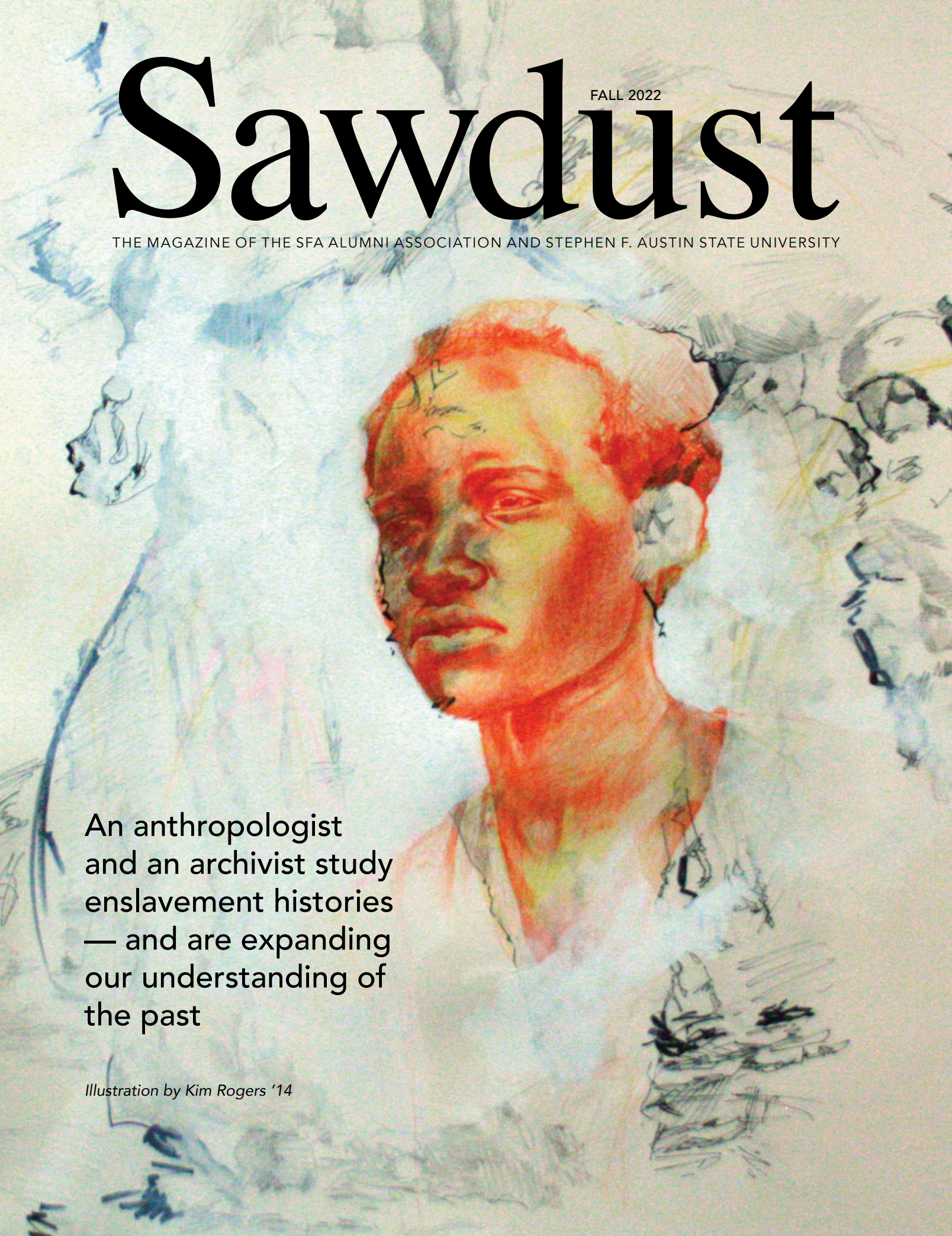


# Sawdust

FALL 2022

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY



An anthropologist  
and an archivist study  
enslavement histories  
— and are expanding  
our understanding of  
the past

*Illustration by Kim Rogers '14*





## THE FREDONIA HOTEL

200 North Fredonia Street, Nacogdoches, TX 75961



WELCOME BACK,  
JACKS!





# President's Letter



## THE HEAT WAVE

that settled over East Texas this summer fortunately gave way in late August just as we began welcoming students to SFA for the start of the fall semester. It's been 45 years since I

first stepped foot on the SFA campus as a student, and the start of a new academic year invariably invokes the same feelings of hope, renewal and anticipation I experienced during that transformative time.

I enjoyed reminiscing with alumni at SFA Road Show events in May and June and invite you to join us for more exciting SFA happenings this fall. We will celebrate the university's 99th birthday with cake and purple ice cream Sept. 19 at the Stephen F. Austin statue in Sesquicentennial Plaza. The Battle of the Piney Woods football game against Sam Houston State University Oct. 1 at NRG Stadium will mark the end of an era in this historic football rivalry. I hope you will grab your purple spirit gear and join us in Houston to cheer on the Jacks, our cheer and dance teams, and the always great Lumberjack Marching Band. Homecoming Week is set for Oct. 24-29 and will culminate in the football game against Utah Tech University in Homer Bryce Stadium. These events are all great opportunities to engage with fellow SFA alumni and support our current students and programs.

Next, I'd like to update you on a matter that has been the subject of discussion on campus lately. As I shared with faculty and staff at our fall convocation, the SFA Board of Regents is moving forward with a formal inquiry into the possibility of SFA affiliating with one of the state's existing university systems. In the coming months, a board subcommittee will engage with representatives of the Texas A&M University, Texas State University,

Texas Tech University and University of Texas systems to discuss governance, financial and other issues surrounding a potential affiliation. Simultaneously, my administration will lead a comprehensive process to solicit input from faculty, staff, students, alumni and community representatives to be shared with the board. I support the board's willingness to examine this potential, and I hope you will consider contributing your own thoughts to this important discussion at [sfasu.edu/system](https://sfasu.edu/system). The regents will hear reports from campus groups at their quarterly meeting in late October and anticipate making a decision concerning an affiliation before the end of the year. The timing of the search for SFA's next president will be contingent upon this decision.

And last, but certainly not least, our centennial year promises to be like none other in SFA's history. Plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary are well underway, with numerous events designed to pay homage to the university's past and our beloved Lumberjack traditions. A lot has changed since that September day in 1923 when 270 promising students arrived for SFA's first day of classes, but the proud legacy of scholarship and service they started thrives on our campus to this day. Thank you for the important part you have played in that shared history and for your continued support of our alma mater. I hope to see you back on campus soon.

Axe 'em, Jacks!

Dr. Steve Westbrook '81 & '89  
Interim President  
Stephen F. Austin State University

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Stephen F. Austin State University is a comprehensive institution dedicated to excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, creative work and service. Through the personal attention of our faculty and staff, we engage our students in a learner-centered environment and offer opportunities to prepare for the challenges of living in the global community.







## Come log a little pine time.

Come back to Nac and you'll find a lot of new to see - wineries, concerts, eateries, lodging, breweries and so much more. But there's one thing that hasn't changed - the towering pines and spectacular fall foliage. It all adds up to one of Texas' Top 10 Destinations. Plan your road trip with the Visit Nac app or at [VisitNac.com](http://VisitNac.com)



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## On the Cover



As an offshoot of his Texas Runaway Slave Project, SFA's East Texas Research Center archivist Kyle Ainsworth organized the Portraits of Freedom art exhibition in 2015, which tasked participants with creating artistic renderings of enslaved people using descriptions from runaway slave advertisements. Then-SFA student Kim Rogers '14 created the cover's featured portrait.

# Sawdust

FALL 2022 ★ Volume 49, No. 2

## DIVISION OF UNIVERSITY MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

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Read past issues, watch video extras and  
submit class notes at [sfasu.edu/sawdust](https://sfasu.edu/sawdust)  
or [facebook.com/sfasawdust](https://facebook.com/sfasawdust).

Sawdust is published twice a year by SFA and  
the university's Alumni Association. Alumni  
and friends receive both issues free of charge.





*Photo courtesy of Western Athletic Conference*

## OLSON'S AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT SFA

**40**

Track and Field  
Team Conference  
Championships

**10**

Southland  
Conference Cross-  
Country Team  
Championships

**30**

Southland Conference  
and Western Athletic  
Conference  
Coach of the Year  
Awards

**1**

NCAA South  
Central Region  
Coach of the Year  
Award



# UNMATCHED LEGACY

## SFA head track and field coach Phil Olson '86 retires after a successful 35-year coaching career

STORY BY NATHAN WICKER '19

**PHIL OLSON STOOD** in the background, beaming with pride as he watched the SFA women's track and field team gleefully gather to hoist the 2022 Western Athletic Conference Outdoor Championship trophy — the 40th conference championship of his illustrious coaching career.

If it were up to Olson, a self-proclaimed introvert and what he considers an “assistant coach in a head coach's position,” he wouldn't draw attention away from the team that finished the competition with 160 points, which included first-place finishes from stalwart team members Nissi Kabongo, Seri Geisler and Erica Ellis.

But this championship meant a little more to Olson and the track and field program than usual. Similar to the exuberance he felt after winning the first conference title in 2003, he felt an equal, if not greater, joy with this one — his last championship.

“It's always about the last one,” Olson said. “Our team winning the 2022 WAC Outdoor Championship and knowing I was going to retire within two months' time was special.”

Olson, a Fort Worth native, received a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from SFA in 1986. He initially took the helm of the SFA men's track and field program in 2000 after assistant coaching stints at Clemson University and the University of Virginia. A year into his SFA tenure, under the tutelage of then-Athletic Director Steve McCarty, the men's and women's head coaching positions were combined.

Olson stepped into a program that he believed “had some good qualities.” It was a program held together with a few national-level student-athletes but a far cry from the one that now continually contends for conference championships.

“It takes years to really figure out what your niche is — figure out what you're good at and not so good at — and try to expand on the negatives and continually build on the positives. It's one of those things that comes with time,” Olson said.

Influenced primarily from biblical Scriptures and his personal relationship with Jesus, Olson developed his coaching philosophy over time. He also brought in personnel with a winning mindset and ability to compete at a championship level.

The results speak for themselves: 40 team conference championships; 29 Southland Conference Coach of the Year awards, one WAC Coach of the Year Award and one NCAA South Central Region Coach of the Year Award; one NCAA National Champion and two NCAA Top 25 finishes; 37 NCAA All-Americans; and 226 individual Southland Conference champions.

Olson was at the forefront of the track and field program's most successful and iconic moments: pole vaulter Branson Ellis' 2022 NCAA National Championship; the 2010 women's team scoring the most points ever in an outdoor competition with over 200; and the “miracle in Hammond” in 2015, where SFA's men's and women's track and field teams won the indoor and outdoor championships when the odds were stacked against them.

Along with teaching them how to be the best in the sport, Olson believed, when student-athletes stepped onto campus, it was his responsibility to prepare them to be the best they could be in life beyond the track.

“Coach Olson is the true definition of a servant leader,” said Kabongo, a high jumper and hurdler. “His faith in the Lord and his integrity have inspired me greatly as a young woman and as an athlete, and I couldn't be more thankful I was able to compete under his leadership.”

As Olson prepared for his career's bell lap — the conclusion of a 35-year coaching career — he looked forward to entering a transformative period of improving his mental and physical health and spending time with his wife, Donna, and children, Addie and Tobie.

And as he reflected on the legacy he leaves behind with the track and field program, he said one thing will always remain the same in his eyes: it was never about him.

“It's not about me, and it's never been about me,” Olson said. “It's about the young men and women we've had here, our coaches and our administration. For me, it's to show that, through hard work, you can accomplish just about anything. With dedication to your sport, dedication to academics, and just dedicating yourself to being the best person you know how to be, then you can be successful.” ★

226

Individual  
Southland Conference  
Student-Athlete  
Champions

1

NCAA  
National  
Champion in  
Pole Vault

2

NCAA  
Top 25 Team  
Finishes

37

NCAA  
All-American  
Student-  
Athletes



# Reclamation and Mitigation

## Environmental science alumnus builds career restoring ecosystems

STORY BY SARAH FULLER '08 & '13



Dr. Eric Anderson

**O**N A COUNTY road outside of Hallsville, pine trees, native grasslands and improved grasses sway in the brisk breeze of an early summer day. Amid the chatter of multiple avian species, Dr. Eric Anderson '98 & '00 pauses to point out the call of a dickcissel, a migratory bird species that relies on grassland habitats such as this. Surprisingly, the beauty of this pastoral scene is just a few short miles from bustling Interstate 20. This fact, however, pales in comparison to Anderson's revelation that the seemingly undisturbed landscape was once a 150-foot-deep coal mine spanning more than 1 mile.

"When we take someone to a mine site, tell them that it has been mined, and they say 'no way,' that is the ultimate success standard,"

Anderson said. "The goal for us is that you never know we were there."

For nearly two decades, Anderson has worked to ensure just that — first as an award-winning reclamation specialist and environmental manager with North American Coal and now as the president of Mitigation Resources of North America.

Founded in 2017, Mitigation Resources of North America is part of NACCO Natural Resources' family of companies that specializes in everything from full-service mining operations to land reclamation and wetland and stream mitigation.

Anderson acknowledges the coal industry isn't always positively perceived, but it's working to better communicate the full story.

"The industry is regulated by the U.S. Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, and the standards say we have to leave the land as good as or better than it was before it was mined," Anderson explained. "Once we've mined, the land is leveled back to its approximate original contours. From there, it becomes a big farm — either in forestry, native grasses, improved grasses for livestock, or fish and wildlife habitat."

Following this reclamation, environmental parameters, such as soil and water quality and land productivity, are regularly monitored.

During his time at North American Coal's Sabine Mine, Anderson estimates he helped reclaim close to 8,000 acres.

