



THE PINE LOG
welcomes the
Class of 2024 and
incoming
transfer students

WELCOME EDITION 2020

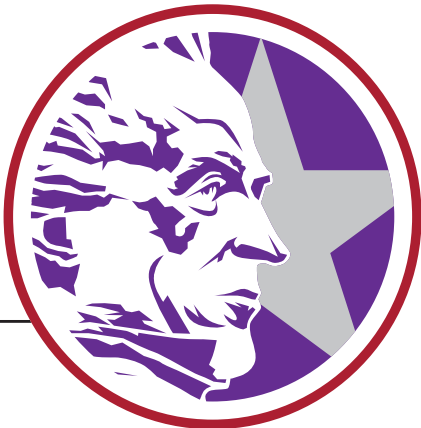
Friday, August 7, 2020

INSIDE:

- Involvement Centers help connect students with organizations, **Page 1B**
- AARC offers in-person and online peer tutoring at no charge, **Page 1C**
- Athletics announces facility upgrades, **Page 1D**

the
PINE LOG

The Independent Voice of Stephen F. Austin State University



COVID Caution



J.R. Florez, an employee with SFA's Residence Life Department, mists a room in Steen Hall with a hypochlorous acid, a disinfecting compound the custodial staff says is safer and more effective than bleach. All residence hall rooms were treated with the disinfectant twice before students returned to campus for Lumberjack Orientation and move-in.

Housing facility safety measures in place as SFA students return to campus for fall

Residence halls at SFA will open to students for the fall 2020 semester with a sea change of new safety measures that will be continually evaluated as the global pandemic evolves.

Residence Life Department staff members have implemented extreme alterations to traditional housing upkeep in an effort to provide the safest possible college residential experience for returning students in August. These alterations include a wide array of increased sanitation measures at the 11 housing facilities available to students for the fall.

Housing also was offered during the summer terms, which allowed

SFA employees to evaluate and update sanitization effectiveness and communication best practices.

"We are excited to welcome our students back home," said Shea Roll, assistant director of SFA's Residence Life Department. "We are connecting with students through virtual programming and social distancing events. Recently, we had an event with water balloons filled with soap, water and washable paint that the students who were on campus this summer loved! More than ever, community and connection is important to us in our halls."

Key highlights of the new safety measurements include:

- Each residence hall will have its own full-time custodial staff members who will clean common restrooms and other high-traffic common areas during the day and at night Monday through Friday. A limited number of full-time custodians will disinfect common restrooms and high-traffic areas and clean where needed on weekends.
- A full-time staff member is available seven days a week from 4 p.m. to midnight to provide assistance when requested through the University Police Department.
- Seating will be reduced in all Residence

See HOUSING on Page 3A



Courtesy Photo

Governor appoints
Bramhall as new
SFA student regent

Ireland Bramhall of Ennis has been appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to serve as student regent for SFA during the 2020-21 academic year.

"I love SFA, so to be able to have an impact on the University at a deeper level is something that I've wanted since I stepped foot here my first day of freshman year," said Bramhall, a hospitality administration senior.

The SFA Board of Regents comprises 10 members appointed by the governor, including a non-voting student regent.

"The fact that they have this position says a lot about their interest in student input," Bramhall said. "To be able to represent the public from the students' perspective is really unique. I can help make the student body heard in situations where it would be unheard otherwise."

With a pandemic, unemployment and civil unrest, Bramhall, an advocate for diversity, knows college students may have another turbulent academic year ahead.

"As the University faces issues, I'm looking forward to being there alongside it to try to help everyone feel comfortable," she said. "This is home for the students for four years, and it's really important that it's a place where students feel comfortable and welcome and ultimately excited to be here."

In addition to her regent role, Bramhall helps recruit prospective students as a School of Human Sciences ambassador and serves as a student director of The Big Event, Nacogdoches County's largest day of community service. She also participates in SFA Dance Marathon to help raise money for Christus Trinity Mother Frances Health Hospital, which is the Children's Miracle Network hospital in Tyler.

Bramhall said finding a way to maintain student involvement in activities like these despite the pandemic is an issue she wants to address as a student regent.

"I feel like I have been successful at SFA because of my interactions with others, and I've grown as a leader because of my involvement with these groups," she said. "The pandemic led to the cancellation of many student activities over the spring, and I'm hoping we can find creative ways to get back to pre-pandemic levels of involvement."

With hopes of earning a master's degree after graduation and establishing a successful career in travel and tourism, Bramhall has imagined some dream trips of her own.

First would be a day at Walt Disney World, where she completed an internship in spring 2019. The dream part is she and her immediate family would be the only guests.

But her ultimate dream vacation would be a trip to Europe, including her namesake island, with her immediate family and "Taylor Swift. I've loved her since second grade."

Bramhall's first official duty was attending the board's special-called meeting June 23.

SFA offers new fixed-rate tuition, guaranteed price plans

By Meredith Janning
Editor-in-Chief

In January, the Board of Regents approved a new fixed-rate tuition plan as part of the "15 to Finish" initiative. This plan, as well as others passed at the meeting, aim to reduce student debt and aid in timely graduation.

While tuition and tuition fees vary for students taking fewer than 12 credit hours, the fixed-rate tuition plan creates a flat rate starting at 12 hours, allowing students to take up to 21 credit hours in one semester at

no extra cost.

Fees are also being consolidated and given a flat rate of \$100 per semester for undergraduate students and \$75 for graduate students. This consolidated fee is included in the tuition rate.

However, the flat rate does not cover all expenses. Housing, parking and other expenses are not included.

In a news release, Dr. Danny Gallant, vice president finance and administration, said, "By incentivizing students to take additional semester credit hours, the fixed-

rate plan will help lower student debt levels, decrease the time to graduation and provide greater academic flexibility.

"It will create more cost transparency for students and families and simplify the billing process."

Students coming to SFA in the fall will also have access to the guaranteed price plan, which freezes tuition and mandatory fees for up to four years.

Students can find more information about SFA tuition and costs online at sfasu.edu/admissions-and-aid.

Griffith Fine Arts renovation, expansion well underway

Although the rest of campus is slowly opening back up after closing because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the long-awaited renovation and new construction to the Griffith Fine Arts Building is on schedule. Demolition is moving full speed ahead, laying the groundwork for a building project that will make the College of Fine Arts a “window” through which the community may view the University, according to Dr. A.C. “Buddy” Himes, dean of the College of Fine Arts.

“With these new facilities, the College of Fine Arts will be able to fully alleviate concerns for space, grow to its potential in enrollment, be competitive with similar programs in Texas and fully capitalize upon student markets for new programs,” Himes said. “As much as the college has grown in enrollment over the past decade, I predict an explosion of new enrollment in fine arts in the next decade, notwithstanding the immediate effects of a pandemic.”

In recent months, the College of Fine Arts dean’s staff has relocated to Miller Science Building, and the School of Theatre has relocated to McKibben Education Building, with the exception of the costume shop, which is also temporarily housed in Miller Science Building. The School of Music’s Sound Recording Technology program, which had been housed in the Griffith building, has also relocated to the McKibben building. The Fine Arts Box Office is now in the Kennedy Auditorium building during the two-year construction project.

More than two decades in the making, the Fine Arts Expansion Initiative will include extensive renovations to the existing Griffith Fine Arts Building and add handicap parking, a patron drop-off zone (off of West College Street) and new construction which will extend the building along North Street

nearly to the corner of West College Street. The renovated and expanded state-of-the-art building will include two dance studios, two theatres, an auditorium, recording studio, sound stage, audio and video editing rooms, an art gallery, multiple classrooms, rehearsal facilities, faculty offices and the offices of the dean. The facilities will house the CFA’s sound recording technology, filmmaking, theatre, dance and musical theatre programs.

As a result of the building and Turner Auditorium’s temporary closure during construction, coupled with the onset of the pandemic, the University Series has been significantly curtailed for the 2020-21 season, according to Scott Shattuck, associate dean and director of the series.

There may be no performances in the fall, and the spring season will have an event-by-event approach with alternate venues for performances.

“We were already thinking creatively about venues for world-class performances,” Shattuck said, “and now we’re also doing our best to be astute about safe practices for artists and



Courtesy photo

The renovations to the Griffith Fine Arts Building will include new dance studios, stages, classrooms and more. To view design plans and artist renderings and to stay up-to-date on construction progress, visit finearts.sfasu.edu/expansion.

audiences, and about the economic realities of presenting the performing arts in a socially distanced context.

“The ever-changing conditions in which we live have caused us to keep our plans as flexible as possible,” Shattuck added. “Rather than lay out a schedule which may require many changes in the months ahead, we’ll announce individual concerts and shows when we’ve gained confidence that our audience can safely experience them when, where and how we’ve said they will.”

Student Recreation Center opens with new safety measures in place

The 60,0000-square-foot Student Recreation Center and outdoor pool have been open all summer and are ready to help Lumberjacks pursue their personal wellness goals this fall.

Operating under new safety guidelines that meet or exceed the minimum standard health protocols set forth by state health authorities, the Rec Center offers a range of opportunities for achieving wellness and reducing stress—right here on campus.

The safety measures include reducing occupancy to 50%, maintaining at least 6 feet of space between all patrons and staff members, increasing equipment cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day, and instituting a no-contact check-in process. The changing and showering areas in the locker rooms are open, and disinfecting protocols are in place for users and staff. Patrons will be required to wear masks when entering and traveling in the building and using locker rooms. They will be allowed to take them off while they are on a piece of equipment and working out.

At the pool, water sanitation will be maintained, and equipment such as kickboards and water weights will not be available. Only one person per lane will be permitted during lap swim, and group size may not exceed the number of individuals within a household or a maximum of 10 people arriving together. A complete listing of the center’s COVID-19 response policies can be viewed online.

"We have done our very best to provide a safe environment for our patrons and staff while mitigating the risk of spreading COVID-19 in our facility," said Ken Morton, director of campus recreation at SFA. "We are asking everyone to please take seriously these safety precautions we have put in place, which will allow us to fulfill our mission of promoting Lumberjack wellness while prioritizing the health of our patrons, as well as our staff."

The Rec Center suspended operations March 17 as SFA initiated a general campus closure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 5, Gov. Greg Abbott announced Texas gyms would be allowed to reopen with approved minimum standard health protocols in place. The SFA Rec Center re-opened on May 18.

Morton said the facility’s large size made it relatively easy to accommodate new social distancing requirements. For example, one of the gyms has been taken offline so that some individual exercise machines could be moved in and more space created throughout the building.

"We are blessed to have a facility with plenty of space that allows us to move things around and create additional workout spaces to maintain needed social distancing," he said.

Dr. Janice Ledet, director of university health services, and Dr. Jeremy Higgins, director of environmental health, safety and risk management at SFA, are helping lead the "Open SFA Task Force" and are responsible for vetting and approving plans to reopen campus facilities. They toured the Student Recreation Center with members of the campus recreation staff before the re-opening and have carefully reviewed the facility’s new policies.

"Ken and his staff have gone above and beyond the minimum standard health protocols required by the governor, and their facility is in pristine condition," Ledet said. "I have every confidence they are doing exactly what they should be doing at this point in time to keep themselves safe, as well as their patrons."

The Rec Center was the first SFA facility to officially reopen, and Higgins said its plan has served as a model for other campus spaces to follow.

"Certainly, the Rec Center has met all of the state’s requirements and even gone beyond the minimums in many cases," he said. "I would never advise the public to go anywhere I wouldn’t feel comfortable sending my own family, and I would definitely feel comfortable with my family using the Rec Center and pool."

Morton said the re-opening has been successful due to the hard work of the staff and the patience and cooperation of patrons.

"While we are taking the COVID-19 pandemic extremely seriously and doing all we can to

See RECREATION on Page 3A

The Pine Log stops paper printing, transitions to online publication

The Pine Log, SFA’s award-winning independent student newspaper, is transitioning from its historically print-based production schedule to a mostly online publication.

The Department of Student Publications made the difficult decision last fall to cease regularly weekly print publication beginning with the fall 2020 semester and had begun making plans for reinvesting resources to expand and improve The Pine Log’s multimedia presence, while continuing to print as normal through the Spring 2020 semester. But, when the campus closed due to COVID-19, The Pine Log was forced to cancel all the remaining print issues for the academic year.

Although the student journalists working on the paper didn’t realize it at the time, the March 4 issue that was published before Spring Break ended up being The Pine Log’s last regular print issue, according to Amy Roquemore, director of student publications and divisional media at SFA and adviser to The Pine Log.

“Trends including sharply declining print ad revenue and changes in the way we consume the news have impacted traditional newspapers across the country, and The Pine Log has certainly not been immune to those challenges,” Roquemore said. “After struggling for some time to find our footing in this new media landscape, we have simply reached a tipping point and believe now is the right time to make this transition.

“While we are sad to see the weekly printed newspaper go, we are also excited about the opportunities a reimagined digital newsroom will provide our students, including better preparation for successful careers in today’s 24/7 media environment. Our current student editors have enthusiastically accepted the challenge of leading The Pine Log organization through this shift from print to digital publication. This, I expect, will be a transformative learning experience in itself, and I am looking forward to helping guide them through this process.”

See PINE LOG on Page 3A

Student Center Dining Hall gets upgrade



Courtesy photo

The Student Center Dining Hall was renovated during the spring and summer semesters and will feature a new chef-attended allergen-free station, enhanced grab-and-go options and a new outdoor seating area this fall. To help limit the spread of COVID-19, SFA will limit the number of people being served in the dining halls at the same time, so students will be able to maintain a safe physical distance from other diners. Tables and chairs will be more spaced out, and diners will swipe or tap their own ID cards for touchless transactions. Self-serve options have been discontinued. Want to skip the line? Download the Grubhub app so you can order your meal or coffee on the go from a retail outlet, then swing by and pick it up when convenient.

Quality Student Health Care

SFASU HEALTH SERVICES

Clinical Personnel

- Physician
- Physician assistant
- Registered nurses
- Nurse practitioner
- Lab technologists
- Support staff

Services

- T dap
- Hepatitis B
- Meningitis
- HPV
- Depo Provera Vaccine Administration
- TB Testing
- Flu vaccines
- Physicals
- Annual well woman exams
- Full service laboratory
- Administration of weekly allergy injections
- Minor surgeries
- Emergency care Mon. - Fri, 8-5

Located on campus at the Corner of East College and Raguet

Appointment scheduling (936) 468-4008

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Providers work by scheduled appointments

Have Health Insurance ? Bring your Insurance Card to EVERY VISIT

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 and apply online, or you can contact our office to have a brochure and an enrollment form mailed to you by calling (936) 468-4008 or emailing your name and address information to healthservices@sfasu.edu.

- Required to be enrolled in current semester.
- Required to have validated student ID card to utilize clinic facility.

CMYK

PINE LOG: Student newspaper transitions to online format

From Page 2A

The Pine Log is not the only student newspaper adjusting to the changing media environment. According to a recent report by the College Media Association, nearly 58% of college newspaper advisers responding to a benchmark survey said they reduced the number of printed newspaper copies during the last academic year, and 42% said they permanently reduced print frequency. More than a quarter of advisers said their advertising revenue fell more than 20% last academic year.

“On a positive note, I want to reassure all Lumberjacks that The Pine Log is not going anywhere,” Roquemore said. “The students’ mission to meet the campus’ need for timely, accurate information and provide a forum for the discussion of relevant issues has not changed. We will just be going about it a little differently from here on out.”

The Pine Log plans to continue producing the annual summer Welcome Edition in its traditional print format. And the possibility remains open to print occasional “special editions” to commemorate special occasions like Homecoming and extraordinary events such as the approaching 100th anniversary of SFA.

Meredith Janning, senior mass

communication major and current editor-in-chief of The Pine Log, said while the student staff was disappointed the spring semester turned out the way it did, in some ways it was a blessing in disguise.

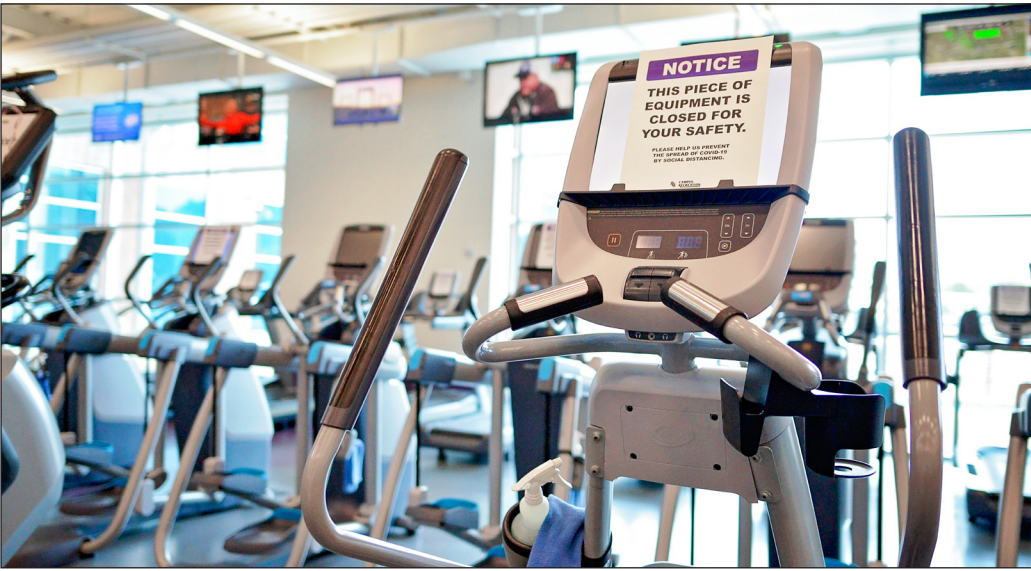
“I’m oddly grateful for the cut-off semester because I am able to use those two months of experience that I otherwise wouldn’t have had to make the transition process easier,” she said.

“Overall, I think it’s an important change, and it’s going to be really good for us. It’s going to help us to keep up with the changing trends of professional journalism, and it just gives us more of an opportunity to reach everyone at SFA and in the SFA community,” Janning said.

“Being online only also makes it easier to post news quickly, as well as lets us put more of an emphasis on social media, which is more convenient for students and more accessible to the community.”

SFA students interested in getting involved with The Pine Log or its sister publication, the Stone Fort yearbook, should email pinelog@sfasu.edu.

Applications for student staff are accepted near the end of each fall and spring semester for the following semester. Apply online at thepinelog.com or call (936) 468-4703 for more information.



Courtesy photo

RECREATION: Student Rec Center opens with safety rules for semester

From Page 2A

lower the risk of spreading the virus, we are also very happy to have taken the necessary steps to be able to offer our services to students this fall,” Morton said.

“We know there is a very strong correlation between exercise and overall wellness and mental health,” Morton said. “It also provides a boost to our immune system and can be a great stress reliever. These are things that benefit all of us, especially during an unprecedented time such as this.”

Rec Center membership is open to SFA students, as well as members of the faculty, staff and SFA Alumni Association. For more information, contact the SFA Campus Recreation Department at (936) 468-3507 or campusrec@sfasu.edu or visit sfasu.edu/campusrec.

HOUSING: Safety measures added to ease campus reopening procedure

From Page 1A

halls, and use of community areas like kitchens will be limited.

- Residence halls are not open to the public. Visitation privileges have been amended to allow no more than two additional people in a room or suite at any given time. In addition, both roommates have to agree to this visitation policy before guests may visit.
- All student and professional staff members are required to wear masks. Hand sanitizer stations will be set up, and staff member desks have plastic protectors so they may safely answer residents’ questions.
- Each hall has a unique 24/7 phone number residents may call if they need anything, from accidentally locking themselves out of their room to reporting signs of illness. They will always have access to a student and professional staff member on call.
- Roommate agreements have been amended to include questions about physical distancing in the rooms, sharing items, visitors and wearing masks. Residence Life staff members want to ensure students are communicating their needs to each other on day one, so these agreements help set the tone

for expectations within their shared space.

- The University also is providing single bedrooms as available to those who request them.
- A plan also has been formed for students who might become sick, with an immediate protocol for isolation, testing and contact tracing.

Residence Hall sanitization has increased in frequency and potency. Staff members use a GenEon cleaning and disinfecting system containing a hypochlorous solution, a powerhouse cleaning system SFA makes on site at the rate of five gallons per hour.

“This solution, unlike bleach and harsh disinfectants, is safe and non-irritating. If it gets on your skin or in your eyes, it does not burn,” explained Frank Ronzello, SFA custodial supervisor III. “Even if it is accidentally ingested, it is completely harmless. It requires no PPE. It is 70 to 80 times more efficient at killing microbial pathogens than bleach.”

