

Lumberjack Link

A weekly newsletter for the newest members of the Lumberjack family

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2009

Issue 1

Class of
2013



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Editor

SFA 101

Stephen F.
Austin
State
University

Welcome to SFA!

This newsletter has been designed just for you--a new member of the SFA Class of 2013. We hope that this newsletter will prove to be helpful to you as you transition into life as a Lumberjack, providing information on campus resources, tips for succeeding in college and beyond, and ways to capitalize on the opportunities offered to you as a member of our University community. Future issues of the *Lumberjack Link* will be delivered weekly to your Titan email inbox and posted on the SFA 101 website at www.sfasu.edu/sfa101/students/newsletters.asp. On behalf of the SFA faculty, staff, administrators, and students, welcome!

Drive-Thru to Buy your 2009-2010 Parking Permits

When:

Aug. 28-30: 7:00am-5:00pm

Where:

Lot 47 across from Johnson
Coliseum

***BRING PROOF OF INSURANCE!**

Home Away From Home

Soon, you will meet your roommate, dump all of your stuff in your room, and hug your parents goodbye.

Whether you will be meeting your roommate for the first time or you have been best friends since kindergarten, living with a roommate can sometimes be challenging, especially if there are not clear expectations. Soon after you arrive, your Resident Assistant (RA) will be meeting with you and your new roommate to complete a roommate agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to promote open communication with your roommate from the beginning in an effort to prevent small issues from escalating later on in the semester.

If you want to start unpacking before your RA has had a chance to visit with the two of you, spend a few minutes talking to your roommate about who gets which closet and what goes where to avoid any potential problems. As you unpack, you might quickly realize that you brought way too much stuff. Label an empty box "items to take home" so you have a place for unessential items (i.e. that homecoming mum from your junior year) that you can take back to Mom and Dad's house so you and your roommate aren't tripping over it all year.

A few items that you should definitely **avoid** bringing are those prohibited by the Housing Department including:

- Alcoholic beverages/bottles/containers (not permitted for any reason, including decorative purposes)
- Illegal drugs or prescription drugs for which you do not possess a current, valid prescription
- Refrigerators exceeding 1.8 amps or 5.0 cubic feet

- Halogen/torchere/oil lamps, neon signs
- Candles, incense, or other open flame devices
- Portable heaters, air conditioners, or ceiling fans
- Cooking appliances such as microwaves, toasters, toaster ovens, skillets, hot plates, sandwich maker, grills, crock pots, etc.
- Extension cords (if additional electrical outlets are needed, you must use UL (Underwriter Laboratory) approved plug strips/surge protectors)
- Fireworks, explosives, gun powder, or ammunition
- Pets (except for small birds in cages and fish in aquariums no larger than 10 gallons)

You are encouraged to make your room you! Posters, picture frames, carpet/rugs, curtains (with tension rods), and other decorating items can be used as long as nothing is permanently adhered to any surface. The room must be returned to the original condition before checkout or you will be assessed a fine for any damage. Any damage resulting from nails, screws, carpet tape, contact paper or any adhesives must be repaired so that no damage is visible. Do not paint or attach anything to light fixtures, sprinkler heads, safety equipment or exit signs.

As you unpack and get settled, make the effort to begin to get to know your roommate. Likes and dislikes, family background, and hometowns are good topics to start with. Even if he or she seems nothing like the people that you were friends with in high school, you will probably discover that you have many things in common.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE

As you begin classes in one week, you will notice many differences between high school and college. Some of these differences are noted below to help you anticipate these changes so that you can begin devising effective strategies for handling them.