In 2011, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department awarded Anderson and the team at Sabine Mine with the Lone Star Steward Award for their successful efforts to restore northern bobwhite quail habitat. According to the TPWD, the state agency responsible for overseeing and protecting wildlife and their habitats, Texas has seen a 75% decline in bobwhite quail populations since 1980. This is due in large part to critical habitat loss through urban development and land conversion. ➔



Photo by Robin Johnson '99 & '19



Coal mine reclamation ensures the transition of cavernous, working mines, pictured at right ➡, to seemingly undisturbed landscapes of forests, native grasslands or improved grasses supporting fish, wildlife and livestock, seen below ↓. In 2017, NACCO Natural Resources expanded into the rapidly growing stream and wetland mitigation banking industry, tasking Anderson with leading Mitigation Resources of North America, the latest in its family of companies.

Photos were taken at different sites within the Sabine Mine.



Photo by Sarah Fuller '08 & '13





"We built back the native grasses they rely on," Anderson said. "We have a large population of bobwhite quail on the mine site just south of Hallsville. Any morning, you can ride out and listen to the various coveys of quail all around you."

The Texas Historical Commission also recognized Anderson's efforts to preserve Texas' history and cultural heritage with a 2012 Award of Merit in Historical Preservation. Anderson said archaeological assessments are required when moving to a new mining area. Depending on what is uncovered, archaeologists determine if further study is needed. In this case, Anderson said the significance of the location was obvious.

In addition to a large Caddo burial mound, archaeologists uncovered evidence of a surrounding village.

"We uncovered enough that, as a company, we knew there was no way we should impact it," Anderson said. "We took a big chunk of the mine site and donated it to the Archaeological Conservancy, so it's forever protected. It was just the right thing to do."

Artifacts uncovered during the archaeological assessment were returned to the Caddo Nation, and an on-site ceremony to honor ancestors was led by tribal members.

Following the centennial of North American Coal's founding, Anderson said the company began discussing ways to help ensure another 100 years of successful operation.

"We took the core set of skills we have in the company and looked for ideas in new fields we could branch into," Anderson said.

Given North American Coal's vast experience in land reclamation, as well as stream and wetland mitigation, Anderson said management saw an opportunity to expand into the rapidly growing stream and wetland mitigation banking industry. Thus, Mitigation Resources of North America was born.

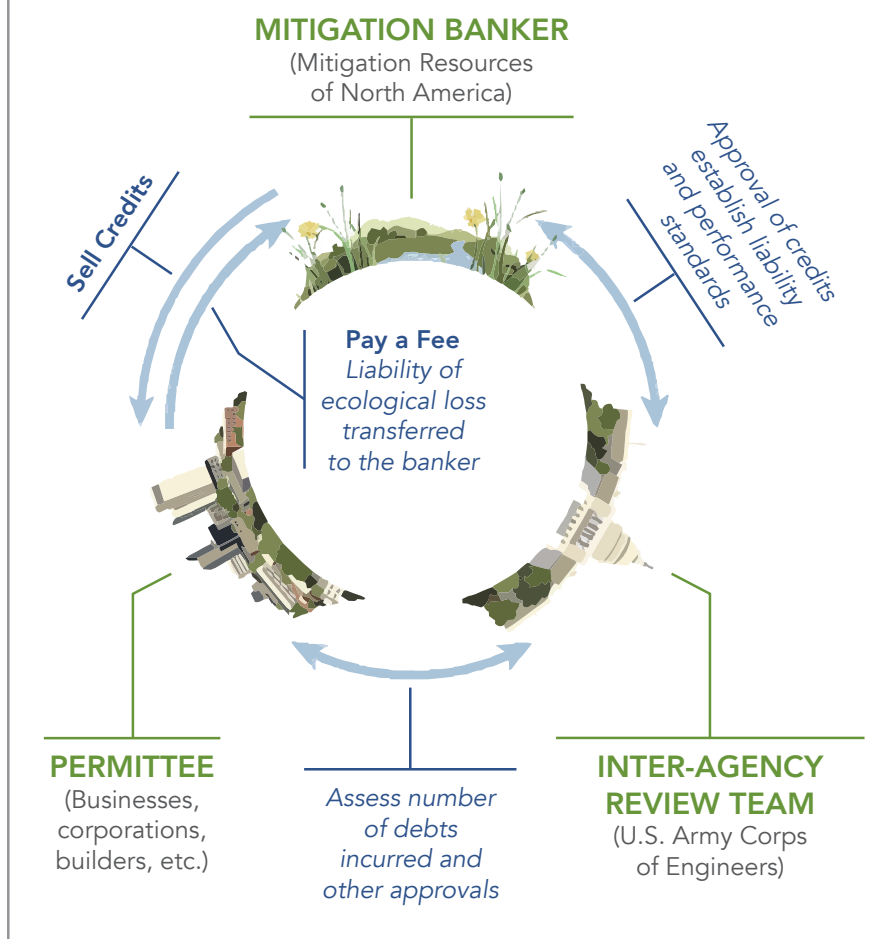
Although Anderson was a part of the team that pitched the mitigation-based business proposal to North American Coal's board of directors, he wasn't expecting to immediately take on the top leadership role.

"I kid you not, I got up and went to the bathroom," Anderson said with a laugh. "When I came back, our project lead said, 'We've decided you're going to run the business.'"

The immediate promotion may have been a surprise, but Anderson was undoubtedly qualified. After earning a Bachelor of Science in environmental science and Master of Science in forestry from SFA, Anderson earned a doctoral degree in soil science from North Carolina State University before beginning his career with North American Coal.

After consulting with his wife, Charlotte '00, who graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Professional

# How Mitigation Banking Operates



Accountancy from SFA, Anderson decided to take on the challenge of building Mitigation Resources of North America from the ground up. To establish a team, Anderson called on Leland Starks '07, fellow SFA environmental science alumnus and then-environmental specialist with North American Coal.

"Leland actually worked for me as an intern while he was attending SFA," Anderson said. "On a drive back from a conference we attended, I told him, 'I don't know how, when or where, but we're going to work together.'"

Five years later, the team has expanded to roughly 20 staff members with projects located across Texas, the Southeastern U.S. and as far north as Pennsylvania. The diversity of academic and professional expertise among staff members introduced by Anderson reflects the breadth of the mitigation field.

In accordance with the Clean Water Act, any unavoidable damage as the result of federally permitted projects that affects wetlands or streams must be compensated for through the restoration, enhancement or creation of other wetlands or streams. This can be done through restoration on-site or through the purchasing of mitigation credits.

"The mitigation banking business allows a company like us to have a mitigation bank," Anderson explained. "The bank basically means we own a piece of property that has a credit ledger of restored stream credits that entities can purchase to replace what they impacted."

To create these credits, which are administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, companies like Mitigation Resources of North America ecologically restore denuded





landscapes and waterways utilizing the expertise of ecologists, stream engineers and others.

Throughout NACCO's history, Mitigation Resources of North America and its sister companies have planted more than 8.8 million trees, restored more than 1,400 acres of wetlands, reestablished more than 54 miles of streams, and planted more than 19,000 acres of native grasses.

Anderson attributes many of his career achievements to the professional foundation established at SFA under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Farrish, director of SFA's Division of Environmental Science.

"The hands-on work we did at SFA created a success-driven system," Anderson said. "To be honest with you, a vast majority of the credit, as I see it, goes to Kenneth Farrish. He was a huge mentor, and a lot of things he did set a foundation that really created who I am today." ★



*To generate mitigation credits, a process overseen by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, companies like Mitigation Resources of North America ecologically restore, create or enhance streams and wetlands impaired by human activity. This includes reestablishing natural stream sinuosity and native vegetation, seen above ↑, along waterways that have been channelized and overtaken by nonnative or invasive vegetation, seen at left ←. These subsequent credits are then purchased by an entity to offset its environmental impact and attain federal environmental compliance.*

*Photos courtesy of Mitigation Resources of North America*







# Alumnus achieves American dream and offers a dose of Lumberjack hospitality

STORY BY JO GILMORE / PHOTO BY ROBIN JOHNSON '99 & '19

**V**IMAL “VICTOR” PATEL '91 started his career in the hotel business at the young age of 11 when his family immigrated to Lufkin from England March 7, 1981.

His family leased a small independent hotel from the owner who didn't want to manage it day to day. Patel's father, Makanjbhai, ran operations while his mother, Kusum, kept the books. Patel, his sister, Jyoti “Jody” '87, and his brother, Kamlesh “Ken” '92, cleaned the rooms and pool and swept the parking lot after school.

“We ran the whole operation because we couldn't afford employees,” Patel said. “That's how I grew up in the business.”

By age 22, Patel was one of the youngest franchisees with the Bass Hotel Group, now known as Intercontinental Hotel Group. In addition to IHG Holiday Inn properties, he proudly owns and operates more than 20 properties under the Hilton, Choice, Best Western and Wyndham brands. He is now president of Pegasus Hospitality Hotel Group and U.S. Hospitality Management, both of which are based in Irving.

But before this career success, he needed a formal education by way of a double major in economics and management at SFA.

## A SECOND HOME

When his parents told Patel and his siblings they needed to stay close to home for their college educations, SFA was the obvious choice, and a degree in business could help him hone his communication and deal-making skills.

“Rusche College of Business taught me how to communicate. Improving my communication skills was key because English wasn't my first language,” he said. “SFA was welcoming and helped me assimilate more comfortably. It felt like home.”

Patel enjoyed visits to the La Hacienda restaurant, attended concerts by Chicago and Richard Marx in the Johnson Coliseum, and practiced enough doubles badminton and ping-pong between classes to progress to the SFA intramural finals in both sports four years in a row.

Patel studied, too. He still uses the knowledge he gained in his business law class during deals today.

“That's how I know the right questions to ask and the important things to look for in a business deal,” he said.

## TWIST OF FATE

In 1990, tragedy struck his family's household when Patel's father was murdered while working at the Holiday House Motel, now the Lufkin Inn.

“It was a random robbery. The murderer wasn't even from Lufkin,” Patel said. “Although the robbery was not representative of the community, my mom didn't want to live in Lufkin anymore.”

His mother moved the family to Irving, but Patel and his brother stayed behind in Lufkin and commuted to SFA to complete their degrees. As the oldest son, per Indian culture, Patel also took over his father's business.

The Patels fought for justice in Texas for years, but when Makanjbhai's alleged murderer killed two other people in Colorado, he was sentenced and eventually died in prison.

Despite the tragedy, Patel pushed on and now owns several hotels across Texas, including a cluster in Lufkin and the Hole in One restaurant in Lufkin.

## AN INDUSTRY FOR INDIAN AMERICANS

According to a 2021 study conducted by the Asian American Hotel Owners Association in partnership with Oxford Economics, Indian Americans own 60% of hotels in the U.S.

“Today, we're power players,” Patel said. “But back in the '80s and early '90s, hotel brands wouldn't work with Indians.”

In the late '80s, the economy was still reeling from the savings and loan crisis after a long period of both high inflation

and interest rates. Hotels under foreclosure were being auctioned off at rock-bottom prices. Patel took advantage of the situation, secured some loans and made five deals before he graduated.

Since then, he's managed hotels through hurricanes, the onslaught of media in East Texas during the space shuttle Columbia disaster, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We never shut down any of my hotels,” Patel said of the pandemic. One of the many ways he kept the hotels thriving was caring for traveling nurses who came to help in local hospitals.

Though he gained a good sense of business from SFA, he also learned from the hospitality the university showed him.

“I loved the whole experience at SFA,” he said. “I hope I help others feel just as welcome when they visit one of my hotels.” ★

“I loved the whole experience at SFA. I hope I help others feel just as welcome when they visit one of my hotels.”

VIMAL “VICTOR” PATEL '91



# FROM SPACE CENTER HOUSTON TO NASA, ALUMNA COMMANDS CRONUS CONSOLE INSIDE MISSION CONTROL

STORY BY JOANNA ARMSTRONG '15

**W**HEN JOANNA JOHNSON '08 was a child, her grandfather carried her in his arms to the county road in front of their house, and together they looked up at the sky to see a lunar eclipse. Standing there in the night air, they watched as the moon grew dark, seemingly snuffed out, then peeked back out to illuminate the sky. Even at her young age, this experience ignited a passion for the cosmos that has remained.

"For as long as I can remember, I've been interested in space," Johnson said. "Some of my favorite memories are of visiting Space Center Houston with my family."

Little did she know that these childhood experiences were pivotal moments that led to her dream career at NASA's Johnson Space Center as a communication radio frequency onboard network utilization specialist (a name so long NASA just calls it CRONUS) flight controller and avionics instructor.

"My drive into work on my first day at Johnson Space Center was very surreal. I wanted to work at NASA for so long, and it didn't seem real that I had finally gotten that opportunity," Johnson said. "I definitely had some first-day jitters, but I was so excited to be there and

get started on my way to becoming a flight controller in Mission Control."

A Lufkin native, she attended Hudson High School and took advanced placement physics and calculus. It was there she was inspired by a teacher to pursue a degree in physics. Heading to SFA's College of Sciences and Mathematics, she did just that. At SFA, Johnson immediately became involved with various campus organizations, joining the Society of Physics Students and Omicron Delta Kappa.

"I was provided the opportunity to learn how to work with different types of groups in order to accomplish a common goal. The leadership opportunities I had through both of these groups were instrumental in preparing me for being a leader at NASA," Johnson said.

These organizations, along with top-notch instruction from professors in SFA's Department of Physics, Engineering and Astronomy, gave her the knowledge and practical experience she needed to continue toward a career with NASA.

