

Lumberjack Link

A weekly newsletter for the newest members of the Lumberjack family

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Editor

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The Best Time of My Life?

You have been away from home for several days now. You might be having the time of your life. You might not. Most college veterans will tell you the first semester is not the easiest or happiest, and if you are like the majority of college freshmen, you are probably experiencing homesickness. It's the plague of freshmen that nobody really talks about, but if you take nothing else away from this article, please remember that **IT'S NORMAL TO GET HOMESICK!!!**

You are missing things that have been part of your life for years, and it's going to take more than a few weeks (or even a few months) to adjust to their absence. Some of you will even consider transferring to be closer to home before the end of this semester. But realize that the cure to homesickness isn't found at home. It's realizing what it was that made your old home so comfortable, and surrounding yourself with similar things here. For example, you are probably missing the support of your family and friends at home. Solution: get out of your room and meet some people!

You can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that all of the other freshmen are in the same boat you are--also missing their family and friends, feeling a little awkward about meeting new people, and still feeling a little clueless most of the time. A great way to meet new people is to get involved here at SFA, and the articles on the following pages will give you a little more information on the many opportunities available.



Tip of the Week

“Get involved in campus activities! There is something for everyone here at SFA!

~ Veronika Tanguma, Grad. Student

Getting Involved!

Spotlight on:



There are more more than 200 student organizations and activities on campus tailored to fit a variety of needs and interests. To get a sneak peak at just a few of the options available, read on.....

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Activities is dedicated to helping students make things happen by supporting the Student Activities Association, 200+ student organizations and 40+ sororities and fraternities as well as administration of university regulations which relate to student involvement. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities and to join a registered student organization. This involvement can provide you with a foundation for success, a passion for learning and a commitment to responsible global citizenship in a community dedicated to teaching, research, creativity and service. To help you decide which avenue of involvement is right for you, refer back to the listing you

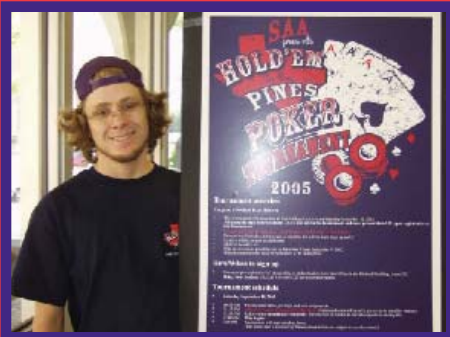


received during orientation that includes the information for all of the student organizations or visit the Student Activities website at <http://www.sfasu.edu/studentactivities>.

Additionally, Student Activities is home to the **Student Activities Association (SAA)**, the largest student programming body on campus, and produces over one hundred events each year ranging from concerts and comedians to game shows and lectures. SAA is composed of six officers and a program board. This is a great area

in which to get involved if you are interested in programming for events on campus, want a place to develop relationships, sharpen your leadership skills, and help make this campus the kind of place you want to call home. If you want to be

selected to be a member of the Student Activities Association, there is an application and interview process. Members will be accepted as space allows. If you have any questions, call the SAA Membership Coordinator at 936-468-1222.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP CENTER

The Student Leadership Center is designed to serve the students of SFA with all of their leadership needs. From seminars to develop your leadership skills to a leadership library with resources for you to check out there is something for every student. Best of all, they plan all of our events and services to fit into your schedule. They offer all of their services in print, web and live formats with the hope of connecting with every student. Also linked to the Student Leadership Center website is a service database which lists various service volunteer opportunities. For more information, visit the Student Leadership website at <http://www.sfasu.edu/studentlife/leadership.asp> or contact Michael Preston, Assistant Director of Student Affairs by phone (936-468-2988) or email (mpreston@sfasu.edu).

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (SGA)

SGA is the voice of the students and sponsors several activities throughout the year. A three-branch governing organization, SGA is composed of legislative, judicial and executive branches and offers various opportunities to get involved. Most of the positions are elected with elections held in the fall and spring. For more information,



visit the Student Government Association office in the BPSC 2.402, or online at <http://www.sfastudentgov.org/>.

MULTICULTURAL CENTER

The purpose of the SFA Multicultural Center (MCC) is to create an environment where all students feel welcome, and to support SFA in preparing graduates for success in a diverse and global community. The Center accomplishes this by providing many opportunities for all students to become active, productive, and collaborative within the university community. The Multicultural Center also advises and supports seven student organizations whose emphasis is on ethnic and cultural advancement. The MCC also provides a great place to study, check out resources or simply hang out. Visit the Multicultural Center in the Patillo Student Center or online at <http://www.sfasu.edu/multicultural>. You can also contact them by phone at (936) 468-1073 or by email multiculturalcenter@sfasu.edu.

RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION (RHA)

The purpose of the RHA is to unite all the residence halls on Stephen F. Austin State University's campus. The organization, through its members, shall perform all functions necessary to provide residents with a constructive educational and social life while residing in the residence halls.

It shall encourage interaction and cooperation among residence halls, and shall further be a liaison for the students to the University administration, acting as the representative voice for all its members.

Every student living in a residence hall is automatically a member of RHA Central. RHA Central programs include such annual events as Welcome Week, Welcome Jacks, Parents Day, Homecoming, Holiday Extravaganza, Stay @ SFA Weekend, and Casino Night. Four standing committees work within RHA Central to plan various types of activities. These committees include Community Service, Food Service Advisory, Social, and Sports and Recreation. The degree to which a student gets involved in his or her hall activities or RHA depends on the student's interests and goals. For more information, visit the RHA office located in the Residence Life Center in the Village Community Center or visit studentorgs.sfasu.edu/rha.