Hypochlorous acid also is used on food and in food service sanitation, as well as in wound care and eye care products, he added.

Custodial staff members have been using the cleaning compound in all housing

facilities since the outbreak of COVID-19 to treat all high-touch-point areas before and after students come to campus.

“We also have treated every vacant room prior to our custodial employees entering the rooms to perform their summer cleaning and disinfecting,” Roll said. “We also treated rooms after camps and summer school and will use it to treat all high-point-touch areas when students return in the fall.”

While prevention and regular cleaning are key, SFA employees have established staunch protocols should a case of COVID-19 be reported on campus.

“We have worked closely with SFA’s Health Services and have a plan for students who might become sick, with an immediate protocol for isolation, testing and contact tracing. We also would deliver meals to their door. A Residence Life staff member would personally call them twice daily to check on how they are doing, and the Health Clinic would hold Zoom appointments,” Roll said.

“We offer Zoom counseling services to these students as well, because at no point do we want them to feel disconnected from their SFA community during isolation. The

rooms we have set aside have goody bags with Gatorade, snacks and get-well notes along with campus resource numbers. Our goal is to make them as comfortable as possible.”

Students will be moving into residence halls from Aug. 13 through Aug. 23. Students were required to sign up for a two-hour move-in slot and are allowed to bring two individuals to help them with the move.

Students must have two emergency contacts listed in Banner prior to signing up, which can be completed through mySFA by selecting “Update Emergency Contact” on the Home tab.

“We limited the number of students allowed to sign up per hall, per shift to allow for social distancing,” Roll said.

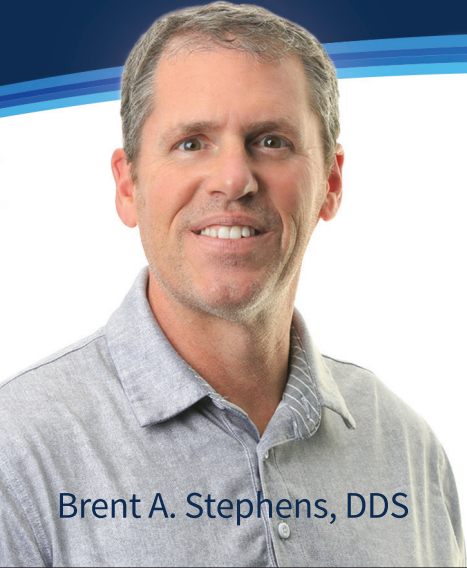
When they arrive, they will receive a check-in packet with their key, student ID, helpful tips on how to stay safe on campus and instructions on how to complete an online inspection of their room so we can address any concerns they have right away.”

First-year students attending Jack Camp Orientation, which will be held on campus Aug. 16 through 19, received priority to pick move-in shifts.



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

Student Emergency Aid Fund assists students in financial need

By Kayley Frazee
Staff Writer

A recently established SFA Student Emergency Aid Fund is intended to help students in need of one-time assistance, who have financial needs that cannot be remedied by other forms of assistance. The fund was launched in December 2019, and anyone can donate to it.

“Creating the Student Emergency Aid Fund was a goal that I set for myself last year,” Dr. Adam Peck, assistant vice president for university affairs and dean of student affairs, said.

“We see so many students who are struggling financially and often felt helpless to help them. We also know that donors often have a strong desire to see their money directly impact students. This seemed like the perfect opportunity to bring those two groups together—students with need and donors with the means to help them.”

Peck applied for a grant with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, a group that oversees higher education in Texas. The University received the grant, which could be used to create marketing materials to promote the fund as a donor opportunity.

“We launched our marketing campaign last December on ‘Giving Tuesday,’” Peck said.

“We have mailed thousands of letters to alumni and donors of the University, purchased advertisements in our alumni magazine and I myself wrote a piece asking our alumni and donors to contribute, which appeared in the same edition. Every chance I get to speak with donors, I ask them to support this fund. The great news is that contributions are beginning to come in. The bad news is that the need is still significantly greater than we have funds to cover.”

Any student can apply for assistance, but it must be due to a sudden financial emergency. It is a one-time grant of up to \$1,000. Once a student has received this grant, he or she cannot apply again.

“As the name suggests, this is for students in need of emergency aid,” Peck

said. “That means we have to take action quickly. We have helped students with a variety of expenses. We’ve paid off small balances that were keeping students from registering for the next semester. We even helped a student who was at risk of becoming homeless pay their rent.”

Students have spoken out on the fund and how it has helped.

“I believe that the emergency aid fund is a good thing for the University to have,” freshman Tyler Pohla, a music education major from Humble, said. “I know several people that struggle to pay their full tuition, and then they have to have loans put in their account. The emergency fund can help students pay off some of the high bills that they are receiving. I do wish that the student emergency fund was noticed more by SFA spreading the word. The community is more than capable to help the students of the University that most people love. I also believe that it will gain attention if the alumni base becomes more involved with the campus activities and events.”

“The Student Emergency Aid Fund is imperative to some students who are in a rough spot,” Scarleth Lopez, a senior psychology major from Dayton, said. “I think it’s a great cause because everybody deserves to go and get an education; and if SFA can be that place, then we should do all what we can to make sure they can be here.”

Typical needs met by the fund include short-term housing assistance, textbook costs and small balances on students’ SFA accounts preventing them from registering for class. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the fund was used to help pay living expenses for students who suddenly lost jobs and cover shortages at the on-campus food pantry, which has continued to serve students with food insecurities.

“Our Student Emergency Aid funds are now fully depleted,” Peck said in a July Facebook post. “This money has been put to good use, helping students devastated by this crisis stay in school. If you can give, we need your help.”

Board of Regents approves SFA budget

While COVID-19 and SFA’s response to the pandemic were top concerns during the July quarterly meeting of the Board of Regents, actions taken were geared toward the future of the University.

Regents heard reports regarding the University’s plans to open campus for the fall semester and approved the budget for the upcoming academic year.

“This is the most complicated budget process we’ve ever been through,” said Dr. Danny Gallant, vice president for finance and administration. “We started with a flat budget and then reduced revenue projections an additional 5%. Based on instructions state agencies received from the governor’s office, the University reduced an additional \$1.6 million to provide a biennial reduction of \$3.65 million.”

The university received CARES Act funding of approximately \$11 million, with \$5.3 million allocated to student financial relief.

“We have disbursed to students who were eligible during the spring, and remaining funds will be available to students this fall,” Gallant said.

While some of the CARES Act funding was used to cover the costs of refunds distributed to students for housing, meal plans, parking and other fees, \$2.6 million was allocated to classroom upgrades to facilitate distance learning, according to Dr. Steve Bullard, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

“Nearly 90 classrooms have been upgraded to support Zoom capabilities,” Bullard said. “They will function as lecture-style classrooms for students attending in person, and students joining the class via Zoom will see and hear the professor and be able to interact with the class.”

According to Bullard, as of July 17, 51% of SFA classes were slated to be face to face, 17% were online and 28% were hybrid, so that students can access the course in either manner.

“Options for students will continue to advance in coming weeks, as we move more of our course sections to distance-related options,” he said.

Budget reductions also necessitated freezes on hiring and University travel, as well as furloughs for staff members. The University also introduced a voluntary separation incentive plan being offered to employees who are eligible to retire, which was approved by regents.

“This is a way to reduce our payroll and eventually realize savings,” Gallant said. “It’s a great opportunity for those employees who have reached retirement eligibility and also will be beneficial to the University.”

Gallant said according to University records, 220 current employees are eligible to participate in the program, and 57 employees have applied.

“The deadline is July 31, so we are likely to receive additional applications,” he said.

Regents heard an update regarding the renovation and addition to the Griffith Fine Arts Building and approved funding for a power-plant upgrade and associated utility infrastructure improvements at a cost not to exceed \$2 million. They also approved roof replacement at the

Norton Health and Physical Education Building.

Facility improvements being made at Johnson Coliseum have eliminated the need for a strength and conditioning room in a basement area of the building, which was approved by regents in 2018. Regents voted to return funding for the project, now totaling approximately \$724,387, to the University’s designated fund balance.

Regents authorized SFA administrators to submit a legislative appropriations request to the Texas Legislature for capital funding to support the development of an interdisciplinary and applied sciences building, an agriculture and technology complex, and a special item request for programming funds to establish a center for applied research and rural innovation.

“These would be transformative for our campus and our region,” said Dr. Scott Gordon, SFA president. “However, we understand the current economic conditions of Texas and see funding for these projects as a long shot during this legislative session. We know from prior experience that even in these difficult times, we should present our requests and priorities, so we have compiled this proposal to indicate that we are looking to the future needs of the state and how SFA can help to meet those needs.”

The agriculture and technology complex would be located at SFA’s Todd Agricultural Research Center, a 490-acre complex located on U.S. Highway 259.

“In addition to agricultural engineering and industrial engineering technology programs, the facility would allow for the expansion of programs in areas that could include advanced manufacturing and industrial supervision, as well as programs such as veterinary technology and veterinary nursing,” Gordon said. “The facility for interdisciplinary and applied sciences would be connected to our Forestry Building and would build on the synergies between programs. It will include offices and classrooms for subjects including agriculture, biology, environmental and geospatial sciences, and geology.”

Regents approved the renewal of a five-year contract with EAB Global for the Navigate program, which includes a student success management platform and best-practice research. Regents also approved the use of quasi-endowment funds by the College of Liberal and Applied Arts to support the redesign of core curriculum courses.

“Merely adopting the latest textbooks does not mean the overall structure of an academic program is providing the integrated knowledge base a student should possess upon graduation,” said Dr. Brian Murphy, dean of the College of Liberal and Applied Arts. “Most students in a core course are not majors in the instructor’s discipline, and the aim of our redesign is to make a core course meaningful, interesting, and relevant at the current time and five years after the student graduates.”

Murphy said educators must adapt in order to teach the skill sets that are relevant in the marketplace. “Our faculty members are adopting the pedagogical approaches that have been identified as facilitating this transition.”

SFA DINING



EAT. EXCITE. EDUCATE.

NEW MEAL PLANS

CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR EXCITING NEW MEAL PLAN OFFERINGS AT [SFADINING.COM](https://sfadining.com)

MEAL KIT MEAL PLAN

35 BLOCK + HOME CHEF

- \$100 DINING DOLLARS + \$120 HOME CHEF VOUCHER
- 35 MEALS PER SEMESTER
- PRICE: \$509

UPPERCLASS MEAL PLANS

WEEKLY PLAN:

- \$75 DINING DOLLARS
- 7 MEAL SWIPES PER WEEK
- PRICE: \$995

BLOCK PLAN:

- \$300 DINING DOLLARS
- 50 MEALS PER SEMESTER
- PRICE: \$702

COLLEGE CAN BE DEMANDING, SO YOUR MEAL PLAN SHOULD BE EFFORTLESS AND ON YOUR SCHEDULE!



GRUBHUB

IN A HURRY? SKIP THE LINE! DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE ORDERING APP & YOU CAN PICK UP YOUR FOOD TO GO! JUST SET UP YOUR CAMPUS AFFILIATION WITH YOUR SFA ID CARD TO USE YOUR DINING DOLLARS AT ON CAMPUS LOCATIONS!

LOGIN TO YOUR MYSFA ACCOUNT TO SIGN UP!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@SFADINING

CARRY-OUT OPTIONS AVAILABLE AT ALL LOCATIONS DURING EVERY MEAL PERIOD

CMYK

Time management helps alleviate stress, contributes to success



Alyssa Coker
Opinions/Copy Editor

I know what you're thinking, "Everyone says time management is so important, but every article about it says the same information. What more could I get out of this?" Well, I'm here to tell you that what you can get out of time management is something we are all wanting right now: less stress. There are so many ways to manage time better that could work for any person. I've learned my own set of tips, tricks and just things I wish I had known sooner.

First off, never underestimate the value of a good planner. I could recommend planners that work for me all day long. But, the most important thing to choosing a planner is making sure that it doesn't intimidate you personally. For example, if you are someone who gets stressed out by not finishing a task, maybe don't get a planner with 50 coloring pages. Planners are most effective in time management when you find them legitimately helpful, not just a constant reminder that you need to fill out your top 10 goals of the month. Maybe you are someone who could never keep a journal or you forget things if you don't write them down immediately. For you, I suggest Google Calendar or even your phone's calendar with reminders set. Anything that can effectively remind you in a way that you respond positively sets a good idea of a planner for you as an individual.

Another important element in time management is to remember what you want to manage. Do you want to make time for work? For friends or relationships? For a second job? Sit down and think of all your responsibilities like walking your dog every Thursday, going to class throughout the week, cleaning your dorm on Monday nights or calling your mom for an hour or so on Saturday. Then, deduct what time you really have for certain things. This eases the task of decision making. Also, when you come to a decision that means you may have to say no to certain plans, just say no. As someone who used to do everything anyone asked, it gets really exhausting. The sooner you learn to say no, the better. Life also gets immensely better when you set aside some time for yourself and your health. Make sure you have some time in the day for a little self-care and relaxation. It changes everything.

My final trick of the trade when it comes to time management includes student involvement. If you want to set some time aside to make new friends or get a job for extra money, I suggest finding a club or work study at the University. They will work with your school hour, and many staff members have so much experience working with college students. They know it can be overwhelming and want to help you succeed in any way possible.

In my experience, my work study and clubs have been very helpful to achieve many things at one time. At work, I gain experience and improve my financial situation, all while meeting new people. That's another thing to never underestimate: the power of multitasking. Master it, and you've basically mastered college.

College life is intimidating. It's the point in your life where you decide what you want to be, who you want to surround yourself with and where your future is going. Getting all of those things done in about four years can seem daunting. But, with a little time management, anything is possible.

Editor gives advice for online classes



Isabell Tenorio
Life & Arts Editor

This past semester was the first time I had done a fully online class. The only online class I had attended was a partial online class, where we met in person on Wednesdays and just checked when the professor would upload worksheets or videos. It was difficult at the beginning, as my professors either weren't used to having to upload all the materials online or their internet wasn't working. So the class wouldn't hear from them on a regular basis. Toward the end of the semester, I had gotten used to being fully online and am ready for the next round. There wasn't any specific regime I followed. I just kept myself to my own convictions. I wanted to share a few things that helped me adjust to online learning, so hopefully this advice will be helpful to you this fall.

The first two weeks of the online classes were hard since, like I mentioned earlier, one of my professors had never had to utilize D2L and was having to get help most of the time. And two other classes weren't meeting at all except for project days. But after those two weeks, I made sure to keep to a schedule, because I did not want to fail and fall behind in school. I already used a planner for school (one of the few things that stuck with me from a college-prep course) that I regularly would update with things I needed to do for class before the next time we met up. This really helped me when all my classes posted the new assignments, and the only way

to keep up with it all was to write down every due date.

This also helps to give a visual on what is due the during the current week and next week. If having a small planner doesn't work, another option is setting reminders on your phone and setting alarms either a day or two before the due date. That feeling of looking at the day and time and realizing there was an assignment due an hour or day before is the worst. So by writing it down in a planner or setting an alarm on my phone, thankfully that feeling was rare.

Another way I was able to keep up with classes was by getting up at a decent time every day and logging in for the Zoom class meeting. It was very tempting not to, as there wasn't a way for me to feel guilty walking around campus and possibly bumping into my professor and having to explain why I wasn't in class. But I knew if I didn't get up and work, I would be very lazy and then waste the rest of the semester sitting there while my grades were hurting. What was the point of giving up when there were only three months left of my junior year? Skipping out on classes for one or two days is fine, especially if it all becomes overwhelming and the environment at home doesn't help. Just make sure to reach out to professors and explain what's going on.

School can get overwhelming when you are facing problems as they come without any plan. But by following some sort of schedule, whether it's neatly written in a planner or placed in bullet points in the notes app of a phone, it will help you visualize what needs to be done. And by keeping to the class schedule just like you were meeting in person, you can stay motivated each day. Things have been crazy, but having some routine is sure to keep you from going totally insane.

Students benefit from getting involved



Jocelyn Bradford
News Editor

When it comes to getting involved on campus, it can be a little daunting. With so many clubs, organizations and jobs to choose from, how does one know where to start? The easiest place to start is your field of study. A club that coincides with your major or minor not only helps you do better in your classes, it allows you to meet people who are interested in studying the same things. But let's say that your major isn't forestry, but you're really interested in the Horticulture Club. Most clubs on campus are open to everyone, regardless of your major.

And by joining something outside of what you are studying, you might discover a new passion.

Getting involved on campus goes beyond major or minor specifics. There are many other organizations on campus that create a community of like-minded people who identify within a particular group. The Office of Multicultural Affairs is home to many organizations geared toward the black, indigenous and people-of-color communities. While these organizations educate, inform and bring together people within these communities, they, like other organizations on campus, are open for anyone to join. SFA also has organizations that provide campus inclusion and support for members of the LGBTQ+ community, such as the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus and PRIDE Nac. Students can also have campus jobs that are geared toward their field of study or interests that will allow them to create connections within the university, create a portfolio or gain field experience.

These jobs give students an opportunity to gain first-hand experience on what they may be doing after graduation. There are also job opportunities for graduate students, such as tutors, teaching assistants and students conducting research with their professors.

With so many things to choose from, the first step is putting yourself out there to get involved. For incoming freshmen, I know that it can be a little overwhelming, but you never truly know what you like until you try new things. The worst that could happen is you figure out what you don't like and try again.

As someone who has transferred to multiple schools, getting involved on campus was the last thing I wanted to do. All I cared about was finally getting my degree and moving away. What I have come to learn is, by opening myself up to different things, so many opportunities have opened up and connections have been formed that will help me after I graduate.

Now that I'm a senior, I can honestly say that being a student at SFA has been one of the best decisions I could have made for my higher education. As an English major, I am now involved in the English Honors Fraternity Sigma Tau Delta, which has allowed me to meet other students I have classes with studying the same things, as well as allowed me to form new friendships. Since working at The Pine Log, I've learned that I have a passion for journalism and have since changed my minor to reflect that. If I never would have put myself out there and applied, I never would have discovered my true passion.

The most important thing to remember is this: be open to trying new things and be confident in putting yourself out there. You might discover your true passion, too.

Don't worry; nobody else knows what they're doing yet, either



Grayson Porter
Web/Social Media Editor

Entering college can seem like a scary and confusing task. Once you decide what school you will be attending (great choice by the way), you are then faced with more questions to answer. What will you major in? Are you going to minor in anything? Do you want to join Greek Life? Any clubs you want to sign up for first semester? Where do you want to live? What meal plan would work best for you?

While advisers help relieve some of the stress, there are still many choices you have to make right at the beginning of your college career. While some of these choices can be changed down the road, there is no doubt that they will affect your life in college. So, you make all of the choices you feel you have to make and launch yourself into the sea of people who all made similar choices that you made.

Here is a secret that I wish someone had told me as a freshman out on my own for the first time: None of the students in the sea of people know what they are doing, either. Everyone is trying to figure out what they are doing in college as much as the next person is, and once people actually begin to have that conversation, life moves so much smoother.

Originally, I applied to SFA with the intent of pursuing a career in marine biology in the future; now I'm a mass communication major with a creative writing minor. I made the choice to change my career path early on, but some people don't change theirs until they are well into college. Some people don't even change their major at all!—and all of these things are fine.

College isn't cut and dry for everyone, and it isn't "one size fits all." Everyone has to find their own path, even if it takes a while to get there. Don't feel like everything in this chapter of your life has to be perfectly planned out and decided from the beginning. You are allowed to change your mind and find the path that works best for you.

Find comfort at school, in Nac to avoid homesickness during first year



Meredith Janning
Editor-in-Chief

While starting college is an exciting time, especially for first-time students, it's easy to be overwhelmed by being away from home. I know for my first semester, homesickness was something that took a while to get over, so I wanted to share some tips to avoid that feeling.

The first tip to not being homesick is to stop going home every weekend. My mom was the one who told me that the more you

go home, the harder it is to stay at school. This isn't saying to cut the cord entirely, but part of being in college is to experience new things, and a new setting is one of them. With students coming in from all over the state, East Texas might be a bit of a culture shock, but it's hard to adjust to the change if you're not fully immersed in it. The adjustment will take time, and being homesick is completely normal, but it's harder to be homesick if you like where you are.

During my first semester, no, year of college, I went home just about every weekend. I was more compelled to stay at school the second year, but it took a little work to not want to visit my family as often. And I found that by staying at school on the weekends, I was more excited about going to classes and making plans in

Nac. It also made my trips back home more special because I didn't get to go as often.