Initially intending to apply to the Johnson Space Center after graduation, she was sidelined by the end of the space shuttle program and wasn't sure what to do next. Quickly pivoting, Johnson then began a master's degree in physics at the University of Houston at Clear Lake while teaching geometry and Algebra II at La Porte High School. ➔



3-year-old  
Joanna  
Johnson  
'08 and her  
grandfather,  
Bob Herbst

*From inside NASA's Mission Control Center, Lufkin native and CRONUS flight controller Joanna Johnson '08 operates the console for the International Space Station's command and data handling system. For nearly 10 years, Johnson has worked various jobs at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, including flight controller and avionics instructor.*

*Photo courtesy of NASA*





“FOR AS LONG AS I  
CAN REMEMBER, I’VE  
BEEN INTERESTED IN  
SPACE. SOME OF MY  
FAVORITE MEMORIES  
ARE OF VISITING SPACE  
CENTER HOUSTON  
WITH MY FAMILY.”

Joanna Johnson '08



10-year-old Joanna  
Johnson '08 at Space  
Center Houston







Photo and CRONUS graphic courtesy of NASA

**"MY CONSOLE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMMAND AND DATA HANDLING SYSTEM, WHICH INCLUDES SENDING AND ACCESSING DATA AND SOME OF THE COMPUTER SYSTEMS ONBOARD, AS WELL AS THE COMMUNICATIONS AND TRACKING SYSTEM, WHICH CONSISTS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS, AUDIO AND VIDEO SUBSYSTEMS."**

Joanna Johnson '08



In 2013, Johnson decided it was time to apply for the CRONUS position, which she still holds today. She was originally hired by Craig Technologies and later transferred to Houston's Cimarron Software Services, a company contracted by NASA since 1988. From locations throughout the United States, the software company provides real-time solutions for Mission Control and supports manned spaceflight operations.

Today, Johnson works directly for NASA as a flight controller while also spending her day supporting the CRONUS console in Mission Control for the International Space Station. Within her first six months, she and her co-worker created a tool for the CRONUS console that made it possible to track a specific latitude and longitude point on Earth by using an external camera.

"My console is responsible for the command and data handling system, which includes sending and accessing data and some of the computer systems onboard, as well as the communications and tracking system, which consists of the communications, audio and video subsystems," Johnson said.

Her console also provides voice for the ISS crew, as well as maintains software for onboard computers, controls video and provides the link of data and telemetry for the flight control team. She even gets to communicate with international partners to coordinate audio and video footage.

Johnson also works as an avionics instructor, supporting simulations for training future flight controllers, and she is in training as an expedition instructor. Working as an instructor, she will have the opportunity to train astronauts before they fly to the ISS for their missions. She also is looking forward to the opportunity to support avionics instructors in a leadership role.

"While working toward my degree in physics, I attended many labs, participated in countless study sessions, and got a lot of

practice explaining physics and math problems to other students in my classes," Johnson said. "I didn't know it at the time, but these experiences were actually invaluable in preparing me for my career at NASA."

Though working at NASA can put her in high-stress, high-pressure situations, Johnson is still just as excited to see the wonders of space as she was when she was a little girl marveling at the moon in the middle of the night with her grandfather.

"My favorite part of the job is that every day is different," Johnson said. "More specifically, while working console, my favorite part is moving the external ISS cameras. The views from those cameras are really amazing, and I love that I'm the person in the room who gets to control them."

As an instructor, she is also passionate about working with trainees and seeing them earn certifications as flight controllers.

Employed somewhere as prestigious as NASA, Johnson could be proud of many things, but what sticks out to her as a significant accomplishment is earning certifications as a CRONUS specialist and an avionics instructor, as well as being selected to support the role as an avionics instructor group lead.

Though the path for a woman in science, technology, engineering and mathematics can at times be difficult, Johnson thinks only about the positive impact the people around her have made on her life.

"As a woman in STEM, I have the privilege of working with some of the brightest women and men I've ever met," she said.

In the same way, she hopes to be a light for other women and young girls seeking to follow her into the world of STEM.

"I hope to be able to encourage my daughters and other young women considering STEM careers to pursue their dreams of one day working in a science field," Johnson said. ★



# Jacks of All Trades: Icing on the cake

STORY BY RICHARD MASSEY / PHOTO BY ROBIN JOHNSON '99 & '19



*Inside Whitney Ronzello's Blue Horse Bakery located in downtown Nacogdoches*

**THE HEART OF** Blue Horse Bakery in downtown Nacogdoches is the cake pedestal turntable in the decorating room. It's where owner Whitney Ronzello '09 makes edible art out of layered confections tailored for whatever the occasion may be, whether it's a golden anniversary or a baby shower.

Mondays and Tuesdays are for the nuts and bolts of the business — responding to emails and phone messages, finalizing design ideas, confirming orders, giving quotes and taking deposits. The remainder of the week is for the fun stuff — baking custom cakes and delivering them to wedding receptions and graduation and birthday parties.

She recently closed the storefront where cookies and cupcakes were sold and rents the space out to another local business. Ronzello now works out of the back of the building on an appointment-only basis. She doesn't necessarily miss the retail side of things — with as many as 14 cake orders a week, business is thriving. And with deliveries ranging from as far away as San Antonio, Dallas, Tyler and Houston, word has apparently spread.

The Spring native attributes the company's success to getting back to the basics.

"My passion has always been with the custom cakes, and that's what the business was founded on," the self-taught baker said.

An equestrian who majored in animal science in SFA's Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, the name of the bakery was inspired by her lifelong love of riding. It started out as a home bakery in 2014 and moved to its current location at 112 N. Church St. in early 2017. Before the bakery, Ronzello worked for a home health software company.

This past spring, she baked and decorated cakes in New York as a contestant on the Food Network's "Spring Baking Championship: Easter," vying with seven others for a \$25,000 prize. Eliminated in the fourth round, she returned later in the series to assist the eventual winner. The series premiered in February and generated a strong cycle of media coverage for the bakery.

Ronzello and spouse Tony have two children, daughter Mia and son Leo, and a baby due in September, so she keeps a play space in the bakery for those times when motherhood and business intertwine.

"We like to keep it busy," Ronzello said. "This is not necessarily a 9-to-5 job, and there's not a whole lot of sleep during the holidays. But that's the industry."

Ronzello's cakes can be as large as 30 pounds. Gravity-defying cakes are her specialty, and she employs imagery from across the firmament of American culture, from Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles to Jurassic Park, from a space cake with planets to one topped with a tilting pot of honey.

Chilled before transport, a Blue Horse Bakery cake hasn't truly arrived until it's been personally delivered by Ronzello. She brings her emergency to-go bag with wire, wire cutters, extra icing, scissors, an offset spatula and gloves — just in case.

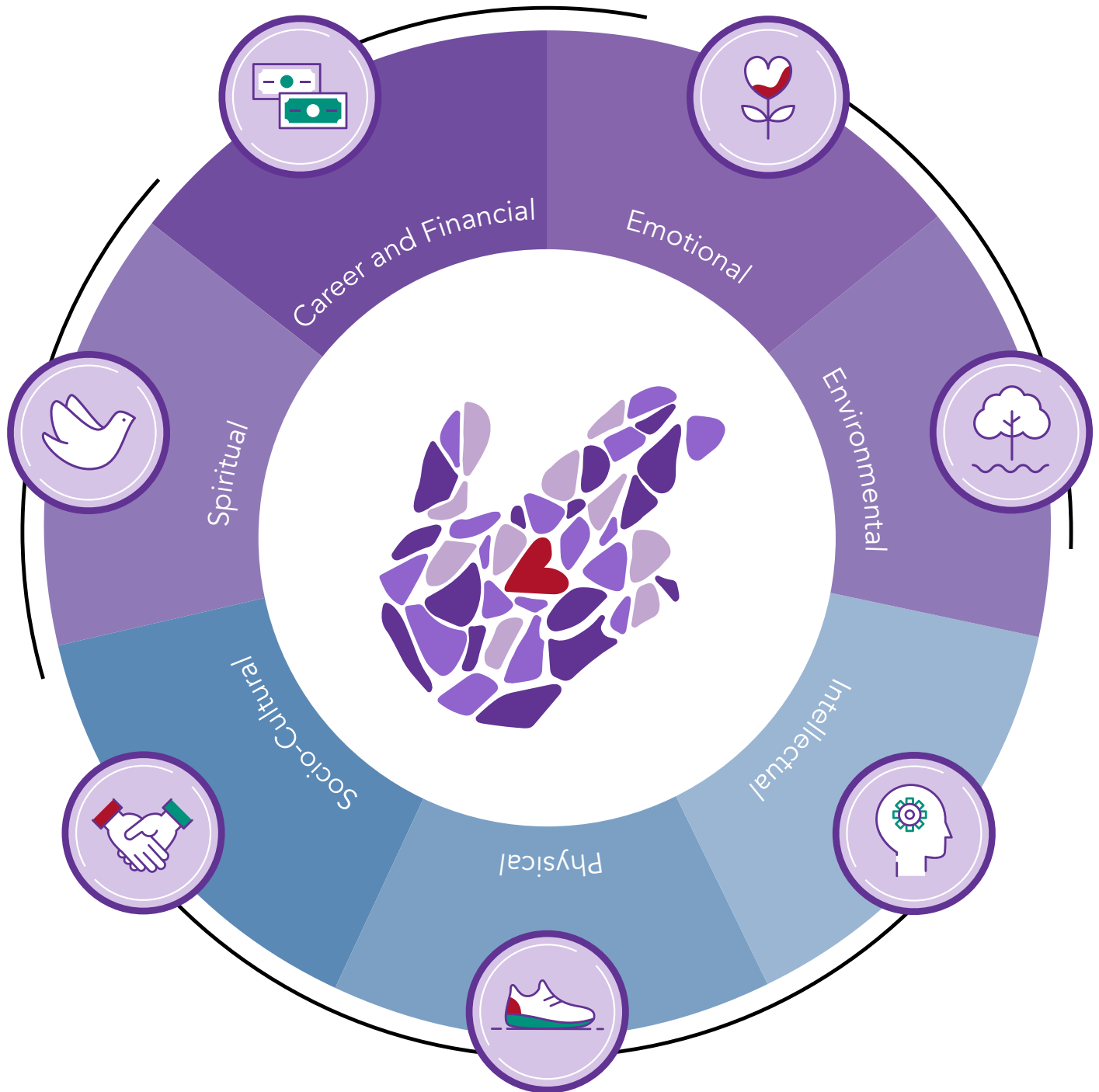
"I want to make sure all my cakes are perfect before I let them leave my hands," she said. ★

View a sampling of Ronzello's decorated cakes at:

@BlueHorseBakery

[sfasu.edu/sawdust](http://sfasu.edu/sawdust)





"THE VERY REAL PROBLEMS AND POTENTIAL BARRIERS TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS OUR STUDENTS ARE NOW FACING ARE CERTAINLY NOT UNIQUE TO SFA. BUT THE HOLISTIC, COMMUNITY HEALTH APPROACH WE ARE NOW TAKING, I BELIEVE, IS UNIQUE IN ITS BREADTH AND DEPTH ..."

ANDREW J. DIES

*Assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students at SFA*



# Lumberjack Wellness Network

## RE-IMAGINING HOW SFA PROMOTES HEALTH AND WELL-BEING AMONG STUDENTS

STORY BY AMY ROQUEMORE '93 & '12

**E**ARNING A COLLEGE degree has always been challenging, even under ideal circumstances. But an increasing number of incoming students are arriving on campus with violence, trauma, mental illness, substance abuse and other adverse childhood experiences that make pursuing higher education exponentially harder.


Nationally, up to 70% of 18-year-olds have had at least one adverse childhood experience, and a significant number have a history of four or more. The cumulative effects of these challenges on college students' health and well-being place them at greater risk of dropping out before achieving a bachelor's degree and all the advantages that come with it.

In response to such trends, SFA's Division of Student Affairs recently underwent a significant reorganization to prioritize students' overall health and well-being while strengthening the university's network of support.

The new Lumberjack Wellness Network is a comprehensive web of services encompassing the seven dimensions of wellness: physical, emotional, intellectual, environmental, socio-cultural, spiritual, and career and financial.

"The very real problems and potential barriers to academic success our students are now facing are certainly not unique to SFA," according to Andrew J. Dies, who joined SFA as assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students in August 2021. "But the holistic, community health approach we are now taking, I believe, is unique in its breadth and depth, and the administration's commitment to and support of these initiatives has also been exceptional." ➔





**"OUR FOCUS IN THE DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS IS STUDENT SUCCESS, AND A KEY COMPONENT OF THAT IS ENSURING WE MEET THEIR EVOLVING NEEDS IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH AND WELL-BEING."**

**DR. BRANDON FRYE**

*Vice president for student affairs at SFA*

## **ENGAGE, LEAD, THRIVE AND SUCCEED**

Dr. Brandon Frye, vice president for student affairs, said he is proud of the work Dies and his team have put into leading SFA's ambitious wellness initiative, which is central to the division's newly adopted mission of "holistically developing Lumberjacks who engage, lead, thrive and succeed."

During an extensive reorganization of the Division of Student Affairs in 2021, Frye assembled all units responsible for student health and well-being under the Dean of Students office. Other responsibilities traditionally held by SFA's Dean of Students, including student activities, student government and other engagement programs, were moved under the new Student Life department.

"Our focus in the Division of Student Affairs is student success, and a key component of that is ensuring we meet their evolving needs in the areas of health and well-being," Frye said. "The Lumberjack Wellness Network and related efforts to better serve our students through the new health and well-being portfolio are already benefiting our students across campus. I am looking forward to seeing this positive impact grow, and I'm confident that our focus on student health and well-being will aid in student retention, persistence and success for years to come."

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

In addition, Counseling Services, Health Services, the Lumberjack Food Pantry, the campus dietitian and an outreach office of the Family Crisis Center of East Texas have been brought under one roof in the newly renovated Tucker Building as the Health and Wellness Hub.

## **A GROWING NEED**

SFA Director of Counseling Services Clare Fite said the lingering mental health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have placed added strain on college mental health professionals across the country. In response to growing wait times for SFA students seeking counseling during the peak of the pandemic, the department reworked its schedule to allow walk-in appointments, virtual sessions and group therapy, which have been well-received by students.

