, a faith-based community in East Texas where people who have chronic mental health issues or chronic homelessness can get help.

"Being out there for a while, you get to meet the residents, and they're trying. Some of the [residents] are homeless, veterans with PTSD or people with mental illness," Hudson said.

Sally Swearingen, director of construction management and interior design, had the original idea to build the homes for Village Nac in April.

"Mrs. Swearingen approached me with [the idea] and I told her she was crazy...she didn't care," Hudson said.

Throughout the summer they worked hard to make the dream

come alive.

"Working on the homes was a fulfilling experience. Not only am I able to use my skills to create something of substance, but my effort went towards a philanthropic endeavor," Dylan Richardson, sophomore construction management major from Nacogdoches, said.

Luis Vira, junior construction management major from Houston, said he enjoys helping the community.

"Being able to give back to the community and the first-hand experience we gain is priceless," Vira said.

Last fall, the Residential Building Construction Systems class built four of the tiny homes but was unable to finish them.

"That's where Construction Jacks came in, we started working on wrapping up the homes this spring semester," Hudson said.

The organization and construction class built the 8-by-16-foot tiny homes from the floor up.

"The planning process started with [an idea] of we want to do this...and then we had to figure out logistics. It all started with a napkin drawing to how much materials we needed," Hudson said.

Hudson said this is a service project for the organization, and the members are volunteering out of the goodness of their hearts.



Photo by Marcus Jackson / The Pine Log

Construction Jacks, an organization of construction management and interior design students, built tiny homes for village Nac in February. Kyle Hudson, above, is club president.

Cashier treats students like family

By Alyssa Coker
Former Editor-in-Chief

Walking into the Marketplace, a convenience store located on the first floor of the Baker Pattillo Student Center, customers can grab a snack, drink or even produce to purchase and enjoy.

Customers can also grab a hug or kind word from Rosie Waters, a cashier and stocker at the Marketplace, who many students see as a grandparent figure, according to Assistant Director of Retail Liz Toledo.

"She's kind of like the East Texas grandma figure who says 'sweetie,' 'honey,' and she also says 'loved one,' which she's the only person I've ever heard say that," Toledo said. "She's just like, 'Bye, loved one!' And, it's the sweetest thing to hear her say that."

Waters has been working at SFA for around five years and has liked "everything" she has done over the years. She worked under Aramark, SFA's previous food provider, at the C-Store and the third-party sushi establishment as a cashier. Her work continued, even with the transfer to Chartwells, SFA's new food provider.

"[Waters] really stood out to the transition team and to the Chartwells opening team as someone who has great customer service, was spunky, was fun, was charismatic and [had] love for the students," Natasha Varela, Chartwells district manager, said.

Waters is known around campus for her positive attitude, according to Varela. Waters says she remains positive "by taking it day by day."

"Many, many years ago, I worked at a cookie store in Fort Worth and my slogan was, 'Leave your attitude on the other side of the door,'" Waters said. "Because people walk in [the Marketplace], and they may have been having a bad day, and I don't know that. I can't have a bad attitude, then I have nothing to offer you. You can always ask me, 'Can I have a hug?'"

Varela values Waters' "positive aura," and says that students need that consistent character in their lives, especially if they are away from home for the first time.

"You can tell it's like everyone is her family," Varela said. "The students are her family. She loves them as her own."



Photo by Marcus Jackson / The Pine Log

Rosie Waters, Marketplace cashier and stocker, takes pride in the appearance of the convenience store students frequent inside the Baker Pattillo Student Center.



Springtime is azalea time at SFA, with pink, red, white and purple blooms exploding all over campus and on the lawns of homes and businesses across the city. The 11-acre Ruby Mize Azalea Garden is located just south of Johnson Coliseum along University Drive and is a prime destination of SFA students and visitors all year long, but especially in spring.



Photos courtesy of University Marketing Communications

Welcoming New Patients

Kristin Reese, RN, FNP-C and Mallory Maisel, RN, FNP-C provide preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic women's health and wellness care from adolescence through post-menopause. Comprehensive in-office services include comfortable and convenient 3D mammography.

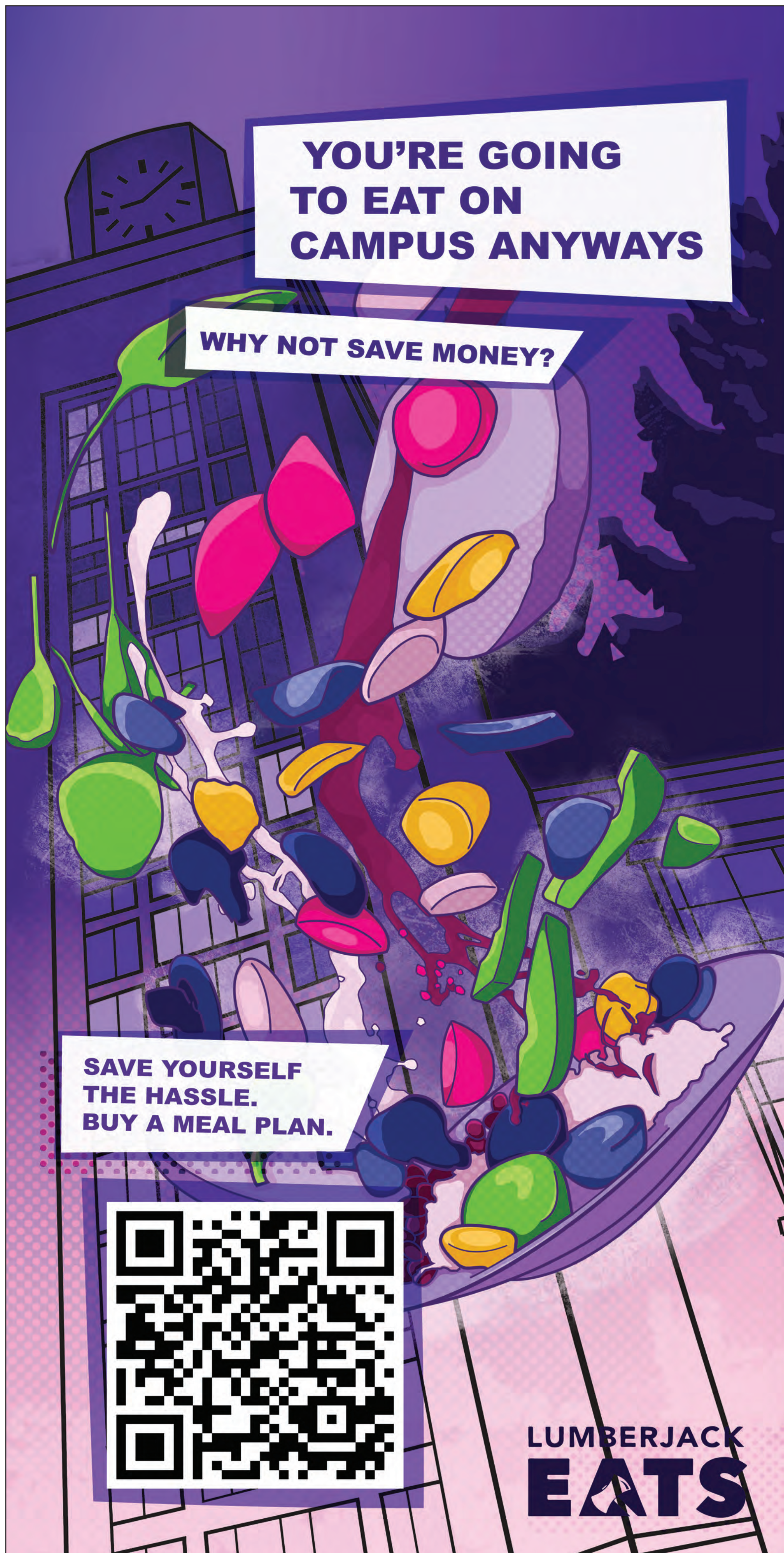
McMorries

OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY & INFERTILITY

Kristin Reese
RN, FNP-C

Mallory Maisel
RN, FNP-C


936-560-2666 | 4710 N.E. Stallings Dr. | Nacogdoches | DrMcMorries.com



YOU'RE GOING TO EAT ON CAMPUS ANYWAYS

WHY NOT SAVE MONEY?