The second tip to not being homesick is to make your living space your own. Decorate your dorm room (or apartment) in a way that makes you feel comfortable to be there. Whether that's pictures, knick-knacks from home or even stuffed animals, your space should be created how you want it. And I know we've all heard horror stories about first-year roommates, but don't let them get to you just yet. Getting along with your roommates is also a huge help in enjoying your living space.

I was so lucky to have good roommates, and that definitely made me like staying at school. It also helped that we got to coordinate with how we decorated, which gave each of us our

own space while still being in a cohesive unit. Picking a bedspread, towels, decorations and more was like getting a fresh start from that childhood bedroom, and it was exciting to live in a space that was made to be the way I wanted. Even moving the furniture around can help make the space fully your own.

The last thing I recommend for avoiding homesickness is to keep up communication. A phone call, text or even a letter is a nice way to reach out to the people you miss most. This helps keep in touch with the people – your family, friends, hometown – who make your worth missing. Lots of students, myself included, talk with their parents regularly, especially during the first few weeks of class. This helps to break down the distance, making being away from home more manageable.



Fall 2020 Editorial Board

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Meredith Janning

OPINIONS/COPY EDITOR
Alyssa Coker

NEWS EDITOR
Jocelyn Bradford

SPORTS EDITOR
Alec Reyes

LIFE & ARTS EDITOR
Isabell Tenorio

WEB/SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Grayson Porter

PHOTO EDITOR
Cameron Keplinger

VIDEO EDITOR
Jimmy De Los Santos

Opinion and feedback policy

Opinions expressed in columns on this page are those of the individual writer. Unsigned editorials, as well as editorial cartoons, are the opinion of The Pine Log editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the University, its administrative officers or its Board of Regents.

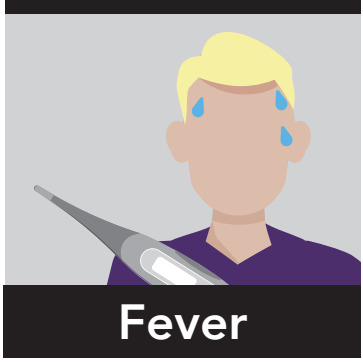
Letters to the editor should be typed and should include the student's hometown, classification, campus ID number and phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for space, spelling, grammar and potentially libelous material.

SYMPTOMS

All students and employees are asked to self-screen daily for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to campus.



MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS



Symptoms can range from mild to severe and appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

There are “Axe COVID-19” voluntary temperature check stations in the Baker Pattillo Student Center and the Student Recreation Center. Other pop-up stations may be available in other areas of campus.

Seek medical care immediately* if you have:

- trouble breathing
- persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- new confusion
- inability to wake or stay awake
- bluish lips or face

** This list does not include all possible symptoms. Call your medical provider if you are concerned about additional severe symptoms.*

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE SYMPTOMS?

STEP 1
Stay home and away from others!

STEP 2
Contact SFA Health Services for guidance. Call (936) 468-4008 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Contact your medical provider.

STEP 3
Report your absence.
Students: Notify your professors or call (936) 468-2703 to request an absence notification.
Employees: Notify your supervisor.

Students, faculty and staff should stay home if experiencing even one of these symptoms.



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY
NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

Register to Vote!

The 2020 elections are almost here!
National, state, and local on November 3rd

Why?

It's your right.
You're part of an important voting bloc.
Your vote matters and will affect your future.
Politicians won't address student needs without student votes.

Who?

You must be a US citizen and at least 17 years 10 months old to register and 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 to vote in November is October 5.

How?

In person at the voter registrar's office, 203 West Main Street.
On-line, at MyTexasVotes.com.



Paid for by the Nacogdoches County Democratic Party
Care to join? Text "JOIN" to (936) 209-2862

THE MUSTARD SEED

FAITH & INSPIRATIONAL BOOKS & GIFTS

1330 N. University Dr.
Nacogdoches, TX 75961

936.569.7794

Mon.- Fri. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mustardseedbibles.com

Visit us for all of your

Faith &

Inspirational

books and gift needs.



PANDORA



Student Engagement

CONNECT

INVOLVE

LEAD

#JacksGetInvolved

Office of Student Engagement Programs

Schedule an Involvement Advising Session:

With over 200 student organizations there is a place for everyone at SFA to call home!
Connect online with student organizations or meet them at one of our annual involvement fairs!
Not sure where to start? Visit the BPSC Involvement Center for a one on one appointment with our Involvement Specialist!

200 + Organizations



SERVICE



ACTIVITIES & ORGANIZATIONS



GREEK LIFE



GREAT SERVICE IN A *fresh* ENVIRONMENT

OUTDOOR SEATING • ALLERGEN AWARENESS STATION • WIFI • CHARGING STATIONS



EXCITING NEW FEATURES

Check out everything the new dining hall has to offer!

- Over 10,000 square feet of dining hall to enjoy
- Newly renovated outdoor seating
- 242 seats- 63 of which are outside on the new patio
- Easy access charging outlets to charge up your devices while enjoying your meal
- Live kitchen demos featuring our registered dietitian and cooks
- An all new Allergen Awareness Station
- Variety of offerings featuring a carvery station, tossed salad options, all day smoothies & much more!

ASK A *Dietitian*

CONTACT JILL HAMILTON
MSEd, RD, LD, ATC, LAT
Hamilton-Jill@aramark.com
(936)468-1022

Free Services to Meal Plan Holders:

- General Nutrition Information
- Nutrition Counseling & Advice
- Dining Location Tours
- Dietary Restriction Assistance
- Nutritional Education Events
- And More!

Dine Without Restrictions:

We recognize various food preferences & allergies among a large campus population & are dedicated to meeting the nutrition needs of our students. Our goal is to provide students with the tools and support they need to utilize the dining halls safely & be active in the management of their food allergy or food-related medical condition on campus.

Our **NEW Allergen Awareness Station** coming Fall 2020 will feature specialized options from ingredients without the most common food prepared by our Chefs!*



Aramark relied on our vendors' allergy warnings and ingredient listings. Because we operate a commercial kitchen where cross-contact with allergens is possible, Aramark cannot guarantee that any food item will be completely free of allergens.

HOW WE'RE DEDICATED TO *protecting our jacks*

The safety of our customers has always been our number one priority. Rest assured, we are implementing state and CDC recommended guidelines and procedures to ensure you have the safest dining experience possible

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet apart will be recommended at all times
- Masks will be required for entrance to the dining hall
- Increased cleaning measures will be taken
- Seating will be limited to 50% to promote social distancing
- Tables will be spread out according to capacity and social distancing guidelines- no tables will be able to be pushed together
- Our staff will be wearing appropriate personal protective equipment at all times

FOLLOW US
@SFADINING



A welcome from the dean



Dr. Adam Peck
Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students

Each summer, I have the pleasure of writing a message for the Welcome Edition of The Pine Log. It gives me the chance to say how glad we are to have you as a member of our community and to discuss any exciting changes coming in a given year. Some years, I must admit, it's a little hard to come up with something to say. A lot of the things that we're excited about actually happen every year. We are excited about watching football games together, attending the Homecoming bonfire and participating in the wide array of student organizations and events that happen routinely each year.

Clearly, this year is different. I'm not having any difficulty figuring out what I want to say. Since the COVID-19 pandemic reached the United States last March, we have seen the lives of our students turned upside down. The University itself has been challenged in many ways, as well. But what I am most excited to tell you about this year is that we have risen to this challenge. Over the summer, more than 600 faculty, staff and students have made plans for how students can return to campus and made it possible for those who wish to pursue classes remotely to do that, as well. Change is often hard for colleges and universities. We are steeped in tradition and incredibly complex. But we have not let that stop us! In a very short time, we created an entirely new online orientation program, faculty have been adapting their courses to new formats and classrooms are being outfitted with new technology to allow more flexibility in course delivery. We've been asked to build an airplane in the air—and I'm pleased to say that are ready for takeoff!

Some of you plan to take classes remotely this fall. For you, we have ensured that our key student services are available to you without coming to campus. If you need to see a counselor or consult with a healthcare provider, we can do that remotely. If you'd like to join a student organization or attend an event, we'll have lots of options to choose from. Do you need tutoring in the Academic Assistance and Resource Center (AARC)? We've got you covered! For those of you who do plan to come to campus, each of those services is available to you, as well. We've also put meticulous planning into creating guidance to help students keep themselves and others in our community safe.

As with a lot of things, your experience at SFA will largely depend upon you. When students ask me how they can maintain their health and wellness this fall, I remind them that there are three critical things we all must do. First of all, we must frequently wash our hands and avoid touching our faces. This helps prevent the transmission of the illness through touching of surfaces. The second thing we must do is make sure that we can stay 6 feet away from others who are not in our household, if we are going to be in close proximity to them for more than 15 minutes. This alone dramatically decreases your chances of being infected. And, finally, wearing face coverings is a way to keep ourselves and each other healthy. That's why we will require students to wear a mask when they are in public spaces on campus. If you do these three things, the chances of you becoming infected decrease significantly.

I am also excited to announce that we'll be producing a variety of events this fall around the theme of "Lumberjack Strong." You'll be able to attend these online. We'll explore the topic of resilience from a variety of angles. While I know these are challenging times, I also strongly suspect that you will take great pride throughout your life in knowing that your generation was tested and that you rose to the challenge.

It is my pleasure to serve you as dean of student affairs here at SFA. I hope you have a wonderful fall semester!



Photo by Charis Phelps / The Pine Log

Members of the Purple Haze Association run across the football field after the Lumberjacks score. This organization helps students get involved with sports teams across campus. PHA is one of more than 200 SFA organizations that serve variety of student interests.

Involvement centers help connect students with clubs, organizations

Ever wondered about SFA student clubs and organizations—how much they cost, what the time commitments are, when and where they meet or what the requirements are for membership? If so, SFA Involvement Centers are "one-stop shops" to answer all these questions, not only about getting involved on campus, but also in the community.

"We know that students and parents have a lot of questions about what the college experience will look like this fall," said Lacey Folsom, SFA's director of student engagement. "Our team has been working tirelessly all summer to create online and in-person programming that entertains and engages our students. Events, Greek life, student organizations—all of those amazing things are still going to happen. They will just look a little different this time around!"

Some of the changes being implemented may remain after the pandemic is over, she said. For example, a comedian performing on campus could be enjoyed by students attending the event in person or accessing the show virtually. "We are excited about the opportunities this new type of programming will provide all of our online students, even once COVID-19 is no longer an issue."

Engagement outside of the classroom is an important part of the higher education experience, and helping students make meaningful connections with groups, peers and mentors remains a top priority at SFA.

"Coming to college can be a very challenging time for freshmen," Folsom said. "With classes—even finding some of them, getting to know your roommate, finding a job, figuring out where to park, making friends and attending Welcome Week activities, some students don't even know where to start when it comes to getting involved on campus. That's where the SFA Involvement Centers come in."

The Centers are located on the first and third floors of the Baker Pattillo Student Center. When a student comes to an Involvement Center, he or she is welcomed by a peer

adviser who helps schedule an advising appointment that works with the student's schedule.

"Student-to-student advising is a key component to how the centers work," Folsom said. "The advisers were in the advisees' shoes not too long ago, and they can understand the sometimes overwhelming feelings college can cause."

At the appointment, the adviser walks the student through a menu of the more than 200 opportunities to get involved at SFA. They discuss the various requirements, including time and financial demands of organizations, that lie within the range of the student's interest to find the perfect match.

When the session is finished, the adviser provides contact information for the president of the organizations and/or departments the student is interested in, so he or she can find out when the next meeting or event will be held.

"If you wish, we will forward your contact information to the organization to let them know you are interested in possibly joining," Folsom added.

In addition to student organizations, the Centers also have information on Campus Recreation events, Greek Life, SFA athletic events, community service opportunities, Fine Arts events and many more things to do in Nacogdoches.

"In a way, these Centers are like a daily involvement fair," said Dr. Adam Peck, dean of student affairs at SFA. "The involvement staff is specially trained to offer a friendly and welcoming place for students to engage with the programs and services of the University."

New Lumberjacks are encouraged to stop by one of the Involvement Centers as soon as possible after arriving on campus. Incoming students can visit the website or Facebook page to sign up for an involvement advising session or come into one of the two locations to make an appointment in person.

For more information, call (936) 468-6721 or (936) 468-1175 or send an email to getinvolved@sfasfa.edu.

Mr. and Miss SFA will represent University for coming year

By Raquel Torres
Contributing Writer

Logan Ray, senior music education major from Lubbock, and Rachel Ballback, senior health science major from The Woodlands, have been named the 2020 Mr. and Miss SFA.

Ray is a recipient of the Stan McKewen Mr. SFA award. He has served in many leadership roles on campus, such as orientation student coordinator. He is also an orientation leader and the recruitment chair of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. Ray is also a member of the SFA A Capella Choir and the University Opera. Jamal Smith, former director of orientation programs and an SFA alumnus, nominated Ray as Mr. SFA.

"I first met Logan when he interviewed to be an orientation leader back during fall 2017," Smith said. "I sat in on his interview and immediately knew that he would become a standout member of the orientation staff that upcoming summer."

Smith said Ray demonstrated leadership and communication skills, as well as love for SFA.

"On a personal note, he has been extremely trustworthy and dependable as an [orientation student leader] and a friend," Smith said. "I nominated him because I believe he truly embodies the qualities of Mr. SFA."

Ray said that he feels it's important for whoever is named Mr. SFA to have a good relationship with different organizations within different aspects of campus.

"It's important for me to make sure I'm impacting everybody and helping everybody as much as I can, so working with orientation and being involved in different aspects of campus helps me reach different people," Ray said.

After his interview for Mr. SFA, Ray said he went back to his office at Orientation and Transition Programs. Later, he got a phone call from Smith.

"He said, 'I'm really excited to tell you that you got Mr. SFA,'" Ray said. "It was just a rush of emotions, because he likes to mess with me. It was really special that he got to tell me in person instead of texting me."

Ray said he looks up to Smith, as Smith was Mr. SFA in 2011.

"I never really saw myself as Mr. SFA," Ray said. "But, ever since being involved, I have a lot of pride for SFA. It means a lot because I'm eight hours from home, but it feels like home. It means that I feel like I've done right by SFA. It's rewarding. It's really cool to join the club with people like Jamal and Saville [Harris.] It's real special."

Ray would like to attend grad school for higher education and student affairs. His ultimate goal is to work as a student affairs professional.

Ballback is the recipient of the Arnodean Covin Miss SFA Award. She is the executive director of internal relations for the SFA Dance Marathon and is a member of Dancers Against Cancer. Ballback was also in the Freshman Leadership Academy and a Jack Camp Counselor. She was also involved in Hunger Jacks and the Speech Language Hearing Association.

"I've loved every minute of being at SFA," Ballback said. "It's been such a great experience for me, especially going into college. I was scared since I didn't have anyone that I knew that was coming here. It's definitely been an eye-opening experience for me, and being able to meet people from different backgrounds has been awesome."

Dr. Adam Peck, dean of student affairs, nominated Ballback for Miss SFA and said he first met her during her freshman year.

"She was involved in the Freshmen Leadership Academy," Peck said. "She was a leader in our project that year, and her positive attitude really stood out. When she got more involved in our Dance Marathon program, I really got to know her better. Again, she is so passionate about serving others."

Peck said that Ballback exemplifies the qualities that the University seeks in a Miss SFA candidate.

"When I looked at her involvement on campus, I noticed a common theme that literally leaps from the page: her heart for serving others," Peck said. "It is really clear that she deeply cares about and is passionate about serving others. Even in her spare time, she teaches fitness classes at the Nacogdoches



Photo by Andrew Delph / The Pine Log

Logan Ray, senior education major from Lubbock, and **Rachel Ballback, senior health science major** from The Woodlands, are the new Mr. and Miss SFA.

Senior Center."

Ballback said that being involved on campus is important and that it helps people want to stay in school.

"I recommend people get involved," Ballback said. "It helps you not only appreciate the University itself, it helps you meet different people from different backgrounds that you would never have met before."

Ballback said she was at home with her dog when Smith called her to tell her she was the new Miss SFA.

"I was really thankful for the opportunity to represent such an amazing University," Ballback said.

She added the Miss SFA title means that she's able to represent a University that has given so much to her.

First LGBTQ+ caucus established at SFA hopes to accurately represent community, spread awareness

By Jocelyn Bradford
News Editor

SFA's first LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus will focus on bringing awareness and promoting resources for mental health in the LGBTQ+ community, as well as giving back to the Nacogdoches community through service.

"We noticed a lack of LGBTQ+ community service and outreach on campus," Madeline Wheeler, standing director of communications and freshman pre-nursing major from the Dallas/Fort Worth area, said. "We feel like there's a huge community here that isn't being reached out to in a way that they feel like they can give back."

Ashton Maisel, president and junior political science major from Plano, had the idea to create the caucus in the fall of 2019. It was not until the spring 2020 semester when Katie Gibson, vice president and senior education major from Palestine, reached out to Maisel to give her the final push to make the organization official.

"I had this idea in my head about starting this [organization because] I am very interested in politics and the whole political aspect of the world, and then also being in the community, I wanted to mix the two together," Maisel said.

Dr. Eralda Lameborshi, lecturer in the Department of English and Creative Writing, is the organization's adviser. It was Gibson who reached out to Lameborshi to become a sponsor, and she agreed based on the organization's goals and what it represents for the LGBTQ+ community.

"Their focus on awareness, mental health and then, particularly, involvement with the community, I think that is very important," Lameborshi said. "There is this empathy that we can develop for one another through these collaborative projects that are being proposed here."

Lameborshi hopes the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus will be an opportunity for students and staff, as well as members of the Nacogdoches community, to see an accurate representation of the LGBTQ+ community that goes beyond a label.

"There are times where we are raised with certain prejudices

that we are unaware of, and I think that meeting people through these service-oriented programs will create an opportunity to see the human behind the label," Lameborshi said.

Members of the organization plan on partnering with other organizations on campus, such as OurLow and Lumberjacks Care, to promote awareness. They also hope to create a safe space for students in the LGBTQ+ community. While this is not the first LGBTQ+ organization to be established at SFA, it is the first LGBTQ+ caucus.

"We want people to be educated and well aware of all the things that they can have and that are available to them," Maisel said. "We also want to get together and have a community aspect. We want people to make friends with people who are like them."

Students who join the organization will have the opportunity to help make decisions regarding things that will reflect the LGBTQ+ community, bring up matters community members

See LGBTQ+ on Page 3B



Courtesy photo

Multicultural fraternity earns 5-STAR recognition

By Faith Skodak
Contributing Writer

The Multicultural Greek Chapter Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity has been recognized as a 5 STAR Standards of Excellence Greek Organization for the 2019-20 academic year. Out of the 10 that are being recognized as 5 STAR organizations this academic year, Sigma Lambda Beta is the only Multicultural Greek Council organization to be recognized and is the first MGC Fraternity to be recognized since the STAR Standards of Excellence have been in place.

"I was in shock," said Bryan Gray, president and senior psychology major from Plano. "I was expecting three or four STARS, but to see five, it felt good. I was really, really proud."

Gray has been a member for three years, has previously been the fraternity's vice president and served on the MGC executive board. Since being a part of Sigma Lambda Beta, Gray feels that he has grown as an individual and as a leader.

"I knew that joining would help me develop myself as an individual," Gray said. "I don't see myself being the person I am without joining. It's like a life-long brotherhood."

After sharing the news of the rating, Gray said it gave members a sense of optimism, and he noticed that members' work ethic grew tremendously.

"I feel that it did serve as motivation for them because they did put in a lot of hard work, and I feel like their hard work finally paid off," Gray said.

The program is based on five categories of standards, which include the new member program, scholarship, involvement and leadership development, service and organizational management and member development.

Each category is performed through a point-based system in which chapters are expected to meet certain criteria. The more points a chapter receives, the higher STAR Standard and accreditation it will be given. Sigma Lambda Beta received seven new members, had the highest male GPA and utilized their members' involvement in other organizations to achieve the recognition, causing them to go from a 2 STAR rating to a 5 STAR rating.

With this recognition, Gray feels that he can use it as an opportunity to show the positive side of Greek Life and encourage other Greek Life organizations to work toward the same goals but still pays homage to the other organizations within the council that inspired them.

"We looked at other organizations within our council because they were all doing better than us at one point," Gray said. "We learned from them, so hopefully they [can] learn from us now."

MCG adviser Clare Denhollem works to guarantee that the fraternity follows University and MCG procedures.

With Sigma Lambda Beta being the only MCG organization to be a 5 STAR, Denhollem is proud of their accomplishment.

