

# Sawdust

SPRING 2022

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




JAMAL ALLEN '16  
Texas game warden

## GAME DAY

SFA football standout  
now serves as Texas  
game warden



A large, multi-story red brick building with many windows. The name 'the Fredonia Hotel' is mounted on the side in a white, stylized script font. The sky is blue with some clouds.

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# President's Letter

"As we adapt to life in a pandemic and look forward to a day when it passes or at least becomes more within control, we cannot forget how vital our connections are to each other."



**LIFE IS ALL** about connections and relationships.

That's probably one of the best insights I can share with you as president of SFA. The connections that we make with

each other are what make it possible to build great things and create positive change.

I spend a fair amount of my time getting to know people.

I get to know students and what they are interested in or concerned about. Last year, I began hosting a monthly lunch with students to speak about whatever they want to bring to the table. We have talked about everything from the pandemic to global politics and from residence hall life to campus safety. They tell me about where they come from and where they hope to go, and how the faculty and staff they meet have an impact on them. They talk about classmates, roommates and teammates who challenge them in all sorts of ways. They become better people because of who they meet and the experiences they navigate.

I meet alumni and donors all over Texas and beyond. They have fond memories of their time at SFA and in Nacogdoches, and they want to ensure that others get to have it as good or better than they did. Some of them never attended SFA, but they know people who did and whose lives were transformed here. While the setting among the piney woods is spectacular, they know it has always been the relationships they formed that shaped who they are now.

I sit with public officials and influential figures throughout the state, people who act on behalf of the people of Texas. While many of them have great power, they cannot wield it alone. They build coalitions and partnerships, and they listen to each other in that process. I share with them what I learn from our students and our alumni, so they know the importance of investing in SFA and higher education to improve the lives and communities around them.

I listen to business leaders and employers who know that their success depends on a great workforce of people who have knowledge and skills that often come through their affiliation with SFA. We are an engine of economic development not just because of our buildings and facilities, but because people connect with each other and share entrepreneurial ideas and expert insight.

As we adapt to life in a pandemic and look forward to a day when it passes or at least becomes more within control, we cannot forget how vital our connections are to each other. Among the many things we have learned, we know how important it is to stay connected. We need each other. I look forward to more partnerships, gatherings, celebrations, conferences and collaborations all dependent on the power of uniting together.

Axe 'em, Jacks!

Dr. Scott Gordon  
President  
Stephen F. Austin State University



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### ON THE COVER:

Jamal Allen's job as a Texas game warden has been wild, literally and figuratively. Tasked with patrolling the state's wildlife, Allen's dream job took him years to achieve in a highly competitive field. But it has been worth the twists and turns, including appearances on the Animal Planet's "Lone Star Law" TV series.

*Photo by Gabrielle Czapla '20*

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# Sawdust

SPRING 2022 ★ Volume 49, No. 1

### DIVISION OF UNIVERSITY MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

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# LIKE A DUCK TO WATER

*SFA Spirit Teams coordinator's career,  
hobby are anything but routine*

STORY BY AMY ROQUEMORE '93 & '12

Photos by Gabrielle Czaplá '20





*T.J. Maple '08 & '21 celebrates with the dance team in the Daytona Beach surf after winning the pom national championship in 2019. Photo by Hardy Meredith '81*



**G**LIDING ACROSS THE water, ducks appear confident and unruffled on the surface while paddling nonstop beneath to propel themselves forward. The same applies to members of SFA's Spirit Teams. They make difficult routines look easy to audiences unaware of the months of grueling practices that have helped catapult them to 13 national championships.

As longtime SFA Spirit Teams coordinator and owner of a backyard aviary housing more than 200 ducks and other birds, T.J. Maple '08 & '21 has the well-honed skills and experience it takes to ensure those he manages (both feathered and otherwise) continue to thrive.



"I have the best of both worlds," Maple said of his two seemingly disparate passions, raising ducks and coaching collegiate dancers and cheerleaders. The first of his two loves dates back to when he was just 7 years old and living with his grandparents after his parents divorced.

"The first thing my grandfather did was take me to the feed store to buy some ducklings," he recalled. "That was a difficult time in my life and, although I didn't realize it at the time, taking care of those ducks every day helped me cope. It was a safe space, and the ducks provided a distraction and a positive outlet. They have fascinated me ever since."

Maple's interest in ducks and other birds grew throughout his childhood. He raised show pigeons at one point, and at 16, his hobby expanded to include exotic

and migratory species. Around the same time, the Iowa, Louisiana, native began thinking about turning his hobby into a career, and he eventually enrolled at McNeese State University to study wildlife management. But, by then a new interest, and the unexpected talent accompanying it, had started to emerge.



"I would go and watch my cousin's peewee dance team, which was not very good, and I wanted to help," Maple said. "I had absolutely no idea what I was doing, but I was young and confident. I somehow managed to convince the coach to let me hold a summer dance camp and teach them their routines for the upcoming season. That's really what started all this."

Maple's foray into dance and coaching wasn't entirely out of the blue. While working on his high school yearbook, he had been assigned to cover the dance team. He attended all its practices and performances and was intrigued by the choreography and all that goes into learning and rehearsing a dance routine. At home, Maple mimicked the dancers' techniques and combinations, and he found they came naturally to him.

"As a kid growing up in Louisiana, I tried all the usual sports. I played baseball and even ran cross-country, but it wasn't for me," Maple said. "I just didn't have the skills or confidence to do those things. But I could do everything the dance team could do, and my interest was piqued." ➔





*Maple and members of the SFA Spirit Teams gather outside the Boynton Building in 2019 for a photoshoot.  
Photo by Hardy Meredith '81*

For a brief time, Maple pursued both passions simultaneously, taking college classes for his wildlife management degree while spending increasing amounts of his free time choreographing routines for the youth dance team. His beloved ducks officially took a backseat in the late-'90s when he left McNeese to coach and choreograph full time, eventually opening his own studio in Southeast Texas. In 2000, his growing reputation led to a job coaching the Dayton High School Dazzlers drill team.

"Again, I had no business being there. I was a 21-year-old college dropout with no teaching experience, living in a dance studio and sleeping on a futon," Maple said. "But I worked hard, and I figured it out. We won nationals my second year there, and that's when I knew my career was going to be about dancers, not ducks."

While Maple acknowledges he was "blessed with a creative mind," without a degree or any formal dance training, he knew his options would be limited. So, he decided to enroll at McLennan Community College in Waco, and even though he had missed tryouts, the dance coach gave him a spot on the team.

"To this day, I do not know what she saw in me," he said. "I was bad, and I don't mean in a good way. I was the oldest dancer by far; I was 23, and the youngest was 16. But the coach saw something in me and decided to give me a chance."

Maple danced for MCC for two years. Then, ready for the next step, he tried out for SFA's pom squad in 2004 but didn't make the team. He stayed on at MCC another year as an assistant dance coach, and when SFA posted an opening for a part-time pom squad coach the following year, he went for it. The rest is SFA history.



In the past 16 years, Maple has guided SFA Spirit Teams to 13 national championships, 11 for dance and two for cheer. To cover their travel and other expenses, the groups raise approximately \$100,000 each year by hosting instructional camps and clinics. In addition, the program annually awards more than \$60,000 in scholarships to SFA dancers and cheerleaders. Although SFA's national competitive reputation has exponentially grown, Maple said the Spirit Teams' top priority remains supporting the Lumberjack and Ladyjack athletic teams and engaging with fans at games.

"It is definitely a tough-love situation because he wants us to be successful as a team, of course, but also in life," said Ennis senior Emma Howard, one of the current SFA dance team captains. "I think his real genius is how he pulls together all these people with different talents and skill levels and builds on all those individual strengths until, at the end of the year, we are not only ready to compete at the highest level, but we also are a really close family."



In 2008, Maple earned his SFA degree in kinesiology with an art minor and joined the university staff full time. The SFA Spirit Teams program has grown through the years to include all-girl, large and small coed cheer teams; pom dance, team performance dance and hip-hop dance teams; mascots; and student spirit organizations. Along the way, he has built a program culture that prioritizes success both on and off the performance mat and sidelines.

"I think T.J. was created in a lab to be a great spirit teams coach," said Dr. Michael Preston, former SFA director of student affairs who hired Maple in 2005. He said Maple's passion for dance and eye for talent, coupled with his student-first mentality, made him the perfect fit for the position. "He is awesome with his students, and his routines are so much fun to watch," said Preston, current executive director of the Florida Consortium of Metropolitan Research Universities. "I personally believe he is the best coach in the United States, and I don't think it's really even that close."



Maple admits that around 2019, the day-in, day-out demands of the job started to weigh on him, and he feared burnout was close behind. On a lark, he bought four mallard ducks and built a small habitat in the backyard of his new home near campus. Just as they had when he was a little boy, he said, the ducks renewed his spirit and helped rebalance his life. The initial months of the pandemic provided unexpected time to expand what he calls "a peaceful oasis for both me and the ducks." He cherishes the quiet times spent on his patio, petting his dogs and listening to the waterfowl chatter and splash around in the aviary.