SAVE YOURSELF THE HASSLE. BUY A MEAL PLAN.



LUMBERJACK EATS

sign up by
August 19th
to qualify



FOLLOW US!
@lumberjackeats

LET'S EAT!

get free starbucks on us!

purchase an off-campus meal plan and get 5 free drink vouchers!

CHOOSE A MEAL PLAN AT WWW.DINEONCAMPUS.COM/SFA

OFF CAMPUS MEAL PLANS

7 Day 7 \$1,041/Semester

7 meal swipes per week
\$75 dining dollars for the semester

7 Day 5 \$794/Semester

5 meal swipes per week
\$100 dining dollars for the semester

50 Block + 300 DD \$722/Semester

50 meal swipes per week
\$300 dining dollars for the semester

50 Block + 100 DD \$522/Semester

50 meal swipes per week
\$100 dining dollars for the semester

25 Block + 100 DD \$327/Semester

25 meal swipes per week
\$100 dining dollars for the semester

325 All DD \$325/Semester

\$325 dining dollars for a semester

BIG BENEFITS

save your parking space
lock in your meal pricing
nutritious food options
no cooking or cleaning necessary

FAQ's

WHAT IS A MEAL SWIPE?

Meal swipes can be used for one meal at either of our all-you-care-to-eat dining halls, Food Hall 1923, or Eatery on the East

WHAT ARE DINING DOLLARS?

Dining Dollars can be used like cash at any on-campus retail location. They roll over from fall to spring, but do not roll over from year to year

WHAT IS MEAL EXCHANGE?

All students are able to exchange one meal swipe per day for select meals at on-campus retail locations.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

You can sign up by logging into your MYSFA account then go to the campus life tab > meal plans > meal plan sign up or change.

WHAT ABOUT ALLERGIES?

Both dining halls have allergen stations with menu items prepared without the top 9 allergens. All students with a meal plan can also contact our registered dietitian, Marie Jessup, with any allergen dietary questions.

Students study in Portugal



Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications

Students from SFA's Rusche College of Business recently traveled to Portugal to explore businesses and unique sites, including the University of Coimbra, a public research university founded in 1290.

Twenty students from Stephen F. Austin State University's Rusche College of Business traveled to Portugal May 15 through 25 to explore businesses and unique sites in the country. They included a company that has made hand-painted tile the same way for 400 years, a small shoemaker who produces shoes by hand with 30 employees, and the largest producer of cork products in the world.

"For many of the students, it was their first opportunity to experience another culture and learn the fine art of international travel," said Dr. Matt Lindsey, chair of the Department of Management and Marketing, who led the trip with Dr. Mikhail Kouliavtsev, chair of the Department of Economics and Finance.

The students and two faculty members met with a representative from the American Chamber of Commerce in Portugal and visited a variety of cultural and business locations. Those included Sant'Anna, a producer of ceramic tiles; Hotel Mundial, where students received a behind-the-scenes tour with operations manager Joao Monterio; the University of Coimbra, a public research university founded in 1290; the Quinta da Pacheca wine estate in the Douro Valley; the D'Origem olive oil museum; Mariano Shoes; and Amorim Cork.

At Amorim Cork, the students discovered the importance of sustainability. The cork oak tree has been protected in Portugal for over 1,000 years, so cork is harvested without killing the tree. After 40 years of tree growth, the cork can be harvested from a tree every seven years for centuries.

Kathryn Duncan, a Master of Business

Administration student from Plano, said she was impressed by Amorim Cork's process.

"When they are finished with the production of the bottle stoppers, they can then take the waste from that production and turn it into so many different products, one of the largest being flooring," she said. "This was one of the most ethical businesses we visited, and seeing how successful they are with such a clean business model gave me a lot of ideas on how to implement this structure in the work that I want to do."

Students also visited cultural sites, including St. George's Castle in Lisbon; Jeronimos Monastery; the National Coach Museum of horse-drawn carriages; the historic towns of Sintra, Cascais and Estoril; the medieval town of Obidos; the Douro River; and Clerigos Tower, São Bento Railway Station, and other important points in Porto, Portugal.

"I really enjoyed learning about the history and traditions in each city, especially the São Gonçalo Church in Amarante," said Lena Brown, human resources senior from El Paso.

A highlight of the trip for Bree Jones, entrepreneurship junior from Beaumont, was "exploring the narrow streets of Lisbon's historic neighborhoods and taking the river cruise on the beautiful Douro River with vineyards and olive trees decorating the landscape."

Oscar Sanchez, a management junior from Jasper, said the trip helped him learn a little patience.

"Time is a suggestion to the Portuguese," he said. "They are not in a rush because you are."

For more information on the business college, visit sfasu.edu/cob.

SFA researchers study how dolphins respond to noise

A group of SFA researchers published a paper in the journal *Animals* that highlights how reintroduced noises related to human activity during the COVID-19 lockdown affected bottlenose dolphin attention and distractibility.

The paper was co-authored by Dr. Jason Bruck, research lead and assistant professor of biology at SFA; Paige Stevens, a doctoral candidate working with Bruck Lab; and Veda Allen, a graduate from SFA's Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture. This research is being presented at the annual Animal Behavior Society Meeting in Portland, Oregon.

"The COVID-19 pandemic created a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that allowed us, as scientists, to peek at how these animals' behaviors might change in the absence of humans," Stevens said.

The paper, titled "A Quieter Ocean: Experimentally Derived Differences in Attentive Responses of *Tursiops truncatus* to Anthropogenic Noise Playbacks Before and During the COVID-19-Related Anthropause," looked at how dolphins under professional care housed in a sea-side lagoon habitat at Dolphin Quest Bermuda responded to human-made sound from an underwater speaker.

Before the pandemic, the team exposed dolphins to safe levels of noises from cruise ships, jet skis and low frequency sonar. As a graduate student, Stevens collected behavioral data when the tourism industry was in its most restricted months during the pandemic. She compared these responses to pre-pandemic responses, allowing the team to see how dolphins paid attention to common sounds both under normal conditions and after months of greatly reduced ocean noise.

Under pre-pandemic conditions, dolphins paid less attention to familiar cruise ship noises than idling jet skis and sonar sounds. Once human-related noises resumed, the dolphins in the study increased attentive responses to all sounds but noticeably responded up to six times more specifically to cruise ship noise. The observation indicated that the dolphins would need to adjust to human activity once again.

"Cruise ships were really affected during the pandemic and had to stop operating," Bruck said. "It seemed that before cruises stopped, the dolphins had habituated to the noises the ships made. After cruises started back up, we were surprised to see that the dolphins had lost their

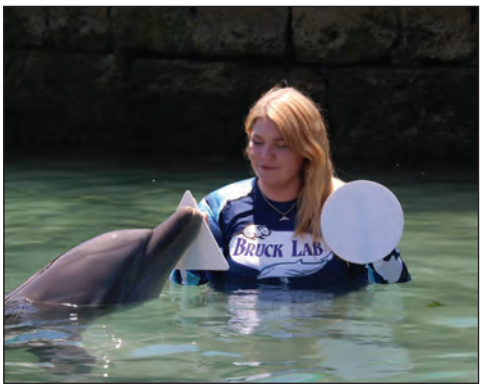


Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications

Paige Stevens, a doctoral candidate working with Bruck Lab, administers a cognition test on a dolphin at Dolphin Quest Bermuda.

ability to ignore those sounds."

Research like this helps those who work with aquatic mammals understand how they respond and pay attention to changes in noise pollution after extended periods of reduced human activity.