In addition to RHA Central, every residence hall at SFA has a Hall Level RHA. The hall level RHA is an organization within each hall that brings the residents together, sponsors programs in the building, and votes on hall improvement proposals. This student-run hall government consists of a president, vice president, treasurer, legislative council representative and secretary. Hall level RHA is a great way to get to know the people you live with as well as a great way to get involved. To find out more, talk to a staff member or a hall officer in your building.

INTRAMURALS

The Intramural program at Stephen F. Austin State University offers a large number of sports and activities for student participation. These athletic activities are similar to the activities



offered in high schools such as basketball, football, softball, volleyball and flickerball, water polo, walleyball, three-man basketball, tennis, racquetball and table tennis.

The Intramural Sports Clubs are another part of the Intramural Department, but these teams compete against other universities. There are sports clubs for bass fishing, men and women's lacrosse, roller hockey, tae kwon do, cycling, men's soccer, rugby, ultimate Frisbee, women's volleyball, judo, rodeo, swimming, water skiing, wrestling, wakeboarding, and powerlifting. These clubs are partially funded by the university to assist with expenses related to travel, uniforms and equipment (no scholarships are awarded). Tryouts are usually scheduled for the beginning of the fall semester. Clubs that do not have tryouts will post their first meeting in different places on campus.

To find out how to get involved with intramurals, visit: <http://www.sfasu.edu/campusrec/intramurals>. For more information or questions, call the Intramural Office at (936) 468-1775 or email millsbrian@sfasu.edu.

Important Information about Hazing

While you are considering the many ways you can get involved within the SFA community, be aware that Stephen F. Austin is explicitly **opposed** to hazing.

Hazing is any act that occurs on or off campus by one or more persons that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of becoming or remaining part of an organization or group. Hazing is a criminal offense punishable by probation or expulsion from the University, and criminal prosecution with fines of up to \$10,000 and 2 years in jail.

While hazing shouldn't happen on any campus, you need to be informed that there are currently three SFA student organizations sanctioned for hazing offenses. If you choose to engage in hazing or know that a hazing incident is planned or has occurred, failing to notify the proper authorities (police, a University Judicial Officer, or other University staff member) is a hazing offense.

Not every group hazes! If you find that you have to be hazed to join a certain group or organization, make the smart choice to notify the proper authorities and opt to find another organization.

Lumberjack Football Guide

The first home football game is September 12th at 6 p.m. Come out and watch the Lumberjacks face off against Texas College. Admission to all SFA home games is free for students with valid ID. Simply show your student ID at the gate, and then gather with your fellow Jacks to support the team. Since there are quite a few campus traditions built around the football atmosphere, read on so that you don't miss out on any of the fun.



Lumberjack Alley

The smell of hot dogs, the chill of fall and Lumberjack football... The official SFA tailgate area is in the commuter parking lot across from the William R. Johnson Coliseum and features all of the pageantry of football, fall and fun. Students, alumni and friends gather each home game Saturday for a cookout,

complete with a band and plenty of Lumberjack spirit. You never know who you will see, an old classmate, a new love or just a free hot dog and soda. It's all there at Lumberjack Alley.

Jacks Back Pep Rally

Each fall students welcome back the football team and each other from a long, hot summer with a celebration of Lumberjack spirit and fun in the annual Jacks Back pep rally. Held at Lumberjack Alley before the first home game each fall, this event attracts students, alumni and friends to root on the Jacks and get ready for another winning year. There is a competition among student organizations to determine who can yell the loudest. Axe handles and refreshments are free to those in attendance. Also, the first 300 students to arrive receive a free spirit towel.

Ole' Cotton

At every home football game the SFA ROTC introduces the opposing team to Ole Cotton. Each time the Lumberjacks score, Ole Cotton, a 75 mm cannon, is fired. The sound booms through the stadium and the town.

Purple Haze

Each freshman that attends orientation is given a Purple Haze

shirt that displays the SFA school song across the back. Students are encouraged to wear this shirt to each football game, but



Purple Haze is more than a section of students at the football game. Purple Haze is a commitment and dedication to the Lumberjack Spirit.

Upcoming Events:

- ◆ **Monday, August 31st**
 - ◆ First Day of Classes
- ◆ **Wednesday, September 2nd**
 - ◆ Cruise Away with SAA and Campus Rec
- ◆ **Thursday, September 3rd**
 - ◆ Online registration for AARC (Academic Assistance and Resource Center) tutoring opens. If you anticipate needing a tutor, visit <http://libweb.sfasu.edu/proser/aarc> or call 468-4108 for more info.
 - ◆ Last day to add classes/change schedules other than drop courses
 - ◆ Freshman Convocation, 4:00 p.m., William R. Johnson Coliseum
- ◆ **Saturday, September 5th**
 - ◆ SFA Lumberjack Football at SMU, 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Monday, September 7th**
 - ◆ Labor Day Holiday
- ◆ **Tuesday, September 8th**
 - ◆ Coffeehouse: Lumberjack Karaoke
- ◆ **Saturday, September 12th**
 - ◆ SFA Lumberjack Football vs. Texas College, 6:00 p.m., Homer Bryce Stadium
- ◆ **Feel like watching a new movie or seeing a concert?**
 - ◆ Check out what Student Activities is providing this week at <http://www.sfasu.edu/studentactivities/>.