"During their annual eclipse, ducks lose all their colorful feathers, but after a while, the bright plumage comes back, and they're beautiful and confident again," he said. "It's like they're constantly shedding their comfort zone and reinventing themselves, starting fresh and trying something new. I like to think we have that in common." ★

**TOP LEFT:** The coed cheer team performs a pyramid during the 2019 College National Championships in Daytona, Florida. Photo by Hardy Meredith '81

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Maple's backyard aviary is home to more than 200 ducks and other birds, including rare species, such as freckled ducks from Australia and Bernier's teal from Madagascar. Photo by Gabrielle Czapla '20

**BELOW:** Maple offers food to one of the ducks enjoying a swim in the aviary while a pair of Egyptian geese takes a stroll around the pond. Photo by Gabrielle Czapla '20

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Members of the 2019 national champion dance team celebrate on stage with their trophy. Photo by Hardy Meredith '81







**TEXAS GAME WARDEN**



# Game Day

STORY BY  
CHRISTINE BROUSSARD '10 & '20

PHOTOS BY  
GABRIELLE CZAPLA '20

SFA football  
standout now  
serves as Texas  
game warden

## JOB DESCRIPTIONS ARE funny things.

Though packed full of highfalutin words, they don't really tell you much about the reality of day-to-day tasks.

"Assist with the implementation of technology-related resources," for example, could translate on a particularly tiresome day to "Refill the printer's paper tray."

It's true for any job — take Jamal Allen's for example. As a 2016 SFA graduate and Texas game warden in Jefferson County, the reality of his job directive to "protect and preserve the natural resources of the state of Texas" could, on any given day, mean anything from natural disaster response to hunting and fishing compliance.

"A day in the life of a Texas game warden is unpredictable," Allen said. "Expect the unexpected" is a common phrase I find myself using on a daily basis. One minute, I could be wrangling an alligator, and the next minute, I could be boarding commercial shrimp boats 30 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico."

Add to that his occasional appearances on Animal Planet's "Lone Star Law" TV series, and you might as well throw the game warden job description out with the proverbial bath water.

Jokes aside, the vast and varied job duties of a game warden are all firmly grounded in Texas law enforcement and resource protection. The latter is something Allen's connected with his whole life, having grown up hunting and fishing in the woods and fields of his rural East Texas hometown of Frankston.

"A game warden's main job duty is to protect Texas' natural resources to ensure they're around for generations to come," Allen said. "As an avid fan of the outdoors, it is vital to have rules and regulations on hunting and fishing. Let's just imagine if we didn't — our natural resources and species would be wiped out in no time."

Enforcement of commercial shrimping laws, however, is a far cry from the days Allen spent running the field at SFA's Homer Bryce Stadium. He and his twin brother, Jabralon '16, both received full scholarships to play football for the university and, as brothers in a close-knit family, found it both the perfect opportunity and distance from home.

Allen calls his time at SFA "nothing short of amazing." →







“My main goal was to attend college, play ball and become the first member of my family to get a college degree,” he said. “Along the way, I found my best friend, Ellen (’17), made her my wife and developed lifelong friends, some of whom I still consider family. Often times, I wish I could go back to college and relive some of the happiest moments I’ve found in life.”

One of those moments was when Allen received the 2016 Cally Belcher Award. It annually recognizes one player who gets the honor of wearing the No. 16 jersey during game play in memory of the late Presley Calloway “Cally” Belcher, who played defensive back on the Lumberjack football team in the early 1990s.

“It was an honor and a privilege to receive the Cally Belcher Award,” Allen said. “Throwing the No. 16 jersey on before the game felt unreal. I wanted to honor his legacy and name, so that game wasn’t a normal game — I was playing for something bigger than myself.”

Knowing he wanted to be a game warden, Allen tailored his diverse academic pursuits to prepare him for the field. He majored in criminal justice and minored in forestry, and he stayed active outside of the classroom.

“I was on the football team my whole time at SFA and was a redshirt my first year, then played every year after until graduation,” Allen said. “When I had time away from football, I attended Criminal Justice Association and Wildlife Society meetings while also working part time at Party ‘N Things.”

One does not simply become a Texas game warden, however. The road to joining the warden ranks is a long one.

“I did not start my career as a game warden right after college. In fact, I didn’t make the cut the first time I applied,” Allen said. “I worked several manual labor jobs around town and did countless hours riding along with game wardens from around the state so I could be prepared for the next year’s application.”

Allen even became a Texas parole officer for more than a year before reapplying to the Texas Game Warden Academy. “I used the job as a parole officer to get my foot in the door with the state to help me become a game warden. Getting accepted into the Texas Game Warden Academy is a challenging and lengthy process. When I was finally accepted, there were approximately 2,000 applicants, and only 40 of us got the job.”

Despite the years-long wait, Allen’s job as a game warden is everything he expected it to be and more.

“It has its surprises, good and bad, but what really surprised me is the amount of responsibility I would take on once I graduated from the academy,” he said. “We are fully commissioned state peace officers and are responsible for the enforcement of all Texas criminal laws. So, I can go from checking hunting and fishing licenses to arresting someone for driving while intoxicated.

“For example, in the summertime, game wardens have water safety obligations on any body of water in the state,” he added. “It’s our job to protect the waterways from unsafe operations and arrest boaters who are operating vessels while intoxicated. From dreaming of being a Texas game warden to it becoming a reality is still a shocker for me. I often say I’m living the dream because I truly am.”



*LEFT: As part of his duties to protect and preserve Texas' natural resources, game warden Jamal Allen '16 checks the fishing licenses of two individuals to ensure they are following state fishing laws.*

*BELOW: Allen keeps a lookout for hunters and anglers who may be in violation of the law. Allen, like all Texas game wardens, is a fully commissioned state peace officer, meaning he is responsible for the enforcement of all Texas criminal laws.*



Not long into Allen's career as a game warden, part of that dream included, to his surprise, occasionally appearing on television.

"Honestly, I was totally against being on 'Lone Star Law' when I was first asked to do it because I was fresh out of the academy," Allen said. "I knew I didn't have all the answers and didn't want to say the wrong thing on national TV, but I quickly grew out of that phase. 'Lone Star Law' is a great show for viewers to get a little glimpse of what we do on our patrol days."

Crew members of "Lone Star Law" film game wardens on the job all across Texas. They've been to Jefferson County to record Allen and his coworkers a number of times and, so far, he has been featured on two episodes, with more to come.

The first time the show's crew patrolled with him, Allen "was a nervous wreck," he laughed. "I was camera shy and unable to form a sentence while recording. It was a bit uncomfortable and unnatural at first, having a camera crew following me around with hidden mics and GoPros hooked up everywhere, but they do such a great job of staying out of my way and letting me work. They are professionals."

Truly, job descriptions don't do many careers justice. But thankfully, their ambiguity leaves wiggle room for unexpected adventure.

"I love my job, and every morning when I get in my truck, I get the same feeling I had just before running out onto the Homer Bryce Stadium field to play a football game. That's how I know this is the career for me." ★

"I love my job,  
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career for  
me."

- Jamal Allen '16



# Vista Viewpoint / By Rhonda Minton '90 & '99

## Bob Sitton, a legend in alumni relations

STORY BY RHONDA MINTON '90 & '99

Director of strategic communications for advancement at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee

**BEING IN THE** spotlight is one of the last places Bob Sitton '60 prefers to be. However, when asked to write about Bob for Sawdust, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to share my appreciation of everyone's favorite Lumberjack.

As the leader of the SFA Alumni Association from 1972 to 1998, Bob established himself as the face of SFA alumni. During his tenure, the association's membership increased exponentially, and the scholarship fund grew into the millions. The monumental growth and success of the Alumni Association under his leadership merited his induction into the SFA Alumni Hall of Fame in 2015.

During Homecoming 2021, the accolades of the annual Homecoming golf tournament being renamed the Bob Sitton Classic and the dedication of the new Bob Sitton Head Men's Basketball Coach Office at Johnson Coliseum amazed him. When Bob called in September to tell me the news, he was excited and in shock. "I've been so blessed and honored, and I can't believe this is happening," he said.

Although retired, Bob remains the quintessential alumni guy. He never meets a stranger and is always ready to talk about SFA. Even when he meets someone for the first time, Bob makes some type of connection between his new friend and something (or someone) from his experiences. Here's a typical conversation:

"Bob Sitton," he announces as he offers his hand and proceeds to rest his other hand on the individual's shoulder. "Now who are you, and where are you from?"

"My name is (insert name), and I'm from (insert city)."

"Well, I'll be. Say, do you know ...?"

That is how I met Bob in 1988 at the alumni office when I was an SFA student and alumni scholarship recipient. He asked about my hometown, and we discovered we are both small-town products — he is from Cushing, and I'm from Maud. We hit it off, much like others who meet Bob. "Rhonda, the Pride of Maud," he called me that day and continues to do so every time we greet each other. Bob always made time for me, and when I graduated from SFA and took a job in Washington, D.C., he hugged me and said, "Now, don't forget where you came from."