See FRAT on Page 3B



You Don't Have To Do It Alone!

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

- Parenting Classes
- Prenatal Referrals
- Limited Obstetrical Ultrasounds
- Adoption Referrals



Heartbeat
PREGNANCY CENTER

936-569-6288
621 Russell Blvd
Nacogdoches, TX 75965
Fax 936-560-3864
M-TH: 9:00am-5pm
F: 9:00am-12pm

www.heartbeat-of-nacogdoches.org



DO YOU WANT TO BE A PART OF NACOGDOCHES COUNTY'S BIGGEST DAY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE?

JOIN OUR STAFF FOR A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK TO NAC!



VIRTUAL INTEREST MEETINGS:
AUG. 26 @ 7 PM
SEP. 02 @ 7 PM

TO REGISTER FOR ZOOM, SCAN THE QR CODE!

OR GO TO [SFASU.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/7JUQD-GQRJSRETEIXVPSW9UD1NOUVW3EFRAE](https://sfasu.zoom.us/j/7JUQD-GQRJSRETEIXVPSW9UD1NOUVW3EFRAE)

THE BIG event



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
@SFATHEBIGEVENT



The LGBTQ+ caucus held its first interest meeting last semester. The group is the first LGBTQ+ caucus to exist on SFA's campus. From left, Ashton Maisel, president of the caucus and political science major from Plano; Madeline Wheeler, pre-nursing major from Dallas/Fort Worth; and Katie Gibson, education major from Mabank, introduce themselves to the audience.

LGBTQ+: New caucus established on campus

From Page 2B
face and find ways to promote change within the community.
“Generalization happens,” Wheeler said. “I feel that it’s really important that people, especially people in the LGBTQ+ community, are represented in the way they want to be represented in.”
The LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus held its first meeting in the Baker Pattillo Student Center movie theater on the second floor. The number of students who responded to the event was unexpected, according to Maisel. The organization plans to meet bi-weekly. Information on when and where future meetings will be held can be found on the organization’s social media pages.
Maisel hopes, through the organization, for something to be passed within the legislature where members of the LGBTQ+ community can experience equality and safety wherever they go.
“I want something to be passed to make it where every single person can go [wherever] they want to and feel comfortable, and [where] nobody can do or say anything to harm them,” Maisel said.

FRAT: Sigma Lambda Beta frat earns 5 STARs

From Page 2B
“I am proud of the work they have done to achieve this, and it shows me and others that the leadership has successfully delegated, planned and organized itself to be successful,” Denhollem said.
Rhylie Gachot, Sigma Lambda Beta’s faculty/staff adviser, has seen both the hard work and their brotherhood flourish in the one semester she has been their involved.
“It stands out to me just because they follow through with it a majority of the time in the sense of holding each other accountable with academics [and] supporting each other with events,” Gachot said.
“They’re there. They’re supporting not only each other, but also the University.”
Their 5 STAR recognition, a goal the

organization was set out to achieve, did not go unnoticed by Gachot.
“They are following through with the goals they have set in the beginning, which means they can set an even higher goal this time around to take it a step further,” Gachot said.
As president, Gray hopes to focus more on external events that will allow them to give back to both the SFA and Nacogdoches communities together.
“We really do try to give back, and I feel like a lot of other Greek organizations [on campus] actually do that, too,” Gray said.

Jocelyn Bradford, news editor, contributed to this article.

The BIG Event, Residence Life to offer minimal-contact service projects to students during move-in

**By Meredith Janning
Editor-in-Chief**
The BIG Event is partnering with the Residence Life Department to offer incoming students several “service in a bag” volunteer opportunities that will benefit the local community in a project called The Little BIG Event.
Upon residence hall check-in, students will be given a bag with three community service opportunities. Students can then choose to do any or all of the provided projects and then return them completed to a specified drop-off location.
Ireland Bramhall, student director of community engagement for The BIG Event and senior hospitality major from Ennis, said the idea came from wanting to bring service opportunities to incoming freshmen while also maintaining minimal contact.
“We will have three types of service projects available, braiding pre-cut strips of t-shirt material

for dog toys to donate to the Nacogdoches Animal Shelter; decorating paper lunch bags to donate to local schools to use for pre-packaged lunches; [and] creating cards to give to local elderly homes, as visitors are very limited during the pandemic,” Bramhall said.
Also working on The Little BIG Event is Sarah Bone, a senior graphic design major from Richmond. According to Bone, The BIG Event was canceled last spring due to COVID-19, and since then, organizers have been thinking of different ways to offer service opportunities.
Bone said a big part of their organization is giving back to the community, and she wants to encourage community service at home.
“Anything we can do to give back is awesome,” Bone said.
Students interested in getting involved with The BIG Event can join a virtual interest meeting at 7 p.m. on Aug. 26 and Sept. 3.

When you have a REAL EMERGENCY, You need a REAL HOSPITAL.

If a serious fall turns into a serious fracture, you need immediate access to the best care available – the level of care found only at Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital, just one block from campus.

Unlike freestanding emergency rooms, our Level III Trauma Center is backed by the resources of an entire health system, including a full spectrum of diagnostic imaging capabilities, orthopaedic specialists and a 30,000-square-foot world-class surgery center right on site, should you need them.

In fact, our ER team is better equipped than ever before to provide exceptional patient care to every generation of every Lumberjack family.

We’re Nacogdoches Memorial Health. **Where people come first.**

SFA Campus

Starr Ave.

North St.

Mound St.

Raguet St.

University Dr.

Serious Care delivered.

**NACOGDOCHES
MEMORIAL
HEALTH**

nacmem.org

1204 Mound Street | 936-564-4611

GET A HANDLE ON COLLEGE LIFE

STUDENT AFFAIRS for EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

OFFICE OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

The Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion is primarily responsible for creating a network of caring responses to our diverse student body. This is enacted by ensuring critical services and programs are accessible to all students, as well as increase their knowledge of the resources available to them. The areas we are individually responsible for are – Counseling Services, Disability Services, Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (formerly Community Standards), Veteran's Resource Center, Multicultural Affairs, Office of Violence Against Women, and the Title IX office. These are areas on SFA's campus that are important because they demonstrate personal caring to individuals in extraordinary circumstances—students who are in crisis, students dealing with mental health concerns, students injured on or off-campus, or students who are a part of our underrepresented populations. The Office of EDI wants to make sure all aspects of the student's experience at SFA is a positive and holistic experience. The intent and actions of this office are to foster an open and welcoming environment where our students, faculty, and staff of all backgrounds can learn, work, and serve while embracing all human differences and building on commonalities.

STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Care and Concerns

- A reporting form for members of the University community to submit behavioral, medical, or other student concerns.

Absence Notifications

- A reporting form for students to submit recent or upcoming absences to faculty.

Rusk Building, Room 315

936-468-2703

www.sfasu.edu/judicial

COUNSELING SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL • CONFIDENTIAL

- Assistance for Personal Issues
- Individual-Group-Couple Sessions
- QPR Suicide Prevention Training

Rusk Building, 3rd Floor
936-468-2401

www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices

STUDENT HEALTH CLINIC

- Immunizations • TB Testing • Flu Vaccines
- STD Testing • Annual Well Woman Exams
- Physicals • Full Service Laboratory
- Administration of Weekly Allergy Injections

Appointments Available (Mon-Fri, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)

2106 Raguet St.

936-468-4008

healthservices@sfasu.edu

VETERAN RESOURCE CENTER

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Veterans, Children or Spouses of Veterans, ROTC

- New Veteran Student Orientation
- Support Services • Outreach • Benefits

BPSC, Room 1.102

936-468-6494

sfaveterans@sfasu.edu

VOICES FOR CHANGE

This course covers safe, legal use of alcohol, consent, and gender-based violence and sexual assault prevention, as well as bystander intervention. It is expected to take 30-45 minutes to complete and is required of all incoming students. The course must be completed by September 14th to avoid a hold being placed on your registration.

TITLE IX

Stephen F. Austin State University strives to provide an educational environment that affirms the rights and dignity of each individual by prohibiting unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, citizenship and veteran status.

The Title IX office supports the University's commitment by offering training and programs in relation to sex- and gender-based discrimination, and an investigation process that promotes an inclusive, diverse and supportive environment consistent with the SFA Way.

McKibben Education Building, Suite 304

936-468-8292

Titleix@sfasu.edu

Sfasu.edu/lumberjacks-care

TESTING SERVICES

- For Individuals Pursuing Competencies, Course Placement & Career Opportunities
- Offering Local, State & National Exams

Rusk Building, Room 328

936-468-3958

sfatesting@sfasu.edu

DISABILITY SERVICES

COMMITTED TO:

- Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Students with Disabilities
- Providing Access to Tools & Resources
- ADA Compliance & Accessibility • Providing Specialized Support Services Based on Individual Needs

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Special Testing Accommodations
- Alternate Format Textbooks • Assistive Technology
- Sign Language Interpreting
- Readers & Note-Taking Assistance
- Orientation & Mobility Assistance • Referrals for Tutoring
- Priority Registration of Classes
- Assists Students with Temporary Limiting Conditions, Injuries & Illness

Human Services Building, Room 325

936-468-3004

disabilityservices@sfasu.edu

www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices

OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Our mission is to create a campus environment where all students, faculty and staff feel welcome. Through networks of support, we provide opportunities for meaningful cross-cultural interactions that promote respect for diversity. In addition, we work with student organizations to host cultural celebrations and engaging, educational activities that enhance our students' abilities to succeed in a global community.

Baker Pattillo Student Center, Room 3.101, 3.102

P.O. Box 6196, Nacogdoches, Texas 75962

Phone: (936) 468-1073

Email: oma@sfasu.edu

www.sfasu.edu/oma

Center for Career and Professional Development moves services online

SFA's Center for Career and Professional Development has transitioned its office and services to be completely accessible virtually in order to help students and alumni gain specialized skills and adjust their career plans.

Nearly all of CCPD's services have moved online for all incoming students, current students and graduates, offering specialized workshops and resources that help career development during these tumultuous times.

"Everything is accessible through Handshake," Tiereny White, CCPD career coordinator, said. "It is our No. 1 place of interaction with students and students-to-employers."

Handshake is available to every incoming and current SFA student through their mySFA login. Once students have received their credentials, they may log in and view all of the CCPD's virtual resources and a job board filled with employers from a variety of industries. Career coaching, résumé and professional document critiques, mock interviews, and job searching have all transitioned to Handshake (<https://sfasu.joinhandshake.com/>).

CCPD exists to empower students and alumni to achieve life-long career success. The office fulfills this mission through individualized assistance, diverse career development programs, and collaboration with both internal and external partners concentrated on career goal achievements.

"All of CCPD's services are available to both current students and alumni for free, for life," Jamie Bouldin, CCPD director, said. "While we plan to expand in-person offerings when it is safe to do so, these virtual interactions allow all students and alumni to access our resources, not just those physically present on campus."

For students still unsure about what they want to major or minor in, the CCPD recommends participating in a career coaching session. Students may request

many different appointment types within Handshake for career coaching, as well as different drop-in sessions throughout the week where students can briefly chat with their career coach.

While the CCPD team values in-person interaction with students and alumni, the department has committed to providing resources and services online, not just in response to the COVID-19 crisis, but to follow the digitalization of most industries and careers. Graduates will be entering a virtual, new world, and CCPD wants to help that transition by offering specialized, online-focused services.

Virtual mock interviews held on ZOOM and online professional profile reviews are key in developing students' online presence for employers.

"Incoming students will need to learn how to articulate their skillset online, so developing a stand-out profile is a great way to start working with the career center," Bouldin said, adding students will need to adjust to the mass migration to online, just as employers have.

The following virtual services are available to all students and alumni for free, for life, via Handshake:

- What Can I Do With This Major?
- Career Coaching Appointments
- Job Board for Part-Time, Internships and Full-Time Roles
- Virtual Events and Workshops
- Professional Profile Critiques (Handshake, LinkedIn)
- Professional Document Critiques
- Mock Interviews via Zoom and InterviewStream
- Graduate School Guidance

For more information, contact CCPD at ccpd@sfasu.edu.



Photo by Will Green / The Pine Log
Spanish professor Dr. Juan Carlos Ureña is a well-known singer and songwriter in Costa Rica. He and his wife moved to the United States and started working at the University as professors.

Singer, songwriter turns professor

Costa Rica native leaves home country to pursue academic career in U.S.

By Korbyn Lee
Contributing Writer

Dr. Juan Carlos Ureña is a Spanish professor at SFA, but he is not the typical professor. Ureña is also an accomplished singer and songwriter of popular Spanish songs and has even gone on tours around the world. Ureña describes music as his first career and something he had been drawn to since he was a child in Costa Rica.

"I started singing since I was a very little kid in church, then in school," Ureña said. "I had to be singing in every single assembly and activity that the school did."

Ureña continued singing throughout high school and into his college years. He studied music education at the University of Costa Rica. By the time he was 17 in 1978, he had gone on his first international tour.

"It was very interesting because I had to get special permission [from my parents] because I was underage," Ureña said.

According to Ureña, touring and going to school was not easy but it was made possible by having special arrangements with his professors. Ureña often found himself having to make up class work, and sometimes even having to drop the class.

"It took me a little bit longer than normal students to finish the bachelor's degree because of that," Ureña said.

At the beginning of his career, Ureña was known for being a solo artist who wrote songs about political and social issues. The content of his music is what made Ureña stand out from others, though sometimes he explained that the contents of his songs could also cause him problems.

"It was good because it made me different, [but] it was bad because sometimes it could get you in trouble," Ureña said. "I didn't care. I wanted to do it that way, and I still continue in the same line."

Ureña takes inspiration from Costa Rica and its traditional music when he is writing his own songs. Though some of his songs may have a newer sound, he says that all of his

music is built from traditional roots.

"A lot of traditional music is the root of my music composition in my songs, so even when I am playing a song that sounds contemporary, the roots [and] the musical styles of that song come from traditional music," Ureña said.

In the 1990s, Ureña's life took an interesting turn when he met his wife Jeana Paul- Ureña in a popular venue in Costa Rica. Ureña was performing with a popular Nicaraguan singer Luis Enrique Mejía Godoy and describes the encounter as "love at first sight."

"She was very close to the stage [when] we started playing," Ureña said. "I kicked the microphone accidentally, and the mic went straight to her. She [caught] it, and she put it in front of me again. I said, 'Thank you,' and I kept playing [while] looking at her."

Jeana Paul-Ureña, chair of the Department of Languages, Cultures and Communications at SFA, is from the United States originally; but at the time, she was traveling with the Associated Colleges of the Midwest in Costa Rica.

They were introduced to each other by a mutual friend at another one of Ureña's performances, and after that they started dating almost immediately.

Much like Ureña, Paul-Ureña played music in college. She played in Texas at her school, Texas Tech University, and she focused mostly on country and rock songs. The Ureñas started performing in Spanish together by the 1990s.

"She was interested in the music because she liked music, so I started teaching her some songs," Ureña said. "She was learning very fast and was very good at learning different styles."

The Ureñas moved to the U.S. and started working at SFA as professors. They decided to step back from music to pursue their academic careers, but they are still performing.

"We wanted to get married and start a new life," Ureña said. "We had more opportunities in terms of jobs, but that also distanced me from the music career. It's like giving up something for another thing."



OFFICE OF
MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS
creates a campus environment
where all SFA students feel welcome,
participate in meaningful
cross-cultural interactions
and engage in learning experiences
that promote respect for diversity.

A FEW OF OUR EVENTS

- Noche De Gala
- Tunnel of Oppression
- MLK Day of Service
- Women's Empowerment Summit
- Kente Cloth Ceremony
- Homecoming Step Show
- Diversity Week
- Diversity Conference

RESOURCES

- Axcel Mentoring Program
- Meeting and Study Room
- Multicultural Resource Library
- and More!



Visit sfasu.edu/oma
to learn more.

[f](#) [i](#) [t](#) @omasfa

Visually impaired student discusses life as a DJ

By Kayley Frazee
Staff Writer

Will Walsh, a junior communications student from Richmond, has been a professional DJ for the past four years, and he is visually impaired. Walsh's love and interest for music goes back to when he was a child.

"My interest in music goes back to when I was a little baby in my room with the old analog radio flipping channels," Walsh said. "I would be going all over that spectrum, just exploring different stations."

Walsh was in band throughout middle school and high school. He played snare drum and keyboard and was in the marching band in high school but was really interested in turn tabling.

"I had heard a lot of guys on the radio doing their thing on Friday nights, broadcasting from clubs, and I picked up on all that," Walsh said. "I liked music, but I knew I wanted to end up DJ-ing."

Walsh made the decision that he wanted to become a DJ as an eighth grader, dedicating entire days to studying and listening to different DJs. He knew that with the right help he could learn to do the same.

"I would dedicate days, from when I woke up to when I went to bed, studying and listening to different DJs," Walsh said. "I just really liked how the other DJs that I was hearing were making transitions and making connections with bars and beats."

After two and a half years of listening to DJs, Walsh found a company, LG Event Entertainment and Production, founded by Lewis Grell in 2002, that did DJ-ing



Courtesy photo
Will Walsh, junior communications major from Richmond, shows off his DJ skills at an event. Walsh has been doing local events since the spring of 2017.

for events throughout Texas and had an academy to teach people how to DJ. After teaching him basic skills needed, Walsh became self-taught through watching videos, memorization and his natural instinct.

"I met the instructor of the DJ Academy, and they took me in with an open mind and

showed me everything that I would need to know," Walsh said. "They just taught me how to execute. After that, I taught myself everything."

Walsh says his inspirations are any Electronic Dance Music (EDM) DJs, because for the first two years as a DJ, that is what he saw himself as. After that, he began to

listen to hip hop DJs and began to change his style.

"When I heard the hip-hop DJs that I started listening to and heard how sophisticated they were with the transitions and the art in general, it completely rocked my world," Walsh said. "It inspired me to be the best that I could and never settle."

LG Event Entertainment and Productions ended up hiring Walsh as a professional DJ. Grell, the owner, would push Walsh during big events where the stakes were high because he knew that Walsh had the type of music the crowd wanted.

"I got a lot of exposure during that time," Walsh said. "I started doing weddings, parties and private corporate events. To have those opportunities when I was just starting off was a dream."

Walsh started attending SFA in the spring of 2017 and began doing events in the area at various locations such as Lumberyard, private sorority parties and Piney Woods Country Club. Walsh was able to meet a friend who also has a passion for DJ-ing here at SFA, who spins with him at events.

"The past four years have been me growing my skill set and my experience at all different types of events," Walsh said. "We really didn't make anything. But we did it because we wanted to get better, and we wanted to learn."

Through DJ-ing, Walsh has received a lot of diverse experience and has been able to share his passion with others and does not allow obstacles to get in the way of doing what he loves.

"Don't let obstacles deter you from doing what you want to do," Walsh said. "It just takes time, a little bit of homework and a lot of determination."



Photo by Gabrielle Czapl / The Pine Log
"Conversations over Coffee" host Chris Englert, right, and a guest prepare for recording over a hot cup of coffee at Nine Flags Coffee Roasters.

Nine Flags Coffee Roasters podcast talks coffee, more

By Raquel Torres
Contributing Writer

Nine Flags Coffee Roasters is now home to "Conversations Over Coffee," a podcast hosted by a barista and a long-time customer. The hosts, Carol Elliott and Chris Englert, recorded their first episode on Valentine's Day. The idea, however, came directly from the owner of Nine Flags, David Hanson.

"Podcasts are popular," Hanson said. "You can talk about anything you want [on a] podcast. Chris and Carol, they're very outspoken, opinionated people that are entertaining."

Most podcasts are known for audible streaming. Nine Flags' podcast, however, also visually records episodes.

"I think watching it is just as valuable [and] informative as listening to it," Hanson said.

Each episode is limited to 30 minutes. Once the recording is finished, the podcast video is uploaded to the shop's YouTube channel, "Nine Flags Coffee Roasters" and shared on their social media, specifically Facebook. Unlike most podcasts, Nine Flags does not edit "Conversations Over Coffee" at all.

"Even our mistakes are in the podcast," Englert said. "We are not perfect people here. And if you watch these things, you'll find out that there's lots of things that maybe, if you were doing videography or cinematography, you'll say, 'We would cut that or this,' but it's included in here," Englert said. "It makes us human."

"I know there are people that spend hours editing their podcast," Hanson said.

"And I just want to keep it more real, more human, the way it all operates."

When it comes to choosing topics and

what will be discussed, Englert said that he just talks about things that other people would also like to know about.