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

"For example, loneliness is now a chronic problem among college students, which is a huge shift because, historically, that has been a concern mainly for people 75 and older," Fite said. "And while it's OK for a student to seek counseling for loneliness,



a one-hour individualized session with a therapist is probably not going to be nearly as beneficial as connecting that student with group activities and organizations that help them make stronger connections on campus.”

Likewise, Dies said, a student feeling anxious about a chemistry grade will likely be better served by visiting with the professor and accessing on-campus tutoring services than by meeting with an SFA counselor. Problems with food insecurity or financial challenges can be best addressed through the Lumberjack Food Pantry and Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, respectively. And so on.

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

### A CULTURE OF CARING

The first cohort of LWN’s iCare Ambassadors completed 10 hours of training over the summer. Embedded in offices and departments across campus, these faculty and staff now serve as resource brokers empowered to directly connect students in need with resources that can help.

“Our faculty members have been very invested in this new approach, and their commitment to overall well-being is going to play a key role in ensuring our students know how and where to access the support they need to be successful at SFA,” Dies said.

A Student Wellness Action Team is LWN’s peer-education component that provides interactive programs and activities that inform students about drug and alcohol consumption and other high-risk behaviors. Mackenzie Suggs, a senior food and nutrition major who works for Campus Recreation as a fitness manager, said student wellness coaches also are helping connect students to critical SFA resources. “The wellness coaches receive additional training in the seven dimensions of wellness and learn about all the resources SFA has, so they can confidently share that information with students we work with at the Student Recreation Center,” Suggs said.

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

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

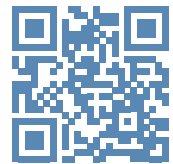
“AND WHILE IT’S OK FOR A STUDENT TO SEEK COUNSELING FOR LONELINESS, A ONE-HOUR INDIVIDUALIZED SESSION WITH A THERAPIST IS PROBABLY NOT GOING TO BE NEARLY AS BENEFICIAL AS CONNECTING THAT STUDENT WITH GROUP ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HELP THEM MAKE STRONGER CONNECTIONS ON CAMPUS.”

CLARE FITE  
Director of Counseling  
Services at SFA

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SFA students.



Student  
Emergency  
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Lumberjack  
Food Pantry



An illustration of a forest floor. Two large, textured tree trunks frame the central text. The ground is covered with a mix of green grass, small purple flowers, and a path made of reddish-brown bricks. In the background, there are more green plants and a small yellow flower.


# An Anthropologist and An Archivist Study Enslavement Histories — and Are Expanding Our Understanding of the Past

STORY BY CHRISTINE BROUSSARD '10 & '20

ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY KUBISCH '17

PHOTOS BY TREY CARTWRIGHT '04, '06 & '12  
AND ROBIN JOHNSON '99 & '19





**W**HEN ABRAHAM LINCOLN signed the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, a recorded 182,566 enslaved people lived and labored on Texas soil.

Despite not being told they were free until two years later when Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston on June 19, 1865 (celebrated today as Juneteenth), the proclamation meant millions of formerly enslaved people could now build new lives for themselves as free U.S. citizens.

In a legal sense, millions of humans considered mere property, at the scratch of a pen, suddenly became free people — but of course that was not their reality. The truth is generations of enslaved people had names, hopes, dreams and desires, and they led complex and often brutal lives. So how do we tell their stories — those of diverse people silenced by slavery?

It's arduous, meticulous work that requires picking through probate, deed and mortgage records; poring over runaway slave ads; sifting through soil; and charting moon and star alignments.

Thankfully, one SFA alumna and one SFA archivist have separately taken on, in their distinct fields, the backbreaking work of combing through sources to uncover the realities of a vast people whose daily lives and contributions have been largely forgotten to history.

Anthropologist Dr. Rolonda Teal '18 and archivist Kyle Ainsworth are by no means the only people digging into Texas' enslavement history. But they're making great strides in the pursuit of telling these often long-forgotten stories. ➔



“[Jeffrey Williams and I] could actually trace a timeline for where they should have been at certain times and where they were when they got caught. He could also tell me it was a full moon on Oct. 16, 1804, which fit the descriptions of that day that I found in primary documents.”

Dr. Rolonda Teal '18  
Researcher, author and anthropologist

## African Diaspora in the South

Teal built her career at the cross-section of multiple disciplines — she received a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana; a master's degree in historical archaeology from the University of Houston; and a doctoral degree in forestry with an emphasis in human dimensions from SFA in 2018.

Teal has been researching the African diaspora and migratory pathways of fugitive people in Texas and Louisiana for more than a decade — much of it springing from a singular paper she wrote during her master's program on the Cane River Insurrection of 1804.

This event saw a mass escape attempt of enslaved people from Natchitoches Parish, the magnitude of which “points to the ability of community to provide the framework for large-scale attempts at freedom and resistance against servitude,” according to the Cane River National Heritage Area website.

“I always knew I wanted to study African-American history because I felt it was missing, so my research centers on the African diaspora, plantation systems and fugitives,” Teal said. “My 1804 paper from that one history class continued to develop and develop, branching off in different directions. So, I have worked on this story for over a decade.”

With assistance from other archaeologists, ethnographers, GIS specialists and the like, Teal has discovered and published conclusive evidence that there was significant movement of enslaved people traveling south to Spanish-owned Mexico in 19th-century Texas, including along the famous El Camino Real de los Tejas.

This discovery of southerly escape routes is touched upon only slightly in existing scholarship because many claim the primary source support just isn't there.

Teal disagrees, saying it only requires putting in time, effort and a bit of ingenuity.

“Jeffrey Williams, who works the GIS component in SFA's forestry and geospatial science program, was able to reconstruct the timeline of the 1804 escape,” Teal said. “He used his knowledge of horses and how far someone could have ridden them in a certain amount of time, and we

mapped a trail from the plantations over to the Sabine River. We could actually trace a timeline for where they should have been at certain times and where they were when they got caught. He could also tell me it was a full moon on Oct. 16, 1804, which fit the descriptions of that day that I found in primary documents.”

Digging through both Spanish and French primary source records, she's uncovered stories of how and why slaves rejected servitude. Her aim is simple: to ask new questions and seek out new information to build on existing knowledge.

“We have histories of which we've been taught for years and years, and we're understanding more how these histories are not complete, so my goal is to add to and expand the narrative,” Teal said.

This fact is one historians increasingly acknowledge.

“It is crucial to understand that history is revisionism. That's the whole point — the past is not static,” said Dr. Court Carney, professor in SFA's Department of History. “Not simply in a metaphysical way (the idea that the past continues to change), but in a concrete way. We simply know more about the past than we did a generation ago.”

“The work of scholars like Ainsworth and Teal is a good example. Their work deepens and complicates established ideas. A complicated narrative reflects a complicated story. We know our present-day lives are complex knots of knowing and unknowing. The same was true for people in the past.”

Teal's goal of narrative expansion has, at times, been met with indignation from academic peers who feel her work is calling established history into question. When she's approached with skepticism, Teal finds comfort in the objectivity of her research.

*Dr. Rolonda Teal '18 sits in front of a collage of photos spanning decades of her extended family's high school and college graduations. Teal's family stresses the importance of receiving an education and all the advantages it can bring, which spurred her to receive her doctorate from SFA with a goal to expand on the stories of formerly enslaved individuals — most of whom never had that same access to education.*

*Photo by Trey Cartwright '04, '06 & '12*

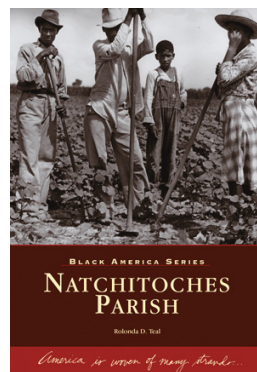




“What I’ve learned is I don’t have to argue with them about it,” Teal said. “I just say, ‘Here’s my stuff. Until you can put something together that contradicts it, I’m going to keep asking tough questions and researching new stories.’”

The decades Teal has invested in researching the African diaspora has led to the inclusion of three Louisiana historical sites in the National Underground Railroad Network of Freedom. She also works often, and closely, with the National Park Service and various state park services for all manner of research, from archaeological and ethnographic studies at federal construction sites to training national park interpreter staff members on implicit biases.

Teal has also appeared as a guest on the Discovery+ docuseries “Underground Railroad: The Secret History” and, for fans of all things spooky, an early episode of “Ghost Adventures” as they paid a visit to Magnolia Plantation in Natchitoches. ➔



### **Black America Series**

*“Natchitoches Parish: America is woven of many strands ...”*

*Written by Dr. Rolonda D. Teal*

*From 1722 to the present, thousands of people of African descent have occupied the region that today encompasses Natchitoches Parish in Louisiana. For almost 300 years, African Americans have made significant contributions to the area’s economic and social development. In Natchitoches Parish, the lives of some of those individuals are documented as they share their views on work, religion, education, socialization and community leadership.*

*“A complicated narrative reflects a complicated story. We know our present-day lives are complex knots of knowing and unknowing. The same was true for people in the past.”*

Dr. Court Carney  
SFA history professor



## The Project of a Lifetime

### Texas Runaway Slave Project

As an archivist and special collections librarian in SFA's East Texas Research Center — and with master's degrees in history and library science — Ainsworth's daily life is a continual trek through the winding aisles of SFA's archival stacks.

Ten years ago, with easy access to the extensive primary sources kept in Steen Library's ETRC on the SFA campus, he began a bold project: collecting, transcribing, organizing and cataloging the thousands of runaway slave ads published in Texas newspapers throughout the early 19th century.

"The focus of my master's work at the University of Southern Mississippi was slavery and Reconstruction, and I needed a research project to fulfill the scholarship component of my faculty status at SFA, so I saw a great opportunity to investigate a subject that already interested me," Ainsworth said. "I also evaluated the accessibility of Texas newspapers (the main source of runaway slave records) and saw that I was uniquely positioned to do the research."

The Texas Runaway Slave Project started in 2012. Over the next two years, Ainsworth reviewed 3,100 newspaper issues, scouring for ads placed by slave owners seeking help to find their runaway slaves. These types of ads are unique in the annals of enslavement, and deeply paradoxical: as one of few documents that described individual slaves in detail — albeit from the perspective of their enslaver — the ads juxtaposed rare glimpses of enslaved people against stark reminders of their place as commodities in Texas' 19th-century economy.

"Kyle's work gives us an incomparable view of slavery and freedom seeking in Texas," said Dr. Alice L. Baumgartner, an assistant professor in the University of

Southern California's Department of History who used the TRSP while researching her first book, "South to Freedom: Runaway Slaves to Mexico and the Road to the Civil War." "This database is the main reason we're seeing a boom in scholarship on enslaved people escaping to Mexico ... and the Texas Runaway Slave Project allows anyone with an internet connection to get a sense of how important this escape route was."

Fast forward a decade, and the TRSP has now reviewed nearly 20,000 newspapers from 1835 to 1865 and has identified more than 2,500 individual runaway slaves from Texas.

"Kyle's work is a tremendous resource for scholars and students of Texas because he has created a purposeful archive that not only has collected so many runaway slave ads, but also connects them — and the people named in them — in ways that only someone as close to the records as Kyle has been could possibly do," said Dr. Andrew J. Torget, University Distinguished Teaching Professor in University of North Texas' Department of History. "That means the TRSP does more than just make records available — it brings together the people embedded in those records and recovers their stories in ways that offer a new window into the Texas past."

*Two examples of the thousands of runaway slave ads published in Texas newspapers throughout the early 19th century. Kyle Ainsworth, pictured seated in the stacks of SFA's ETRC, cataloged these ads as part of the Texas Runaway Slave Project he started in 2012.*

*Photo by Robin Johnson '99 & '19*





## Lone Star Slavery Project

Ainsworth's search for runaway slave ads churned up mounds of deed, probate and other official records that mentioned the movement of slaves between owners and among properties.

These documents weren't relevant to his runaway slave research, but he didn't want them to remain unused.

"One of the things that always bothered me when I was doing the runaway slave research was that I was finding lots of other stuff about slavery but having to let that fall by the wayside," Ainsworth said. "At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when SFA suspended many on-campus operations, I stayed in the archives researching and photographing Nacogdoches deed and probate records. That's when I started the Lone Star Slavery Project."

Though only two years old, the LSSP seeks to flip the script for how people investigate slavery in Texas. Without the enslaver's name, finding documents on enslaved people is nearly impossible because county records and archival collections are organized by the name of the enslaver. By cross-referencing all records, Ainsworth is able to follow the stories of individual slaves as they move through the historical record and organize the LSSP database by the enslaved person's name.

The project's ultimate goal? To archive, county by county, every reference of every enslaved person in Texas mentioned on paper.

The work has barely begun and is something Ainsworth sees "as a

lifetime project. I approach it how I approach the runaway slave project, which is incrementally. If I think about 180,000-plus names, it would just be too much. Last year I worked on Nacogdoches County. This year is another county. It's something that can always be added to."

As Ainsworth chips away at archiving the whole of Texas' slave history, each addition to the projects' database is another piece laid in the vast mosaic of enslavement stories. It's also an outlet for historians, sociologists, archaeologists and genealogists to pull from as they seek to uncover more of the state's past.

"Historical scholarship rests on archival work. Historians and archivists form a symbiotic relationship based on the analysis of source material, and good archives are the products of good archivists," Carney said. "These repositories offer the building blocks of scholarship in innumerable ways, and having someone like Kyle is doubly

helpful because he has a solid understanding of the historical profession in various ways."

## The Impact

Ripping at the undergrowth that had for years slowly crept over soil and stone, Rodney Hawkins and members of his family — alongside SFA history Professor Dr. Perky Beisel, her students and other volunteers — toiled in the fall of 2020 to unearth the two-century-old Old Mount Gillion Cemetery headstone by headstone.