"This study helps us make predictions about how wild dolphins may struggle to avoid distractions in an increasingly noisy ocean when there are big changes in soundscapes," Bruck said. "This research has implications for dolphin conservation in the Gulf of Mexico, especially in Galveston Bay, where all three of these noise sources may affect a resident population of dolphins."

While distracting these dolphins under professional care holds no risk and causes no harm, animals in the wild may fare differently. Distracting a dolphin in nature may lead to ship strikes, failed hunts and lost calves, according to Bruck.

"For many, the obvious management solution to noise pollution and human activity is to decrease it," Stevens said. "But what we see here is that the pattern may matter just as much as the type of noise itself. This study highlights that we must think not only about the effects of each type of noise but also about how we integrate ourselves back into areas after a long-term reduction of our activities."

To learn more about aquatic biology at SFA, visit sfasu.edu/biology.

 Barnes & Noble
COLLEGE



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS



FEEL CONFIDENT IN YOUR PURCHASE WITH PRICE MATCH

We price match amazon, bn.com and local competitors



FIND ALL YOUR COURSE-REQUIRED SUPPLIES

All textbook formats are available



GEAR UP WITH OUR SPIRIT SHOP

Shop the best selection of logo gear

1936 North Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75965

(936) 468-2108

 @sfasubookstore

 /sfabookstore

RESIDENCE LIFE

Stephen F. Austin State University



Welcome Home

RESIDENCE LIFE

Residence Life, a unit of Campus Living, Dining and Auxiliary Enterprises, is here to support students living on campus. It's our mission to provide a learning-centered residential environment, which is conducive to the academic success and personal development of our students. Residence Life, sponsors the Residence Hall Association, which provides activities for on campus students to help them become involved on campus.

WHEN CAN I MOVE IN?

Fall 2023 move-in begins Friday, August 25 and ends Sunday, August 27 @ 5 P.M. -- In order to move-in each student must select move-in time/date via their MySFA account starting Wednesday, August 16 @ noon.

HOW CAN I SIGN-UP FOR A MOVE-IN TIME?

To select a move-in time log-in to your MySFA account and navigate to the Campus Life tab located along the top of the webpage. Once on the Campus Life tab, then locate the Schedule Move-In link. After you access the link, you must provide two emergency contacts (their names and phone numbers) and select an appropriate date/time (August 25 - 27) that best fits your schedule. Once the date/time has been submitted, you can update it as needed until 24 hours before your move-in date/time.

RESIDENCE HALL FRONT DESK PHONE NUMBERS

First-Year Halls	
Lumberjack Lodge.....	936.468.2400
Lumberjack Landing.....	936.468.5404
Steen.....	936.468.5201
Hall 14.....	936.468.4609
Griffith.....	936.468.4909
Kerr.....	936.468.5301

Non-First Year Halls	
Griffith.....	936.468.4909
Hall 20.....	936.468.2595
Lumberjack Lodge.....	936.468.2400
Lumberjack Village.....	936.468.4300
Kerr.....	936.468.5301
Wisely.....	936.468.2600

RESIDENCE LIFE CONTACT INFORMATION

Location: Rusk Building, Room 332
Website: www.sfasu.edu/reslife
Email: reslife@sfasu.edu
Phone Number: 936.468.2601

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Can I change rooms/residence halls after move-in?

Yes, depending on availability! For students wanting to change rooms, but stay in the same residence hall, contact the hall staff/hall director. For those wanting to change residence halls, contact Residence Life.

Can I still receive a private room after move-in?

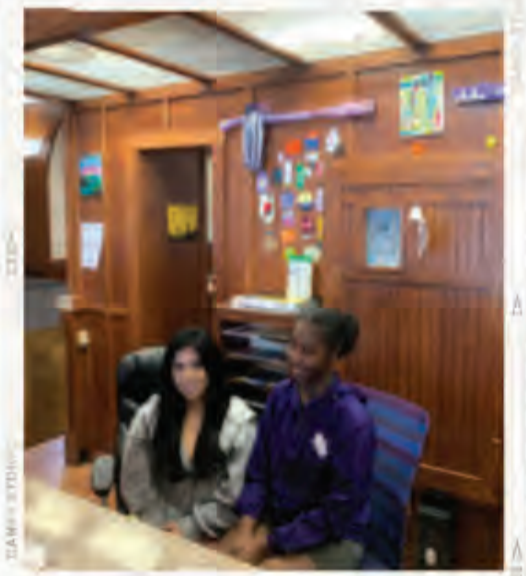
Yes, depending on availability! Students wishing to obtain a private room will need to contact the hall staff in their residence hall.

Is there a list of things students can and cannot bring?

Yes, there is a list of things we recommend students bring and things that are not allowed. This list can be found through our website or this direct link: <https://www.sfasu.edu/life-at-sfa/housing-dining/housing/faq>

Are pets allowed?

Pets are not allowed, except small birds in cages and fish in aquariums no larger than 10 gallons. Emotional Support Animals must be approved through the special accommodation process through disability services.



SPORTS

Page 1E

The Pine Log

@thepinelog

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

■ LEONARD BISHOP NAMED 10TH HEAD COACH OF LADYJACK BASKETBALL PROGRAM.

MEN'S GOLF

■ 40-YEAR-OLD U.S. ARMY VETERAN ENROLLS AT SFA AND JOINS LUMBERJACK GOLF TEAM.

FOOTBALL

■ NON-CONFERENCE HOME OPENER SLATED FOR SEPT. 9 AGAINST ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

■ SFA ADDED TO SUN BELT CONFERENCE'S EIGHT-TEAM LEAGUE FOR 2023-24 SEASON.

Support your SFA student-athletes



Brooke Miller
Editor-in-Chief

Need help making plans for the weekend or after class? SFA Athletics is here to save the day! The department released several Lumberjack and Ladyjack team schedules for fall 2023, so the new sports season is upon us.

However, the joy of games shouldn't stop with football. It's important that we as students support our student-athletes by showing up to ALL games!

Considering this year is the centennial celebration for SFA, it will certainly be a memorable semester for our University. Coming out to celebrate our school for 100 years of learning and 100 years of championship sports will not only show our school spirit but also illustrate our solidarity with our student-athletes.

With football right around the corner, it may be a good idea to block off your Saturdays to watch and support the football team during home games at Homer Bryce Stadium. The game itself isn't the only motivating reason to go. Our amazing Lumberjack Marching Band excels in not only putting on amazing musical performances but also precise marching that is as impressive as it is entertaining! When you go to games, don't forget to wear your purple and white. Bring your Student ID to get in for free! If you have an axe handle, bring it with you to bang on the bleachers with your friends to show your Lumberjack support!

Football games aren't the only games you get into for free. As a student of SFA, your ID gets you into every single game for free. Why waste free admission? Go support your fellow students in basketball, soccer, baseball, softball and more! SFA has a total of 16 different athletic teams to support, so you're bound to find a team to cheer for all year.

Attending games is also a great way to get closer to your friends. There's nothing more entertaining than cheering on your team while munching on a snack with your buddies. It's one of the cheapest outings that students can plan, and in return you can make priceless memories.

Don't forget to support your student-athletes this season. Take advantage of free admission, hang out with friends and enjoy Lumberjack spirit to its fullest!



Photo courtesy of University Marketing Communications

Lumberjacks from near and far will descend on Homer Bryce Stadium for home football games this fall. Students come out in droves to the grassy tailgating area located between the Ag Pond and the stadium entrances, then

head inside to cheer on the Jacks. The football team will kick off its season Sept. 2 against Troy University in Alabama, and the first home game is set for 6 p.m. Sept. 9 versus Alcorn State University.

Lumberjacks' home opener set for Sept. 9

In a year that will celebrate the 100th birthdate for Stephen F. Austin State University, SFA Director of Athletics Ryan Ivey and Head Football Coach Colby Carthel formally announced the 2023 football schedule on Tuesday.

The Jacks will play a total of eleven teams consisting of five non-conference opponents and six WAC/ASUN League foes. Five of those games will be at home with all eleven contests serving as D1 counter games.