"The things that we talk about are things that most people will ask a question about," Englert said. "We did a thing about almond milk the other day. How many people know about it? I think that the interaction between Carol and myself makes it interesting and enjoyable. At the same time, a person can learn a few things."

"Conversations Over Coffee," is recorded every Monday at Nine Flags Coffee Roasters. Hanson said that aspiring podcasters are welcome to use Nine Flags' podcast equipment, which includes a microphone and a camera.

"I want to make it available [for] anybody that has an interesting podcast," Hanson said.

Discover wellness. Join a sport club. Join our staff. Find your fit. Meet your goals. Set new goals. Crush those goals. Crush those goals. Be yourself. Be yourself. Discover wellness. Join a sport club. Join our staff. Find your fit. Meet your goals. Set new goals. Crush those goals. Crush those goals. Be yourself. Be yourself.

Climb the rock wall. Belay. Test your boundaries. Rent gear. Destress. Try your first 5K. Play sand volleyball. Rent a hammock. Take a hike. Grand Canyon. Ask us for a spot. Thrive. e. Work out with us. Test your boundaries. Discover wellness. Join a sport club. Join our staff. Find your fit. Meet your goals. Set new goals. Crush those goals. Crush those goals. Be yourself. Be yourself.

ax with a massage. Hire a personal trainer. Celebrate everybody. Play a flag football. Cycle. Zumba. Group Axe classes. Play. Run. . Rent a hammock. Take a hike. Grand Canyon. Ask us for a spot. Thrive. e. Work out with us. Test your boundaries. Discover wellness. Join a sport club. Join our staff. Find your fit. Meet your goals. Set new goals. Crush those goals. Crush those goals. Be yourself. Be yourself.



CAMPUS RECREATION
RECreate Yourself.

www.sfasu.edu/campusrec
[@sfacampusrec](https://www.instagram.com/sfacampusrec)    

Discover wellness. Join a sport club. Join our staff. Find your fit. Meet your goals. Set new goals. Crush those goals. Crush those goals. Be yourself. Be yourself.

COME JOIN DANCE MARATHON!



Thank you for helping us fight FOR THE KIDS

SFA VIRTUAL DANCE MARATHON 2020 

If you have a love for children's health and want to help sick and injured children then Dance Marathon is the org for you!

Instagram: sfa_dancemarathon
Twitter: SFAMarathon

To learn more check us out on social media for more info and future events.

RESIDENCE LIFE

Stephen F. Austin State University



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT IN THE FALL!

WHAT IS RESIDENCE LIFE?

The Residence Life Department is here to support students living on campus. The mission of the Residence Life Department is to provide a learning-centered residential environment, which is conducive to the academic success and personal development of our students. The department sponsors the Residence Hall Association, who provides programs and activities for campus residents.

WHEN CAN I MOVE IN?

You will be able to select your move-in time beginning at noon on Thursday, July 9, via your MySFA account. The move-in process will begin Thursday, Aug. 13, with many slots available through Sunday, Aug. 23.

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

After you log into your MySFA account, you must first provide two emergency contacts (their names and phone number) before you are able to select a move-in time. If you need to update this information, you may do so at any time. To choose a date and time of your move-in, navigate to Campus Life and click the Schedule Move-In link to sign up for a move-in time between Aug. 13 - 23. If you and your roommate or suite mate(s) select the same time/day, you will see an alert and can plan accordingly to arrange different move-in appointment times, if needed.

HOW IS RESLIFE PREPPING FOR MY RETURN?

We are committed to our communities safety. You can learn how we have implemented changes to remain connected while keeping our residents, employees and beloved Nacogdoches safe. www.sfasu.edu/about-sfa/newsroom/2020/safety-measures-place-sfas-housing-facilities-campus-set-reopen-fall



FAQ

Do I have to wear a mask?

To help protect our community, SFA is requiring face coverings to be worn in all public indoor spaces and in all outdoor spaces when 6 feet of physical distance cannot be reliably maintained. This includes hallways, lobbies, and other shared community spaces.

Are the residence and dining halls going to be open after Thanksgiving break?

Yes! Housing and dining halls will both be open after the break. Housing and dining rates will remain the same as published. You are welcome to leave your belongings in your room during Thanksgiving break and Winter break.

Are there still private rooms?

We are offering private rooms at the regular single-occupant rate, but availability remains fluid as our students adjust their fall housing plans. Private rooms are requested via the mySFA portal, and we will work diligently to grant as many of those requests as possible at first come, first served.

What happens if a student contracts COVID-19 on campus?

To guard against the spread of COVID-19, the university has enacted a quarantine/isolation protocol for suspected and confirmed cases of the virus. Should individuals be placed in mandatory isolation, they will receive ongoing support from the university. This includes medical and mental health services, food and mail delivery, and daily trash removal.

How long do I have to cancel my contract?

We have extended the contract deadline to midnight on Aug. 1. Any cancellations received by that time will be refunded. Simply edit your contracts by logging into your MySFA, selecting Campus Life, and then selecting Residence Life.

What are some practices to preventing COVID-19?

Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, staying home when you are sick, maintaining at least 6 feet of physical distance from others and wearing face coverings in public spaces are recommended by health experts to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Will I still have a roommate in the Fall?

Yes, we ask that you try your best to limit your interactions with anyone outside your assigned living space. As always, the rights of roommates and suitemates to study, sleep and have privacy take precedence over visitation privileges. Visitation privileges have been amended to allow no more than two extra people in a room or suite at any given time. Roommate and suitemate contracts have been amended to allow residents to discuss COVID-19 safety practices and agreements with one another. Try to stay 6 feet away from individuals outside of your "household".



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
Kerr.....	936.468.5301
Non-First Year Halls	
Griffith.....	936.468.4909
Hall 16.....	936.468.5109
Hall 10.....	936.468.3200
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 DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Location: Austin Building, Room 131
Website: www.sfasu.edu/reslife
Email Address: reslife@sfasu.edu
Phone Number: 936.468.2601



SFA recognized as 2020 College of Distinction

By John Ammon
Contributing Writer

For the first time, SFA, along with four other public schools, was named a 2020 College of Distinction, an achievement that illuminates the University's care for student success in and out of the classroom.

"The organization advertises itself as a service for students and parents," said Dr. Marc Guidry, associate provost for academic affairs. "They help students pick the best fit for the individual and family. They emphasize that not one size fits all, and each student needs different resources to succeed."

This achievement does not just showcase what the University is doing for their current students; but on their website, they help support the campus, too.

"They interviewed us," Guidry said. "Then, they said we meet their criteria to be a college of distinction. That means we will be listed on their website, so when students are looking for schools in Texas, they may end up getting directed to us."

The award exemplifies the University and its ability to work together as a whole to provide students with the best chance to succeed. Schools are only accepted if they meet the criteria of four distinctions: engaged students, vibrant community, great teaching and successful outcomes.

"I hope our students and graduates are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to pursue the career of their choice, as well as feel confident in their ability to use that knowledge and skill set in a variety of ways," Jamie Bouldin, director of the SFA Center for Career and Professional Development, said. "I also hope that they gain strong friendships, find a mentor and make lasting memories."

SFA received specific accolades for its programs in business, education, engineering, nursing and career development.

"I think that collaboration amongst different areas on campus is crucial to having a healthy and successful learning environment," Bouldin said. "Honors like the College of Distinction award show that different departments at SFA are working together to provide support for students."

Getting students to not just learn at school but to want to learn at school is a key factor for a successful college career, according to Dr. Michael Tkacik, director of the School of Honors.

"If you want students to learn, you have to make them want to come to class," Tkacik said. "The classroom should be challenging and invigorating. You are teaching not just subject matter but skills for the future."

The goal of the award is to provide incoming high school students a list of schools beyond the statistics and popularity polls, according to the College of Distinction website. Providing the correct atmosphere for a student to grow is a simple but important concept, according to Tkacik.

"The exchange of ideas, the positive atmosphere, even the tranquility of a place of learning," Tkacik said. "These things are all invaluable, and it was what the college experience should be like. I would urge our students to slow down once in a while, look around and appreciate the magnificence of being at a university."



AARC tutors work with a student during an in-person session. Tutoring sessions with the AARC are free, and there are multiple options for in-person and online help, as well as writing help through the Online Writing Lab.

Academic Assistance and Resource Center offers in-person, online tutoring resources

SFA's award-winning Academic Assistance and Resource Center (AARC) provides free peer tutoring—both in-person and online—for many entry-level classes to help Lumberjacks meet their full academic potential.

Help is provided through walk-in tables—in-person or virtual; one-to-one appointments, which can be recurring or one-time-only; Supplemental Instruction (SI) groups that meet regularly across campus; and the Online Writing Lab (OWL), which provides feedback on hundreds of student submissions each semester.

All of the AARC's tutors are SFA students who have successfully completed the course for which they provide tutoring.

"We are 200 Lumberjacks helping other Lumberjacks," said AARC Director M.E. McWilliams. "Our tutors are specialists in certain subjects—they have already taken the classes they are helping students with, and they have done well in those classes. They are easy to talk to, and they love helping their fellow Lumberjacks achieve their academic goals."

Located on the first floor of the Ralph W. Steen Library, the AARC has been in existence 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. In the past year, the AARC logged about 40,000 individual visits, helping about 4,000 SFA students achieve academic success.

Incoming SFA students are strongly encouraged to take a pro-active approach to their academics by plugging into the AARC's services before they begin to struggle in their classes. The AARC's friendly staff stands ready to help students develop a personalized tutoring plan for the fall semester. Students may also visit sfasu.edu/aarc for a complete list of services and detailed instructions for accessing each type of tutoring. Students and parents who have questions or concerns are invited to call the AARC at (936) 468-4108 or email aarc@sfasu.edu for personalized assistance.

"There is no reason new Lumberjacks should already know about what we do at the AARC, and incoming students have every reason to feel overwhelmed and confused right now," McWilliams said. "We expect lots of questions, and we promise help any student or parent feel comfortable and confident using our services."

Previously, the AARC offered students many face-to-face peer tutoring options with a few virtual services, such as the Online Writing Lab. But when COVID-19 forced the AARC to close its doors last spring, all its services were quickly moved online. Key to that transition was a redesign of the AARC's website to help students navigate the new virtual offerings. Technology upgrades continued through the summer months to ensure the center is prepared to serve many more students virtually than ever before.

"We have been very busy at the AARC, installing new equipment, upgrading our

technology and preparing to help all of our Lumberjacks," McWilliams said. "We will be ready to go."

McWilliams will be sharing additional information about the AARC's services during the study skills workshop at Lumberjack Orientation. Students also will receive regular emails throughout the semester to remind them of available tutoring options.

"Using the AARC is a game-changer," McWilliams said. "We have an 84% success rate, meaning that 84% of students who access the AARC at least five times during the fall semester are successful in the course they receive tutoring for."

Even SFA's highest achieving students can benefit from the AARC's services, perhaps increasing their eligibility for academic scholarships designated for high-achieving students, according to Dr. Michael Tkacik, director of the SFA School of Honors.

"Although Honor students are often employed in the AARC, successful Honor students also utilize tutoring to learn new study skills and boost their grades," Tkacik said.

"Often Honor students haven't learned good study habits, probably because they are bright and, in the past, the material was easy for them to pick up," he said. "However, in college, there comes a point where the material is fresh and can pile up if good study habits and effective learning strategies aren't employed. The AARC can be a great way to tackle this obstacle."



Dr. Jeffery Roth led the Geography Club in an annual community service clean-up at St. Paul Cemetery. Roth is the Geography Club sponsor, and last semester he took the group on field trips every Friday.

Associate Professor Roth awarded Susan Hardwick Excellence in Mentoring Award

By Jocelyn Bradford
News Editor

Dr. Jeffery Roth, associate professor of geography, was awarded the American Association of Geographers Susan Hardwick Excellence in Mentoring Award for student engagement activities, his mentorship with undergraduate students, and his passion for the profession and overall student growth.

Kaitlin Stewart, junior geography and history double major from Louisville, nominated Roth for the award, stating that his acts of kindness and his passion for student success are what motivated her to recommend him for the award.

"The whole award is based on being an excellent mentor, helping students both professionally and personally and helping their colleagues," Stewart said.

Criteria for the award include supporting junior peers, sharing time and expertise, and involving students, junior faculty, and employees in projects. Because Stewart felt that Roth met these criteria, as well as all the rest, his nomination came easy, she said.

"Dr. Roth is for sure the most giving person," Stewart said. "His office is always open. He really

encourages us to participate. He's super inclusive [with] our Geography Club, and he really cares. When I knew the opportunity came up to do it, I wanted to nominate him."

In order for Roth to be nominated, several letters of recommendation had to be sent with the initial submission. Among the ones selected, Dr. Darrel McDonald, professor of geography, said he felt honored to be a part of the process.

"I was more than pleased to speak on behalf of [Roth]," McDonald said. "I have always been impressed with his talent and his passion. He's an excellent role model."

McDonald also spoke of Roth's ability to encourage students, his passion for education and the mentorship he provides.

"He is a very intelligent, professional scholar, but he has a passion for education and has a very open heart to help students try to do more than they would on their own," McDonald said. "He just has that ability to boost their interest and their confidence in themselves."

When asked about his feelings about being nominated, Roth said he felt like he had already won just with how much the students and staff supported him.

"My big reward was that they

nominated me," Roth said. "Then, I got this email that said I [won] the award, and it pretty much blew my mind."

Susan Hardwick, the woman who the award was named for, was someone who not only made an incredible impact on the AAG community but also impacted Roth and his research.

"The woman [the award] is named after, I actually quote her in a paper I'm going to try to publish," Roth said. "And now, the woman I thought was so cool, I am going to accept an award in her name, and that blows me away."

This award will not only put Roth on the map but also bring positive attention to SFA and the Geography Department, which Roth finds most important. The award is presented during the American Association of American Geographers annual conference. Roth had the opportunity to share with the AAG audience the extensive research he has been conducting, which involves his black geographies class and multigenerational education.

"All of the students who graduate now [will] be seen in a different way, especially if they're going to graduate

See AWARD on Page 3C

History professor’s book reviewed in New York Times

By Kayley Frazee
Staff Writer

History professor Dr. Stephen Taaffe was recently featured in the New York Times Book Review “Battlefields: Recent Books in Military History” for his book “Washington’s Revolutionary War Generals.”

The book took Taaffe three years to research and write and two years to find a publisher.

Taaffe describes the book as a “study of the 73 generals who were appointed generals during the Revolutionary War by Congress, why they were selected and how well they performed.”

“I’ve always been interested in military leadership in particular, really any leadership, in general,” Taaffe said. “I wondered why these people are the ones who get to be in charge. Why are they the bosses and not other people? My time in academia has led me to wonder a lot about why certain people are put in charge.”

“I had Taaffe my first semester of college for American History,” Caleb Stewart, a junior creative writing major from Hallsville, said. “His history class has been my favorite out of the few I have had to take. I enjoyed sitting through his lectures. I liked his teaching style because he just gave you the information you needed, no fluff. He is a very knowledgeable professor and gave some different perspectives on different points of our country’s founding.”

Many of Taaffe’s colleagues spoke highly of his accomplishments as a writer, as well as a member of the history department.

“‘Washington’s Revolutionary War Generals’ is Dr. Taaffe’s

seventh book, making him by some distance the most productive scholar in the history department,” Dr. Troy Davis, chair of the history department, said. “Dr. Taaffe’s record has made him well-known among military historians and brings positive attention to SFA. I also believe good scholarship informs good teaching, so I think the publication of this latest book by Dr. Taaffe helps our students as well.”

“Stephen Taaffe is the most prolific member of the history department,” Dr. Phillip Catton, a fellow history professor, said. “Indeed, I’ve lost count of the number of books he has written. The inclusion of his latest work in the ‘New York Times Book Review’ is a testament to the fine quality of his scholarship.”

Regents Professor of History Dr. Jere Jackson believes Taaffe established a solid reputation in for commitment that has proven his dedication to academia and the education of students.

“His professional mastery of our chosen craft is matched by equal devotion to the interests of his coworkers, his department, his college and to [the] University,” Jackson said. “He has worked diligently for our University community by



Photo by Caroline Metersky / **The Pine Log**
Dr. Stephen Taaffe, professor of history, has written seven books. Last year, one of his books was reviewed in the New York Times.

his fealty to the interaction of students, faculty and a body of knowledge as the reason for the University’s existence. He has fought to remain fixed to this basic combination even when challenged by a variety of opponents and changing fads. He has fought for integrity [and] for standards in education even while remaining flexible in how these can and should be implemented. The review in the “New York Times” places his work in rare company. Steve has expanded our knowledge of American history, honored many forgotten participants in our unique national story and, in the process, cast SFA into a most favorable spotlight.”

Center for Career and Professional Development hosts STEM Expo



Photo by Katie Harris / **The Pine Log**
Two students talk with a guest at the STEM Expo last semester. The STEM Expo is just one of the career events hosted by the CCPD every year.

School of Honors offers membership advantages, encourages research

The SFA School of Honors 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 also features interdisciplinary

courses that encourage students to make connections among diverse areas of learning. 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 have the opportunity to take Honors-only courses and earn the University Scholar diploma. The program has a computer lab and other services, including free printing, reserved exclusively for honors students.

“These quiet spaces facilitate good study habits, which is a cornerstone of successful college students,” 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.”



WE GROW

#LumberjackPride

Visit us today and become a member at SFAAlumni.com

   @SFA_Alumni



THE BIG DIP

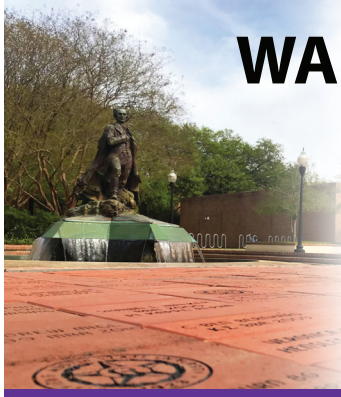
Returning Soon.
Visit SFAAlumni.com/BigDip



If one semester of free tuition sounds good to you, take a chance in the SFA Alumni Association Tuition Drawing.
Entries available online!
A winning ticket will be drawn on October 14, 2020.
Visit SFAAlumni.com/TuitionFAQ



Students, become part of Tomorrow’s Alumni Generation (tag) by joining the SFA Alumni Association! You get a welcome letter, SFA decals and a student membership card that will score you freebies during the year. You will also receive a subscription to the award winning Sawdust Magazine.
Parent’s also can join at a special rate!
Visit SFAAlumni.com/TAG or SFAAlumni.com/Parent



WALK OF RECOGNITION

Buy a brick, leave a *Lumberjack* LEGACY!



Visit SFAAlumni.com/SFA_buyabrick



- Enrolling in the SFA ring savings is as easy as
1. Log in to your SFA account.
 2. Go to the billing tab.
 3. **Enroll today!**
- Visit SFAAlumni.com/SFARing

University provides fall semester update, introduces new online resources to answer COVID-19 questions

By Meredith Janning
Editor-in-Chief

University President Dr. Scott Gordon recently announced the current plans for the fall 2020 semester. At press time, face-to-face classes were to be offered, but students will also have the option for distance learning.

A new website, "Open SFA: Guide to Fall 2020," outlines the plan for opening campus and includes information about classes, campus services like housing and dining, as well as general health and safety measures.

In an email with the announcement, Gordon said, "The information on the website will not be static; it will continue to develop as our planning continues to evolve."

Currently, students have some flexibility to attend classes in person, online or in a hybrid of both in-person and online. Students can check how their classes are offered under the registration tab of their MySFA or through the Concise Class Schedule.

According to the Open SFA website, in-person classes will be adjusted to meet CDC distancing guidelines, which means students will be instructed which days they can be in the classroom. Attendance rules will be set by the instructor and based on classroom capacity, the website states in an FAQ answer.

However, with the temporary lift of the 60-credit hour housing requirement, distance learning options are more available to students as well, raising questions of additional fees.

In an SFA Q&A on Twitter, the official University account said, "The cost for your classes will be the same no matter how you chose to take them. There will not be a distance-learning fee."

Although the semester is maintaining its originally planned dates, another change being made to this semester is that "in almost all classes, instruction will be remote-only after the Thanksgiving break," Gordon said in his email. On-campus housing, however, will

remain open until Dec. 12.

In a second email sent out on June 30, the University announced it is implementing a face covering requirement, effective July 7. Masks should be worn in "indoor public areas on campus, except where marked otherwise, even if you are alone," as well as, "outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to maintain."

The website also states that "exceptions/waivers for both areas and individuals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis."

More information about the current procedure for the fall 2020 semester or the face-covering requirement can be found on the Open SFA website.

Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Adam Peck said, "The COVID-19 crisis gives us yet another opportunity to do what we do best here at SFA: to come together as a community and show the kind of responsibility and respect that are expressed in The SFA Way."

The Open SFA website provides access to common questions and currently planned procedures, but the University is also offering another way to answer questions as well.

"This new resource addresses so many questions I've been seeing on social media," Peck said on Twitter. "But if you still have questions – Ask 'em Jacks. We are taking calls in our call center."

"I know it can be frustrating as plans constantly evolve," Gordon wrote.

"Know that our focus is on how to provide you with as much flexibility as possible, so you are able to have the fall semester that best meets your needs, either on campus, remotely or a combination of the two. I thank you for your patience and your understanding as we work to provide outstanding educational opportunities, while keeping our campus community as safe as possible."

DEGREES: New degree programs offered in College of Liberal and Applied Arts

From Page 6C

applied language courses with communication studies courses that address working with diverse populations, media and international communication. Although it attracts mostly students who are working on Spanish, students interested in French, German or Portuguese may also use the language they are studying instead of Spanish. Incorporated into the program are two opportunities to study abroad as well as internship courses."

Paul-Ureña said the new degree was in high demand, and students quickly started enrolling after it was announced.

"In our research, we found most large companies look at applications from bilingual candidates first," Paul-Ureña said.

"Also, the job of translator is one that is predicted to grow by 28% in the next 15 years. With high salaries, flexible schedules and the ability to work from home, this job is very attractive to our students. And this is only one example. There are many, many jobs that are accessible with a degree in international and intercultural communication. The day we announced the new B.A., we enrolled eight majors, and it continues to grow each semester. When it is announced also as an online program next fall, we should see a sharp spike in growth. Everyone would love to see this program take off and attract hundreds of students. We also are determined to keep it a high quality program that stays on the cutting edge."

AWARD: Professor receives Excellence in Mentoring Award

From Page 1C

school," Roth said. "People recognize our work as high-quality work, and they recognize our students as receiving top quality education. I'm excited about that more than anything."

Katharine Curtis, junior elementary education major from Henderson, was among those who wrote a letter of recommendation for Roth, stating that his ability to connect with all students is what motivated her to nominate him.

"He has a way of meeting you where you're at, whether you're a geography major or not," Curtis said.

Being a future educator, Curtis stated that the person Roth is to her is who she strives to be for her future students.

"Dr. Roth has most importantly showed me the type of selfless educator, mentor and friend that I strive to become for my future students," Curtis said.

"Words cannot express how grateful and proud I am to be one of his students."

While Roth is proud of his achievements, he is most proud of the recognition he has received by his students.

"It feels really good to be recognized and to be recognized by my students is about as good as it gets," Roth said. "To have your students tell you that you're doing a good job, that means more than I can express."



Photo by Cameron Keplinger / **The Pine Log**
Dr. Jeffery Roth talks with a volunteer during the annual St. Paul Cemetery clean-up. Roth was nominated by students who are inspired by him.

WELCOME SFA CLASS OF 2024

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 majors and minors:

- 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 | 936.468.2901 | sfasu.edu/coeadvising
coestudentservices@sfasu.edu | @SFA_COEadvising

“Any success that I have achieved is because of my parents, all the great people around me, and the SFA Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture.”

Clayton Wolf
Chief Operating Officer
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Our alumni hold top leadership positions in natural resource agencies across the state and nation.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
STATE UNIVERSITY

Arthur Temple College of
Forestry and Agriculture

atcofa.sfasu.edu

CMYK

PINE LOG



The Independent Voice of Stephen F. Austin State University

2020 READERSHIP AWARDS

BEST OF LIFESTYLE

BEST PLACE TO RELAX (TIE)
Pecan Park/SFA Arboretum/ Lake Nacogdoches

BEST PLACE TO GO FOR A WALK/JOG
SFA Gardens

BEST PLACE TO FIND A BARGAIN
Dirt Cheap

BEST PLACE TO STUDY (OFF CAMPUS)
Java Jacks

BEST SALON/BARBER
Milford's Barber Shop

BEST PLACE TO GET A TATTOO
Casey's Tattoo

BEST PLACE FOR GROCERIES
Kroger

BEST CLOTHING STORE/BOUTIQUE
Texas Size Bling

BEST OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING
Legends of Nacogdoches

BEST PLACE FOR TEXTBOOKS/SFA GEAR
Jack Backers

BEST PLACE TO WORK OUT
SFA Student Recreation Center

The Pine Log recently invited readers to vote for their favorite people, places and things in our third-annual “50 Best of SFA and Nacogdoches” readership survey. Hundreds of Pine Log readers cast votes for 50 different categories in our online poll, and the results are in! We hope you enjoy learning about our readers’ favorites in this special section of the Welcome Edition. Watch for the fourth-annual “50 Best of SFA and Nacogdoches” survey in spring 2021.

BEST OF EXPERIENCES

BEST PLACE TO TAKE A DATE
Auntie Pasta’s

BEST PLACE TO TAKE OUT-OF-TOWNERS
Dolli’s Diner

BEST SPOT FOR A NIGHT OUT
Banita Creek Hall

BEST LATE-NIGHT/ALL-NIGHT EATERIE
Whataburger

BEST SFA SPORTS VENUE
William R. Johnson Coliseum

BEST PLACE TO MEET PEOPLE/HEAR LIVE MUSIC
Banita Creek Hall

BEST SFA TRADITION
Big Dip

BEST SFA EVENT
Homecoming

BEST GRADUATION PHOTO LOCATION



Photo by Alyssa Faykus / The Pine Log

Recent SFA grad Gabrielle Guidry poses for a photo in front of the SFA main entrance, which was voted Best Graduation Photo Location in the 2020 Pine Log Readership Awards.

BEST OF **UNIVERSITY**

BEST PLACE TO STUDY ON CAMPUS

Ralph W. Steen Library

BEST INTRAMURAL TEAM/SPORTS CLUB

Rugby

BEST STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Student Activities Association

BEST GREEK ORGANIZATION

Chi Omega

BEST COLLEGE

College of Liberal and Applied Arts

BEST MAJOR

Mass Communication

BEST RESIDENCE HALL

Lumberjack Village

BEST CAMPUS DEPARTMENT

Student Affairs Programs

MOST ICONIC **SFA LANDMARK**

Stephen F. Austin Statue (‘Surfin’ Steve)



BEST **FACULTY AND STAFF**



BEST SFA FACULTY MEMBER (TIE)

Dr. Tamey Anglley
Associate Director of Bands/
Director of the Lumberjack
Marching Band



BEST SFA FACULTY MEMBER (TIE)

The late Dr. Ken Collier
Professor of Political Science
in the Department of Government/
Faculty Athletic Representative



BEST SFA STAFF MEMBER

Dr. Adam Peck
Assistant Vice President
for University Affairs/
Dean of Student Affairs



BEST THINGS ABOUT
BEING A LUMBERJACK

- **SFA FAMILY**
- **SFA CONNECTIONS**
- **SFA COMMUNITY**

BEST OF **FOOD**

BEST BURGERS (TIE)

Butcher Boys/Nac Burger

BEST MEXICAN/TEX MEX

El Jaliscience

BEST SANDWICHES

Newk’s

BEST ASIAN CUISINE

Peking

BEST COMFORT FOOD

Cotton Patch

BEST PIZZA

Napoli’s

BEST DONUTS

Shipley’s

BEST FAST FOOD

Chic-fil-A

BEST DESSERT

Insomnia Cookies

BEST COFFEE SPOT

Java Jacks

BEST FOOD TRUCK

Brendyn’s BBQ

BEST ON-CAMPUS EATERIE

Chic-fil-A

BEST HAPPY HOUR

Flashback Café

BEST HEALTHY EATING

Newk’s

BEST OVERALL RESTAURANT

Maklemore’s

Summer enrollment increases after semester of sudden change

Despite being in the midst of global change, SFA has announced significant enrollment increases in both of its summer semesters.

“SFA’s summer enrollment increases are a testament to a number of exciting things,” said Dr. Scott Gordon, SFA president. “First and foremost, it’s an indication that now more than ever, people understand the value and importance of pursuing higher education. It also reaffirms our campus community’s excitement of and investment in our new Lumberjack Education Assistance Program, which was approved by the Board of Regents in April, and that our swift work to expand flexible learning options allowed students to take classes from anywhere, regardless of their situation.”

According to data collected through SFA’s Office of Institutional Research, summer I experienced an 8.8% increase in student enrollment, jumping from 3,741 in 2019 to 4,071 in 2020, or a difference of 330 students. Undergraduate headcount comprises the main difference, jumping 13% from last year’s summer I semester.

Summer II headcount is up by 10%, jumping from 3,109 in 2019 to 3,422 in 2020, or a difference of 313 students. Undergraduate and graduate headcount totals both increased for summer II, with undergraduate increasing by 10% and graduate by 11%.

“Expanding our flexible learning options has clearly resonated with students who still seek to learn in

a rapidly changing world,” said Gordon. “Also, it is exciting that many SFA employees and their family members are taking advantage of LEAP because this helps promote our Strategic Plan’s goal by attracting and supporting high-quality faculty and staff.”

For SFA employees, their spouses and dependents, the LEAP program exempts mandatory tuition and fees except statutory tuition, which is \$50 per semester credit hours for undergraduate classes or \$80 for graduate-level courses. Employees who enroll in classes receive scholarship support to cover the statutory tuition costs, and there is no cap on the number of courses eligible participants may take with the LEAP benefit.

For summer I, the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture reported the highest overall percentage increase at 48%, or an addition of 93 students. Summer I credit hours also increased by 7.8% overall, with the largest volume credit hour increase in undergraduate sciences and mathematics.

For summer II, the College of Sciences and Mathematics reported the highest overall headcount increase at 41%, or an addition of 169 students. Summer II credit hours increased by approximately 10%, with the largest volume credit hour increase in undergraduate sciences and mathematics.

For additional enrollment data, visit sfasu.edu/ir.

Black Geographies class brings different kind of students to classroom



Photo by Andrew Delph / **The Pine Log**

Nontraditional students listen to a lecture in a class new to the Geography program called Black Geographies. This special topics class, taught by Dr. Jeffery Roth, invited retirees to enroll through a state program that offers them free tuition. The class is the first of its kind and focused on Black history in Nacogdoches and across East Texas, as well as offered perspectives from students from multiple generations.

New degree programs available in College of Liberal and Applied Arts

By Meredith Janning
Editor-in-Chief

The College of Liberal and Applied Arts introduced new degree programs, including bachelor’s degrees in medical humanities, international and intercultural communication and a master of arts in national security.

Dr. Joyce Johnston, assistant dean of the College of Liberal and Applied Arts and director of division of multidisciplinary programs, helped coordinate the creation of the new programs.

According to Johnston, instead of a more traditional degree program where each course has the same prefix, these multidisciplinary programs allow students to take courses from different areas of study and put them toward one degree.

“For example, in the medical humanities degree, the B.A. and the B.S., that one really speaks to a holistic understanding of health and wellness,” Johnston said. “So, the students are required to take a combined science major; they have to know the sciences to understand these things, of course. Then, they also have a core of required courses that range from our intro to medical humanities class, a philosophy class in medical ethics, psychology classes, some anthropology classes because we’re looking at the whole human. It’s to help prepare people to work in the health industry. It’s a fabulous degree for anybody who wants to go on, maybe go to law school and specialize in medical law, which is a booming field.”

Johnston also said that medical humanities is a growing

degree program, and the only other state schools that offer it are UTSA and Baylor University.

“We’re really unique,” Johnston said. “Medical humanities programs are growing, and it’s because all aspects of health and wellness are becoming very much of interest.”

“We also are determined to keep it a high quality program that stays on the cutting edge.”

- Dr. Jeana Paul-Ureña

but internationally also. So about three years ago, there was a meeting and dean of the College of Liberal and Applied Arts, Dr. Brian Murphy, asked that we should come out with a niche master’s program. And, the department of government proposed this program, which is national security.”

The program went through the approval process by the Texas Board of Higher Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools last fall, so the program started this semester.

“One of the things you find in the Department of Government is that we have two master’s [degrees], the MPA, which is master’s in Public Administration,” Antwi-Boasiako said. “And this new one, we call it the fresh one, but it was the whole department that put all these things together. [Then,] we got the final approval. And so, our hope is that, being a new program, it’s not just master’s in political science, but with national security, worldwide. It helps our students who are interested in working in public affairs. There are some students who are looking to work in the foreign division so with that background, it helps.”

The College of Liberal and Applied Arts is also introducing a bachelor’s degree in international and intercultural communication.

“This is SFA’s first degree that is taught half in English and half in Spanish,” Dr. Jeana Paul-Ureña, chair of the Department of Languages, Cultures and Communication, said. “It combines

See **DEGREES** on **Page 3C**

WE’RE SO EXCITED YOU’RE A PART OF THE SFASU COMMUNITY!

As the official bookstore, we’re your destination for:

- Textbooks & course materials your professors require
 - School supplies & electronics you need to succeed
 - Gear & gifts to show your SFASU pride
- Order online & have it delivered directly to you with free shipping
 - Choose from an expanded availability of digital course materials for immediate use directly after the order is processed

Plus, get

20% OFF

when you download our app and stay notified about future promotions

Visit us online now & in store when you get to campus – we’re here to help.

Students share favorite study spots on campus, in town

By Amanda Hope
Staff Writer

With the start of a new year and a new semester, now is a great time to find a new go-to study spot or reclaim an old favorite. Like many students, Cassandra Smith, senior sociology major from Tyler, struggles with getting distracted while studying due to ADHD. To start the semester off right, Smith encourages students to find a study space that works best for them.

“[Studying] sets a routine and creates positive habits,” Smith said. “I’m not the best at it, so finding somewhere where I know I’m focusing when I’m there is the key.”

Here are some Lumberjack recommended on and off campus study spots for those who live on campus, commute, need a change of scenery or want to support local businesses while being focused and productive.

Ralph W. Steen Library

The library has four floors, multiple studies rooms and is home to the AARC, which has walk in tables and learning teams for various areas of study. If you like to study by yourself in a quiet area, the fourth floor offers personal pods you can sit and work in, as well as private study rooms that can be checked out by the hour. For a louder atmosphere that encourages group study, the second and third floors are best recommended.

“I try to stay as long as I can at the library,” Jacy Evans, freshman bio-chemistry major from Nacogdoches, said. “The study rooms give me more freedom to move around and study in private and in a relatively quiet room. I also enjoy the white boards that most of them provide, so I can see whatever I’m working on in a larger scale.”

Makayla Powell, junior nursing major from Marshall, says she likes studying in the library as well because she concentrates more compared to studying in her room, where she tends to get distracted.

Business and STEM buildings

Open to all majors, both the business building and the STEM building are where lots of students like to go. When study rooms in the library are full, students can go to the fourth floor of the business building to find an open study room. Because of the glass room and nice views, many students also enjoy studying in the STEM building. The view of campus helps relieve stress because it simulates studying outside.

Starbucks (Both locations)

For Hanna Hardy, junior elementary education major from Quitman, Starbucks

is one of her favorite places to study. The atmosphere helps her focus on school work, and the coffee helps her stay awake.

“I enjoy studying at Starbucks on and off campus because I enjoy buying coffee which will wake me up, and I enjoy the music,” Hardy said. “I would recommend it because the environment makes me focus more on whatever schoolwork I am doing.”

Thumpers

Thumpers is a local coffee shop and bookstore that is located at 4515 North St. Students have the option to order in house, order ahead or have their coffee delivered through the Waitr app. Besides coffee, Thumpers offers hot chocolate, herbal tea, smoothies and sugar-free options.

“I usually only go to Thumpers for major assignments because [of] the change in scenery and the atmosphere,” Smith said. “Thumpers has plenty of outlets and tables available. If [a] student has the transport and a little extra change to buy something, I would say study there.”

University Coffee

University Coffee, a newer coffee shop located not too far from campus at 2611 North St., was built to serve college students and provide them with a comfortable place to hang out and study. They serve a variety of coffees, cappuccinos, frappes and an arrangement of teas.

Java Jacks

Java Jacks is another coffee shop located at 1122 North St. First opening in 1996, the locally owned business had one goal in mind: “to create the kind of coffee shop where we wanted to spend all day, every day,” according to their website. Java Jacks has been a Lumberjack favorite for over 20 years and continues to be a study spot students use today.

Along with different styles of coffee, they serve pastries, paninis and wraps. For those who like a variety of foods, they also serve breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Nine Flags

Nine Flags Coffee Roasters, located at 1504 North St., roasts their own coffee beans in a wood-fire oven that was built by the owners. According to their website, [they] “feature nine different countries’ beans from Kenya to Costa Rica, importing directly from small batch farmers.” Recently moving locations, making it more convenient for students to walk a short distance from campus, Nine Flags hopes to become a new Lumberjack favorite for their coffee, pastries and free WiFi.

Board of Regents approves construction of beef center

Original facility destroyed by fire in 2018

By Meredith Janning
Editor-in-Chief

Last semester, the Board of Regents approved the construction of a new beef farm barn after a fire burned down the old facility in November 2018.

The new center is expected to be completed as early as the fall 2020 semester, according to the dean of the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Dr. Hans Williams. There will also be improvements to the space available.

“The University administration and the Board of Regents fully supported our request for replacing the beef farm building with something that was better than what was there before the fire,” Williams said. “As a result, we are replacing a 6,000-square-foot facility with a 20,000-square-foot facility. The new facility will include a classroom, bathrooms and an office. This was a University team effort, and all were advocates for a bigger and better structure.”

As a result of the fire, faculty members needed to find ways to work around the space limitations and inclement weather.

“As chair, my goal has always been to provide our students with the best learning environment possible,” Department of Agriculture Chair Dr. Joey Bray said. “After the fire, my fellow faculty and I worked diligently to get the temporary structure in place so that courses were able to continue. We did have to modify the timing of certain labs and outside lectures due to weather for both our students and the animals’ well-being. This altered the flow of the course material, but our students and faculty did a fantastic job of being flexible in this difficult situation.”

Enrollment numbers in the animal sciences program have gone down, as well.

“The enrollment in our animal science and beef cattle courses has decreased since the barn burned down,” Bray said. “We have been able to replace the cattle handling equipment to properly care for our beef cattle herd, but we were only able to establish a temporary shelter for this equipment. The temporary shelter has limited the number of students that can safely and effectively participate in the hands-on labs for these courses.”

Planning and approval from the Board of Regents to rebuild the center took 14 months,

partially because of the president search and introduction of Dr. Scott Gordon as University president.

“Immediately after the fire, planning began involving Drs. Joey Bray and Erin Brown from the Department of Agriculture, myself and Physical Plant personnel as to the best course of action to replace the beef farm building,” Williams said. “Once a sound plan was developed, the action item to replace the beef farm facility was placed on the board agenda at the earliest possible opportunity. As you would expect, the transition in leadership to a new University president probably caused some delay. Once Dr. Gordon arrived last September, he immediately took action to involve the college and [SFA] leadership to finalize a plan and bring the beef farm building replacement item before the Board of Regents this January.”

Last semester, Maley Green, a junior animal sciences major from Henderson, started a petition to spread the word about the need for a new barn.

“I started the petition to rebuild the beef farm, and with the help of fellow agriculture students, we got over 1,000 signatures on the petition,” Green said.

“I honestly do think it played a part in the barn re-build. The ag students joined together and said, ‘This matters. We will not be ignored,’ and we fought for our education.

“It feels great to know that Dr. Gordon and the Board of Regents have taken action to rebuild after the efforts of all of us agriculture students. While I started the petition, this would not have happened without support from the community and other students. We all came together, and a bunch of us also sent emails to Dr. Gordon regarding the barn. He quickly jumped into action and came to visit us during our lab to assess the damage. So, it meant a lot to have him listen to us and want to help.”

Green said the reconstruction is a success for current and future members of the agriculture department.

“I hope that we will have a nice facility with good working pens and a classroom for convenience and also a nice facility for student tours and Breakfast on the Farm, which is an event that the beef science students put on every spring,” Green said. “But most importantly, I hope that the barn will be a comfortable place for students to learn and work.”





STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY



Freshman’s Guide to the Office of the Registrar

Welcome to Stephen F. Austin State University. The next four to five years will be some of the most exciting and challenging years of your life to date, and the registrar’s office wants to help you make the most of them! 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’s rights to your educational records ceased when you enrolled at SFA. You may, however, have a parent who pays your bills or makes calls on your behalf. If this is true for you, then you need 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 signed in the registrar’s office, located in Room 201 of the Rusk Building. Be sure to bring a driver’s license or picture identification.