Bob was among the first to welcome me back to SFA when I joined Ken Kennamer's university news staff and worked alongside the alumni staff as part of my role at SFA. Bob shared his grand ideas and trusted



*From left, Rhonda Minton with Bob Sitton, executive director emeritus of SFA alumni relations, and Betty Ford, former assistant to the director, during Homecoming 2021.*

his staff to implement them to benefit the association, the university and students. Two of the things I admire most about him are his humble attitude and utmost sincerity. If Bob tells you he will do something, it will be done. He treats everyone with kindness. He is a strong family man and good friend to all.

Bob has been a coach in some manner to hundreds of individuals — whether they suited up for him on the sidelines when he was a high school football coach or worked alongside him.

In my role as director of strategic communications for advancement at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, I often think about how Bob works his alumni magic, his unassuming way of dealing with a variety of personalities and his overwhelming desire to serve and help others. Bob is a legend in the alumni relations field, and I am grateful he is one of my mentors. And when I meet Lipscomb alumni and students, introduce myself and ask, "What is your name, and where are you from," I can't help but smile as I automatically start thinking of possible connections and resist the instinctive urge to say, "Well, I'll be. Say, do you know ...?" ★



# Work Space / Inside Kate Childress' Office



**KATE CHILDRESS**  
Student Success  
Coordinator

1. The hat rack was a gift from Chloe Jeffcoat, Generation Jacks' lead counselor. Childress serves as an SFAS 1110 instructor. After telling her students in career readiness class, "In life you'll wear many hats; choose them wisely," Jeffcoat crafted the item and gifted it to Childress.
2. The axe, shadow box and photograph with the governor hanging on Childress' wall are among her favorite items. From 2018-19, Childress served as the SFA student regent. The axe was a gift from the Board of Regents at the end of her term in recognition of her service. The shadow box, which her grandma assembled and gave to her as a surprise, contains mementos from Childress' time on the board. Regents are appointed by the governor to serve one-year terms, and Gov. Greg Abbott annually hosts a training session in Austin for the 13 new student regents. The photo of Childress with Abbott was taken during her session.
3. The collection of paintings on the filing cabinet were gifts from GenJacks students who hosted a painting night social to de-stress before finals week during the fall 2021 semester. A few of the students gifted Childress their paintings, which she said are very special to her.
4. The framed assortment of lapel pins were acquired during Childress' time as an undergraduate and graduate student and while serving as student regent. The pins comprise The SFA Way; SFA 95-year anniversary; SFA logo; Texas Capitol; Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education; Presidential Volunteer Service Awards — both bronze and gold; Battle of the Piney Woods; Southland Conference; and Baker Pattillo remembrance pin.
5. Lumberjacks have a tradition of decorating axes for each other. Childress served in student leadership roles for Orientation for four years, and she was the graduate assistant for the Purple Haze Association for one year. She received these five beautiful and colorful axes from her friends and fellow students during that time.
6. Childress said she initially didn't think a college degree was in her future. As a first-generation college student, she enrolled at SFA in 2013 and discovered a passion for helping prospective students transition to college. She also became heavily involved in student leadership. Childress graduated in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She continued her education, working toward a master's degree in student affairs and higher education to build upon her desire to serve and help students achieve their dream of a college degree. She graduated in 2019. Her diplomas are reminders to Childress and the students she serves that anything is possible.
7. Look closely on top of the credenza, and you'll see an acrylic award, which recognizes Childress as the SFA Student Employee of the Year for 2016-17. Childress worked with Orientation Programs and Weeks of Welcome as the Orientation student director and said she was humbled by this recognition.
8. Childress attended a Ladyjack soccer game, and members of SFA's student forestry club, the Sylvars, were in attendance demonstrating timber crosscutting techniques during halftime. Soccer fans were invited to join, so Childress suited up in protective gear and took position on one end of the saw with a member of the Sylvars on the opposite end. The duo aggressively sawed the large log until this piece of wood fell to the ground. Childress added the SFA logo to the piece.
9. The framed photos on the credenza hold memories from Childress' time working for SFA's Orientation Programs as an Orientation leader, student coordinator, student director and graduate assistant. She said she is forever grateful for the time she spent working in Orientation because it is where she honed her leadership and customer service skills and ultimately found her dream job.
10. Graduation is an exciting time for students, and it also is fulfilling for academic advisors and all those who work with them. Childress said receiving a graduation announcement or thank you note from a student is very rewarding, and she keeps many of them displayed on the back of her credenza where she can celebrate their accomplishments. ★



# STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Senior vice president and deputy controller  
of American Express discusses his career

STORY BY DR. SHIRLEY LUNA '85, '06 & '14







DAVID FABRICANT '93





**D**AVID FABRICANT '93 is the type of guy who makes a plan and sticks to it.

As a freshman at Katy High School, Fabricant decided he would earn an accounting degree, thanks to a teacher who brought the subject to life for her students.

"She was passionate about it and convinced me I could be good at it," Fabricant recalled. "From that day forward, I never wavered on that decision."

Fabricant chose to attend SFA because he liked the idea of smaller class sizes that would allow him to interact with faculty members, and after graduation, he decided not to pursue the typical career route through a public accounting firm. Instead, he moved to Dallas and rejoined Club Corporation of America as a staff accountant, a company he had worked for as a student. After a few years, he joined Bristol Hotel and Resorts as a corporate accounting manager. Later, he was promoted to director of corporate accounting. Then, in 1999, he was hired by Citicards North America as controller and vice president for accounting operations.

The CPA's next career goal would take him to New York City.

"I was very driven and had a timeline in mind for how I wanted to progress to the next level," Fabricant said. "I wanted to continue to grow, and there are more opportunities in the headquarters of an organization than in a satellite office."

In 2006, Fabricant was hired by the American International Group, better known as AIG, as vice president and controller for the consumer finance division.

"AIG made a compelling offer that piqued my interest," he said. "At the time, they had a large and meaningful banking arm, and they were looking for senior-level controllers. It was a way to get to New York with a large company and a runway for growth."

From his office in New York, he was charged with overseeing the company's banking entities in a dozen countries, including China, India, the Philippines, Taiwan, Brazil and Russia.

"Two years later, the CEO said the Asia Pacific region of the division needed a new CFO and asked me to move to Hong Kong," Fabricant said. "I had traveled there many times to visit the team, but my wife had never been there, and we had three young kids at the time."

The Fabricant family made the move, and three months later, a wrench was thrown into Fabricant's carefully laid plans.

"AIG was considered by many to be a key player in the financial sector, both in the U.S. and internationally, whose importance to the stability of the banking industry made it 'too big to fail,'" said Dr. Mikhail Kouliavtsev, SFA chair of economics and finance.

However, the housing crisis and associated subprime loans caused AIG's credit rating to be lowered, and the company was forced to post collateral for its bondholders. As a result of this and other market conditions, the company lost \$99.2 billion, and on Sept. 16, 2008, the Federal Reserve provided an \$85 billion loan to keep the company intact. In return, AIG was required to sell all "noncore" assets, including the Asia unit where Fabricant was working.

"If the government hadn't stepped in, AIG would have gone bankrupt, possibly within one day," Fabricant said. "These were the most stressful days of my career, but I certainly learned about myself — about being a calming agent in the face of extreme crisis."

Fabricant concluded his work with AIG, and once again, his goal-setting nature came into play.

"I had always viewed American Express as a talent destination. The 'A' players want to be there," he explained. "But I really didn't know anyone with the company."

Fortunately, Fabricant was familiar with LinkedIn and knew how to use it.

"I did some research to find out how to make your profile discoverable — phraseology, keywords, how information should be structured," he said. "I did some work on my profile, and a recruiting firm working with American Express found me through LinkedIn."



"I was fortunate to interact with some great leaders in each of the accounting roles I held, and those leaders made an investment in me, which goes back to the value of an organization that provides opportunities for interaction with leaders and mentors."

- David Fabricant '93

In 2011 Fabricant began as a senior-level controller for American Express.

"As global consumer services controller, I made sure the business events were properly understood and translated into the appropriate accounting events," he explained. "There's a lot of judgment in accounting. Even though there are many black-and-white rules, you earn your salt in this profession through good judgment, interpreting and properly applying the rules to get the right business and economic outcomes within the confines of the standards."

After serving in several VP-level controller roles, Fabricant was promoted to his current position with American Express — senior vice president and deputy controller. In this position, he is head of the global record-to-report and leads a team of more than 800 colleagues responsible for global financial operations, reporting to regulatory agencies and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Fabricant works to ensure that measures put in place to prevent financial upheavals similar to the one in 2008 are followed and reporting is accurate. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 reorganized the financial regulatory system and created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The Federal Reserve has created a categorization for banks to tailor the regulations, with the largest banks referred to as GSIBs, or global systemically important banks, being held to the most rigid standards.

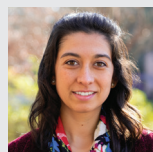
Fabricant is a member of Financial Executives International Committee on Corporate Reporting and serves on the Board of Directors of the New York chapter of Financial Executives International, a group that promotes programs to enhance the professional knowledge and qualifications of its members. He also is a member of Ernst & Young Corporate Controllers Leadership Network.