A producer for CBS News at the time, Hawkins was on assignment covering a story that was very personal to him and members of his family. Their intentions for the project started simply enough: with generations of Hawkins' ancestors buried in the Nacogdoches County cemetery, he and his family wanted to learn a bit about their past while restoring what they could in the present.

Just six months later, Hawkins' ancestral quest took an emotional turn — using names and dates found on the recovered headstones, Ainsworth dove into the LSSP database and emerged with records showing the movement and sale of Hawkins' great-great-great-grandfather, Richard Curl.

Moments like these are examples of the magnitude that research like Teal's and Ainsworth's can have on present-day lives.

"That was an amazing moment of realization and connection for me," Hawkins said. "I knew I had roots in East Texas, but I didn't have a clue where, how and who began our legacy here. I felt connected to this country, Texas and my family in ways that are hard to explain. Despite the circumstances, Richard Curl made a life for himself after slavery, and I wouldn't exist without him. To have the opportunity to present this information to my living elders was priceless. As my great uncle Billy Curl said, 'I have a history now.'"

Slavery research impacts much more than just scholarship. It connects whole families and uncovers truths that can impact entire communities.

Take, for example, Teal's research on the El Camino Real de los Tejas route. She discovered that in the tiny community of Geneva, a historical marker identifying it as a stop along El Camino Real was originally placed along Kings Road, which cut through the small town's Black community. The marker was moved, however, a couple miles over to Highway 21, not only disconnecting the town's Black community from its historical significance but also stripping it of the chance to receive grant funding to build its identity as a historic place.

Enslavement research not only provides a historical basis for financial support but also allows people and communities to truly get to know themselves. And while trying to tell the story of all those people suddenly freed from servitude is a bold pursuit, Teal's and Ainsworth's work creates real change. Because connecting people and communities to their past does more than simply tell a story — it impacts how we understand and support those people and communities in the present. ★



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Scan to watch  
Rodney Hawkins'  
family story.





# From Lumberjacks to Leadership.

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**Malcolm Deason**  
MBA Business '01



**Alton Frailey**  
BS Elementary Education '83  
M.Ed. Education Admin '85



**John (Bob) Garrett**  
BS Biology '75



**Michael Goode**  
BBA Finance '88



**Codie Jenkins**  
MBA Business '03



**Ernest King**  
BBA Management '71  
MBA Accounting '74



**Brian K. McCabe**  
BBA Business Data  
Processing '82



**Tony K. Morgan**  
BBA Accounting '82



# From the Association

"Get ready to celebrate SFA's centennial in 2023, which will be filled with events to highlight 100 years of SFA! Watch for exciting events as we move closer to 2023, including the installation and dedication of the 'Big SFA Ring' to be located outside the Pearman Alumni Center."

## GREETINGS, LUMBERJACKS!



What an exciting time to be a Lumberjack! Fall brings so many opportunities to come back to Nac for football games, tailgating, volleyball and soccer games, Alumni

Awards, Homecoming, and the SFA Big Dip, to name a few. Look for these events on our social media pages. We look forward to welcoming you back to campus.

Recipients of the 2022 Alumni Awards are featured in this issue as outstanding Lumberjacks recognized by the Alumni Association. These recipients are leaders in their chosen fields and in their communities. They are loyal Lumberjacks dedicated to the goals of SFA. Be sure to take a look at them on Pages 30 and 31.

During the summer, Lumberjack pride could be found at various locations across Texas, including an alumni event in Tyler along with the SFA Road Show, which traveled to baseball games in Houston, Dallas, Round Rock and San Antonio. The events gave us opportunities to engage with alumni where they live. What a statement we made as the SFA sections turned purple with Lumberjack pride!

We have an official SFA wine. Wes Jensen '94 co-owns Sage's Vintage, a custom crush winery, whose team created SFA's new alumni reserve wine named Bûcheron — the French word for Lumberjack. A malbec (red) and a marsanne (white) were introduced in June at a wine tasting. If you are interested in ordering one or both of these wines, visit [SFAwines.com](http://SFAwines.com) to get limited-edition, Texas-grown, Lumberjack-made fine wines.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of SFA's Big Dip tradition. We had more than 400 participants at our spring ceremonies. If you haven't had a chance to dip your SFA ring, consider participating in the Big Dip. We host two events per year — one in the fall and another in the spring. Our next Big Dip ceremony is set for Dec. 2. If you did not purchase a ring when you were a student, you can order one through the Alumni Association and join the fun.

Get ready to celebrate SFA's centennial in 2023, which will be filled with events to highlight 100 years of SFA! Watch for exciting events as we move closer to 2023, including the installation and dedication of the "Big SFA Ring" to be located outside the Pearman Alumni Center. SFA Alumni Association Board Member Brian Dawson '03 is leading this charge, tirelessly working to ensure every detail is covered and planning events to accompany the arrival and dedication of the ring.

If you are not a member of the Alumni Association, I invite you to join. Your involvement is vital to maintaining SFA's excellence and helps keep our valued traditions alive for future generations of Lumberjacks. You can join online at [sfaalumni.com/join](http://sfaalumni.com/join) or call (936) 468-3407 to speak with an Alumni Association representative. There are levels for annual or lifetime memberships.

This is my last letter as president of the SFA Alumni Association, and I cannot express how much I have enjoyed working with our wonderful board of directors and our awesome staff. Your Alumni Association staff members work to keep all Lumberjacks engaged through social media and at sporting and other events throughout the year. Executive Director Craig Turnage leads with tremendous Lumberjack pride. He, along with Derek Snyder, Amber Lindsay, Samantha Mora, Amie Ford, Travis Turner and Alicia Chatman, make a fantastic team.

Get ready, Lumberjacks, because incoming President Erika Tolar '02 is primed and ready to lead the organization for the next two years, and I could not be more pleased. She bleeds purple and will lead with enthusiasm and determination. She and past President Bob Francis '78 have been by my side the past two years, and for that I am grateful.

It is a great time to be a Lumberjack.

As always, axe 'em, Jacks!

Charlotte Ashcraft '80 – Nacogdoches President, SFA Alumni Association

## SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Charlotte Ashcraft '80, Nacogdoches  
*president*

Erika Tolar '02, Nacogdoches  
*president-elect*

Bob Francis '78, Bullard  
*past president*

Mike Harbordt '63, Nacogdoches  
*director emeritus*

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Matt Adkins '06, McKinney

Tony Both '98, Katy

Larry Brooks '01, Houston

Reuben Brown '07, Grand Prairie

Pamm Coleman '80, Houston

Brian Dawson '03, Conroe

James Drennan '73, Pittsburg

Mark Friedman '91, Allen

Sam Khoury '97, Longview

Steve McCarty '65 & '70, Alto

Jaclyn Partin '08 & '14, Tyler

Larissa Philpot-Brown '03, Nacogdoches

Alex Ranc '11 & '13, Nacogdoches

Ted Smith '07, Nacogdoches

Bob Williams '70, Dallas

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION STAFF

Craig Turnage '00 & '05  
*executive director of alumni relations*

Amber Lindsay  
*assistant to the executive director*

Derek Snyder '01  
*director of alumni relations*

Samantha Mora '08  
*director of events and engagement*

Alicia Roland Chatman '16  
*gifts and records coordinator*

Amie Ford '09 & '11  
*coordinator of events and engagement*

Travis Turner '05 & '11  
*coordinator of communications and sponsorships*

Bob Sitton '60  
*director emeritus*

## CONTACT

Sawdust  
SFA Box 6096  
Nacogdoches, TX 75962  
(936) 468-3407  
[alumni@sfasu.edu](mailto:alumni@sfasu.edu) ★ [sfaalumni.com](http://sfaalumni.com)

## THE SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to engaging SFA students, alumni and friends to create an attitude of continued loyalty and support.

# Alumni Calendar

## SEPTEMBER

24

### SFA FOOTBALL VERSUS WARNER UNIVERSITY

Alumni Corner tailgate begins at 3 p.m.  
Corner of Hayter and Raguet streets  
Kickoff at 6 p.m.  
Homer Bryce Stadium  
Nacogdoches

30

### BATTLE OF THE PINEY WOODS PREGAME PARTY

More details at [sfaalumni.com/botpw](http://sfaalumni.com/botpw)  
Houston

## OCTOBER

1

### BATTLE OF THE PINEY WOODS SFA FOOTBALL VERSUS SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Kickoff at 2:30 pm.  
NRG Stadium  
Houston

3-7

### SFA RING WEEK

Pearman Alumni Center  
Nacogdoches

8

### SFA FOOTBALL VERSUS ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Alumni Corner tailgate begins at 3 p.m.  
Corner of Hayter and Raguet streets  
Kickoff at 6 p.m.  
Homer Bryce Stadium  
Nacogdoches

12

### ALL MAJORS CAREER FAIR

1 to 4 p.m.  
Baker Pattillo Student Center  
Grand Ballroom  
Nacogdoches

13

### SFA NURSING EVENT

Truck Yard  
Houston

15

### SFA FOOTBALL VERSUS TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Alumni Corner tailgate begins at 3 p.m.  
Corner of Hayter and Raguet streets  
Kickoff at 6 p.m.  
Homer Bryce Stadium  
Nacogdoches

28-30

### HOMECOMING WEEKEND

More details on Pages 32 and 33

29

### HOMECOMING WEEKEND SFA FOOTBALL VERSUS UTAH TECH UNIVERSITY

Alumni Corner tailgate begins at 11 a.m.  
Corner of Hayter and Raguet streets  
Kickoff at 2 p.m.  
Homer Bryce Stadium  
Nacogdoches

## NOVEMBER

4

### TEACHER CAREER FAIR

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Baker Pattillo Student Center  
Grand Ballroom  
Nacogdoches

4-6

### ETA EPSILON CHAPTER

50th Anniversary  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

12

### LUMBERJACK MARCHING BAND AND TWIRL-O-JACKS REUNION

Nacogdoches

12

### SFA FOOTBALL VERSUS CENTRAL ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY

Alumni Corner tailgate begins at 1 p.m.  
Corner of Hayter and Raguet streets  
Kickoff at 4 p.m.  
Homer Bryce Stadium  
Nacogdoches

29

### SENIOR SEND-OFF

Banita Creek Hall  
Nacogdoches

## DECEMBER

2

### THE BIG DIP CEREMONY

Baker Pattillo Student Center  
Grand Ballroom  
Nacogdoches

### BIG DIP BEER AND BITES

Fredonia Brewery  
Nacogdoches

9-10

### COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES AND ROSES FOR GRADS

Johnson Coliseum  
Nacogdoches

## FEBRUARY

8-11

### TEXAS MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

Henry B. González Convention Center  
San Antonio

Visit [sfaalumni.com/events](http://sfaalumni.com/events) for the most recent information. Times, dates and locations are subject to change.



# JACK TALK

Facebook - @SFASU  
Instagram - @SFASU

Twitter - @SFASU  
TikTok - @SFA\_JACKS

Use #AxeEm or tag SFA on social media.



You can't tell by her facial expression, but the girl is a big fan of the hammock swing.  
#axeem

CORTNEY\_WOODRUFF /  
INSTAGRAM



My handsome boy. #sfasu  
#AxeEm #Classof2022

@TAYLORANN21613 / TWITTER



She was so excited to read the latest issue of the @SFASU and @sfa\_alumni Sawdust. Start 'em early. Raise 'em right.  
#AxeEm

@ALAN\_SFA76 / TWITTER



Ran into an old student this morning! I taught Braxton when he was 10 years old at @JODavisES1. He is going into his third year at my alma mater, @SFASU. These are the moments I live for.  
#ProudTeacher @IrvingISD

@MS\_HERNANDEZASJ /  
TWITTER



Happy Friday! #AxeEm  
@SFASU

@LAPROFEMONI / TWITTER



Doing the old guy repping at Ocean Cay.  
#socksand sandals #axeem

KIRK DRAUT / FACEBOOK

When @Mrs\_Coach\_C insists you match at @AnimalKingdom, you make sure you wear @SFASU.  
@SFA\_Athletics #AxeEm

@CRAWFORD\_COACH /  
TWITTER



Had a reunion in Nac and had to strike the pose.

LESLIE PHILLIPS / FACEBOOK





## Distinguished Alumnus Award Charlie Parsons '65



Retired FBI Special Agent in Charge Charlie J. Parsons '65 has a background in crime fighting and drug prevention. Parsons graduated from SFA with a triple

major in English, history and business. While attending college, he served as president of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, senior class president and vice president of the student congress. During his senior year, Parsons was elected Mr. SFA. He joined the FBI in 1969 after graduating from Bates College of Law.

Parsons served in a variety of positions with the FBI for more than 27 years. He led investigations into New York's five Mafia families and taught at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. In 1979, he led investigations into the Mafia's infiltration of the casino industry in Nevada, resulting in convictions of four crime family bosses and the entire Chicago family leadership. Nick Pileggi, the author of "Casino," described Parsons as "the man who cleaned up Las Vegas."

From 1991 to 1996, Parsons was in charge of the FBI's Los Angeles field office, the second-largest office in the bureau, where he successfully led efforts to reduce violent crimes and street gang activities.

After a three-day retirement, Parsons became the new president and CEO of the world's largest drug and violence prevention organization, D.A.R.E. International. He has been honored with a Presidential Award for his leadership during the 1992 Los Angeles riots. In 2009, Parsons was designated as a Distinguished Alumnus of Longview High School.

## Distinguished Alumnus Award Matt Russell '96



Principal of Allen High School, Matt Russell '96 holds a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology with a special education endorsement.

During his time at SFA, Russell was involved in a number of organizations, including as a big brother in the Gamma Sigma Sigma service sorority and as a member of the SFA water ski team. He also was a member of the Council for Exceptional Children and volunteered with the Special Olympics.

During his career, Russell has taught special education and has been a Section 504 coordinator, house principal and associate principal. In 1996, he began his teaching career at Nacogdoches High School as a special education math teacher. He joined Allen High School in 1997 as the coordinator of the special education work program.