"We are excited to announce the 2023 football schedule with 11 competitive, Division I games," shared Director of Athletics Ryan Ivey. "The 2023 schedule will provide some regional opportunities and allow us to grow our partnership with the ASUN with the formation of a single sport conference in football. This will be a fun, competitive schedule and we are looking forward to the opportunity to

compete for another championship."

Head coach Colby Carthel shared his thoughts regarding the direction of the WAC/ASUN league and this year's schedule by saying, "We're fired

up about this WAC-ASUN merger and our 2023 conference schedule! We look forward to defending our 2022 WAC Championship and continuing to elevate Lumberjack Football!"

Non-Conference Highlights

The 2023 season opens on the road at Troy on Sept. 2. The Trojans finished the 2022 season as the Sun Belt and Cure Bowl champions with a 12-2 overall record.

The Lumberjacks home opener is set for Sept. 9 when they host Alcorn State.

The 2022 thriller in Lorman, Mississippi came down to the wire following weather-related delays and saw SFA snap Alcorn's 13 home winning streak.

Following Alcorn State, the Lumberjacks will hit the road and head to Natchitoches, Louisiana to face historical Southland Conference rivals the Demons of Northwestern State. The Demons finished third in the Southland Conference in 2022.

Other non-conference opponents of note include another Southland Conference opponent Texas A&M-Commerce (4th in Southland League play in 2022) at home and Central Arkansas (4th in ASUN League play in 2022) on the road in Conway, Arkansas.

WAC/ASUN Highlights

On Sept. 23, WAC/ASUN play officially opens up here in Homer Bryce as the Jacks host Austin-Peay.

Following the WAC/ASUN home opener with Austin-Peay, your Jacks will hit the road to St. George, Utah to face Utah Tech before returning home to face Abilene Christian. The Lumberjacks battled ACU twice in 2022 with the second game deciding the WAC Championship. The Lumberjacks would prevail on the road and win the WAC title in dramatic fashion.

Following the Bye Week, the final 3 games will find the Jacks both on the road versus Tarleton State in Stephenville, Texas, and at home against Southern Utah, before book-ending the 3-game stretch back on the road at Eastern Kentucky in Richmond, Kentucky.

SFA students get free admission to home athletic events.



Leonard Bishop named head women's BB coach

SFA Director of Athletics Ryan Ivey looked within and in mid-April named Ladyjack Basketball associate head coach Leonard Bishop as the 10th head coach in the storied program's history. Bishop enters his ninth season in the Piney Woods now leading a program he has been instrumental in building over the last eight seasons.

A press conference to introduce the next Ladyjack Basketball head coach was held April 18 inside the William R. Johnson Coliseum.

"This is a great and historic day for our storied and rich Ladyjack basketball program, and all of SFA Athletics," Ivey said.

"Our program is a national brand in women's college basketball. As such, it

demanding that we initiate a thorough and exhaustive national search. As that search evolved over the last 10 days, it landed right back where we started, in Nacogdoches, and I couldn't be more excited and proud."

Most recently serving as the Ladyjacks associate head coach, Leonard has been the architect of recent successes as his teams have worked to continue the winning tradition of Ladyjack basketball since his arrival. Entering his ninth season in the Sawmill,

Bishop leads a team coming off of a 27-7 season in 2022-23, a record-breaking 28-5 season in 2021-22 that resulted in winning both WAC League and WAC Tournament titles along with an

NCAA tournament appearance and a stellar 24-3 campaign in 2020-21 that saw the Ladyjacks exit the Southland as both SLC League and SLC Tournament winners along with another NCAA tournament appearance.

Over the last eight seasons, the Ladyjacks have advanced to the postseason six consecutive times, including dominant performances in the NCAA first rounds against the University of North Carolina (2022) and Georgia Tech (2021) which came down to the wire in what may have called "instant classics".

"I am happy that Coach Bishop will be the next head coach of the Ladyjacks. He has prepared his entire life and I am convinced he will carry on the great legacy of our storied program, without pause," then-SFA President Dr. Steve Westbrook said at the time.

Developing players has been a strength of Bishop's career, having coached numerous All-Conference and All-Tournament players every place he

has been. Leonard will now look to build on his current team and will continue to put his stamp on the Ladyjacks style of play and talent that walks the halls of the Sawmill for seasons to come.

A native of Dallas, Bishop played college basketball at Three Rivers Community College, Collin County Community College and at Texas A&M-Commerce, graduating in 2008.

Ivey continued to say, "The past is historic, the present is exciting, and the future is bright for this iconic SFA women's basketball program.

"Coach Bishop has been an instrumental part of the sustained success model over the last eight years, and I have no doubt that he will be able to move us forward and continue our momentum of success, while understanding and respecting the giants of the game that have come before him."

Leonard and his wife, Ashley, have three children, daughter Khendyn, son Leonard Bishop III and daughter Khelsie.



Leonard Bishop
Head Ladyjacks
Basketball Coach

Men's basketball adds Prioleau to coaching staff

The Lumberjack Basketball family added Jean Prioleau to their coaching staff. After serving as the San Jose's Head Coach from 2017-2021, Prioleau will take over as the new assistant coach for the Lumberjacks in the upcoming 2023-24 season.

SFA head coach Kyle Keller is ecstatic about the hire, saying "I am thrilled that such an accomplished coach and mentor is joining our already terrific staff. Jean brings a wealth of experience from not only his time as a former Head Division I Coach but 17 successful years with many NCAA Tournament appearances. He has recruited numerous NBA and all-conference players along his journey. Coach Prioleau also had a very successful professional playing career, after being an all-conference player at Fordham University where he is inducted in their Hall of Fame. He, his wife, Janelle, and son, Elijah, will touch our players in many different ways."

Prioleau grew up in Teaneck, New Jersey and played college basketball at Fordham, where he was a two-time All-Patriot honoree and helped Fordham qualify for the NCAA Tournament for the first time in over 20 years. From 1992 to 1999, Prioleau played professional basketball for the Continental Basketball Association in the U.S. and various European leagues.

From 2000 to 2005, Prioleau was an assistant coach at Wichita State under Mark Turgeon. The new coaching staff inherited a program that had just one winning season in the entire 1990s. Wichita State qualified for the National Invitation Tournament three straight seasons from 2003 to 2005; Prioleau helped build some of the best recruiting classes in program history.

In the 2005-06 season, Prioleau was an assistant coach at Marquette under Tom Crean. Marquette went 20-11 and qualified for the NCAA tournament.

From 2006 to 2008, Prioleau was an assistant coach at Iowa State under Greg McDermott. Iowa State went 15-16 in 2006-07 and 14-18 in the 2007-08 season. Then from 2008 to 2010, Prioleau was an assistant coach at TCU under Jim Christian. TCU went 14-17 and 13-19 in Prioleau's two seasons on staff.

On May 12, 2010, new head coach Tad Boyle hired Prioleau as an assistant coach on his staff at Colorado. Coming off four straight losing seasons, Colorado improved to 24-11 and an NIT appearance. He was promoted to associate head coach in 2013 and would



Photo courtesy of SFA Athletics

The Sun Belt Conference announced it will add Beach Volleyball as its 19th sponsored sport, beginning with the 2023 season. Four Sun Belt Conference institutions currently sponsor Beach Volleyball – Coastal Carolina, Georgia State, ULM and Southern Miss. In addition, the Sun Belt welcomed affiliate members College of Charleston, Mercer, SFA and UNC Wilmington to form the eight-team league. Georgia State is a two-time NCAA Championship participant (2016, 2022) and advanced to the round of six last season.

2023 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

9/2/23 @ TROY

9/9/23 VS ALCORN STATE

9/16/23 @ NORTHWESTERN STATE

9/23/23 VS AUSTIN PEAY

9/30/23 VS TEXAS A&M-COMMERCE

10/7/23 @ UTAH TECH

10/14/23 @ CENTRAL ARKANSAS

10/21/23 VS ACU

10/28/23 OPEN

11/4/23 @ TARLETON STATE

11/11/23 VS SOUTHERN UTAH

11/18/23 @ EASTERN KENTUCKY

See COACH on Page 3E

WE'VE GOT SPIRIT!