"SFA prepared me for an accounting career, and I started out working at some smaller companies where I had direct exposure to corporate controllers and CFOs who helped me tremendously," he stated. "I was fortunate to interact with some great leaders in each of the accounting roles I held, and those leaders made an investment in me, which goes back to the value of an organization that provides opportunities for interaction with leaders and mentors. This was critical to my success and to my ability to reach the goals I set." ★

# Advising 101

## TIPS FOR SPRING PLANTING

BY JORDAN CUNNINGHAM  
SFA GARDENS GREENHOUSE TECHNICIAN



**SPRING IS UPON** us, and it is time to plant! As you don your gardening gloves, here are four tips to help choose plants that will flourish in your landscape.

### CLIMATE

Among the best ways to determine the plants that will thrive in your geographic area is to select those within your location's hardiness zone. Hardiness zones rate the geographic areas of the United States from 1 to 13 by average minimum temperature. Nacogdoches' hardiness zone is 8b, which is good for plants like coneflower that grow best in hardiness zones 3 to 9, and mealy-cup sage, which prefers hardiness zones 7 through 11.

### LIGHT

Pay attention to the light exposure in your garden. Are there full tree canopies overhead? Does a nearby structure block the sunlight for all or part of the day, or is nothing blocking the full blazing sun from dawn to dusk? All plants have an ideal lighting requirement, and it must be met for them to thrive. Too much sun can burn the plant's leaves and too little can result in fewer flowers.

### WATER

All plants need to have a good, long drink immediately after planting, but long-term water requirements depend on the type of plant and time of year. Ensure plants requiring more water are within reach of your water hose or sprinkler system. Trees and shrubs need regular watering for the first year to become established. Bog plants, like elephant's ear, should be planted in low places that hold water. Some plants, like butterfly bush, don't like wet feet and should be planted in a raised garden bed with well-drained soil.

### SPACE

A temptation is to space your plants according to the size they are now, but this can lead to problems later. It is important to know the mature size of a plant and use that measurement to decide its spacing. Healthy, mature plants need space to grow and ample air flow to thrive. Planting too close can open the door to disease and poor performance.

To learn more about SFA Gardens, including plant sales and seminars, visit [sfasu.edu/sfagardens](http://sfasu.edu/sfagardens). ★



# JACK TALK

Facebook - @SFASU  
Instagram - @SFASU

Twitter - @SFASU  
Pinterest - SFALUMBERJACKS

Use #AxeEm or tag SFA on social media.



What a great time being back in Nac for a Ladyjacks basketball alumni reunion!

EUREKA RAY PURCELL / FACEBOOK



Ladyjack basketball players from the 1960s

YOLANDA NICOLE HARRIS / FACEBOOK



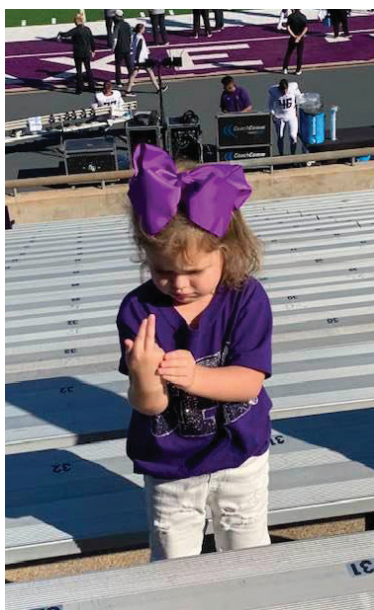
Now I can rep my big brother's school! #SFA

BAILEYBOOBECKER / INSTAGRAM



Whom better to stay up with until 3 a.m. than old college friends!

MEG\_PRIVETT / INSTAGRAM



My granddaughter is figuring it out ... Axe 'em, Jacks!

AMY N STEVE SMITH / FACEBOOK



Lumberjacks support the 2022 Cowboys of Color Rodeo on MLK Day at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo!

VINCENT B. ADAMS / FACEBOOK



It's fun to show the kids where mom and dad went to school. Good times!

JUSTYOURAVRGMOM / INSTAGRAM



Paw paw's subtle hint to this young man's future.

TOMMY BROWNING / FACEBOOK





## Comprehensive Capital Campaign Update

**SFA'S COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL** campaign officially launched Oct. 29, 2021, during Homecoming weekend. The campaign is the most ambitious in SFA's almost 100-year history with a goal of raising \$100 million by the university's 100th anniversary on Sept. 18, 2023.

Almost \$90 million has already been raised. Overall, more than 15,000 donors have showed their support for the Elevate SFA campaign, including 13 donors who made gifts of \$1 million or more and almost 9,000 donors who made a first-time gift to the university.

"Every dollar raised helps us Elevate SFA," said Dr. Scott Gordon, SFA president. "All university stakeholders, especially our students, will benefit from the support generated by the campaign. The investment in Lumberjacks promotes high-quality and transformative education that changes lives."

The campaign empowers SFA to pursue its stated vision to engage students in experiences that prepare them for the challenges of living in the global community. It is anchored by four priorities:

### 1. Undergraduate Student Scholarships: \$37 million raised

*Providing difference-making scholarships for undergraduate students to ensure that an SFA degree is both accessible and affordable.*

### 2. Faculty Support: \$4 million raised

*Building an endowment for faculty support to ensure SFA can be competitive when recruiting qualified and knowledgeable faculty members who can drive program enhancements and innovations.*

### 3. Facility Enhancements: \$5 million raised

*Assuring our students, faculty and staff have access to modern facilities that meet their needs while providing naming opportunities for donors to be recognized for their generosity.*

### 4. Program and Other Support: \$43 million raised

*Ensuring operating funds are available to strengthen and elevate academic and athletic programs.*

"During the past century, SFA has transformed the lives of its alumni," Gordon said. "As we prepare to embark on the next 100 years, we are extremely grateful to those who give back to SFA to help new generations of Lumberjacks secure their futures."

Find your place in this campaign by visiting [sfasu.edu/elevate](https://sfasu.edu/elevate) or by contacting the Office of Development at (936) 468-5406. ★

## \$100 million CAMPAIGN GOAL



**\$89.14 million**  
Total gifts and  
commitments



**15,098**  
Total donors



**8,994**  
Total first-time  
donors



**13**  
Gifts of \$1 million  
or more



**\$37 million**  
Student  
scholarships



**\$4 million**  
Faculty support



**\$5 million**  
Facility enhancements



**\$43 million**  
Program and other  
support





*The velvety Brazilian Black tarantula poses with Ashley Wahlberg in her office in the Miller Science Building. Wahlberg acquired this female specimen in 2018 when she was just a few months old and very tiny. This tarantula is now about 7 inches long and should live about 20 years. Male lifespans are much shorter, about six to eight years.*



*Photo by Ashley Wahlberg*



*Photo by Ashley Wahlberg*

**Texas nonnative species of the brown widow spider**



# THE SPIDER LADY OF NACOGDOCHES

Doctoral student contributes to the scientific understanding of toxic spider species

STORY BY SARAH FULLER '08 & '13

PHOTOS BY GABRIELLE CZAPLA '20

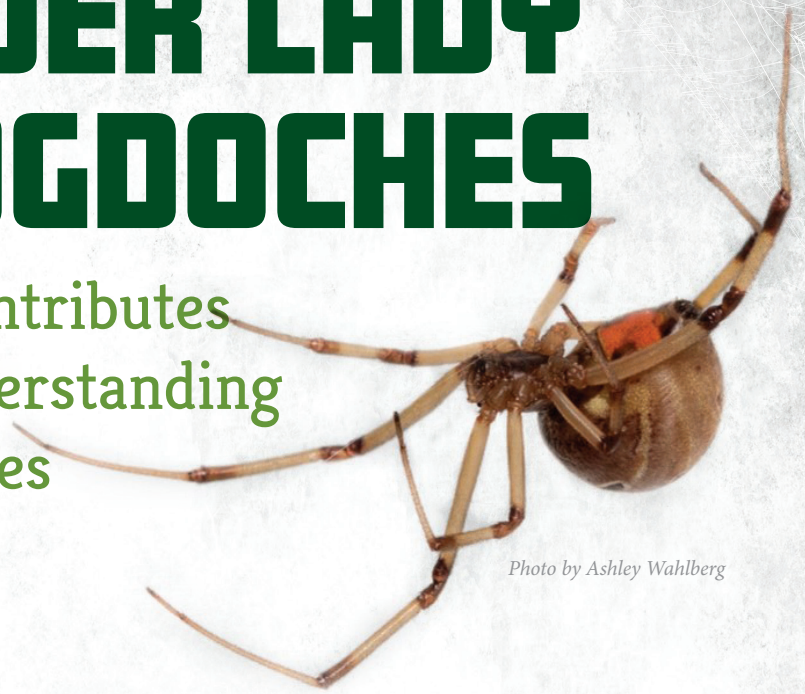


Photo by Ashley Wahlberg

**E**VERY COMMUNITY HAS a notable cast of characters who set themselves apart thanks to eccentricities, unique interests or expertise, and Nacogdoches is no exception. One of the most recently recognized local personalities can be found at SFA, inconspicuously wandering the halls of the Miller Science Building.

While many know her as Ashley Wahlberg, lab coordinator for the Department of Biology, other community members know her simply as “the spider lady.”

Following a post on a Nacogdoches community Facebook page indicating Wahlberg would gladly collect widow spiders found near local homes, requests poured in, and a moniker was born.