Registration

Registering for classes can sometimes be a very confusing process for new students, so we have tips to help. First, pay attention to registration dates, which will include when registration starts and ends. You’ll also want to learn how to register online. To find your registration dates and for an online registration tutorial, visit us at sfasu.edu/registrar/399.asp. If you need further assistance in registering, then you may call our Registration Help Desk at (936) 468-1370, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Classes Dropped for Non-Payment

Be sure that *some form* of payment has been submitted to the Business Office before your first class day. A partial payment will secure your spot in class and ensure that you don’t log on to mySFA to find a blank schedule of classes.

Dropping Classes

If you are feeling bogged down and are considering dropping a course, keep in mind that you are not permitted to drop more than six courses during your *entire* undergraduate career, including transfer courses. Dropping courses also may cause you to lose your financial aid, affect your medical and/or other insurance, and affect your academic status. Deadlines for dropping classes are found at sfasu.edu/registrar/170.asp.

Requesting Transcripts

The easiest way for freshmen to request a transcript is by visiting the registrar’s office in person. All that is required is a photo ID and about four minutes of your time.

Registration/Transcript Holds

Sometimes you will notice that you aren’t able to register or receive a transcript because of holds on your account. Registration holds must be cleared before you are able to register. If you need help understanding your holds, call our office at (936) 468-2501, or check mySFA for hold information.

Proving Good Grades for Insurance Purposes

You may qualify for a Good Student discount if you have commendable grades. Your transcript will reflect those good 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’s insurance policy. This is why you might need a verification of enrollment. You can get a verification of enrollment through mySFA, call the Verification Department at (936) 468-2379, or stop by the Rusk Building, Room 202, with a picture ID during normal business hours.

Forgotten mySFA Username and Password

If you need help with your mySFA username and/or password, call mySFA help at (936) 468-7277. Having a hard time remembering your password might indicate that your number needs to be changed to something more memorable. You can easily change your password through your mySFA account. Follow these easy steps: on the mySFA login screen, click “Forgot Password?” then “Change My Password.” We also highly suggest you set up security questions the next time you log in to mySFA so that you can retrieve your password when needed.

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 to reduce any stress you may experience during your first year at SFA. All fun aside, we will now close our guide with some legal information that you need to know.

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 that the student believes is inaccurate or misleading. Students may ask the university to amend a record that 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 his or her 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 his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her 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:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901

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 201 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
- L. class roster (not the student’s class schedule)

For additional information regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, contact the registrar’s office, or access the web at sfasu.edu/registrar.

Lynda Langham, 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

SPORTS

Page 1D

The Pine Log

@thepinelog

SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE

■ Officials from the Southland Conference made the call saying fall sports competitions will be postponed through August. This includes all soccer and volleyball competitions, including scrimmages, exhibitions and countable matches.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD



■ The women's track and field team was recognized by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coach Association for its 3.1 cumulative GPA.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

■ The lounge in the the upcoming basketball practice facility was recently named the Dr. Bill and Barbara Gandy Men's Basketball Player Lounge.

FOOTBALL

■ Sophomore wideout/kick returner Xavier Gipson has been selected to represent SFA on the Preseason All-Conference Teams for football at both positions.

OPINION

Please support teams despite changed season



Alec Reyes
Sports Editor

What a time to be alive if you're a sports fan. With seasons getting canceled and leagues slowly starting up again, COVID-19 has proven to be the ultimate game changer of our everyday lives.

We may not see a sense of normalcy by the time the fall semester rolls around, but here's what I will

ask of you. In whatever ways you can, please show your support and spirit to our SFA teams and athletes. Attending games and other contests are the greatest stress relievers for a college student. It's where you can let loose, have fun and forget about your normal routine temporarily.

SFA Athletics' goal is to be the best mid-major program in the nation, and so far it's trending that way. There have been multiple championships won across many sports, including volleyball, men's and women's basketball, cross country/track and field, and how can I not mention our two-time national champion bowling team? The future is also bright for Lumberjack football and second-year head coach Colbey Carthel as he and his staff landed back-to-back No. 1 recruiting classes in the Southland Conference in the last two years. In the spring, there's softball, baseball, tennis, golf, and our newest addition, beach volleyball. There's a team for everyone to support year-round.

If you are one of the lucky ones to attend a game, I urge you to be loud and proud, and as always, wear your purple and white with pride. I also forgot to mention that as long as you have your student ID, you can attend any game for free. I must also add that at each contest, make sure you sit in the Purple Haze student section to make it an intimidating environment for visiting teams.

With the nasty Coronavirus still around, we'll likely have to find new ways to support our teams. If you can't attend in person due to limited capacity and maintaining physical distancing, the next best way to take part is to listen and watch contests on digital platforms. Games are broadcast live on ESPN3 and ESPN+, Q107.7 provides radio coverage, and sometimes there'll be games live streamed through Facebook Live and Twitter. Every team is also available to follow and like on all social media platforms so you can remain updated.

We're in this together, and we will not let a virus stop the Lumberjack faithful from supporting our teams. It may take a while before we see Homer Bryce Stadium or Shelton Gym at full capacity again, but anything can happen and before we know it, life will get back to normal. Stay healthy, stay safe, and as always, Axe 'em!

Basketball practice facility construction in progress



Courtesy Photo

Construction on the new practice facility next to the William R. Johnson Coliseum began earlier this year. The \$26 million expansion includes practice space for both men and women's teams, as well as a gym, locker rooms, lounges, a nutrition area and offices for team coaches. The project is part of the University's expansion plans that include a fine arts renovation and other improvements. The new basketball performance facility is set to be completed in 2021. Several additional athletic facility upgrades were announced this summer.

Athletic facility upgrades pretty 'suite'

By Alec Reyes
Sports Editor

Over the course of the summer, three of SFA's athletic teams announced plans for upgrades to their respective facilities.

Shelton Gym, home to SFA Ladyjacks volleyball team, was updated with a new paint job on the court to coincide with the release of the new SFA Athletics logos. Unveiled on Lady Volleyball's Twitter page in July, the center court features the secondary Ladyjacks logo, and both ends of the court feature the new SFA tertiary logo. In addition, the wordmark "Axe 'Em" is included on one end of the sideline while the other end has the wordmark "Jacks."

SFA Soccer also announced upgrades to its home turf set to be completed by the end of the summer. Funded by private donations, the facility will include suite seating, reserved chair-back seating, general admission seating and standing-room-only areas. The existing seats will be placed at the goal lines. The new seating capacity will hold up to 1,200 fans.

"We are extremely excited about the opportunity to enhance our facility and provide a better representation of the success our soccer program has achieved over the last decade," Director of Athletics Ryan Ivey said in a statement. "This facility enhancement will provide a great fan experience, allow us to

increase revenue by being able to sell robust ticketing plans for our soccer matches and allow us to be able to host more outside events, such as the conference tournament and other marquee matches, while at the same time allowing us to move closer to achieving our vision of being the leading mid-major athletics department in the nation."

"Our program as a whole is incredibly excited to be adding the grandstands to our field this year," said SFA head soccer coach Tony Minatta. "The playing surface and setting is already the best in the conference, and now we will be able to provide the incredible fans of SFA women's soccer with seating that will be able to accommodate more

people and create an incredible game day atmosphere."

The SFA Baseball facility will see the addition of an indoor pitching lab for the 2021 season. It's a 4,800-square-foot indoor space to be used for Lumberjack pitchers.

"We are excited to get this project completed for our baseball program," said Ivey. "This pitching lab will provide our coaches and program the opportunity to focus in on an extremely important aspect of the game."

Like SFA's soccer upgrades, this project was funded by private donations. The facility will have room for two bullpen cages and

See **UPGRADE** on Page 4D

Look ahead Lumberjacks

Several sports seasons to be pushed, stats show promising future of 'fall' sports

By Alec Reyes
Sports Editor

With the fall athletic season up in the air due to COVID-19, there are many teams at SFA who may or may not have a full season. Pending changes or cancellations, here's what we can expect for two of our fall teams, football and volleyball.

Football

The 2019 football season welcomed first-year head coach Colbey Carthel to lead the Lumberjacks. They went 3-9 overall with a 3-6 record in the Southland Conference. Despite this, SFA closed out the 2019 campaign strong by going 2-1 in their final three games, which included a win over rival Northwestern State that brought Chief Caddo back to Nacogdoches.

In the offseason, SFA signed the No. 3 recruiting class in the FCS and No. 1 class in the Southland for the second-straight year. The 2020 signing class was headlined by Branard Wright, a three-star defensive tackle from Dallas Carter High School and the No. 1 recruit in the FCS. He held 30 offers from FBS programs, including Alabama, Clemson and LSU.

Offensively, the Jacks will see the return of multiple starters. Junior quarterback Trae Self returns to lead the offense. He

threw for 2,550 yards with 12 touchdowns and 12 interceptions last year. He also carried the ball 64 times for 53 yards and two scores.

SFA's backfield will also see the return of seniors Da'Leon Ward and Josh McGowen. After spending his first three seasons at Texas Tech, Ward came in and led the team in rushing with 471 yards on 125 carries with one touchdown. He also recorded 21 receptions for 225 yards and one score. Splitting time with Ward in the backfield, McGowen carried the ball 110 times for 450 yards and led the Jacks with six touchdown runs. In the passing game, the McAllen native hauled in 17 receptions for 126 yards and one touchdown.

The Jacks' receiving corps will see the return of sophomore wide receiver and preseason SLC first-teamer Xavier Gipson. Last season, he recorded 52 receptions for 934 yards, averaging 17.96 yards per catch and seven touchdowns, which were all team-highs. He also returned 17 kickoffs for 356 yards. The Dallas native was named to the HERO Sports' FCS Freshman All-America Team. Also joining Gipson in the receiving corps is senior Remi Simmons who recorded 23 receptions for 234 yards and two touchdowns. Other returners

See **LOOK** on Page 4D

Lumberjack football season to include 95th Battle of the Piney Woods Oct. 3



Photos by LaShauna Bell and Charis Phelps / The Pine Log

The Lumberjack football team won its first game of the season and of the conference season last semester against the Lamar Cardinals 24-17. Next, the team headed to NRG Stadium in Houston for the 94th Battle of the Piney Woods for head coach Colby Carthel's first rival game against the Bearcats.



Photo by Gabrielle Czapl / The Pine Log

Harris becomes Jacks’ all-time leading scorer in Division I, sixth in SFA history

By Deanna Swindell
Contributing Writer

Not a single person was sitting on a seat in William R. Johnson Coliseum. There was no one watching. All you could hear was the sound of the ball bouncing, the sound of shoes squeaking against the floor and of the ball going through the net. This is how Kevon Harris practices as he carries the determination to reach his goals.

From Ellenwood, Georgia, Harris was picked up by head coach Kyle Keller to play basketball at SFA. He is a senior and sports business major. Last spring, Harris surpassed former Lumberjack Thomas Walkup to become the Jacks’ all-time leading scorer in Division I.

The Jacks were facing the University of Central Arkansas as Harris was 3 points away from breaking the record.

With two field-goal attempts and two 3-point attempts, Harris was scoreless as the Bears’ defense maintained pressure on him. It wasn’t until the 15th minute of the game when he was able to tie the record after making a layup.

With 3:17 remaining in the half on a dunk assisted by junior guard Roti Ware, Harris was able to break the record. The crowd stood on their feet and cheered after witnessing the basket they had been waiting and Harris reaching the milestone.

“I try not to think about it because him and his family mean so much to me,” Keller said during the post-game press conference.

With tears beginning to form in his eyes, he said, “For a first-time head Division 1 coach and a player who is recruited really hard, for him to take a chance with me, I’m very grateful.

He was a highly recruited player, and he could have gone to a lot of different places. I’m grateful that he chose me and Stephen F. Austin.”

Harris started playing basketball around the age of five when he began in church leagues and playing in his neighborhood. He also played in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). Now sitting at 1,764 points before a matchup against Northwestern State University last semester, Harris is the sixth all-time leading scorer in SFA history.

“I’m self-motivated,” Harris said. “Coming where I’m from, you don’t get very many accolades like this. Most of it, I got from my mother.

“I’ve always been persistent because I grew up like that. I just give all the glory to God because I wouldn’t be here without Him. I wouldn’t be in the position that I am today.”

“I’m self-motivated. Coming where I’m from, you don’t get very many accolades like this. I’m just determined. I have that self-motivation. Most of it, I got from my mother. She installed it in me. I’ve always been persistent because I grew up like that.”

Menjivar becomes SFA’s first, youngest female athletic trainer to intern for NFL

By Deanna Swindell
Contributing Writer

After applying for internships to all 32 NFL teams, it was time for Melany Menjivar to wait patiently for at least one team to accept her as a sports medicine intern for the summer. It was on Nov. 12, 2018, while she was walking on campus on her way to class when she received a call offering her an internship position with the Seattle Seahawks.

Menjivar, a senior and kinesiology major, made a name for herself by being the first woman and the youngest student at SFA to have a sports medicine internship in the NFL. She was born in Houston, growing up as a minority as both her parents migrated to the United States from El Salvador, met in the states and got married.

Menjivar was diagnosed with scoliosis when she was younger. She was a multi-sport athlete growing up playing volleyball, basketball and ran cross-country and track in middle school. In high school, she played basketball and ran track. She faced an injury playing sports in high school and had to work closely with the athletic trainers, which opened her eyes to see what sports medicine was about.

At SFA, Menjivar works with the athletics program, specifically with football during the season, women’s basketball and track and field during the spring semesters. After graduating from SFA, she plans to attend graduate school to get her master’s degree.

In her internship with the Seahawks, she described her work for them when having to begin the internship on July 18 and returning Aug. 29. Working with the team, she had to wake up early and was not able to sleep until late at night.

“They are such an amazing organization,” Menjivar said. “They are very welcoming when it comes to new people, new faces. They pride themselves in being a

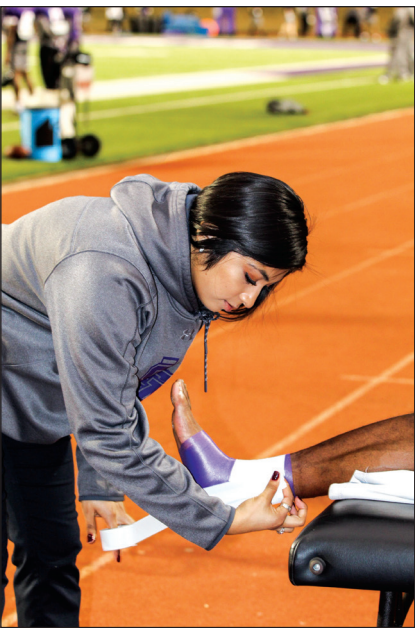


Photo by Charis Phelps / The Pine Log

Melany Menjivar, a senior and kinesiology major, works for the SFA Athletics program with the football team during the season and women’s basketball and track and field during the spring semester.

giant family. They’re very particular on what they want. There’s so much that you are able to do hands-on with someone. I was able to learn soft tissue techniques, a lot of rehab exercises that were for the beginning stages of an injury and the nutrition that goes into their daily intake for fuel.”

In the years that she has been a student at SFA, Menjivar has been able to work close and learn from A.J. Van Valkenburgh, director of sports medicine and the head football athletic trainer. He has seen the professional aspect of the job while working for the Houston Texans for six years and was able to give a recommendation for Menjivar to the Seahawks to be an intern.

“There’s a big learning curve between high school athletic training and college athletic training,” Valkenburgh said. “For [Menjivar,] there wasn’t much of a learning curve. I knew she could handle what they needed from her as a summer intern.”Although, he was unsure Menjivar could handle the position at a young age, he knew she could take the qualities she has on being an above-average student and build up to be a great athletic trainer.

“Most of the time that is reserved for your senior student athletic trainers who have graduated,” Valkenburgh said. “She’s my right-hand person. She’s been my right-hand person since I got here. I’d put her up against anybody in the country in what she’s doing and where she’s at. That is not a testament of what we do here. It’s not a testament of the things she’s learned here. It’s a testament to her work ethic, her background, the way she was raised, and she takes those small little things and she flourishes.”

Menjivar knows she has big obstacles ahead of her, especially when she is a woman in a male-dominated occupation. She explained how there’s about two summer interns who are women in the 32 teams in the NFL.

See **TRAINER** on **Page 4D**

We are here for you

The mission of the Stephen F. Austin State University Police Department is to provide a safe environment to all students, staff, faculty, and guests through respectful, fair, and equitable policing and community engagement. We strive to provide excellence, integrity and professional community interaction with our campus community.

Services: Escorts, vehicle assists, emergency call boxes, crime prevention programs.
Non-emergency line: 936.468.2608
Police Emergency: 936.468.9111
updemail@sfasu.edu

“SFAUSD has an excellent working relationship with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to enhance safety and security within our community. We also maintain a close liaison with Residence Life, Safety, Student Life and other key university personnel to help keep our campus as safe and secure as reasonably possible. The objective of the Police Department is to work with you to make our university a safe place in which to live, work and study. This requires police-community teamwork. You can do your part by becoming involved in our police community crime prevention activities. SFAUSD has implemented many progressive programs to help accomplish its mission. I welcome your comments and suggestions regarding the Department, departmental personnel, and our services. We look forward to being of assistance to you during your stay at Stephen F. Austin.”

John Fields Jr.
Executive Director and Chief of Police



Parking Services provides parking, enforcement and special services on the SFA campus for faculty, staff, students and visitors of Stephen F. Austin State University. Please contact Paul (Mark) Jordan for any problems or concerns at 936-468-7275. Email SFA Parking at sfaparking@sfasu.edu



I want you to
feel better faster.









 **Bryan Davis, M.D.**
FAMILY MEDICINE

Jennings Naranjo
APRN, FNP-C
Board Certified Family Nurse Practitioner



Accessible one-stop
primary care, including
preventive, diagnostic, and
therapeutic health services

-  Complete Care
-  Walk-ins Welcome
-  Cash Labs
-  X-rays
-  Annual Check-ups
-  Sutures & Splinting

936.205.5949
129 Creekbend Boulevard
BryanDavisMD.com

Banking Texas Style.

#LumberjackPride

FACETIME TEXAS STYLE

Brought to you by Commercial Bank of Texas



 **OFFICIAL PARTNER**
of SFA Athletics



Welcome to Stephen F. Austin State University! CBTx is your bank on campus — bringing you the latest technology and tools like our Interactive Teller Machine in the Baker Pattillo Student Center that performs most teller transactions remotely, providing face-to-face service from #RealPeopleWhoCare. That's Banking Texas Style.

Show your Lumberjack Pride with a CBTx SFA Debit Card — FREE with any CBTx Checking Account!

- ★ **MORE LOCAL BANKING CENTERS**
Four Nacogdoches locations, including the CBTx SFA Banking Center, located inside the Baker Pattillo Student Center
- ★ **MORE ATMS**
Over 40 ATMs, including five on the SFA campus
- ★ **MORE CONVENIENCE**
Extended weekday and Saturday hours, plus secure mobile tools that let you bank from anywhere, anytime



Tracy Thomas
936-715-4280
tracy@cbtx.com
SFA Banking Center
222 Vista Drive

 **CBTx**
Commercial Bank of Texas, N.A.[®]
800-723-7601 ★ www.cbtx.com

CBTx MOBILE BANKING & MOBILE DEPOSIT

Bank from anywhere, anytime — the simple and secure way with Commercial Bank of Texas! Best of all, you choose whether you want to use a simple text message, your mobile web browser, or our free app available for the iPhone and Android.



On-campus ATMs include:

- ★ Baker Pattillo Student Center
- ★ Steen Hall
- ★ Steen Library
- ★ Lumberjack Landing

Visit our website at www.cbtx.com for a full list of banking center and ATM locations.



We're Your Bank on Campus ... and beyond!

Alba | Allen | Bedford | Cushing | Diboll | Elkhart | Emory | Farmersville
Kennard | Lewisville | Lufkin | Nacogdoches | Palestine | Roxton | Wells

UPGRADE: Court gets fresh coat of paint

From Page 1D
comes with a Rapsodo pitching unit to provide analytical data. Also included will be a Edgetronic slow motion camera that will help pitchers find small errors and to correct pitch development. “With the advent of all the new technology in our sport,

we felt it was imperative for us to give our athletes as much of an advantage as we could,” said SFA Baseball head coach Johnny Cardenas. “Through the generosity of a private gift, we have been afforded the ability to do just that and to put our players on the cutting edge of sports technology.”



A bird's eye view shows the progress of both the volleyball court (above) and the baseball facility (right).