Purple Haze is the nickname for the University's student cheering section at all Lumberjack sporting events. Every SFA student becomes a member of Purple Haze after receiving their Purple Haze T-shirt at Orientation.



The **Homecoming bonfire** is a much-anticipated tradition each fall. Current students join with SFA alumni, faculty, staff and community residents on the Intramural Fields to watch the blaze and listen to live music.



Jack Camp is a unique opportunity for new Lumberjacks to meet fellow students, have fun and learn about life at SFA. Held in Trinity, Texas, Jack Camp is a three-day extended orientation program that includes games, competitions, team-building exercises and social events.



AXEperience is the University-sponsored student organization responsible for preserving and promoting the spirit and traditions that make the Lumberjack experience unique. The group strives to be the main facilitators of Lumberjack Spirit across campus.



Jacks Charge is a special tradition for football season, when the Purple Haze section rushes the field before kickoff, leading the Lumberjacks into the stadium and waving their flags and axe handles proudly.

Photos courtesy of University Marketing Communications

BUY YOUR
TICKETS TODAY!
FOOTBALL
2023 SCHEDULE 23

 9.2.23	 9.9.23	 9.16.23
 9.23.23	 9.30.23	 10.7.23
 10.14.23	 10.21.23	 11.4.23
 11.11.23	 11.18.23	

HOME GAMES

AWAY GAMES

U.S. Army vet joins Lumberjack golf team



By Emma Crisp
Stone Fort Yearbook

Leaving his wife and children right outside of Columbus, Georgia, Jonathan Shuskey takes on the task of being a Division-I golfer and college “kid.” At 40 years old, Shuskey retired from the U.S. Army after serving for 20 years. Upon retirement, he decided to pursue a sports business degree at SFA, which landed him on the Lumberjack golf team. “Once the idea got in my head of playing Division-I golf, there was no going back,” Shuskey said. Shuskey loved the opportunity presented to him and took the risk without even knowing where Nacogdoches was located. In fact, he never toured the campus and had only been to Texas once. He had no idea what to expect. Shuskey is now planning to move his entire family to Nacogdoches. “Hopefully, there’s a place here for me beyond playing golf, whether that is to coach or whatever it is,” he said.

Shuskey added he genuinely loves this place and the people here. After becoming a student again, Shuskey jokingly said, “I spent all this time as dad, telling my kids to get good grades and make straight As, and now they get to look at my report.” Aside from being a full-time student, father and husband, he also works on the social media team for the athletic department. When it comes to the sport, Shuskey started playing golf when he was about 12 years old. He played competitively for the first time in 2013 in the All Army Tournament, which he won. “It’s just whatever you bring to the course that day. Every shot counts, and every shot counts on you,” he said. Shuskey said he is overwhelmed by the amount of joy and love he has received from the people at SFA. From serving this country for two decades and being a husband and father of four to taking exams and hitting golf shots, Shuskey makes sure to never leave a moment of life behind.



Photo courtesy of SFA Athletics



(Far left) Shuskey looks into the distance after driving the ball during a practice round. (Above) He analyzes the condition of the green as he warms up for a three-day tournament hosted by Southern Utah University. (Left) Shuskey acknowledges the supportive crowd as he is recognized during the National Anthem at a Ladyjack basketball game in honor of Veteran’s Day.

Jacks are WAC champions



Photos by Cody Gill / Stone Fort yearbook

The Lumberjack Football team secured the 2022 WAC Football Championship in November, beating Abilene Christian 24-21, in Abilene.

TIME TO LEAVE *Your* MARK ON SFA HISTORY...

Advertise in The Pine Log Newsletter

Weekly Advertising
3 Placement Options
Hyperlink Capabilities

CONTACT US: pinelogads@sfasu.edu / 936.468.4703

COACH: Prioleau joins men’s basketball staff

From Page 1E

remain on staff through the 2016–17 season; Colorado had winning records and postseason appearances every season including four NCAA Tournament appearances (2012–14 and 2016).

On August 4, 2017, Prioleau was hired as head coach at San Jose State. The bulk of his success came in the 2019–20 season. It began with an upset of defending Colonial Athletic Association regular season champion Hofstra in an away game. San Jose State had a 2–3 start in Mountain West play after wins over New Mexico and defending Mountain West regular season champion Nevada in the first two weeks of January.

He now joins the SFA family in Nacogdoches, Texas as an assistant coach to Kyle Keller.

Prioleau is looking forward to the opportunity to become apart of the Lumberjack culture, saying “Coach Keller and I have known each other for quite some time. We have competed against each other as assistants in the Big 12 and I have always admired what he has accomplished. Coach Keller and his staff have done an unbelievable job in developing student-athletes on and off the court. His tireless work ethic has produced a culture that I wanted to be a part of. I am extremely happy to be here.”

Thinking About Graduate School?

Explore Our 50+ Master's and Doctoral Programs

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of Research and Graduate Studies

936-468-2807

gschool@sfasu.edu

Lumberjack long snapper reflects on college career

By Cade Haak
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 19, 2022, in Abilene, with just 2 minutes and 43 seconds left on the scoreboard, the Lumberjacks took the lead away from the Abilene Christian Wildcats. SFA quarterback Trae Self rushed through the Wildcats’ defense, cut right, and extended the football over the pylon in the end zone to score the final touchdown of the Western Athletic Conference championship. This touchdown, followed by one final defensive stand, gave the Lumberjacks their first Conference Championship win in over a decade.

They had done it. The turbulent season was over, and it ended with SFA on top. But for one player, the celebration ended quickly. Josh Smetzer wasn’t as ecstatic. He, like everyone else, loves to win. But to him, improvement matters more. “I was happy in the moment, and then once we got back on the bus, I was thinking all right, well what are we going to do tomorrow?” he said.

His mentality surrounding not just his sport but also his life is one that may seem more characteristic for someone who plays a different position on the gridiron. His constant pursuit of improvement is more commonly associated with a quarterback, or maybe even a linebacker, but Smetzer plays a much more forgettable position. Since the seventh grade, he has been a long snapper.

Long snappers come onto the game for punts and field goals, snap the ball, and then leave the field just as quickly. Many casual football don’t even realize the long snapper is someone different than the center. But the lack of attention put on the position does not take away from its importance.

Many football fans seem to believe that a

long snapper’s work is easy, but like any other specialist, watching someone as skillful as Josh, you quickly learn otherwise. And the skill displayed isn’t a natural talent that Josh was born with, it’s one that he has worked very hard for many years to develop.

He initially became a long snapper out of necessity for his middle school team. “We would be 4th and 90 yards and would never punt it. So one day I just asked [my coach] ‘Hey why don’t we ever punt the ball?’ and he said “Oh, well we don’t have a long snapper. Do you know how to snap?” and I responded with ‘No, but I can try.”

And despite now loving the position and the work he puts in, it wasn’t always that way. During his freshman and sophomore years of high school, Smetzer avoided telling his coaches about his new found skill as a long snapper.

During those two years, he opted to play safety instead and focused as much on the sport of baseball (which he admittedly enjoys more than football) rather than honing his new skills. But after much deliberation, he eventually decided it would be best for him to once again play the long snapper position if he wanted to play at the Division I level like he had always dreamed. This decision was one that ultimately paid off for Josh.

Despite the years of hard work that Smetzer put into the sport of football, the journey from high school to college was anything but easy, which is rare to see for someone ranked as highly as he was. A highly acclaimed football analyst website “Rubio Long Snapping,” Josh was a 4½-star prospect ranked 38th in the nation his senior year of high school.

“I had offers to Texas Tech, Texas A&M and Texas State, and I lost all of those because coaching staffs were changing, and once they leave those offers are off the table. So, I was going into January, February and didn’t know what I was going to do,” he said.