“I posted about it enough that people began asking, ‘Isn’t that spider lady somewhere on this page — can she tell me what this spider is?’” Wahlberg said. “People I don’t know started tagging me in posts, and the name just kind of stuck.”

While hand-collecting one of North America’s most toxic spider species may sound grossly unappealing to many, Wahlberg, currently pursuing a doctoral degree in forestry at SFA, has good reason to do so.

Under the direction of Dr. Jessica Glasscock, assistant professor of wildlife in SFA’s Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Wahlberg is shedding much-needed light on how the nonnative brown widow spider successfully established itself in Texas, as well as how the species may affect native black widow spiders.

According to the Texas Invasive Species Institute, more than 800 aquatic and terrestrial nonnative species have been introduced to the state, and that number is only expected to increase.

Wahlberg said brown widows have been detected in close to 50 Texas counties, with concentrations centered around the cities of Houston, Austin, San Antonio and Brownsville.

Thought to originate from South Africa, brown widows are variable in color, ranging from light brown to black. Like the black widow, the tell-tale hourglass marking is present on the brown widow’s abdomen, although it typically boasts a vibrant orange hue rather than red.

To showcase this color variability, Wahlberg delicately opened a plastic receptacle and removed a web-covered leaf containing a brown widow. The spider, roughly the size of a dime, barely stirred.

As for her concern of being bitten by either venomous species, Wahlberg simply shakes her head and explains that bites are very rare, and neither species is aggressive.

“Most of the work with brown widows has taken place in California because there are two really popular spider experts there who have done a lot of work,” Wahlberg said. “There’s a little bit of research from Florida, but everything else is anecdotal occurrence records — there’s not actually any research investigating how they’re interacting with the environment.” ➔



*Wahlberg always keeps containers and tongs in her purse to collect spiders, especially black widows like these. Many Nacogdoches friends and neighbors have given Wahlberg permission to access their property and search for the arachnids, which she uses in her research involving egg sac parasitoids.*



The room housing Wahlberg's roughly 2,000 study subjects is quiet, organized and equipped with delicate white Christmas lights that add ambiance.

"The lights are on a 12-hour day-to-night cycle," Wahlberg explained. "They come on at 8 a.m. and turn off at 8 p.m. Many animals rely on having a circadian rhythm in order for them to function properly."

In this room, Wahlberg completes the delicate task of dissecting egg sacs of the two widow species. While the egg sac of the black widow is smooth, the brown widow's is equipped with small spikes.

Much information can be gleaned from the contents of these egg sacs, and Wahlberg is specifically looking to discover whether brown widows are less impacted by the same parasitic flies and wasps that prey on the egg sacs of the black widow.

The parasitoid wasps and flies that prey on these eggs aren't the commonly seen wasp or house fly — they are much smaller.

Wahlberg explained that the two specific parasitoids she is investigating, the eurytomid wasp and the chloropid fly, lay their eggs on fresh spider egg sacs. Subsequently, those hatchlings devour the contents of the spider egg.

"Since these parasitoids didn't coevolve with the brown widows, they may not see them as a host," Wahlberg said. "We will collect

and dissect at least 1,000 egg sacs, and the parasitoids within each sac will be counted and identified when possible."

In order to reach that staggering number of samples, Wahlberg actively collects and breeds both species of spider in addition to teaching anatomy and physiology, as well as other biology classes when needed.

"I tell my students on the first day of class that if you come to my office, you're going to see spiders. If you see me walking around campus looking in windows, I'm looking for spiders — just ignore me," she said with a laugh.

Wahlberg's current research isn't her first experience with venomous or reviled species. Prior to joining the SFA staff, Wahlberg was an education and outreach specialist with Texas Snakes and More, a Houston-based business focused on engaging and educating the public on snakes and their critical role in the ecosystem. It was there she met her husband, Scott '13, who earned a degree in forestry from SFA.

Wahlberg earned a Bachelor of Science in wildlife biology and a Master of Science in biology from West Texas A&M University in Canyon. During her time there, she researched amphibians and conducted rattlesnake surveys for private landowners.

"Whenever I went to college and started taking wildlife classes, I very quickly realized that everyone tends to focus on deer or



game birds,” Wahlberg said. “I thought, I don’t want to be like everyone else — that’s not exciting.”

After completing a course in arachnology, the scientific study of arachnids, including spiders and related animals, Wahlberg found an entirely new passion.

“I wanted to work with something we don’t know a lot about,” Wahlberg said. “There are 34 species of widow spiders throughout the world, and you can only find published articles on maybe a dozen of those. Some species have no information available at all.”

As if her dedication to years of collecting and researching widow spiders wasn’t enough to earn her spider lady designation, a tattoo of a brown widow adorns Wahlberg’s right shoulder. Further, her office shelves are home to her many venomous pet tarantulas of varying species, as well as Eastern hognose and king snakes thrown in for good measure.

“A lot of people’s understanding or view of widow spiders would change if they got to just come in and see them in person,” she said.

According to Wahlberg, research indicates proteins extracted from the venom of both snakes and spiders can be useful in the formulation of medicines to treat Alzheimer’s disease, high blood pressure and cancers, as well as in pain management.

Wahlberg’s research has garnered statewide attention, appearing in Texas Monthly, as well as “The Michael Berry Show” and Houston Public Media. A true advocate for arachnids, she doesn’t hesitate to share her knowledge.

“I know people are taught to be scared of spiders, but between their venom helping with all kinds of medicines and all of the bugs they eat, they are extremely beneficial,” Wahlberg said. “Half the time you’re walking past them, and you have no idea they’re there.” ★

“There are 34 species of widow spiders throughout the world, and you can only find published articles on maybe a dozen of those species. Some species have no information available at all.”

- Ashley Wahlberg  
SFA doctoral student



The room housing Wahlberg’s roughly 2,000 study subjects is quiet, organized and equipped with delicate white Christmas lights. The lights are

on a 12-hour day-to-night cycle because spiders rely on a circadian rhythm to function properly. Photo by Ashley Wahlberg



# SiSTerLY ADViCe

Alumna and  
sister write  
books to help  
children manage  
emotions

**LEARNING TO CONTROL** difficult emotions and gaining confidence are part of growing up, but how do children learn the coping skills they need to handle big feelings? One way is through books.

Holly Brochmann '01 knows firsthand what it's like to experience intense anxiety, both as a child and into adulthood. "It's something that has stayed with me throughout life," she said.

Brochmann, a writer and public relations professional, has teamed with her sister, licensed professional counselor and play therapist Leah Bowen, to write a series of "Feel Better" children's books for ages 3 to 8 to help them manage the big feelings they may be experiencing.

She recently sat down with Sawdust to discuss her career and the motivation for writing the books. →











Sisters Leah Bowen, left, and Holly Brochmann '01

**Q:** What led you to SFA?

**A:** I liked that SFA was close to my hometown of Cushing. Unlike many college students, I wasn't eager to be away from my parents. SFA was comfortable and familiar, especially given that my mom, Carolyn Satterwhite, worked on campus for the Texas Folklore Society and later for the Office of International Programs. I also worked on campus for the physical plant all four years. And, I was awarded several very generous scholarships.

**Q:** Discuss your career and why you wanted to write mental health books for kids.

**A:** I graduated from SFA with a bachelor's degree in journalism with an emphasis in public relations and advertising in August 2001, just before 9/11. I initially wanted to work in Houston where I had just completed an internship, but the job market, along with everything else, went awry after the attacks. I took a position at a Lufkin-based PR and advertising agency where I worked for three years. I then moved to Atlanta, Georgia, to work for the well-known PR agency Hope-Beckham Inc., spending 13 years climbing the ranks from account executive to senior director. While my job description includes a multitude

“Mental health is personal for me, as it is for millions of others. Like any skill, learning how to manage your emotions improves with practice, effective strategies and beginning as early in life as possible.”

- Holly Brochmann '01

of responsibilities, writing has always been at the foundation and remains a primary aspect of everything I do. After the birth of my daughter in 2016, I reduced my role to working remotely part time. In late 2017, my family moved back to Texas, and I was able to take my job with me. I just celebrated my 17th year with Hope-Beckham in November.

My venture as a children's book author evolved separately from my career, though my work experience has come in handy throughout the process. Much of the credit is due to my sister and co-author, Leah. She was looking to add some books to her practice that would help her young clients address worry and anxiety. Not loving the options available at that time, she approached me, a lifelong worrier, about the idea of writing a book together.

Mental health is personal for me, as it is for millions of others. Like any skill, learning how to manage your emotions improves with practice, effective strategies and beginning as early in life as possible. If we can equip children with the tools they need to address mental and emotional health issues, like anxiety, sadness and anger at a very young age, they'll be more likely to transition

through life already in possession of those critical coping skills.

**Q:** Why is the American Psychological Association's backing important?

**A:** Leah and I were extremely fortunate to land a book deal with the American Psychological Association's Magination Press. We couldn't ask for a more credible, experienced publisher in terms of mental health. It's what they do. Before publishing, each book is reviewed by a board of professionals who vet and analyze the content to ensure its accuracy. They also work with a team of wonderful illustrators and connected us with Shirley Ng-Benitez, who created the artwork for all five of our books.