Russell was named Teacher of the Year in 2009 and was named principal of Ford Middle School in 2016, where he served as principal for four years. He also was a member of the state board for the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals and was named TASSP Region 10 Middle School Principal of the Year. In 2020, he was named principal of Allen High School.

Russell is active in his community. He served on the board of trustees for Wylie Methodist Church, where he eventually held the position of chair of the trustees. He also served on the Pastor Parish Relations Committee at First United Methodist Church Allen.

## Distinguished Alumnus Award Chuck Tomberlain '84



Chuck Tomberlain '84 truly bleeds purple and beams Lumberjack pride. While attending SFA, Tomberlain was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity where he met his wife of 38

years, Babette '85.

His time at SFA was spent developing lifelong relationships, like the one with his mentor and former professor Dr. Weldon Smith. But the most momentous SFA relationship emerged after his graduation when a man named Bob Sittton stopped by Tomberlain's office and encouraged him to be an active alumnus. That meeting was the beginning of a long friendship and a deep love for SFA.

After graduating from SFA, Tomberlain returned to Longview to become the second-generation owner of Charles Tomberlain Insurance Agency and developed his own company, B&C Properties. Safeco Insurance recognized his agency with the H.K. Dent Award, which is given to the top 2% of its agents nationwide. Tomberlain has been awarded the Safeco Award of Excellence for 11 consecutive years and was selected by Safeco's management team to serve on its Agency Council — an honor given to the top 1% of agents in the nation.

Tomberlain has served 12 years on the SFA Alumni Association board, including as president, and two years on the Alumni Foundation Board, including as past chair. He received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award and founded the Tomberlain Family Scholarship Fund. He also is a founding member of the East Texas SFA Alumni Chapter and a co-founder of the SFA East Texas Scholarship Golf Tournament.



## Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

### Devin Greer '07



After high school graduation, Devin Greer '07 followed his high school sweetheart, Amber, to Nacogdoches and SFA. Born and raised in Orangefield, he became the first in his family to attend college. While at SFA, Greer played midfielder for the SFA lacrosse team and served as president of the American Marketing Association during his junior and senior years. In that role,

he and his team competed in the AMA's National Collegiate Case Competition, where hundreds of universities create marketing and advertising campaigns for a sponsored company. The SFA team qualified for finals at Disney World and placed third overall.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in marketing with a minor in finance, Greer moved to Houston to join the team at Mattress Firm under the leadership of notable SFA alumni Steve Stagner and Ken Murphy. In 2008, he accepted a position as a wealth management advisor with Northwestern Mutual to pursue his passion — financial services. In this role, Greer co-led a team in serving the financial planning and wealth management needs of clients while based in The Woodlands.

Greer and his wife have two daughters, Abigail and Hannah. The couple serves on their church's administrative board and support several charities, including Music Doing Good, the American Heart Association of Montgomery County, Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance, Home of Hope and Alex's Lemonade Stand. Greer is a member of the Go-Texan Committee for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

## Outstanding Young Alumni Award

### Derek '09 and Kayli '08 Head



Owners of the wedding and event floral shop Bloom Bar, Kayli '08 and Derek Head '09 have designed over 100 weddings annually since launching their business in 2015. Both from Garland, where they met in high school, Kayli studied communications and journalism and was involved in the Student Activities Association and Public Relations Society of America while

Derek studied health science. After graduation, both were active in the Nacogdoches community, where Derek served on the board of directors for the Nacogdoches Area Chamber of Commerce, for which Kayli also volunteered. Derek helped establish the Healthy Nacogdoches Coalition and worked for Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital. Kayli worked in what is now SFA's Division of University Marketing Communications.

After Derek accepted a job offer in Central Texas, Kayli worked for the Main Street Programs in Bastrop and San Marcos. There, she was inspired by local entrepreneurs and decided to follow her lifelong dream of owning a floral business. Soon after, she opened the Bloom Bar in San Marcos, and Derek left his career to join the business full time in 2018. Bloom Bar has received many awards, including Emerging Business of the Year from the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, Business of the Year from the San Marcos Main Street Program and multiple best floral awards. Kayli has received the Shining Star Under 40 Award and is a preferred vendor by the Associated Wedding Planners of Austin. The couple recently moved to Derek's family ranch in La Grange, and the business has been relocated to nearby Smithville.

## Lumberjack Pride Award

### Tammy Purser '87



While an SFA student, Tammy Purser '87 was selected to Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges, the Alpha Chi Honor Society, and the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society. Purser was a member of Zeta Tau Alpha and received the Student Service Award in 1987.

Purser graduated with a degree in radio/TV communications and worked in the radio business in Houston and Austin before moving to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1991. Three years later, she moved into the field of information technology and started working for BellSouth (now AT&T). Her job led her back to Texas in 2007. Throughout her career, she remained an active volunteer in her communities; a member of numerous employee resource groups, such as Women of AT&T; and a member of Zeta Tau Alpha alumnae groups.

At the end of 2019, Purser retired from AT&T and moved back to Nacogdoches with the desire to share her skills and talents with the local and campus communities.

You can find Purser cheering on SFA athletic teams or serving as a volunteer for SFA Gardens. She also spends time volunteering at many events as an SFA Alumni Association ambassador, as well as being an advisor to her collegiate chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha.

As a member of the Nacogdoches Junior Forum, Purser devotes her time to local nonprofits and organizations with other Junior Forum members supporting the local HOPE Food Bank, Visit Nacogdoches, and the Nacogdoches Senior Center.

## Lumberjack Pride Award

### Brian Tuttle '72



East Texas native Brian Tuttle '72 is part owner and operator of Steamatic of East Texas, which provides restoration, construction and indoor quality services. Steamatic of East Texas is entering its 54th year, making it the second-oldest Steamatic franchise in the world.

Tuttle has served as a member of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce, the East Texas Council of Governments, as past president of Sales and Marketing Executives International, and numerous other civic and business organizations. He was a member of the Tyler Catholic School Board from 1980-81 then 1992-95 and currently serves on the St. Gregory Cathedral Elementary School Board.

Tuttle served as chair and founder of the Steamatic Executive Council, which represents all Steamatic franchises around the world. He also acted as a liaison between franchises and Steamatic International.

Tuttle brought back Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity Nu Xi Chapter to SFA in the late 1990s. He served as chapter advisor and board member for Tau Kappa Epsilon and is a supporter of SFA's Purple Lights Fund. He donates to the SFA Alumni Scholarship fund, is an Alumni Association ambassador and has worked with the association to recruit new students to SFA.

Tuttle usually can be found at the Alumni Corner prior to every home football game and, during the game, in the club boxes at the end zone cheering on his beloved Jacks.

# HOMECOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY TO SUNDAY, OCT. 18-30

### HOMECOMING ONLINE AUCTION

*Begins at 6 p.m. Oct. 18, and ends at 9 p.m. Oct. 30*

Visit [sfaalumni.com/auction](http://sfaalumni.com/auction) to bid on your favorite items and help raise money for alumni programming and scholarships. The auction includes travel packages, custom SFA items, VIP experiences and more. Do you have an item you'd like to donate? If so, contact Amie Ford at (936) 468-3407 or [mortonae@sfasu.edu](mailto:mortonae@sfasu.edu).

## TUESDAY, OCT. 25

### 11TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING 5K

*Begins at 5:45 p.m.*

*Race starts and ends on the SFA campus near the Cole STEM Building*

*Cost:*

*Student \$15*

*Faculty/staff/alumni*

*\$25 (early bird until Sept. 30)*

*\$30 (after Sept. 30)*

*Community member*

*\$35 (early bird until Sept. 30)*

*\$40 (after Sept. 30)*

*Virtual \$30*

*1-Miler \$5*

*Not timed and no T-shirt but can add a T-shirt for an additional \$10*

5K participants receive a T-shirt. Virtual participants' T-shirts will be mailed. Register at [sfasu.edu/campusrec](http://sfasu.edu/campusrec).

## WEDNESDAY, OCT. 26

### 2022 SIMPLY NACC FEATURING TRACY BYRD

*Doors open at 6 p.m.*

*Banita Creek Hall*

*401 W. Main St., Nacogdoches*

*Tickets: \$40 at [banitacreekhall.com](http://banitacreekhall.com)*

Concert benefiting the Nacogdoches Area Cancer Coalition.

## FRIDAY, OCT. 28

### BOB SITTON CLASSIC

*Registration at 9 a.m.*

*Begins at 10:30 a.m.*

*Woodland Hills Golf Club*

*359 CR 5021, Nacogdoches*

*Cost: \$150 per person, \$600 team, \$1,200 corporate team*

Four-player scramble. Players may enter as single or recruit their own team. Entry fee includes tournament play, golf cart, refreshments and T-shirts. All contestants receive tee gifts. Great prizes for all gross and net winners. Closest-to-the-hole also will be awarded. A few holes will have food trucks, wine and beer. A mobile cigar lounge will be available.

### "BACK IN NAC" SOCIAL

*4 to 7 p.m.*

*Nine Flags Bar and Grill at The Fredonia Hotel*

*200 N. Fredonia St.*

Kick off the weekend by joining fellow alumni for the happiest of all happy hours at the "Back in Nac" social. Enjoy purple margaritas and Fredonia Brewery Purple Lights beer (for purchase), awesome appetizer specials, live music by Shay Domann, a photo booth and more! Be sure to stop by after the bonfire festivities for late-night specials, too.

### SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*4:30 to 5 p.m.*

*Hall of Honor, Pearman Alumni Center, 300 Vista Drive*

### HOMECOMING JACK TRACK BUS SHUTTLE

*8 p.m. to midnight*

Free shuttle service to the bonfire and The Fredonia Hotel. Bus shuttle runs every 15 minutes.

### TORCHLIGHT PARADE AND BONFIRE

*Torchlight Parade begins at 8:30 p.m. at the SFA Ag Pond*

*Bonfire begins at 9 p.m. at the Intramural Fields*

Show your school spirit as SFA alumni, students and members of the Nacogdoches community gather to cheer on the SFA football team, cheerleaders, dance team and band. Fireworks and a special performance will conclude the night's festivities.



# VISIT [SFAALUMNI.COM/HOMECOMING](https://sfaalumni.com/homecoming) FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE LIST OF EVENTS.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 29

### HOMECOMING FLAP “JACK” BREAKFAST

7:30 to 10 a.m.

*The Fredonia Hotel, 200 N. Fredonia St.*

*\$10 per person, free for life members (and one guest)*

Enjoy breakfast like a Lumberjack with flap “jacks.” Decorate your meal with purple goodies, take photos in our photo booth with Lenny the Lumberjack and spirit teams, and listen to live music by the SFA steel drum band.

### HOMECOMING PARADE

10 a.m.

*Downtown Nacogdoches*

Celebrate SFA and enjoy themed floats, music and pageantry. The parade is free for all to attend. This year’s theme is “Game On.”

### ALUMNI CORNER TAILGATE

11 a.m. until kickoff

*Corner of Raguet and Hayter streets*

Join the Alumni Association for delicious game-night-inspired tailgate food and a viewing lounge with Wi-Fi powered by Optimum, SFA swag, tailgate games, a cash bar and live music by Shay Domann. Alumni Corner is free for Alumni Association members, \$15 for nonmembers, \$5 for children ages 6 to 10 (with adult), and free for children younger than 5 (with adult).

### ALUMNI FALL FEST

11 a.m. until kickoff

*Corner of Raguet and Hayter streets*

Enjoy the family-friendly fall fest with bounce houses, Kona premium tropical shaved ice, purple cotton candy sponsored by the Rusche College of Business, a photo booth, balloon animals, games, candy and prizes. The event is free and fun for children of all ages.

### HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

2 p.m.

*Homer Bryce Stadium*

Cheer on the Lumberjacks as they face Utah Tech University. Visit [sfajacks.com](https://sfajacks.com) to purchase tickets or call (936) 468-JACK (5225).

## SUNDAY, OCT. 30

### HOMECOMING BRUNCH AT THE FREDONIA HOTEL

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*1st City Café at The Fredonia Hotel, 200 N. Fredonia St.*

Enjoy a festive ending to Homecoming with a purple-themed brunch. Bring your family, friends and former classmates to connect and share SFA memories.



# Scholarships and Life Members

## Emily A. Parker Scholarship



**EMILY PARKER GRADUATED** from SFA with a bachelor's degree in economics and finance in 1970. She began as a pre-medicine student before switching to a business degree with a desire to pursue law. After graduating from SFA in three years, she attended Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law.

Parker started her law career with Thompson & Knight by becoming its first female attorney and, later, its first female partner. She is a leader in oil and gas tax litigation and has continued to serve the practice for more than 40 years. In addition to oil and gas, she served as acting chief counsel of the IRS from 2003 to 2004. Parker is the only woman to lead the IRS legal

team, supervising more than 1,500 attorneys and overseeing all litigation involving the IRS.

Outside of her profession, Parker also is an asset to her community, dedicating time and expertise to serving in various roles to the American Bar Association's Tax Section. She served as the chair of the Dallas Bar Tax Section and served on the Council of the State Bar of Texas Tax Section in the 1980s. Parker is involved with several nonprofit organizations in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, including Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, and serves as a founding member of the Women's Foundation of Dallas.

She created the Emily A. Parker Scholarship to benefit academically high-achieving students pursuing any major at SFA. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA, be in good standing with the university and exhibit high moral character. ★

## Ways to Support SFA

**MAKE A GIFT** today and have an immediate impact on SFA students and programs. Your gift helps create educational opportunities for current and future Lumberjacks and can support academic and athletic programs, research initiatives, and scholarships in perpetuity.

If you are interested in creating a scholarship, call the Stephen F. Austin State University Foundation or the SFA Office of Development at (936) 468-5406, or send an email to [givetosfa@sfasu.edu](mailto:givetosfa@sfasu.edu). Staff members in the Office of Development will be glad to discuss the ways you can make a positive impact on SFA students.