Recruitment wasn’t the only aspect of the move up to the next level that made the situation hard. Smetzer, who grew up in San Antonio, admittedly felt a large “culture shock” when making the move to Nacogdoches. He noted that it was difficult to go from the fast-paced environment of a big city to the much more slow moving and sometimes lonely environment of East Texas. But once he finally became comfortable after making the move to SFA, the hardships didn’t end.

Through his four years of college, he has found himself in many less than favorable situations. He’s been in a hard-fought position battle each year, and through this he found himself feeling like he wasn’t the best version of himself. This feeling built up until August 2022, just before his senior year. It was then he decided he wanted to change his life for the better.

“Eight months ago, I woke up and was like ‘Wow.’ I looked in the mirror and was kind of disgusted,” he said. “I think God put a vision into my head that I don’t ever want to be average again.” Since that fateful morning, Smetzer said he has improved in more ways than he imagined. He gets up around 5:30 a.m. each day, stretches, goes to the gym, gets his homework done, and consistently tries to be the best athlete and person that he can be.

Smetzer’s newfound motivation also manifests itself in other ways. Not only is he now largely motivated by a constant pursuit of success, but he is also motivated by a persistent fear of failure. “I

push myself to be the best I can every single day because the thought of being average or losing just terrifies me... Now when I hear that alarm [every morning] I immediately pop up because I want success because I know it’s out there. I just need to work harder to get it.”

This newfound motivation that Josh has acquired is a motivation that definitely shows itself, but it hasn’t changed who he is completely. He still shows up to classes clad in his trademark look of shorts and a tank top. But he shows up ready to learn each day.

Among all the areas that Josh has decided he wants to improve in his life is his future career. Despite playing football at the Division I level (and finding great success in doing so) Josh doesn’t plan on continuing past this point. Instead, he intends to pursue a career in sports broadcasting, and although he loves football, it isn’t the sport he plans to broadcast at the highest level. “You can laugh about it; I love wrestling, like WWE. I love it, and I’ve always wanted to be the commentator for it.”

Unless you know him, you would never be able to tell he gets up at 5:30 every morning to better himself in every way possible. You wouldn’t see the amount of work he puts into everything he does, whether it’s hitting the gym multiple times a day, or studying before a broadcast to ensure he does the job well.

And most of all, you wouldn’t see the invisible force that is motivation that drives him to put in the work to improve himself each and every day he is given.



Josh Smetzer

International player overcomes challenges, homesickness

By Christopher Pena
Contributing Writer

Born in Markham, Ontario, Canada, SFA soccer player Jamie Ingrassia has faced obstacles like many young student-athletes have, except that she also comes from another country. Ingrassia, a creative writing major with a minor in literature, can be described as having a lot on her plate but yet she embraces it. Coming into SFA, Ingrassia compiled her fair share of accolades back home. According to her page on the SFA website, she earned Toronto Misfits Rookie of the Year in 2020, alongside the 2019 Championship final MVP kicker on the Men’s Varsity Football team in high school. Despite all the accolades, it was a tough process deciding where she was taking her talents after her high school career was over. COVID definitely did not make things easier for her or her family, but her resilience in finding the right home reserved for her. Ultimately, SFA turned out to be the destination, but this year has been far from an ordinary year for the soccer star.

Her attitude and work ethic have helped pave the way for Ingrassia to achieve success very early on. Coming from a home where she was really close to her family and departing for another country was no easy transition. To go from living with them her whole life to seeing them three months out of a year due to school can really take its toll. Despite the issues, being independent and knowing what the ultimate goal was of reaching her dreams and having her parents support has always been on the back of her mind.

“Trust me, if I could be with them every single day, I would, but I have to remember why am I doing this? I’m doing this for them. So they don’t have to worry about my financial situation in college, and that they know I’m getting a good education and that I’m ultimately happy,” Ingrassia said.

She still calls her mom every day and FaceTimes her three hours a day and even watches movies with her on the phone. Ingrassia found out at an early age that her father was diagnosed with stage four prostate cancer. Being very young, she did not know much about what was going on, but she would always go with him to his chemo and radiation appointments in the hospital. As far as she was concerned, her father was only going to the doctor. Fortunately for her, her father was able to overcome that, and she has seen the fortunes and blessing of growing up with a father.

Today, her father has been cancer-free for eleven years and continues to cheer his daughter who began playing soccer because of the love he had for sports. Having her father see her play after being cancer free has turned into one of the most powerful and touching experiences in Ingrassia’s life. The support from home has never faded despite being hundreds of miles away and continues to give the drive to take regardless of the destination.

In a sport where there has been a lot of negative press due to the low pay and unfortunate situations women find themselves unlike men, Ingrassia has not let that stop her, instead motivating her like other challenges. She particularly looks up to Sophia Smith, a forward for Portland Thorns FC in the National Women’s Soccer

League. Smith’s stature and how unlike other superstars in the sport who have eye popping moves, she can simply get around her opponents despite being smaller. “She can shoot from anywhere, which me as a forward, I love to emulate my game after her and I would love to one day, play beside her or against her,” Ingrassia said. She also mentioned a quote that has inspired her: “Work so hard that your idols become your opponents.” Like many who play the sport, Ingrassia’s ultimate dream is to represent her country and play in the World Cup. But she knows there are many steps and goals she wants to reach before reaching the ultimate stage.

The obstacles of being a student transferring to a university mid-year, which is already rare to begin with, let alone to go to another country and play, can be a lot to many students. Often, Ingrassia struggles to wake up until she reminds herself why she is doing this in the first place and why her path has led her to where she is now. Her love and passion for the game has helped her find her identity within and her calling.

Unfortunately, she has not been able to play this season due to a ruptured disc that required surgery. The recovery process is six to eight months and has sidelined her from playing the game she loves for the past year since she also broke her foot the previous semester during a game. While others would go the route of calling it a career and never picking up the cleats again, especially after being sidelined for a long time due to injuries and not wanting to face the long recovery process, Ingrassia knows this is only a minor setback for a major comeback. She sees the surgery as being necessary to be able to play pain free, and if she can play with her potential and be injury free, the potential rewards are limitless.

Ingrassia says soccer has helped her more than just playing it; the sport has also been her coping mechanism.

It is hard for Ingrassia to have another attitude that does not involve picking herself up after every fall. She attributes this mentality that traces back to an event when she was in high school.

She played basketball during middle school and told her physical education teacher, who would later be a referee in basketball in her high school, that she planned to try out for the women’s basketball team. To her dismay, he said she had no shot at making the team, which was disappointing for a 13-year-old to hear. He expressed concerns about her shooting form and not learning how to shoot, and she took that as a way to prove him wrong. She wound up not only trying out but also making the high school team.

At the end of the road there stands the dream of her in the field wearing the red and white jerseys representing her country in the World Cup. The National Anthem playing in the background, her parents watching in attendance even if she does not get to play, is an incomparable moment and goal within reach. The red color glowing from the fans, the loud horns blowing, the glee in fan’s faces attending an event only appearing every four years, is an image straight out of a movie. For Ingrassia, this will only mean she never gave up nor did she make up excuses to not do the work, this just means to be ready for when her name gets called. When that day happens, do not bet against her.




Jamie Ingrassia



File photo

The Purple Lights on the Steen Towers are an SFA athletic tradition that can be seen far and wide. Every time the Lumberjacks or Ladyjacks win a game—in any sport at home or on the road—two purple beacons can be seen in the night sky above campus.

WELCOME LUMBERJACKS!



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Student Business Services

IMPORTANT FALL 2023 DATES

FALL PAYMENT DEADLINE

Aug. 24

FALL DROP DATE

Noon | Aug. 25

BANKMOBILE ADVANCES

Start processing Aug. 29

STUDENT REFUNDS

Start processing Sept. 8

MOVE-IN WEEKEND OFFICE HOURS

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Aug. 26 through Aug. 27

FALL INSTALLMENT PLAN

ENROLLMENT July 31 through Aug. 24		
Payment 1	25%	Aug. 24
Payment 2	25%	Sept. 12
Payment 3	25%	Oct. 13
Payment 4	25%	Nov. 10


TWO PLANS AVAILABLE

1. Applies aid toward first installment

2. Applies aid equally to all payments

Student Business Services

(936) 468-6960
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Austin Building, Room 204



Scan the QR code or visit our website at sfasu.edu/sbs.