**Q:** What is your motivation for writing these books?

**A:** We believe it's vital for kids to learn mental health coping skills early in life. I experienced very intense anxiety as a child. It wasn't until I was in my 30s before I realized there was something I could do about it. Fortunately, there's significantly more awareness surrounding the importance of mental health than when I was a child, and seeking help for it is no longer considered shameful. Our books are part of a larger



movement that is making mental health management a top priority. The “Feel Better” books allow children and their caregivers the ability to learn about and discuss big feelings in a safe and comfortable environment. They can set the foundation for a lifetime journey of caring for emotional well-being.

**Q:** How do you decide on a book topic?

**A:** Our early book topics — worry, sadness and anger — were easy to choose, as they are common emotions. Our later topics were inspired by issues we observed in our own children and their peers.

**Q:** How do you promote the books?

**A:** Before the pandemic, our publisher did a fantastic job of getting us to various events. Sadly, we haven’t had an opportunity to travel much during the past two years due to COVID-19, but we do participate in virtual events from time to time.

Among our favorite ways to promote is through our school reading program, which comprises a brief presentation about our books and what it means to be an author. Then, we lead a group discussion about the feelings that correspond with the books we are reading, followed by the reading itself. We end with a fun activity for the kids that reinforces some of the strategies learned in the books.

**Q:** Are your books published in other countries and languages?

**A:** Yes, they are distributed all over the world. Our publisher has partners that translate the books into various languages — so far Simplified Chinese, Romanian and Turkish.

**Q:** Do you think children in other countries share the same issues as those in the U.S.?

**A:** When it comes to emotions, definitely. Feelings are universal — part of what it is to be human. We may all worry about different things, or be sad or angry about different things, but the process for managing it is the same. The biggest difference may not be the emotions themselves, but how they are handled. From my perspective, the more progressive countries are more open about mental health. But even here in the U.S., we still have a long way to go.

**Q:** Do you think writing with a sibling is easier or harder than writing solo?

**A:** It is 100% easier. At least in our case. We have an extremely close relationship and are very similar in our personality and thought processes. We are a collaborative team — when one is too busy elsewhere, the other picks up the slack. When one is unengaged, the other motivates. We share ideas, balance strengths and weaknesses, and are able to provide and accept honest, constructive feedback to

“The ‘Feel Better’ books allow children and their caregivers the ability to learn about and discuss big feelings in a safe and comfortable environment.”

- Holly Brochmann '01

and from each other. But more than anything, it is so incredibly meaningful to do something you love with someone you love.

**Q:** How long does it typically take to write a book?

**A:** Well, that depends on life! The first book took the longest, two years from start to finish. But we cranked the fifth book out pretty quickly. Hopefully 2022 will be the year for book number six.

**Q:** Have you seen more interest in these types of books since COVID-19?

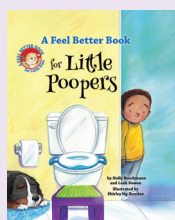
**A:** Yes, definitely. COVID-19 brought forth a whole host of emotional instability, for adults and children alike. Social isolation, virtual learning, financial stress, germaphobia, grief, the list goes on and on. Books have been an excellent resource during this time, as they are relatively inexpensive, easy to obtain and can be safely utilized at home.

**Q:** What is your greatest hope for your books?

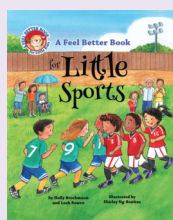
**A:** It’s simple. I hope they help kids lead happier, emotionally healthier lives through the joy of reading.

**Q:** Where can your books be purchased?

**A:** Pretty much everywhere books are sold. We love to remind people to support their local, independent bookstores. ★



“A Feel Better Book for Little Poopers” helps little ones who are first learning to use the bathroom to understand that it doesn’t have to be uncomfortable or scary.



“A Feel Better Book for Little Sports” tackles the fun and not-so-fun parts of sports: winning, losing, being a good sport and resilience.



“A Feel Better Book for Little Tears” helps kids identify what it feels like to be sad and what they can do to respond.



“A Feel Better Book for Little Tempers” helps young children who are just beginning to recognize and identify their emotions understand how anger feels and affects them.



“A Feel Better Book for Little Worriers” assures kids that having some worries is normal.

## “FEEL BETTER” BOOKS





# It's not about the money.

For us, banking is all about helping our customers and communities succeed. We're proud to be long-standing supporters of Stephen F. Austin State University as it creates a positive and lasting impact.

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# From the Association



Greetings, Lumberjacks!

**ONCE AGAIN, WE** began the spring semester with the challenges a pandemic brings and learning with a new set of rules. With the onset

of the omicron variant came more frequent testing but often shorter quarantine times, which allowed classes to proceed as normal.

As I write this letter, we are planning our first SFA alumni ambassador training with a goal to equip our ambassadors with the tools they need to engage Lumberjacks in their perspective areas. Alumni Association President-elect Erika Tolar '02, along with board members Alex Ranc '11 & '13, Jaclyn Partin '08 & '14 and Matt Adkins '06, are leading this endeavor.

We would love to have more ambassadors assist our regional chairs. If you are interested in becoming an ambassador, please reach out to Alumni Association staff members for an application by calling (936) 468-3407. Applications are processed and presented on a monthly basis to members of the executive committee for review.

The fall Big Dip was a huge success. We had more than 700 dip their hand in a bowl of purple dye. After they dipped, they were presented with a box containing their SFA class ring. They returned to their seat and held the box until all participants finished dipping. Then, they opened their boxes simultaneously. The event ended with singing the school song and taking a group picture. Parents and family members of the dippers were in attendance to watch. What a wonderful tradition!

We continue to look forward to the university's 100-year celebration. Our Centennial Committee is preparing for the festivities in 2023. Brian Dawson '03 is leading the charge for the Alumni Association, so look for exciting events, including the installment of the big SFA ring statue on campus.

We are very fortunate to have such outstanding staff members and student workers at the Alumni Association. They tirelessly work together to produce events and opportunities for Lumberjacks to connect. Their enthusiasm for SFA and alumni is unmatched.

How can you help promote SFA and the Alumni Association?

- If you are not a member of the Alumni Association, I encourage you to join online at [sfasu.com/join](https://sfasu.com/join) or call (936) 468-3407.
- Send us a new student to help grow our university and Lumberjack pride.
- Attend SFA events and check the calendar of events included in each issue of Sawdust and on social media.
- Show your loyalty to SFA by displaying a sign in your front yard.
- Hire an SFA graduate.
- Engage with fellow Lumberjacks on social media.
- Order an official SFA class ring. Then, come back to Nac for the Big Dip. Traditional ring styles and new coin rings are available. Shop [SFAring.com](https://SFAring.com).
- Show your Lumberjack Pride by purchasing a brick on the SFA Walk of Recognition. Leave a legacy. Visit [SFAAlumni.com/Bricks](https://SFAAlumni.com/Bricks).
- Get the SFA license plate or license plate holder.
- Wear SFA gear on Purple Friday (every Friday). Check out the new SFA alumni gear featured in this issue of Sawdust.
- Start a tradition of attending Homecoming activities every fall to reconnect.
- Share your Lumberjack story. Submit your class notes, wedding or birth announcements at [sfasu.edu/sawdust](https://sfasu.edu/sawdust).
- Share your memories by joining the Facebook group You Know You Went to SFA.
- Tell others about SFA. ★

Axe 'em, Jacks!

*Charlotte G. Ashcraft*

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 '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) ★ [sfalumni.com](https://sfalumni.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

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

## APRIL

1

### **SPRING TEACHER JOB FAIR**

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Baker Pattillo Student Center

Grand Ballroom

Nacogdoches

9

### **BACK TO NAC REUNION**

1 to 4:30 p.m.

Lava Cantina

5805 Grandscape Blvd.

The Colony

22-23

### **27TH ANNUAL ROBERT D. DICKERSON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Nacogdoches

22-24

### **BETA XI CHAPTER OF DELTA DELTA DELTA 50-YEAR REUNION**

Nacogdoches

26

### **SENIOR SEND-OFF SPRING/SUMMER**

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Banita Creek Hall

Nacogdoches

29

### **BIG DIP CEREMONIES**

Baker Pattillo Student Center

Grand Ballroom

Nacogdoches

9 a.m.

James I. Perkins College of Education

1 p.m.

Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts

College of Liberal and Applied Arts

Arthur Temple College of Forestry and

Agriculture

4 p.m.

Nelson Rusche College of Business

College of Sciences and Mathematics

29-30

### **SFA VOLLEYBALL ALUMNI WEEKEND**

Nacogdoches

## MAY

1

### **SFA VOLLEYBALL ALUMNI WEEKEND CONTINUES**

Nacogdoches

6

### **SFA ALUMNI EAST TEXAS NETWORK SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**

6-7

### **SFA COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES**

Johnson Coliseum

Nacogdoches

12-14

### **WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**

Bearkat Softball Complex

1818 Sycamore Ave.

Huntsville

20

### **SFA ROAD SHOW EVENT SUMMER SOCIAL AT TRUCK YARD HOUSTON**

6 to 8 p.m.

