

Welcome to Stephen F. Austin State University

If you're perusing this bulletin, undoubtedly you're considering taking courses at Stephen F. Austin State University. There are many compelling reasons to choose SFA for your academic career. Among these is the vision that we have set: to be the model of a high-quality, student-focused, comprehensive university whose graduates are productive citizens and successful leaders.

Currently halfway through Strategic Plan '08: Placing Student Achievement First, we move closer to fulfilling this vision every day. Progress is occurring simultaneously on all strategic directions that the plan entails. These include:

- Increasing academic achievement and student success;
- Creating a more supportive, engaged and diverse living and learning community;
- Enhancing the university's distinctive identity;
- Increasing engagement with the external community;
- Improving support for teaching, research and service;
- Improving internal effectiveness;
- Increasing student enrollment and retention.

Among many positive trends is the increased amount of research dollars flowing to the university every year. We continue to expand opportunities for students to study in other countries, and the diversity of our student body, including the number of international students, also is on the rise.

Since offering the first classes in 1923, SFA has produced many thousands of graduates who have gone on to successful and distinguished careers. This is no less true today. Our academic offerings have expanded from those of a teachers' college to the full range that one would expect at a state university, and we continue to explore additional programs that will serve our state and nation. Yet, because SFA remains mid-size with approximately 11,500 students, we also continue to offer students personal attention that they're unlikely to find at a mega university.

For all these reasons and myriad others, we hope that when you choose a university home, your choice will indeed be SFA.



Tito Guerrero, III
President



Quick Facts

BASICS

- Location: Nacogdoches, Texas – 140 miles northeast of Houston, 180 miles southeast of Dallas
- Main campus size: 360 acres
- Affiliation: Public university governed by autonomous Board of Regents, appointed by the governor and approved by the Texas Legislature
- Enrollment: 11,435 (fall 2005)

FACULTY

- Instructional faculty, including part-time: 697
- Instructors and professors with highest degree in their field: more than 85 percent
- Student-faculty ratio: 17 to 1

COLLEGES

College of Applied Arts and Sciences
 Nelson Rusche College of Business
 College of Education
 College of Fine Arts
 Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture
 College of Liberal Arts
 College of Sciences and Mathematics

ACADEMICS

- Enrollment periods: Two 16-week semesters (fall and spring) and two 5 1/2-week summer terms per year
- Accrediting body: Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Programs offered: more than 80 undergraduate majors and 120 areas of study; nearly 60 graduate degrees, including two doctoral programs
- First-time freshman average combined SAT and composite ACT scores exceed Texas average (fall 2005)

COSTS*

- Undergraduate tuition/fees academic year (15 semester hours per semester, for two semesters)*
 - Texas resident: approximately \$4,958
 - Louisiana or Arkansas resident: approximately \$5,858
 - Non-Texas resident: approximately \$13,238
- Room and board – average for academic year: \$5,858*
- Financial aid awarded 2004-2005 \$75,774,367 to 8,705 students

*Based on costs at time of printing; subject to change

HISTORY

- Founded as: Teachers' college
- Chartered by Legislature: April 4, 1917 – put on hold because of World War I
- Funding legislation signed: 1921
- Nacogdoches selected as site: July 14, 1921
- First classes: September 18, 1923

University Showcase

University students, employees provide port in the storm for hurricane evacuees

As Hurricane Rita's storm clouds circled in fall 2005, many residents who live along Texas' Gulf Coast began to pack and leave their homes for higher ground.

With Nacogdoches designated a Hurricane Rita evacuation destination for Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange area residents, the roadways leading toward the Pineywoods of East Texas began to resemble rush-hour traffic in Houston or Dallas.

As Houston residents also began to flee, Stephen F. Austin State University students, faculty and staff began preparations to provide evacuees shelter from the approaching storm.

On SFA's campus, plans were under way to house up to 800 evacuees for two to three days in the university's William R. Johnson Coliseum. That number eventually would grow to more than 1,100, and see the shelter remain open for 11 days. It is estimated that the day before Rita hit, 90,000 people were in Nacogdoches – a city with a population of about 30,000.

It's been said that the worst often brings out the best in people, and that statement certainly was true at SFA during the 2005 hurricane season. Early in the fall semester, the university accepted displaced students whose education had been halted by Hurricane Katrina. SFA students held fund-raisers and collected bottled water. Aramark, the university's food service provider, furnished meals for Katrina evacuees staying at a nearby recreation center. Throughout the ordeal, the SFA community banded together to help those in need.

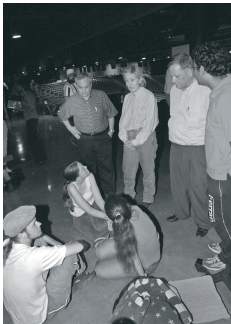
Just a few weeks later, Rita arrived in Texas.

During Rita, 768 SFA students registered to help, along with many university employees. The volunteers worked 12 and 24-hour shifts, some not leaving their posts for up to 72 hours. They delivered mattresses, clean sheets and towels. Students organized games with the children, served meals, helped set up televisions so evacuees would have access to round-the-clock news coverage and manned information tables. Bilingual volunteers were especially needed and Spanish-speaking students and staff came forward to help.

Essential needs of food, shelter and safety were met. Aramark served 34,520 meals to 2,473 people at eight Nacogdoches shelters, including the one on campus. The University Police Department manned a command center and responded to calls. SFA also made health professionals and counselors available to evacuees.

At the request of Lamar University's president, SFA sent four buses to an East Texas Baptist camp to bring approximately 150 Lamar students to SFA. The students were evacuated to the camp before Rita arrived but had dwindling water and food supplies.

All in all, the disaster emerged as a positive experience for many volunteers and evacuees, demonstrating the power of compassion, friendship and love.



One SFA student put it this way, "Next time someone asks me what is so special about SFA, I will be able to tell them that the students are the most spirited and enthusiastic I have ever seen. They are a driving force that will make a huge impact on this country."

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, standing center, visits with Lamar University students, who were among the Hurricane Rita evacuees housed at SFA. Standing beside Hutchison are Dr. Tito Guerrero III, left, SFA president, and Dr. Baker Pattillo, vice president of university affairs.