Attending High School	Differs From	Attending SFA
Same structured schedule every day in the same place -- schedule took up the entire day	Classes	Daily schedule differs: classes meet for 60-90 minutes throughout the day--some classes are early in the morning, some late in the day, and most are in separate buildings
Many Lumberjacks excelled academically and were ranked highly in their high school classes	Competition	The playing field is now level -- everyone is very bright and it will take more effort to keep up
Used one textbook per course that was provided by the school	Books	Many courses require more than one textbook and all books must be purchased by the student
Prepared minimally through note memorization or not at all	Study Habits	Good study habits are essential: proper note-taking, reviewing, organizing material, time management, test prep
Wrote infrequently and briefly, maybe a couple of 5-10 page papers per year	Writing	You will write much more frequently, often several 10-20 page papers per semester in some courses
Spent the entire year on fundamentals	Content	Much more academic content will be covered in a shorter period of time
Relatively small classes with plenty of personal attention from the teacher	Class Size	May be in larger classes for certain courses that may seem impersonal or unfriendly
Many students never conducted research in high school; those that did used only a minimum number of sources and the limited facilities available	Research	Necessary to develop thorough research skills while mastering a larger and more complex library system with many different types of available media
Parents were directly involved in academic decisions and probably had regular contact with the teacher	Parent and Faculty	Parents have minimal contact with faculty and decisions related to academics are ultimately up to you, the student.
Students interacted with teachers in a predictable, structured way; Teachers often took responsibility for getting to know the student	Student and Faculty	The responsibility is on the student to get to know the faculty by taking advantage of office hours, etc.
Spent an average of 30 minutes per course per week studying outside of class	Time & Effort	Will spend more time preparing for course outside of class time than time spent in class. Recommended: For every hour inside of class, at least one hour should be spent studying outside of class. (Treat your classes like an 8-5 job. Remember why you are in college!)
Teachers monitored daily progress with quizzes, homework, asking about reading, etc. Grades were given frequently with many homework assignments, tests, and quizzes.	Performance Feedback	Students are responsible for self-monitoring; instructors give little feedback other than through relatively fewer assignments and exams. No one will ask you if you are keeping up with the work.
Parroted back facts	Learning	Dealing with theories and learning to convert raw data (events, dates, names, places, and facts) into ideas, concepts and generalizations
Worked at the pace set by the teacher	Pace	Working at a faster pace, budgeting time and avoiding procrastination (the last minute approach rarely produces high quality work!)
Rarely needed help and teachers and parents anticipated needs and knew when help might be needed	Help	Taking responsibility for yourself, being proactive, asking for help, and researching resources to assist with problems
Teachers and parents guided most decisions	Autonomy	Students exercise greater freedom in decisions related to whether to attend class or not, which courses to take, how to balance academics and social life
Fewer consequences for poor decisions	Mistakes	Now viewed as an adult so there are many more consequences that can impact the rest of your life

DEPARTMENT OF
HOUSING &
RESIDENCE LIFE

Spotlight on:



MISSION STATEMENT:

The housing and residence life program exists as an integral part of the educational program and academic support services of the university. The mission of Housing and Residence Life is to provide a residential environment that is clean, well-maintained, and comfortable while cultivating a community that stimulates student development through co-curricular programs grounded in both human resource and student development theories.

The housing system at Stephen F. Austin provides homes away from home to nearly 5,000 students. Living on campus at SFA means that you are now a member of a diverse community of students. You will be meeting and interacting with many different types of people from different backgrounds, cultures and lifestyles. You will be learning to communicate and live with people with whom you have a lot in common, as well as those who are quite different from you. While you may not feel comfortable with many of these differences, you have a marvelous opportunity to expand beyond your previous comfort zone and supplement your educational experience. Community living requires open-mindedness, consideration, and respect on the part of all community members.

The opportunity to find your place within this community awaits you. The responsibility is yours, but you are not alone. Each community has residence life staff members to help and support you as you find your place in the community. The staff is well trained, energetic, and dedicated to making your on-campus living experience educational and positive. Please do not hesitate to ask for assistance.