2118 Lamar St.

Houston

21

### **SFA ROAD SHOW EVENT SFA NIGHT AT HOUSTON ASTROS**

6:10 p.m.

Minute Maid Park

501 Crawford St.

Houston

24

### **SFA ROAD SHOW EVENT EAST TEXAS SUMMER SOCIAL AT THE GROVE**

6 to 8 p.m.

3500 Old Jacksonville Highway

Tyler

25-28

### **WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE BASEBALL TOURNAMENT**

Hohokam Stadium

1235 N. Center St.

Mesa, Arizona

## JUNE

3

### **SFA ROAD SHOW EVENT SUMMER SOCIAL AT TRUCK YARD DALLAS**

6 to 8 p.m.

5624 Sears St.

Dallas

4

### **SFA ROAD SHOW EVENT SFA DAY AT TEXAS RANGERS**

3:05 p.m.

Globe Life Field

734 Stadium Drive

Arlington

15-17

### **TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS SUMMER WORKSHOP**

Austin Convention Center

500 E. Cesar Chavez St.

17

### **SFA ROAD SHOW EVENT SFA NIGHT AT SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS**

Nelson W. Wolff Municipal Stadium

5757 U.S. 90W

San Antonio

18

### **SFA ROAD SHOW EVENT SFA NIGHT AT ROUND ROCK EXPRESS**

Dell Diamond

3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd.

Round Rock



# Scholarship

## The Dustin C. Harrison Memorial Scholarship



**THE DUSTIN C. Harrison Memorial Scholarship** supporting finance and economics majors in the Rusche College of Business was created by Ronnie and Chloe Canaan-Chapman. The scholarship is available to be awarded this spring.

Harrison '18 passed away in March 2021 at age 25.

"At SFA, Dustin was known not only for his impressive accolades but also for

his continuous drive to be immersed in the campus community and to become involved with every aspect of the finance department," the Canaan-Chapmans, both 2018 SFA graduates and friends of Harrison, said. "We could not think of a better way to honor and share the gift of his memory."

Harrison graduated summa cum laude with a degree in finance and then worked as an analyst at Ayco Goldman Sachs in Dallas.

For more information about SFA scholarships, visit the Office of Development online at [sfasu.edu/giving](https://sfasu.edu/giving). ★

### 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.

## Life Members

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 8461. David W. Koonce '87, Center                        | 8483. Christopher Noel Johnson '97, Austin                  |
| 8462. Frank C. Altamuro '98, Cypress                     | 8484. Mary Margaret Johnson '97, Austin                     |
| 8463. Daniel W. Fuller '93, Tyler                        | 8485. Melissa K. DeVine '82, Nacogdoches                    |
| 8465. Jimmy R. Stallworth '81, Nacogdoches               | 8486. Alan M. Christian '11, Nacogdoches                    |
| 8466. David H. Mains, SFA student, Nacogdoches           | 8487. Lindsey M. Christian '18, Nacogdoches                 |
| 8467. Sarah R. Gallander '99, Nacogdoches                | 8488. Leah J. Johnson '21, Teague                           |
| 8468. John F. Gallander '99, Nacogdoches                 | 8489. Charles A. Scroggins '05, Frisco                      |
| 8469. April M. Adams '13, Nacogdoches                    | 8490. Jennifer A. Scroggins '05, Frisco                     |
| 8470. Jesse Adams, Friend of SFA, Nacogdoches            | 8491. Austin W. DuBose '14, Baytown                         |
| 8471. Sara W. Smith '21, Nacogdoches                     | 8492. Katelyn D. DuBose '14, Baytown                        |
| 8472. Jefferson D. Roark '19, Farmers Branch             | 8493. Marcia G. Castaneda '20, Center                       |
| 8473. Ryan S. Blackburn '09, Nacogdoches                 | 8494. Jeffrey E. Mabrey '92, Conroe                         |
| 8474. Laura N. Blackburn '09, Nacogdoches                | 8495. Angela C. Mabrey '92, Conroe                          |
| 8475. Mark W. Friedman '91, Allen                        | 8496. Christopher S. Anderson '03, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania |
| 8476. Scott L. Sullivan '93, Houston                     | 8497. Kathryn E. Morton '02 & '04, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania |
| 8477. Jason Dallhoff '00, Prosper                        | 8498. Roxanne T. Barton '93, Galveston                      |
| 8478. Dr. Lee W. Payne '03, Nacogdoches                  | 8499. Richard Bryan Barton '93, Galveston                   |
| 8479. Benjamin L. Jones '79, College Station             | 8500. Connor B. Wyckoff '15, Lawrence, Kansas               |
| 8480. Rodney Davidson '91, Buford, Georgia               | 8501. Crystal A. Hearn '03, Beaumont                        |
| 8481. Matthew T. Burton '87 & '99, Surf City, New Jersey | 8502. Donald W. Hearn '08, Beaumont                         |
| 8482. Brian R. Welch '86, Houston                        | 8503. Amy M. Kitzman '21, Coppell                           |



# ALWAYS AN ARTIST

STORY BY ROBBIE GOODRICH '82





Talent,  
imagination  
fuel fine  
arts alum



*Brent Hale '81 in front of the finished Arcadia Live mural in Kerrville  
Photo by Michael C. Anglin*





**EVER SINCE HE** was “a dorky little kid with buck teeth and glasses,” Brent Hale ’81 wanted to draw.

“Since I stunk at sports, most of my spare time was spent drawing. I drew hot rods and cartoons on everything — notebooks, church bulletins, the bottom of my tennis shoes. I did some of my best work on my blue jeans. I couldn’t help myself. I loved to draw,” he said on his Brent Hale Illustration and Design website.

Among the lucky ones who discovered how to turn a passion into a career, Hale is a freelance illustrator, graphic designer, art director, muralist and product designer based in Tyler. His website explains that he works with some of the best companies in the world. His client list includes Nike, Pepsi, Mercedes Benz, American Airlines, Louis Vuitton, AT&T, Wall Street Journal, Hilton and more. He’s had children’s book collaborations with LeAnn Rimes, Billy Crystal and Steve Martin.

“I get to work on stuff that challenges me and allows me to draw inspiration from the very things that made me want to be an artist in the first place.”

But to get where he is today, Hale tried and took a lot of different paths, all involving art. After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in commercial art from SFA followed by studying industrial and transportation design at the Art Center College of Design in California, Hale worked in outdoor advertising with Spradley Sign Company in Nacogdoches. He worked off and on for various design firms in Tyler and East Texas, tried some stints as a freelancer and worked for Brookshire’s advertising department.

By 1996, Hale decided to take “a leap of faith” and start his own company. He focused on larger markets like Dallas, promoting himself to major agencies doing whatever they couldn’t handle in-house. He soon became known among agencies as the go to for quickly cranking out presentation comps, marker sketches and storyboards. “An agency would call on Thursday night and ask if I could do 20 illustrations by Monday morning,” Hale said. “I replied, ‘All things are possible at Brent Hale Artography.’”

Initially, agencies would give Hale’s concept drawings to a finishing artist who would recreate his work, transforming it into finished ads or commercials. “In a roundabout way, you would see some of my stuff actually on the shelf. I did a lot of Chester Cheetah.” As he honed his illustration style, Hale began to pick up more finished illustration work, things that would actually get produced, such as an illustration for Nike Town New York, a holiday tin for Moon Pie and the first hotels.com logo.

Experienced in many forms of illustration and graphic design, Hale’s murals may have more of a “wow effect” for the general public. He painted the mural inside the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau, as well as many others in Nacogdoches. His detailed work adorns buildings throughout Texas, including the Farmer Brothers Coffee corporate office, Stanley Marcus mural in Dallas, Louis Vuitton’s corporate office and The Arcadia Live in Kerrville, which he described as “one of the biggest and scariest” he’s worked on.

He credits “really cool old sign men who taught me the ropes, literally” for his success in mural work. “We would hand paint billboards from old stages with hemp ropes, wooden pulleys, no safety harnesses and fighting wasps,” he said.

One of Hale’s first large-scale works was “an illegal mural on the wall of my SFA dorm.” Hale had one more semester living on campus when the housing director found out about the mural. He called Hale into his office and told him he had to paint over it or he would be kicked out of school. “I said, ‘OK, I’ll do that, but would you mind looking at it beforehand?’ So, he came to my dorm room, looked at the mural, and said, ‘OK, you can keep it. But you have to paint over it when you leave.’”

Hale said the friendships he formed at SFA remain strong. He and his wife loved being in the university’s atmosphere. “And I had some really great art teachers who taught me good basics.” ★





"An agency would call on Thursday night and ask if I could do 20 illustrations by Monday morning. I replied, 'All things are possible at Brent Hale Artography.'"

- Brent Hale '81



**TOP:** Moon Pie and RC Cola detail in Ben Wheeler

**ABOVE:** Brent Hale '81 and his daughter, Grace (Hale) Reese, pictured, painted the Stanley Marcus mural in the Cedars district of Dallas.



**ABOVE:** Details of a privately commissioned oil on canvas



# Class Notes

## 1970s



Dr. Joe Gillespie '72 of Stephenville was inducted into the Coleman Independent School District's Hall of Honor. Gillespie received a Master of Education in health and physical education.