Ian Loper / Photo Courtesy of SFA Rugby

By Lauren Smith
Contributing Writer

It was a beautiful sunny Saturday in Dallas, as the whistle blew to end the last Rugby game of the season. Finishing off a hard-fought final round of an exhausting tournament weekend, the field and bleachers empty quickly, and everyone raced off to tend to their battle wounds. As their time ends on the rugby field, one player was seen walking away, head held high and heart heavy with mixed emotions. This player has given his all to the sport, pushing his body and mind to the limit, and was now taking in his last time to unlace his cleats and hand in his jersey.

As the sun set on the rugby field and his years in college, Ian Loper felt an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude toward his teammates. Rugby is something Loper has played since he was 13. On a trip to visit family in London, his cousins introduced him to the game. “The unruliness of the game was so exciting,” Loper said, adding it was “like playing football times 10.”

Rugby player makes lifelong friends

Years after his first encounter with the game, he entered a junior league in Dallas to play all through high school. When it came to making a decision on where to go to college, the ability for him to continue playing rugby was very important. The rich history of SFA’s Rugby team was an opportunity he couldn’t pass up.

Almost 50 years after it was first established, the SFA rugby team is still a close-knit group whose members still spend time together, decades after their own graduations. When looking back on his first alumni game as a Lumberjack, the feeling of sadness and anticipation is palpable. “Once you join the family, there is no leaving it,” said Thomas Morgan, a fellow rugby player and Loper’s best friend.

The camaraderie between the members of this rugby team is like no other. It’s a closely acquainted group that has formed a bond that’s hard to break. From the very first time many of them hit the field together, they knew they were part of something special.

“This team of rugby players isn’t just a team, they’re family,” Loper said. “We’ve shared so much together, from exhausting practices to unforgettable games. Through the ups and downs, we’ve always supported each other.” Offering words of encouragement when needed and a shoulder to lean on when the going got tough. Their bond lasts long after the final whistle blows. These players are constantly in touch with each other outside of rugby. They grab drinks after a match, have team dinners and barbecues, and even take vacations together. It’s clear that the friendships they’ve formed extend far beyond the rugby field.

For Loper, it’s not just about playing rugby,

either. He found that being a part of a team gave him a sense of purpose and belonging that he had never felt before. He suddenly had a group of people who shared his passion and who supported him both on and off the field. He had found a community that he could be proud to be a part of.

“The thing that really changed my life was the friendships that I formed with my teammates,” he said. “These guys aren’t just my friends – they’re my brothers. We support each other through anything and everything, and we know that we can always count on each other no matter what.”

Loper’s teammates have become a source of strength for him, helping him to overcome the challenges and obstacles that life throws his way. They push him to be a better rugby player, but more importantly, they encourage him to be a better person. “I think that being part of a team has taught me a lot about myself,” he said. “I’ve learned to be more patient, more disciplined and more committed. But most of all, I’ve learned to be more compassionate and understanding towards others.”

This family-like bond is obvious, as Loper hangs out with many fellow players both on and off the field. “The friends I’ve made throughout the last four years playing rugby are my brothers; there is no one else I would want with me to celebrate my milestones and accomplishments.”

He is not only a soon-to-be college graduate but also a groom-to-be. Last December, Loper proposed to his girlfriend of three and a half years, Lindsey. Four fellow rugby members will be standing with him on his wedding day alongside his own family.

“My teammates have become my family, and I want them to be there for our big day,” he says. “They’ve been a huge part of both of our lives, and I can’t imagine celebrating without them.” Loper and his rugby family may be graduating and moving on, but the memories they’ve made will last a lifetime. The bond they’ve formed is unbreakable, and even as they go their separate

ways, they will always have each other’s backs. Loper is excited for what the future holds, but he knows that no matter where life takes him, he’ll always have his rugby family by his side.

Moving on to the next chapter of his life, he is planning on giving up rugby, at least for now. “I want to focus on starting my life with Lindsey and my new job. Just like in rugby, I’m ready to work hard and give it my all.” Loper is grateful for the experiences he’s had in college and excited for all the possibilities the future holds. As he prepares to take on his next big challenge, he feels confident and excited to take on any challenges the future holds.



The feature profiles included on pages 4-5E were contributed by students in Dr. Cassandra Hayes’ Spring 2023 Sports Writing class.

For information about areas of study offered by the Department of Mass Communication, go to:

sfasu.edu/academics/colleges/liberal-applied-arts/mass-communication



Watch your SFA e-mail inbox each Monday for The Pine Log Newsletter!

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?

Log on to careers.sfasu.edu to search for work-study, non-work-study and internship positions.

Former SFA tennis standout now serving as assistant coach

By Sabine Welsh
Contributing Writer

It is the summer of 2002 in the dry Las Vegas, Nevada, desert heat. Five-year-old Annie Walker idolizes her father, Richard’s love for the sport of tennis. His love gives her the desire to play the sport after watching her father coach his own group of tennis players. A green tennis court is where the magic begins for little Annie.

She wears a red butterfly ruffle top with a white tennis skirt, red socks, white tennis shoes, hair in a low ponytail French braid, and uses a rainbow-colored tennis racket to play. Eager to start, she mirrors her father’s coaching techniques in every possible way. She positions her feet an inch apart, knees bent, butt sticking out, body bent forward at the hips, and shoulders loose to prepare as if an incoming ball is moving straight toward her. She practices the forehand and backhand grip as if she is getting ready to play tennis in the big leagues. The adrenaline feeling of hitting the ball and seeing how far it can go intrigues the young player the most.

At 8 years old, she became a competitive tennis player for the Tournament Players Club at Summerlin of Las Vegas, Nevada. She started in early March 2005 with a bit of a struggle at first, considering she had never played competitively before. By September 2005, Annie started to make excellent progress on the tennis court, with winning score results like 6-1, 6-3, 6-1, and 6-2, all back-to-back at several tournaments.

The improvement was a reflection of her father’s positive encouragement and reinforcement, she said.

“I was definitely lucky because I had a good coach,” said Walker, who now serves as an assistant women’s tennis coach at SFA.

Walker describes her childhood tennis memories as “fun and intense” in the best way possible. During her early tennis career, she discovered that “the feeling of winning is unbeatable,” especially in the final moments of a tennis match when the scores are neck and neck.

During her Palo Verde high school career in Las Vegas, she placed second in the finals category of the Muterspaw Tournament.

By age 16, she was the Meadows Tennis Classic Champion, known for its

regional tournaments. Walker’s strong reputation in tennis from Palo Verde High school landed her a scholarship opportunity to attend Montana State University in 2017. She was excited about this new chapter in tennis and ranked No. 2 in singles for Montana State University.

She ended up being



Annie Walker

one of the best players on the team, but the confidence that her father had built up for so many years started to diminish during her time at the university. “It started to ruin my love for tennis, and I knew I had to get out.”

Walker transferred to SFA in her junior year of college. Head coach Erin Scott introduced her to SFA through a transfer portal site, where they connected, and Walker felt like SFA was her new home away from home. By her first year in 2019, Annie had the most wins on the team, with 9-4 in singles.

“I was playing my best season yet and was undefeated, but then Covid happened,” she said.

Midway into her junior year, the pandemic hit, and Annie’s fire and spark went down in tennis. By senior year once Covid safety measures were introduced into the school, Annie wanted to just enjoy her last year as a college athlete.

“I was still gonna compete as hard as I can, but tennis is hard for four years because it’s mentally draining,” she said.

“Typically, we would have weights at 8 a.m., finish weights, grab a protein shake, come to play tennis for two hours, then go home and shower, make something to eat, get ready for class; usually two or three classes, head home again, make dinner, do homework, and relax for the rest of the night.”