COMMUNITY STATEMENT

Each on-campus student has the right to live in an atmosphere of positive encouragement and mutual respect. You are entitled to:

- Sleep, study, and socialize in your room without disturbance
- Live in a secure, healthy, and clean environment
- Be an active member within a supportive

and stimulating community

- Gain access to a variety of programs and services

Your responsibilities are to:

- Consider the needs of other residents and balance them with your own needs
- Provide open communication with other community members and the Residence Life staff
- Become involved in the community through participation in residence hall activities and the Residence Hall Association
- Take care of the facility and the environment in which you live
- Promote individual and community safety
- Demonstrate dignity and respect for all individuals
- Respect the opinions of others

The Residence Life staff is available to assist students in creating this type of environment. They organize floor meetings, educational programs and individual opportunities to help create successful students. We encourage each student to participate in community activities, and take advantage of all of the conveniences of on-campus living.

If you want to change your room or building:

Residents who wish to make a room change within the residence hall should contact their hall director. Any resident requesting a new roommate will usually be required to change rooms. Room changes must be complete within the first two weeks of opening the residence halls. Students should contact a member of the hall staff to complete the paperwork for changing rooms or checking in or out of their room. If space is available, students are permitted to transfer to another residence hall during hall transfer days.

Students begin the process to change buildings by going to the housing department. Building transfers must be complete by the dates set by the housing department. Students must follow proper checkout procedures to change rooms. Contact the housing department for more information.

SFA Fast Facts

**All data based on Fall 2008 enrollment*

Total Enrollment= 11,990

By Gender:

Male	40%
Female	61%

By Race/Ethnicity:

African American	20.2%
American Indian	0.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2%
Hispanic	8.8%
White/Non-Hispanic	66.9%
International	1.5%
Unknown	0.6%

By College:

Business	17%
Education	26%
Fine Arts	7%
Forestry & Agriculture	4%
Liberal & Applied Arts	26%
Sciences & Math	19%

Top 10 Feeder High Schools (Fall 2008):

1. Nacogdoches - East Texas
2. Lufkin - East Texas
3. Cypress Creek-Houston
4. Humble-Houston
5. Kingwood - Houston
6. Livingston - East Texas
7. Sachse- Dallas
8. Desoto -Dallas
9. Klein - Houston
10. Oak Ridge - Houston

HOUSING DEPARTMENT
Location: Austin Building, Rm 131
Phone: 468-2601
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 13054
Online: www.sfasu.edu/housing
E-mail: housing@sfasu.edu



Stephen F. Austin State University
SFA 101- Freshman Success Program
P.O. Box 13072, SFA Station
Nacogdoches, TX 75962

CAMPUS MAIL



Tip of the Week

Use the days before classes to familiarize yourself with campus. Find where your classes are located. Do not wait until the first day!

Upcoming Calendar:

- ◆ **Thursday, August 27th**
 - Housing Facilities open at 10 a.m.
 - Outdoor Concert ft. Chapter 6 (SAA)
- ◆ **Friday, August 28th**
 - Housing Unit Changes Begin-8:00 p.m. in lobby of facility
 - In Hall Room Changes Begin Nightly and Continue Until Wednesday, September 3rd:
 - 8:00 p.m. - Friday and Saturday
 - 7:00 p.m. - Sunday through Thursday
- ◆ **Monday, August 31st**
 - First Day of Classes
- ◆ **September 2, 2009**
 - Cruise Away with SAA and Campus Rec (SAA)
- ◆ **Thursday, September 3rd**
 - Last day to add classes/change schedules other than drop courses
 - **2009 Freshman Convocation**, 4:00 p.m., William R. Johnson Coliseum
This event will introduce you to all of the academic choices you can make while at SFA. It will highlight student organizations, Nacogdoches businesses and university departments that will help make life easier for you while attending SFA.
- ◆ **Saturday, September 5th**
 - SFA Lumberjack Football at SMU, 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Monday, September 7th**
 - Labor Day Holiday