Courtesy Photos

Soccer ends 2019 season with 8-11 record



Photo by Charis Phelps / The Pine Log

Sophomore Forward Mattie Musser dribbles the ball away from an opponent during their 2019 match against the University of Houston. Musser scored the only goal for the Ladyjacks during this game on her single attempt.

LOOK: Volleyball graduates four, gains nine newcomers

From Page 1D
include senior tight end Allen Arcles III, sophomore receiver Lawton Rickel and junior receiver QuenTyvian Borders. Despite losses to the offensive line from graduation, senior offensive lineman Zach Ingram returns along with junior Terrin Robinson and sophomore Keegan Holm. In addition, the Lumberjacks signed eight offensive linemen who included two three-star recruits in Frank Thompson and Jaylon Washington as well as three transfers. On the defensive side, SFA will also see multiple returners. Senior safety Trenton Gordon was SFA's leading tackler with 104

total tackles (46 solo, 58 assists). He also recorded 2.5 tackles for loss, one sack, one interception and four passes broken up. Along with Gordon, the Jacks' secondary will have plenty of experience between players, including senior safety Gavin Roland, senior nickel Eli Jones, senior cornerback Caleb Lawton and sophomore cornerback Myles Brooks. A key addition to the secondary is freshman cornerback Tanner Hooker, who was a three-star recruit. SFA's linebacker corps returns sophomores Gerard McKnight, Brevin Randle and DaRyan Williams, who combined for 128 tackles last season, as well as seniors Kirkland Joseph and Bert Morris.

The defensive line will see sophomores: Marcus Mosley, Amad Murray and Trevon Johnson back as the trio combined for 20.5 tackles for loss. Junior Alex Schragg, redshirt freshman Kris Campos and sophomore Dylan Brown will compete for the position of placekicker after the graduation of SFA's leading scorer and All-Southland placekicker Storm Ruiz. Sophomore punter Max Quick returns to handle punting duties, and sophomore Chase Ruiz will return as long snapper. Kick return duties will be handled by Gipson, and Simmons will handle punt return. SFA was scheduled to

play Alabama A&M in the season opener, but the SWAC postponed the 2020 season. Instead, the Lumberjacks will open the season against SMU on Sept. 12 in Dallas. Their home and Southland opener is set for Sept. 19 against Lamar. All times are to be determined. **Volleyball** Last season, the SFA Ladyjacks volleyball team proved it was a force to be reckoned with as the women went 31-2 overall with an unblemished 16-0 SLC record. They won their third-consecutive regular season championship and their second-straight Southland Conference Tournament, and they made their second-

straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament. In addition, Ladyjacks head coach Debbie Humphreys was named the Southland's Coach of the Year for the third year in a row. No matter what shape the season takes, the Ladyjacks will have a target on their backs, but they have their sights set on another Southland Conference title and an NCAA tournament berth. Despite losing four players to graduation, the Ladyjacks are returning experienced players along with nine newcomers. Middle blocker Taya Mitchell is back for her senior season after being named the SLC's Newcomer of the Year and earning a spot on the third

team All-SLC. Her 165 blocks, 1.45 per set, led the Southland and ranked ninth in the nation. Mitchell also recorded 178 kills, averaging 1.56 per set with a .268 attack percentage. Maddie Miller, a senior defensive specialist, returns after being named second team All-SLC last season. She led the league in digs totaling 595, 5.31 per set, which was 16th in the nation. Also returning are sophomore outside hitter Arriana Pagan, senior middle blocker/ outside hitter Sheretta Hill and senior defensive specialist/libero Bailey Mulder. The Ladyjacks will begin the season Aug. 21 at UT-Arlington at a start time to be determined.



Photo by Charis Phelps / The Pine Log

TRAINER: Menjivar sets records as NFL intern

From Page 2D
“I’m not going to stop,” Menjivar said when discussing the gender gap in sports medicine. “I feel like that shouldn’t be a limit to some people. Women should be able to be given the opportunity to showcase themselves and show that they are able to work in a male-dominant sport.” Menjivar has a plan to return to work for the NFL. Although she has so many things she must still accomplish, she knows she has made the people around her proud. “Both my parents are Salvadoran so when they first came over here, my dad first started watching football, and he learned what American football was about,” Menjivar said. “Remembering where they come from and how far they’ve come to give me and my other siblings a better opportunity and a better chance of an education, all I want to do is make it so that I can make them proud. Even though they tell me that I’ve already made them so proud, I just don’t want to stop because it doesn’t just stop with my parents.” She talked about one of her favorite moments while working the summer internship. Menjivar said that during a game against the Minnesota Vikings. She was working the bench, passing out cups and making sure players were hydrating. The players didn’t have blood on them or any other small injury. She said her family was at home watching the game and recorded a video of her whenever she appeared on the television screen. She said at that moment of the video, all she could hear was her whole family cheering for her. Menjivar also has family in El Salvador who were watching the game, saw her on TV and called her family in the states to cheer her on. “I think she’s very driven,” Tessa McElroy, a senior and kinesiology major who works in

sports medicine with SFA Athletics and the women's basketball team, said. “I’ve never met somebody who’s as driven as she is. She’s very hard working. When she sets her mind to something, she’s going to do it. She’s going to get it done above the standard that we are expected to be at.” Menjivar texted McElroy on the day she got her internship to share the news. They are both close friends who are supportive of each other. “For me, when I did my internship, she told me to go for it,” McElroy said. “No matter what happens. She just encourages us to do our best.” Menjivar describes herself as a strong female who makes people listen to her, especially with the challenges that she faces in having to work with male athletes. She also says that one of her biggest weaknesses is doubting herself on how to progress an athlete through rehabilitation. This is something that any athletic trainer struggles with throughout their entire career. She said that she has gone days where she is angry at herself, and she talks herself down. Then, she realizes all the people who are around her, motivating her. One of them is her fiancé who she says would always be there for her when she got home at night frustrated. “There’s many times when I didn’t believe in myself, and I didn’t think I was capable,” Menjivar said. “As I got closer to the date, I started to get scared. I had so many conversations throughout those couple of days before going that I was like, ‘I don’t know why I’m ever doubting myself because I have so many people that believe in me that I don’t even need to believe in myself.’ It means everything to me to have so many people rooting for me.”

Reserve your Stone Fort yearbook!

Free T-Shirt with order while supply lasts.

Stop by our table outside your “Meet the Dean” session Sunday or at the BPSC during Orientation week.



L
lofts
NACOGDOCHES

NOW LEASING FALL 2020-2021

48 HR LOOK AND LEASE

Tour our property and sign within 48 hours to save \$285.00 in signing fees!



- Computer and Study Room
- State-of-the-Art Fitness Center
- Blazing Fast Internet Access
- Clubhouse with Game Room
- Bills Paid (Cap on Electricity)
- Wi-Fi Throughout Property
- Full-Size Basketball Court
- Community Garden
- Fully Furnished
- Covered Parking Available
- Resort-Style Saltwater Pool with Cabana
- Covered Arbor with Grills
- Sand Volleyball Court

1333 PEARL STREET, NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS 75961
LIVEATTHELOFTS.COM | 936.569.1333
TEXT LIVEATLOFTS TO 47464



NO BETTER PLACE TO LIVE IN
Nacogdoches

**UPGRADES
COMING
SOON!**



OUR APARTMENTS

Fully Furnished Units • Walk-in Closets • Full-size Washer & Dryer in Each Unit • Ultimate Ethernet & WiFi Access • Granite Countertops • Stainless Steel Appliances • Utilities Included • Full Cable Package Including HBO and HD DVR

OUR COMMUNITY

Gated Community • **NEW** Game Room with Billiards, Foosball, and Arcade Games • State-of-the-Art Fitness Center • Relaxing Fire Pit • Resort-style Saltwater Pool with a Waterfall • **LUXURY** Coffee Bar/Lounge with Patio • Computer Center with HP & Mac Computers • **PRIVATE** Study Rooms • Luxer One Parcel Lockers

1411 NORTH STREET, NACOGDOCHES, TX 75961 | (936) 569-1411 | LIVEATLEGENDS.COM |





Photos by Gabrielle Czapl / The Pine Log

Branson Ellis, a sophomore from Tyler, and Kaylee Bizzell, a senior from Golden, placed first at the Southland Conference Indoor Championship. Ellis jumped a height of 5.62m at the meet. He cleared a height of 5.80m, which is an Olympic standard jump, at the Toyota USATF Indoor Championship. It also set the record for the SLC and SFA. At the same meet, Bizzell achieved the fourth highest jump in the NCAA with a height of 4.50m.

Pole vaulters jump to new heights

Bizzell and Ellis clinch gold medals at SLC Indoor Championship, set goal to compete at Olympics

By Alec Reyes
Sports Editor

SFA's Track and Field team was represented by pole vaulters senior Kaylee Bizzell and sophomore Branson Ellis at the USA Track and Field Indoor Championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They both left Albuquerque setting records and personal bests.

Bizzell, a senior from Golden, set a new personal best by clearing 4.50m, which tied the fourth best mark in the NCAA and finished seventh overall. She took first in the Southland Conference Indoor Championship last week with a 4.07m jump and was awarded All-SLC honors.

"This has definitely been the best season yet," Bizzell said. "I'm soaking in my senior year. Nursing school's cooled down a little bit; and now, I'm focusing on track a lot, and I've had a pretty good year. I'm excited for the next few meets and outdoor."

Ellis, the reigning SLC champion, cleared 5.80m (19 ft -0.25in.) on his sixth jump of the day. The jump set both SLC and SFA indoor records and was an Olympic standard jump. He finished the event in second place and was named the SLC Men's Field Athlete of the Week.

"It was very humbling," Ellis said. "It was because I know that not everybody is able to do that, and just the fact that I got an opportunity and the chance to do that really meant a lot to me."

While it was a jump that made several records, SFA volunteer assistant coach Jeff Erickson claims it was expected, considering Ellis' performance in practice.

"We pretty much knew it was coming," Erickson said. "It wasn't really a shock to us that much because we see it every day."

Ellis, an agricultural engineering major who attended Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler, began pole vaulting his sophomore year. He was a three-time state qualifier in Class 6A where he won the silver medal the first year and won the gold medal the next two. Ellis also set the Texas Class 6A record his senior year by clearing 18 feet and 3/4 inches. However, even before taking up pole vaulting,

Ellis competed in gymnastics.

"When I was in gymnastics, my coach took me about as far as he knew, and I stopped progressing because we didn't know what to do after that," Ellis said. "I eventually stopped doing that."

But, it was one day during biology class that would change Ellis' life.

"I was in biology class one day, and my teacher was the pole vault coach," Ellis said. "He came up to me and asked me how gymnastics was going, and I told him I had just quit. He told me to wear shorts the next day and meet him after school on the track. He handed me a pole and said, 'Have at it.' After that first jump, I knew I made the best mistake of my life. I knew that it had just drawn me into something that I couldn't get away from."

With this being Bizzell's senior season, one of the things she will miss the most is the friendships.

"I've made so many friends through track," Bizzell said. "Just being with the pole vaulters every day and my friends on the track team and travelling to meets, it's become a family to me."

One of the main goals for the remainder of season and career for Ellis is to keep up with the other athletes who will keep jumping higher and breaking records.

"I just want to be right along there with them, be doing it with them and get to have those memories and those achievements," Ellis said.

With the 2020 Sumer Olympics looming, both pole vaulters have a goal to possibly compete in the games by competing in the Olympic trials.

"That's what I'm going for," Bizzell said. "It'd be really cool to be there with Branson and Jen jumping."

"That's been my end goal ever since I was a little kid," Ellis said. "I was a gymnast for about five years, and I always told my parents that one day I want to be in the Olympics. I really don't care what it's for. It's always been my life goal is to do that; and now that I'm actually seeing that it's possible, it's just overwhelming."

Ladyjacks volleyball named regular season champs three years running




Photo by Christy Murray / The Pine Log

The SFA volleyball team stands with the SLC regular season championship trophy during a game against Lamar after being named the regular season champions for the third consecutive year.



FIND YOUR FOCUS

Nacogdoches' only full-service eye clinic, surgery center and optical boutique staffed by board-certified, fellowship-trained Ophthalmologists, Optometrists and Opticians.

-  **LASIK Procedures Starting at \$100 a Month with Qualifying Credit**
A free consultation and vision screening is required for exact pricing
-  **Advanced Glaucoma, Retina, Cornea and Cataract Surgery and Management**
-  **Treatment of General Eye Disorders, Comprehensive Exams**
-  **The latest in Eye Wear Lens Technology, Designer Frames and Contacts**



Shannon L. Smith, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Fellowship-Trained
Glaucoma Specialist
Voted Best Ophthalmologist in Nacogdoches




Orry C. Birdsong, M.D.
Fellowship-Trained
Cornea Specialist



Cataract, Glaucoma, Cornea & Retina
CONSULTANTS OF EAST TEXAS

Medical Arts Surgery Center | Benchmark Optical

936.564.3600 | 877.810.3937 | EyesofTexas.us |  [cgrcetx](https://www.facebook.com/cgrcetx)
3302 N.E. Stallings Drive . Nacogdoches . Texas . 75965

SFA, Crittenden hire Minatta as Ladyjacks’ new head soccer coach

By Savannah Shelton
Contributing Writer

As SFA rang in a new decade last semester, it also welcomed the addition of new head soccer coach Tony Minatta. This change in staff comes after former head coach Wally Crittenden made the difficult decision to step back from coaching and accept a role in athletic administration.

Minatta, who previously spent six years as head soccer coach at Iowa State University, was chosen for the position in December after a nationwide search headed by Crittenden. He will have the spring to prepare his team for next season beginning in August 2020.

Minatta has been involved with soccer since childhood. Growing up in Fort Collins, Colorado, his father was the director of the Fort Collins Soccer Club, and he played on a club team throughout high school, planning to play in college as well. However, Minatta’s college plans changed when he felt the call to serve his country, so he joined the United States Marine Corps.

After spending four years in the armed forces, Minatta returned to Fort Collins and began to coach soccer there while attending college. He later transferred to the University of Nevada in Las Vegas and earned a bachelor’s degree in English in 2003.

After college, Minatta took up coaching again and eventually became the assistant director of coaching at the Fort Collins Soccer Club, gaining recognition as success as his teams grew. He also traveled to several different countries, including Brazil, Italy, Portugal, Belgium and Iceland, to hone his craft and learn more about the sport. Minatta went to Iowa State to work as an assistant coach and two years later, in 2013, was offered the position of head soccer coach

He spent a few years at Iowa State and enjoyed a fair amount of success with his team early on; but after that, the pressure to continue winning set in. Feeling that it was time for some changes in his life, Minatta decided to move on from Iowa State. He wasn’t sure what the future would hold, whether he would remain in the college soccer world or return to club soccer, but that uncertainty disappeared when he received a call from Crittenden, then- head soccer coach at SFA.

“I knew I needed a change from Iowa State, and then I got the call from Wally,” Minatta said. “We talked about it, I ended up putting my hat in the ring, and here I’m sitting.”

The call from Crittenden was by no means random. The two coaches have kept track of each other’s soccer careers for several years, and even earned their A License for coaching together in 2005. For Crittenden, after meeting with Minatta for the position, the choice was obvious.

“I just felt, and our search committee just felt that, when you met him, you knew who he was within five minutes of conversation,” Crittenden said. “By the time he left the room, you knew what he was about. It’s so important that you have an identity, and he certainly has that. I think his identity will fit



Photo by Matt Ocasio / The Pine Log
Tony Minatta was hired as the new SFA head soccer coach in December after former head coach Wally Crittenden took a position in athletic administration. Minatta comes to SFA after six years as the head soccer coach at Iowa State.

in very well.”
For Minatta, accepting the position of head soccer coach at SFA was also a fairly easy decision. He believes that the timing was right, and all of the pieces fell into place for his transition from Iowa State. He is excited to start a new chapter by adopting the SFA Way.

“I felt like going into an environment like this where there’s a very strong tradition of soccer [and] would hopefully reinvigorate me,” Minatta said. “It really has. There’s been a lot of positive energy from everybody I’ve talked to. It just seemed like there were a lot of connections here for me, which is odd I guess, but then I don’t think anything happens by accident.”

Crittenden agrees that the timing of this transition couldn’t have been better. He had known for a while that he eventually wanted to step back from coaching and fulfill a different role in sports administration. He decided that 2020 was the year to make it all happen. His confidence in the program rests with both Minatta and the experienced players returning for next season.

“When you look at some things we’ve done in the budget, when you look at the facility, when you look at the returning senior class, we’re leaving the program in a better spot,” Crittenden said. “The coach in me wants to stay and coach another ten years, but the administrator in me says, ‘You know what? If there was ever a time that we could really give this transition the best chance to be successful, it’s now.’”

As someone who played for Crittenden and will continue to play under Minatta’s leadership, sophomore environmental science major from College Station and midfielder Ryka Shea is excited about the new perspective Minatta will bring to the team. She’s also anticipating the chance for growth and development as an athlete in the months ahead.

“I’m looking forward to a new start, a new challenge and the opportunity to prove to someone new the things we as a team can do,” Shea said. “I think that a new coach can really challenge us and set everyone straight on working hard.”

Though they all have different roles within the soccer program, Minatta, Crittenden and Shea definitely agree on one thing: the success of a team depends more on hard work than anything else. More than anything, he’s excited to show off the product of teamwork and perseverance next season.

Lumberjacks hoping to pick up where they left off in March



Photo by Cameron Keplinger / The Pine Log
Junior guard David Kachelries drives to the basket during the match against the University of New Orleans on Feb. 5.

Campus Rec prepares new esports club

By Amanda Hope
Staff Writer

Campus Recreation will soon be offering esports, a club where students can participate in electronic, multiplayer gaming competition, to encourage wellness across the SFA community.

SFA Campus Recreation wanted to provide a sport that reaches an audience of students who want to pursue a career in sports marketing or who have a passion for video games. They wanted to create a group that could encourage a diverse audience and help students succeed in their future career.

“Professional esports is a vibrant industry with employment opportunities, broadcasting, sports marketing and advertising,” Kathryn Blevins, coordinator of promotions/sponsorships for Campus Rec, said. “This provides students with opportunities to gain relevant experience in the area, like potential internships, classes and student jobs. Three student interns are currently working on esports projects through

Campus Recreation, gaining sports business, sports marketing and graphic design experience.”

In 2017, seven colleges and universities had a varsity esports team; but, in 2018, the number jumped to 63 because it was wanted by popular demand of students. Sports Clubs and Camps

rewarding experience,” Seaton said. “The opportunity to meet new people, develop friendships, learn new skills, compete at a higher level and do all of this while playing their favorite video games will be intriguing to many students. This will be a very exciting and rewarding club in which to be involved.”

Seaton also has a lot of goals for the club and is hoping the new club is a hit, so students could have the possibility to compete at a national level.

“The short-term goals for the esports club, from my perspective, would be to see the team join an esports league and be competitive in the region,” Seaton said. “I would like to see the club build an inclusive community where students can come together around a shared interest. I would like to see esports provide students with skills they will use after college as well, such as leadership, communication [and] team work, as our clubs are student led. A longer-term goal would be to see the team competing for and winning national championships.”

“This will be a very exciting and rewarding club in which to be involved.”
—Trace Seaton

Coordinator Trace Seaton encourages students to join because of the relationships they could build by being a part of the team. By esports coming to SFA, the goal is to start a conversation across campus, as well as provide a physical space and opportunities to engage in an organized team.

“I would encourage students to join because I know it will be a fun,

DESIGN

THE GRAPHIC SHOP

PRINT

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

Here at the **Graphic Shop** we offer a variety of services to help fulfill your printing needs. From large format to copies and prints. We can also help with your design and layout for a minimal fee.

Large Format

Posters:
Gloss and Matte
Canvas, Backlit

Banners

White/Clear Static Cling

Roll Up Banners

Wall Vinyl

Yard Signs

Stickers

Foamcore Mounting

Regular Format

Prints and copies

Brochures

Handbills

Postcards

Comb Book Binding

Lamination

Buttons

Faculty, Staff and Student ID'S

With the installation of our NEW **Ricoh Pro L5160** large format printer. We have the capability to print larger specialty jobs. If you have a specialty job you would like printed, please contact us and make an appointment. We will do all that we can to make it happen.

CMYK

START **RAISING** THE BAR.



For more information about the Army ROTC program at **Stephen F. Austin State University**, contact Mr. Powell at **936-468-4445**, email **rotc@sfasu.edu** or visit **goarmy.com/sfasu**.



Army Officers inspire strength in others. Make Army ROTC part of your college experience and be eligible for a full-tuition scholarship. Join the team that makes a difference.