Returning to tennis was extremely difficult for all student-athletes during covid-19 pandemic. A research survey called “The Collegiate Athlete Perspective on Return to Sport Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Qualitative Assessment of Confidence,

Stress, and Coping Strategies” describes the pandemic’s effect on overall student athletes’ success during the 2 years it lasted.

The study and research found that taking off for a whole year can ruin one’s performance and motivation due to students not having access to specific equipment, loneliness, depression, eating disorders, the stress of online classes, and paranoia about health and safety.

Despite all the triumphs, challenges, and hectic schedule, Annie finished strong during her last semester. She placed second in doubles with her partner Paula Cerda at the Southland Conference in Women’s Tennis in Beaumont.

Annie still remembers the pure excitement and joy after winning a trophy for the Southland Conference win.

After graduating from SFA, she was accepted into the graduate school program for professional counseling and was named an assistant SFA coach.

“I didn’t even have to think about it when (Scott) asked me,” Walker said. The two had a great relationship already, so it was a match made in heaven for the former athlete to work with her beloved coach.

Annie describes the SFA Tennis team as the “coolest team on campus,” consisting of players from around the world, including Sweden, Russia, Manchester, Dominican Republic, France, New Zealand and Slovenia.

“It’s a family atmosphere,” Walker says. “Everyone fights when they play and for each other.”

She describes coaching as a “fun to experience on this side.” Some fun times she enjoys with her players are blasting music on the way to matches, singing or having crazy conversations with each other.

However, this job also involves much more responsibility than being a player. Annie says a player’s only responsibility is to “take care of your body, play your best tennis, and win.” Now her responsibilities are a lot different and consist of “driving the team van, scheduling weights, supporting the girls, ... and coach them during their matches.”

Walker describes her coaching style as “focusing on the positive.”

“Making them feel confident on the court is the biggest thing, and I try to do that,” she said.

The Last Battle ?

With longtime rivals SFA and SHSU no longer in the same football conference, the annual Battle of the Piney Woods has come to an end ... for now.



Photos by Cody Gill / **Stone Fort Yearbook**

The Lumberjacks squared off with the Sam Houston State University Bearkats in the last scheduled Battle of the Piney Woods in 2022 at NRG Stadium in Houston. SFA lost a heartbreaker to SHSU, 17-16, ending a rivalry that has been going strong since 1923.



**THE
MUSTARD
SEED**
FAITH & INSPIRATIONAL BOOKS & GIFTS



**SHOP LOCAL.
SHOP THE
MUSTARD SEED.**

A FAITH AND INSPIRATIONAL GIFT AND BOOK STORE

**1330 N UNIVERSITY DRIVE
936-569-7794**



FIND YOUR FOCUS

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



Treatment of General Eye Disorders and Comprehensive Exams



The latest in Eye Wear Lens Technology, Designer Frames and Contacts



Advanced Glaucoma, Retina and Cataract Surgery and Management



Cataract, Glaucoma & Retina
CONSULTANTS OF EAST TEXAS

Medical Arts Surgery Center | Benchmark Optical



SHANNON L. SMITH, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Fellowship-Trained Glaucoma Specialist

936.564.3600 | 877.810.3937 | EyesofTexas.us
3302 N.E. Stallings Drive . Nacogdoches . Texas . 75965

Lyrics added to fight song



Members of the SFA Cheer and Dance Teams perform in the 2022 Homecoming Parade along the brick streets of downtown Nacogdoches.

Photo by Cody Gill / Stone Fort Yearbook

SFA’s fight song—the longtime mantra of the University’s athletic triumphs known for its vigorous brass melodies and drumline cadences —is now be accompanied by expanded university-sanctioned lyrics.

After a nearly yearlong development and approval period, the lyrics passed legislation by the Student Government Association in April 2022 and were approved by interim president Dr. Steve Westbrook soon after. The new lyrics were rolled out to students during summer Lumberjack Orientation and Jack Camp sessions.

The idea to implement fight song lyrics came from T.J. Maple, coordinator of SFA’s Cheer and Dance Teams. Maple, who has guided SFA spirit teams to numerous national championships in the past 17 years, said it was hearing competitors from other schools sing along to their fight songs that spurred the idea.

“After years of attending numerous sporting events and cheer and dance nationals where other schools were singing to their fight songs, I felt that this could help to unite us as Lumberjacks,” Maple said.

Maple wrote the first draft with his assistant coaches while on a break during the 2021 national competition in Daytona Beach, Florida.

SFA’s fight song was originally developed by a faculty member in the 1940s who adapted the song from a trio to the march, “Pride of the Illini.” Before the newly implemented lyrics, the only spoken words were a chorus — or more aptly, a battle cry — that echoed across packed coliseums and stadiums during a drum cadence:

“Go! Jacks! Go!
Fight! Jacks! Fight!
Win! Jacks! Win!
S-F-A-S-U!”

Following a meticulous writing process, Maple suggested revitalized and refreshed lyrics to a few university administrators, and an SFA Fight Song Lyrics Committee was established. The committee reviewed the background of the proposed lyrics and the process for adopting them. Music faculty members and AXExperience student leaders further refined the words.

Members of the committee included chair Dr.

Hollie Smith, executive director of Student Life; Maple; Graham Garner, SFA chief marketing communications officer; Brandi Bryant, associate athletic director of student athlete services; Craig Turnage, Alumni Association executive director; and Chris Kaatz, assistant director of the Lumberjack Marching Band.

The proposed lyrics were presented to many student organizations and groups, including student-athletes, SGA, the student leader advisory board, AXExperience, the Student Activities Association, the Alumni Association Board of Directors, Office of Multicultural Affairs ambassadors, and the marching band. The lyrics were met with overwhelming approval.

According to Smith and Maple, much like the poetic nature of the SFA school song, the lyrics are intended to convey the Lumberjack spirit, the school colors, the beloved mascot, the alma mater and historic Nacogdoches:

*“From the oldest town in Texas
Where the Lumberjacks chop through the pines
From the oldest town in Texas
Where we fight for the purple and white
From the oldest town in Texas
Where the purple lights shine bright for vict’ry
We fight for our honor and praise our alma mater
Hail dear ol’ S-F-A!
Go! Jacks! Go!
Fight! Jacks! Fight!
Win! Jacks! Win!
S-F-A-S-U!
From the oldest town in Texas
Where the purple lights shine bright for vict’ry
We fight for our honor and praise our alma mater
J-A-C-K-S,
Gooooooooo Jacks!”*

“Each line in the fight song embodies something about SFA — our colors, mascot, town, purple lights and victory — which all showcase our already rich traditions,” Maple said.

“My favorite line, ‘From the oldest town in Texas, where the Lumberjacks chop through the pines,’ embodies who we are and where we come from no matter what we do for SFA.”

It’s not too late
to order your
Stone Fort
yearbook!

Free T-Shirt
with order while
supply lasts.



BPSC 2.308

ALUMNI



SFA

Centennial
1923-2023

WE
GROW

#LumberjackPride

Visit us today
and become
a member at

SFAAlumni.com/Join









FOLLOW | LIKE | SHARE | AXE 'EM

@SFA_Alumni



THE
BIG Dip





balfour |  ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

Be the **TRADITION**
Shop SFARing.com

TELL YOUR LUMBERJACK STORY!



Students, become part of Tomorrow's Alumni Generation by joining the SFA Alumni Association!

You get a welcome letter, TAG Member T-shirt, SFA decals and a student membership card that will score you freebies during the year. You also will receive a subscription to the award winning Sawdust Magazine.

Parents also can join at the same special rate!

Visit SFAAlumni.com/TAG or SFAAlumni.com/Parent

**PARENT
ALUMNI
MEMBERSHIP**

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Ring \$avings Program

FAQs



Enroll in the SFA Ring Savings program today!

1. Log in to your mySFA account

2. Go to the billing tab

3. Enroll

For more info, visit SFAAlumni.com/SFARing





Visit SFAAlumni.com today!