Visit our website at [sfasu.edu/give](http://sfasu.edu/give).

## Life Members

The SFA Alumni Association thanks the following alumni who recently became life members:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 8504. Madison C. Harris '21, Copperas Cove       | 8521. Marclyn A. Brain '91, Decatur, Alabama   |
| 8505. Lisa M. Milholland '21, Lufkin             | 8522. Jake W. Vickers '21, Phoenix, Arizona    |
| 8506. Eric Cline, Friend of SFA, Nacogdoches     | 8523. Amy B. Sewell '07, Carrollton            |
| 8507. Rachel Cline, Friend of SFA, Nacogdoches   | 8524. Dr. Tamara L. Harris '93, Nacogdoches    |
| 8508. Charles R. Lamb '21, Flower Mound          | 8526. Thomas B. Campbell III '07, Dallas       |
| 8509. Michael R. Williams '73, Austin            | 8527. Duane Mancill '09, McMinnville, Oregon   |
| 8510. Candace B. Foster '08, Whitehouse          | 8528. Jacob M. Cook '22, Plano                 |
| 8511. Thomas J. McGree '81, Georgetown           | 8529. Kaitlin J. Jowers '22, Floresville       |
| 8512. A. Dean Theiss Jr. '86, Houston            | 8530. Alexandra E. Longoria '22, Cypress       |
| 8513. Devin L. Greer '07, Spring                 | 8531. Austin C. Nelson '21, Buffalo            |
| 8514. Amber D. Greer '06, Spring                 | 8532. Joseph P. Wood '22, Lufkin               |
| 8515. Ryan P. Russell '12, Houston               | 8533. Royen V. Hassell '20, Lufkin             |
| 8516. John McLaren, Friend of SFA, Nacogdoches   | 8534. Amy M. Mooneyham '09, Nacogdoches        |
| 8517. Julie McLaren, Friend of SFA, Nacogdoches  | 8535. Magen L. Bunyard '00 & '05, Graham       |
| 8518. Courtney F. Beavers '16 & '21, Nacogdoches | 8536. Grace E. Anderson '22, San Antonio       |
| 8519. Angela W. Jacobs '08, Nacogdoches          | 8537. Terrence Michael Reeves '99, Nacogdoches |
| 8520. Jane Ann Bridges '87 & '91, Nacogdoches    | 8538. Esteban Nambo '21, Houston               |
|  | 8539. Bryan A. Turnage '22, Magnolia           |
|  | 8540. Cameron L. Watson '22, San Augustine     |



# Class Notes

## 1960s

Forty-one members of SFA's **Pi Kappa Alpha** chapter from the 1960s celebrated their 22nd annual reunion in April at Log Country Cove on Lake Lyndon B. Johnson.

**Larry Allen '60** served in a 43-year career with the U.S. Forest Service in Arizona and New Mexico and is chair of the board of the Malpai Borderlands Group, a collaborative conservation group formed by Arizona ranchers and allies. Allen received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry with an emphasis in forest management.

## 1970s

**James Migliore Jr. '72** was recently honored by the Las Vegas Numismatic Society as the recipient of the Outstanding Service Award for the state of Nevada. Migliore received a Bachelor of Science in history.

**Joe May '76 & '77** was named chancellor in residence for Educate Texas, an educational initiative from Communities Foundation of Texas. May received a Bachelor of Science in education and a Master of Education in counseling.

**Joe Crawford '79 & '88**, who currently works as Arp High School's head men's basketball coach, earned his 400th career victory as a high school head basketball coach in January. Crawford received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Education, both in physical education.

## 1980s

**Betsey Griffin Jones '82** of Phoenix, Arizona, was honored by the Phoenix American Advertising Federation in March with the Phyllis Ehlinger Women of Excellence Award. She also married Michael Jones in January 2021. Jones received a Bachelor of Science in communication.



**Pam Glass Nicholson '82** of Dallas delivered the commencement address at the May 2022 graduation ceremony for the University of Texas at Arlington's College of Education and College of Science. Nicholson received a Bachelor of Business Administration in management.

**Laura Simmons '84** was promoted to vice president of corporate human resources for Remington Hotels. Simmons received a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing.



**Wendy Buchanan '85** was named by Forbes as a top female wealth advisor in Texas. Ranked No. 49 in the state, Buchanan is managing director of investments at Buchanan Wealth Management in Nacogdoches. Buchanan received a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance.

**Kelly Pickle '85 & '87** retired from public education in June. During her 37-year career, she served in a variety of educational roles, including as principal, curriculum director, director of elementary education and superintendent. Pickle received a Bachelor of Science in elementary education and a Master of Education in secondary education.

**Rob Nading '87** was promoted by Campus Federal to vice president of purchasing and facilities. Nading received a Bachelor of Arts in communication and political science.

**David Brewer '88** was elected as a Navarro County commissioner for Precinct 4. Brewer received a Master of Education in secondary education.

**Tiffany L. Smith '89** of Arlington, Virginia, was named vice president for global trade policy at the National Trade Council in Washington, D.C. Smith received a Bachelor of Arts in political science.



**Dr. Elizabeth Wallace '89 & '96** was named the inaugural assistant vice president for Tarleton State University's Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Wallace received a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing and a Master of Business Administration.

## 1990s



**Richard Boyer '91** was elected mayor of The Colony. Boyer, an SFA regent from 2005-11, received a Bachelor of Business Administration in management.



**Michael Crockett '91** was named chief data officer for Xactus, a verification innovator for the mortgage industry. Crockett received a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting.

Cherokee County Judge **Chris Davis '91 & '01** was reappointed to the Texas County and District Retirement System's board of trustees. Davis received a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences and a Master of Public Administration.

**Greg Owens '91** retired from Sulphur Springs Independent School District as athletic director and head football coach. Owens received a Bachelor of Science in education.

**Gerald Clarke '92 & '94** of Anza, California, was appointed to the California Arts Council. Clarke received a Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts, both in painting.

Financial advisor **Richard DeYoung '92** launched a new independent practice, Highland Wealth Partners, through affiliation with LPL Strategic Wealth Services. DeYoung received a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance.



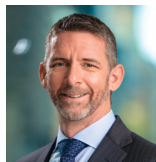
**John '92 and Gillian Norman '94** own Christian Brothers Automotive in Aubrey. John received a Bachelor of Arts in mass communication with an emphasis in journalism, and Gillian received a Bachelor of Arts in art.



**The Rev. Jason R. Pointer '92** of Lindale is the East Texas regional director of crime victim services for Crisis Response Ministry of Texas. He was elected to the state board of directors for the National Alliance on Mental Illness and delivered a TEDx talk on destigmatizing mental illness. Pointer received a Bachelor of Arts in mass communication with an emphasis in radio/TV. ➔

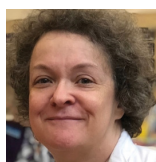
# Class Notes

**Kevin Schweers '92** was named athletic director for Baytown Christian Academy. Schweers received a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology.



**Paul McNutt '94** was named managing director and head of power, energy and infrastructure for Mizuho Securities in New York City. McNutt received a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance.

Gov. Greg Abbott reappointed **Jon "Mark" Sjolander '94** of Dayton to the Coastal Water Authority board of directors for a term set to expire in April 2024. Sjolander received a Bachelor of Arts in art.



**Amy Denton '96** of Houston was chosen as a faculty member of the 2022 Killer Nashville International Mystery Conference. Denton received a Bachelor of Arts in humanities.

**Jennifer Warren '96** was named executive director of special programs for Bryan Independent School District. She received a Master of Arts in counseling.

**Eric Stone '97** was named president of Lawless West, previously named CANOW Inc. Stone received a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing.

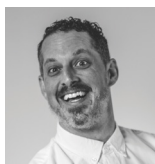
**Rick Garcia '98** was elected to the Fort Bend Independent School District's board of trustees. Garcia received a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology.

## 2000s

**Aimee Johnson '00** was named principal of Grapeland High School. Johnson received a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies.



**Wes Moorehead '00** was named associate director of forest resource protection and fire chief for the Texas A&M Forest Service. Moorehead received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry with an emphasis in forest management.



**Adam Pruitt '00** led a team at USAA that earned two patents for the display panel portion and the animated graphical user interface used by customers seeking the company's financial services. Pruitt received a Bachelor of Arts in mass communication with an emphasis in radio/TV.

**Ben Shields '00** was named operations manager for KBey 103.9 FM Radio Picayune. Shields received a Bachelor of Arts in mass communication.

**Will Whitehead '00** was named an athletic trainer with the Rocket City Trash Pandas, a minor league baseball team based in Madison, Alabama. Whitehead received a Bachelor of Science in biology.

**Deana Eubanks '01** was named director of athletics for Splendora Independent School District. Eubanks received a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology.



**Don Robert Holcomb '01** joined Triumph Bancorp as associate general counsel in the company's Dallas headquarters. Holcomb received a Bachelor of Science in political science.

**Dr. Donny Lee '02** was named lone superintendent finalist for Wichita Falls Independent School District. He received a Bachelor of Science in special education and kinesiology.

**Tim N. Norman '02 & '07** was named superintendent for Mathis Independent School District. Norman received a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology and a Master of Education in educational leadership.



**Stephanie Ellis '06** of Longview was promoted to director of marketing for Robroy Industries. Ellis received a Bachelor of Arts in mass communication with an emphasis in radio/television.



**Melanie Northcutt '06** of Longview was named by ETX View magazine's 40 Under 40 as the most influential real estate agent in East Texas. Northcutt is the broker/owner of Sugar Magnolia Properties and received a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing.

**Britany Vinson '06** of Lufkin was selected by the U.S. Small Business Administration as the minority-owned small business of the year for her company, Tomé Catering. Vinson received a Bachelor of Science in hospitality administration.

**Jeremy Abshire '08 & '14** and **Brianna Spoons '14** were married in May. Abshire received a Bachelor of Science in biology and a Master of Science in kinesiology, and Spoons received a Bachelor of Science in health science.



**Gerald Fonzie '08 & '10** was named principal for Nacogdoches Independent School District's McMichael Middle School. Fonzie received a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Education, both in kinesiology.

**Rachel Gardner '09** was named a 2022 featured artist in True North, a sculpture project based in Houston's Heights neighborhood. Gardner received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art.

**Morgan Tomberlain-Strong '09** was named to the Hallsville Education Foundation board of directors. Tomberlain-Strong received a Bachelor of Science in fashion merchandising.

## 2010s

**Melanie Hill '10 & '10** was promoted to general manager of shale for Danos. Hill received a Bachelor of Business Administration in public accountancy and a Master of Public Accountancy.

**Jordan Kitchens '11** of Houston was named director of sales and marketing for The St. Regis Houston. Kitchens received a Bachelor of Science in hospitality administration.



# Class Notes

**Alex Meng '11 & '14** was named softball head coach for Manvel High School. Meng received a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology and Master of Education in secondary education.

**Chuck Isaac '13** was named principal of Longview Independent School District's Foster Middle School. Isaac received a Master of Education in educational leadership.

**José Barrientos '14** coaches Timber Creek High School's Dali Quartet, which won the bronze medal in the Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition's Junior Wind Division. Barrientos received a Bachelor of Music in music education.



**Caitlin Bunch '14** was hired by Clark Condon, a Houston landscape architecture firm. Bunch received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with an emphasis in horticulture.



**Shelbe (Blacklock) Rodriguez '14** was named public affairs manager for Lamar University. Rodriguez received a Bachelor of Arts in journalism.

**Ángel Rivera '15** was named deputy superintendent for Mesquite Independent School District. Rivera received a Doctor of Education in educational leadership.

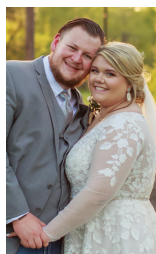


**Tristian L. Harris '16** of Hallsville graduated from Mississippi College School of Law, where he received a pro-bono certificate and was recognized as the 2022 Mr. MC Law. Harris received a Bachelor of Arts in political science.



**Amanda Sheriff '16 & '18** was awarded first prize in the 24th Lotte Lenya Competition in New York City. Sheriff received a Bachelor of Music in music education and Master of Music in vocal performance.

**Michael Chapa '17** and his quartet, Mixed Media, won the gold medal in the Fischhoff International Chamber Music Competition's Senior Wind Division. Chapa received a Bachelor of Music in music.



**Braden N. Foster '17** of Diboll and **Olivia K. Buford '19** of Huntington were married in April 2021. Foster received a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance, and Buford received a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies.

**Marshall Gorham '18** received the Samuel Gee Gill Teacher of the Year Award from Lufkin Independent School District. Gorham received a Bachelor of Science in secondary education.



**Amber Wilson '18** was named principal at Nacogdoches Independent School District's Brooks-Quinn-Jones Elementary School. Wilson has a Master of Education in educational leadership.

**Laura Stevens '19** received the Beulah Dominy Teacher of the Year Award from Lufkin Independent School District. Stevens received a Master of Arts in Teaching with an emphasis in secondary education.

## 2020s

**Meridian Parham '21** of Hays County reached the Writers League of Texas 2022 manuscript contest finals with her short story "Daughters of the Mountain." Parham received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in creative writing. ★

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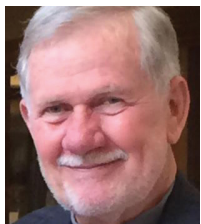
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# In Memoriam

## EDGAR H. BURTON



Edgar H. Burton, a 1965 SFA graduate and former advisory board member for the university's College of Liberal and Applied Arts, passed away May 6.

Born in Beaumont, Burton moved to and resided in Lufkin for more than 70 years. After graduating from both Lufkin High School and eventually SFA, he co-owned and operated Burton's Eggs with his brother, Gilbert, before his 25-year employment with Brookshire Brothers. He retired from the grocery company as a senior vice president.

Burton was passionate about giving back to his community and, alongside his advisory work for SFA, served as a board member for the East Texas Food Bank, Stubblefield Learning Center and Goodwill Central East Texas. He also served as president of both the Texas Poultry Federation and Texas Egg Council.

## LINDA BUSH



Donor and friend of SFA Linda Bush passed away March 22.

Born in Houston, Bush graduated from Lamar High School and then attended Louisiana State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting. She married Roy Bush in 1965, and the couple traveled the world through his job with Conoco, living in Italy, Egypt, Kuwait and Iran.

Upon Roy's early retirement in the 1980s, Linda pursued a real estate career in New Orleans, Houston and Austin.

Linda and Roy Bush's generosity led to the creation of SFA's Roy E. and Linda Bush Scholarship, which benefits students in the College of Sciences and Mathematics. Their continued support of the university led to the naming of SFA's mathematics building as the Roy E. and Linda Bush Mathematical Sciences Building in April 2019.

## WILLIAM FLETCHER FERGUSON



Former class president and charter member of SFA's chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, William Fletcher Ferguson of Nacogdoches passed away Jan. 31.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Ferguson was the youngest of four children born to E.J. and Myrtie Helen Ferguson. Moving with his family to Texas in the 1940s, he graduated from Nacogdoches High School in 1959 and then from SFA in 1964.

Professionally, Ferguson worked in a number of industries, including insurance, banking, feed sales and petroleum. He particularly enjoyed the

years spent co-owning the children's retail store, Fleming's Young Years, alongside his wife, Frances.

Ferguson was a true Lumberjack fan during and after college. He was named class president during his first year at SFA, and he remained an avid sports fan throughout his entire life, attending Lumberjack basketball games until a few weeks before his passing.

## BARBARA BIEBER-HAMBY

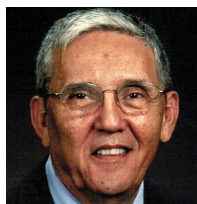


Former SFA marketing faculty member Barbara Bieber-Hamby passed away April 29.

After marrying Walter Hamby in 1977, Bieber-Hamby graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration from SFA in 1978 and then returned to receive a Master of Business Administration in 1997. She had a passion for sailing and traveling, having visited such places as Alaska, Ireland, Scotland, New Zealand and Australia.

Bieber-Hamby worked for R.J. Reynolds from 1980 until her retirement from the company in 1996. She returned to her alma mater to become a lecturer of marketing at SFA in 1998 before retiring a second time in 2010.

## DR. WILLIAM HEENEY



Former professor and chair of SFA's Department of Secondary Education and Administration, Dr. William "Bill" Crockett Heeney passed away Feb. 9.

Born in 1934 in Trinity, Heeney moved with his family to Freeport, where he grew up. After enlisting in the U.S. Army, he attended Sam Houston State University on the GI Bill® and received a bachelor's degree in math. He then received a master's degree in education from the University of Houston and a master's degree in math education from Boston College. He completed his education at the University of Texas at Austin, earning a doctoral degree in educational administration.

Heeney began his career as a math teacher at Houston's Burbank Junior High School. He held several other teaching positions, including an administrative position in the Dallas Independent School District, prior to accepting a faculty position at SFA, where Heeney found his professional calling. He was a professor of secondary education and administration for most of his professional life before retiring from SFA in 1998.

Upon retirement, Heeney enjoyed running the Lazy H angus cattle farm in Kirbyville.



# In Memoriam

## ERNESTINE HENRY



Martha Ernestine Hankla Henry, a two-time SFA graduate and former dean of women, passed away Jan. 24 in Nacogdoches.

Born in Geneva, Texas, in 1917, Henry was one of four children born to Samuel Flournoy and Elma Smith Hankla. She graduated from Beaumont High School and married Elvie

Denton "E.D." Henry in 1935. The couple lived in Corpus Christi, where Ernestine became a building contractor while E.D. managed ship building for World War II efforts.

As a lifelong learner, she earned bachelor's and master's degrees from SFA in 1957 and 1958, respectively, before continuing doctoral studies at the University of Houston and Baylor University.

While at SFA, Ernestine relished her position as dean of women, which she held from 1959 to 1985. She was the only woman to serve on the SFA executive committee during much of that time and was voted favorite administrator by the SFA student senate. She also played an integral role in bringing five national sororities to SFA. Her many contributions to the university led SFA to designate Alumni Drive as Ernestine Henry Drive in 2000.

## WONDA JEAN JOPLING



Wonda Jean Jopling, a longtime employee in SFA's Office of the Registrar, passed away March 2.

Born in 1936 in Panola County, Jopling lived in Nacogdoches for most of her life. She was a member of the Garrison Heritage Society and a longtime member of Perritte Memorial United Methodist Church.

Jopling and her husband, Floyd, were married for 67 years. The couple established SFA's Wiley Jopling Memorial Scholarship in memory of their son.

## ULMAN D. MCMULLEN



Retired broadcasting executive and 1952 SFA graduate Ulman D. McMullen passed away Feb. 22.

Born in 1930 as the youngest of five brothers, McMullen graduated from Lufkin High School in 1947 before attending SFA, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry.

McMullen worked in the lumber industry and as a teacher before beginning his broadcasting career as a disc jockey with radio station KSPL in Diboll and then moving into television as a newscaster and weatherman at KXII in Sherman. He joined KBTX-TV in 1965.

Affectionately known as Mr. Mac, McMullen was operations manager and then general manager of KBTX-TV in Bryan-College Station, where he remained for nearly 30 years. He left KBTX in 1991 to become the owner of radio station KMBV/KWBC in Navasota.

## DR. JANE DURANT ROBERTSON



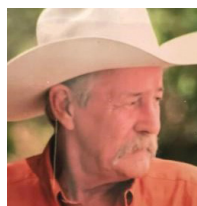
Dr. Jane Durant Robertson, former professor in SFA's James I. Perkins College of Education, passed away Feb. 28 in Nacogdoches.

Born in 1932 in Birmingham, Alabama, Robertson received a bachelor's degree from Texas Woman's University and her master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Alabama.

Robertson's professional interests were focused in kinesiology with a specialization in motor skill development and adapted physical education. During her 39 years of teaching at all levels, including preschool through college, she received several professional recognitions. These included being named among the "Nine Who Made a Difference at SFA" in 1992, as well as receiving the Johnny "Lam" Jones spirit of Special Olympics award in 1993 and the director of athletics award of distinction from SFA in 2006.

SFA's Jane Robertson Scholarship was endowed by her friend, Ernestine Hooper, in honor of Robertson's decades of commitment to the field of education.

## RONALD B. SITTON



Longtime SFA employee and 1965 graduate Ronald Barham Sitton passed away Jan. 10.

Born in 1942 in Nacogdoches, Sitton grew up on a dairy farm and helped raise cattle on his family's land in Central Heights. He loved hunting, fishing and spending time with his family.

Sitton received his Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from SFA and then worked for the university for more than 30 years, ultimately retiring as the assistant to the director of the university center.

# In Memoriam

Mary M. Aikman '61 & '66 of Kilgore, Feb. 16  
Dr. Jimmy L. Albright '65 of Saint Joseph, Missouri, Jan. 10  
Joe E. Allen '68 of Lufkin, March 14  
Mary Ellen Allen '75 of Atlanta, Texas, May 2  
Linda J. Archer '98 of Trinity, March 20  
Willie R. Ashby '76 of Sachse, April 9  
Billy B. Bailey '55 of Bedford, April 15  
Keith Alan Baker '83 of Livingston, July 7, 2021  
Norma J. Barnhart '42 of Nacogdoches, April 13  
Beth C. Bassett '58 & '75 of Longview, Jan. 27  
Barbara Ann Black '64 & '68 of Zwolle, Louisiana, Jan. 19  
Gerald "Lynn" Black '72 of Nacogdoches, Sept. 15, 2021  
Dina Marie Blaylock '09 of Longview, April 21  
Bryan O. Blevins of Lufkin, friend of SFA, April 22  
Harrison C. Bricken '21 of Grapeland, April 23  
Clayton M. Brown '14 of Beaumont, Jan. 21  
Timothy J. Brown '81 of Sherman, Jan. 25  
Mark A. Busing '15 of Houston, May 18  
Shirley Caldwell '51 of Longview, Feb. 14  
Delma Ann Campbell '75 of Fannett, March 8  
John A. Crampton '58 of Allen, Jan. 26  
Katherine Marie Parks Crawford '56 of Tyler, Jan. 6  
Billy Curbow '72 of Garrison, May 16  
William F. Curtis '66 of Webster, May 13  
Dr. Kenneth Edward Dance '78 of Waco, Aug. 2, 2021  
Marvin Davenport '50 of Gary, Feb. 19  
James E. Dawson '68 of Crockett, Jan. 20  
Pamela M. Dawson '74 & '83 of League City, Feb. 20  
Sarah "Jeannine" Dawson '53 of Nacogdoches, Jan. 2  
Barbara C. Devine '71 of Richmond, June 10  
John A. Drew '58 of Copperas Cove, Feb. 14  
Charlotte A. Edmons '56 & '61 of Lufkin, March 10  
Barbara A. Edwards '70 of Pearland, Jan. 25  
Nicholas S. Feules '17 of Pearland, March 14  
Linda K. Fischer '69 & '77 of Houston, March 28  
Charles R. Fletcher '67 & '82 of Crockett, Jan. 11  
Rev. Kenneth W. Flynt '59 of Laurel, Mississippi, April 26  
Jack M. Fralick '75 of Katy, Feb. 11  
Fred G. Frick '54 of Memphis, Tennessee, Jan. 10  
LaJuan Garrett '74 of Chireno, Nov. 21  
Doris L. Gibbs '60 of Carthage, April 26  
Thomas E. Golson '63 of Sealy, April 9  
Doug Gowin '69 of Jacksonville, June 5  
Linda G. Guidry '69 of Nacogdoches, April 3  
William Leon Herbrough '67 of Montalba, Jan. 16  
Howard Lee Holbert Jr. '75 & '02 of Terrell, Jan. 26  
Linda Hook '74 of Carthage, May 4  
Mary E. Hudson '63 of Tyler, April 6  
T.S. Hughes '53 of Lufkin, May 30  
Laura A. Hyatte '73 of Woodville, Jan. 12  
Roland Johnson '63 & '68 of Kilgore, April 8  
Sally I. Kemper '70 of Troup, Jan. 21  
Joann G. Killingsworth '81 of Lufkin, Feb. 12  
Loran J. Krejci '77 of Roscoe, March 2  
Sharon E. Laclair '09 of Nacogdoches, Feb. 1  
Paul E. Loerwald '73 of Fort Worth, Jan. 23  
Louis S. Makatura Jr. '96 of Tomball, June 14  
Sue Marin '77 of Katy, March 4

Albert M. McCauley '66 of Indianapolis, Indiana, Jan. 27  
Marie E. McClure '53 & '56 of Lufkin, April 2  
Sue McEachern '66 of San Augustine, Feb. 1  
Anna R. McKay '70 of Lufkin, Jan. 3  
Reuben Walter "Mac" McKellar Jr. '68 of Carthage, Jan. 28  
William M. McMillon '83 of Jasper, May 2  
Currie L. Meyer '53 of Humble, June 15  
Theo "Cotton" Miles '48 & '53 of Wills Point, Nov. 27  
Terry T. Moore '54 & '66 of Alto, March 13  
Mary Jo Morris '50 of Lufkin, April 8  
Jack W. Neill '72 of Tyler, Jan. 7  
Charles F. Nick '57 of Lufkin, Feb. 20  
Warren Jacob "Crow" Norvell '65 of San Augustine, Jan. 21  
Bennie Monroe O'Rear '53 of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, April 14  
Glenda J. Outhouse '70 & '99 of Whitehouse, Feb. 21  
Joan Frances McNair Payne '57 & '63 of Garrison, March 18  
Vance E. Payne '71 of Sulphur Springs, March 24  
David P. Petersen '84 of Houston, Jan. 6  
Cynthia A. Pettus '79 of Tyler, March 10  
Nancy D. Pinkerton '69 of Kingwood, Feb. 15  
Steven C. Roberts '90 of Cedar Park, Jan. 8  
Jackie R. Robinson '72 of Carthage, Feb. 24  
Kenneth D. Rogers '64 of Nacogdoches, Jan. 10  
William D. Russell '70 of Apopka, Florida, Jan. 27  
Susan Carol Senter '87 of Garland, July 14, 2021  
Denise Shuttlesworth '77 of Carthage, Feb. 12  
Junius P. Sims '62 of Tomball, Feb. 19  
Karen L. Skinner '74 & '75 of Crosby, Feb. 27  
Carl G. Soderstrom '77 of Dallas, March 12  
Dr. Robert H. Solomon of Nacogdoches, former faculty member, March 19  
David F. Stevens '75 of Natchitoches, Louisiana, April 5  
Harriet J. Steward '72 & '73 of Denison, March 31  
Curtis A. Stoldt '80 of Hartford, Connecticut, Jan. 23  
Baldwin A. Thompson '54 of Pflugerville, May 30  
Carroll L. Thompson '60 of Tyler, Sept. 3, 2021  
Emogene Tompkins '60 of Chandler, Feb. 18  
Karen J. Wallace '83 of Tomball, April 22  
Sandra S. Watts '64 & '71 of Henderson, May 24  
Sherry Ann Weatherly '68 of Nacogdoches, Aug. 30, 2021  
Jeremy W. Welch '07 of Lufkin, May 4  
Tommy L. Wheeler '99 of Nacogdoches, March 4  
Martha H. Whitaker '63 & '84 of Carthage, Feb. 23  
Carole A. Wilson '68 & '78 of Troup, Jan. 8  
Rosalind G. Winder '61 of Lake Mary, Florida, Feb. 27  
Alan G. Woods '87 & '92 of Winnsboro, April 18  
Kay D. Woodward '77 & '81 of Henderson, April 26



**SFA student**

Kathryn Forehand of Flower Mound, July 25



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