Dr. Larry Lewis '77 & '78 was named interim superintendent for DeSoto Independent School District. Lewis received a Bachelor of Science in education and a Master of Education in health and physical education.

Patricia Taylor Wells '77 of Tyler received the Authors Marketing Guild's 2021 grand prize for a piece published in "Short Stories by Texas Authors," Vol. 7. Wells received a Bachelor of Arts in French.

Bruce McCrary '78 & '82 of Nacogdoches retired as the executive director of athletics for Ector County Independent School District. McCrary received a Bachelor of Science in health and physical education and a Master of Education in secondary education.

## 1980s

Alton Frailey '83 & '85 of Katy was appointed to the Southside Bancshares Inc. Board of Directors. Frailey received a Bachelor of Science in elementary education and a Master of Education in secondary education and formerly served as a member of SFA's Board of Regents.

W. Scott Johnson '84 relocated to Fox Island, Washington, to continue managing the Denia Bridges Foundation, which raises money for Christian education and youth leadership in Spain. Johnson received a Master of Science in computer science.

Dale Morton '84 & '89 of Nacogdoches was reappointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to the Angelina and Neches River Authority Board of Directors for a term set to expire in September 2027. He received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and a Master of Education in secondary education.

Diana Allan '89 of San Antonio was installed as president of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Allan received a Master of Arts in music.

## 1990s



Lt. Col. Reginald Barnes '91 of Washington, D.C., retired from the U.S. Army in July after serving more than 32 years. He completed his career serving in the Department of the Army Inspector General. He received a Bachelor of Science in sociology.



Richard Boyer '91 was elected mayor of The Colony. Boyer received a Bachelor of Business Administration in management and formerly served as a member of SFA's Board of Regents.

Sgt. Gregg Greer '92 of Hallsville was named 2021 Distinguished Alumni of the Year by Hallsville Independent School District. Greer received a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice.

Darrell Barbay '93 of Mansfield, Louisiana, was hired as athletic director and football coach for Mansfield Independent School District. Barbay received a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology.



Dr. Roel Lopez '93 of San Antonio was appointed head of the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management at Texas A&M University. Lopez received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry with an emphasis in forest wildlife management.

Dr. Jeremy L. Moreland '93 of Fulton, Missouri, was named president of William Woods University. Moreland received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology.

Aaron Smith '96 of Kingsport, Tennessee, graduated from the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute. Smith received a Bachelor of Business Administration in general business.

Matt Burgy '98 of Houston was named head of school for The Oakridge School in Arlington. Burgy received a Bachelor of Business Administration in management.



# Class Notes

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Sereniah Breland '99 was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to the Texas Nonprofit Council while continuing to serve as city manager of Pflugerville. Breland received a Bachelor of Business Administration in management.

Amanda Sheriff '16 & '18 of Cypress performed in Daron Hagen's "New York Stories" for the Florida Grand Opera, which the South Florida Classical Review ranked third in its top 10 performances of 2021. Sheriff received a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music.

## 2000s



Dr. Michael Hitchcock '04 of Newburyport, Massachusetts, was named chief of the department of pathology and medical director of laboratory services at Anna Jaques Hospital. He received a Master of

Science in biology.



Kerri Swope '04 of Austin was named chief customer officer for ESO Solutions, a company providing integrated software products for first responders. Swope received a Bachelor of Business Administration

in marketing.



Tara Hendrix '05 was named the director of tourism and marketing for the City of Lufkin. Hendrix received a Bachelor of Science in hospitality administration.



Colleen Grindle '06 of Denton was named principal of Harpool Middle School in Lantana. Grindle received a Bachelor of Arts in speech and communication studies.

Kerry Lane '08 of Longview was named athletic director for Pine Tree Independent School District. Lane received a Bachelor of Science in health science.



Cindy Carrillo '17 of Nacogdoches received a Master of Arts in international relations, concentrating on U.S. foreign policy and national security, from American University in Washington, D.C. She also is executive assistant to Texas Supreme Court Justice Jimmy Blacklock of Austin. She received a Bachelor of Science in political science.

## Share your Lumberjack story!

Visit [sfasu.edu/sawdust](https://sfasu.edu/sawdust) to send your class notes and wedding or birth announcements to the Alumni Association.

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

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK.

As part of our continuous effort to improve Sawdust, we are conducting an online survey to gain information about reader preferences.

[sfasu.edu/sawdust/survey](https://sfasu.edu/sawdust/survey)

## 2010s

Adam Tate '11 graduated with a master's degree in community and regional planning with a graduate certificate in ecological design from the University of Oregon. He also was named associate city planner for the City of McMinnville, Oregon. Tate received a Bachelor of Arts in theatre from SFA.



# In Memoriam

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## DR. BEATRICE CLACK



Longtime faculty member Dr. Beatrice Clack passed away Jan. 24.

Born in Beaumont, Clack moved with her family to Plano when she was 13 and later graduated from Plano High School. She

received a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Texas A&M University and her master's and doctoral degrees in molecular and cellular biology from the University of Texas at Dallas. Clack completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center before joining the SFA faculty in 1996.

As a professor, Clack was instrumental in growing the Division of Biotechnology and the Science Research Center at SFA. She collaborated with researchers in the United States and around the world. Of particular interest to Clack was working with researchers in Syria to study the Sunn pest in an effort to discover new methods for managing celiac disease, as well as finding ways to help prevent major wheat crop shortages. She published a multitude of papers and received numerous awards throughout her career. Clack mentored, taught and conducted research with countless students during the past 25 years. Many of Clack's former students are now professionals and teachers themselves using the techniques and compassion they learned from her.

Clack also had a deep love for animals, rescuing horses, dogs, cats, cows, snakes, birds, spiders and more. She had a fondness for classical music and played the cello all her life.

## DR. WILLIAM W. GIBSON



SFA Professor Emeritus of Biology Dr.

William W. Gibson passed away Jan. 28 at the age of 93.

Gibson grew up in New York. He served four years in the U.S. Army while

stationed at Fort Dix in New Jersey. Gibson later graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a bachelor's degree in agriculture. He received both his master's and doctoral degrees in entomology from Kansas State University.

In 1962, Gibson moved his family to Nacogdoches, where he taught at SFA for 49 years. Gibson was presented with the SFA Distinguished Professor Award in 1974, becoming one of the earliest faculty members to receive the distinction. He served as faculty sponsor of the Biology Club for more than 40 years.

Gibson designed the invertebrate natural history collection space for the E. L. Miller Science Building, which was constructed on the campus in 1964. Following this achievement, Gibson, his colleagues and students combined their efforts to



# In Memoriam

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build a major natural history collection. This collection grew into one of the largest collections of invertebrates in Texas.

In 2007, at the request of the Department of Biology and the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, the SFA Board of Regents approved naming the collection in Gibson's honor. The William W. Gibson Entomarium was formally dedicated in April 2014.

## BRUCE ALAN LANHAM



Bruce Alan Lanham, former SFA construction manager at risk for the physical plant, passed away Oct. 9.

Lanham was proud of the work he did with the physical plant and frequently

referred to his projects in conversation. Several university building projects he was especially proud of are the Early Childhood Research Center, Baker Pattillo Student Center, DeWitt School of Nursing, Cole STEM Building, Student Recreation Center and Lumberjack Landing. He worked at SFA for 36 years before retiring in March 2020.

## DR. DONNYA E. STEPHENS



Former SFA faculty member and 1974 SFA graduate Dr. Donnya E. Stephens passed away Oct. 1.

Stephens received her master's degree in education from SFA and attended

East Texas State University, receiving her doctoral degree in 1981. She joined the SFA faculty in 1975, where she sponsored numerous student organizations, including Delta Sigma Theta, Omega Psi Phi, the National Pan-Hellenic Council, the SFA Texas Student Education Association, American Association of University Women Student Affiliate and the Kung Fu Club. She served as a member of more than 30 college and university committees during her tenure and as a consultant to and on accreditation teams for public schools throughout the East Texas region.

Stephens was inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame and honored with the Regents Professor and a Distinguished Alumni Award from SFA.



# In Memoriam

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Clifford D. Adkison '58 of Lufkin, Sept. 27  
Leigh A. Allum '90 of Nacogdoches, Oct. 13  
Carolyn K. Barnett '72 & '73 of Henderson, Dec. 16  
Rick D. Baty '81 of Houston, Sept. 30  
Bryan E. Beale '16 of Nacogdoches, Dec. 7  
Jon H. Beard '81 of New Braunfels, Oct. 25  
Jack A. Belmont '72 of Lacey, Washington, Sept. 18  
Esther R. Boyd '84 of Corsicana, Dec. 26  
Clara V. Bradford '77 of Kilgore, Oct. 20  
Lillie J. Branton '56 of Lufkin, Sept. 20  
Stephen R. Breckenridge '92 of Conroe, Oct. 21  
Steven Brevig '83 of Allen, Oct. 11  
James E. Campbell '48 of Center, Nov. 12  
Deborah K. Chandler '78 of Rusk, Nov. 28  
Toni K. Christopher '91 of Waller, Oct. 28  
Patricia A. Clements '82 of Ringgold, Oct. 18  
Megan L. Conner '14 of Houston, Oct. 1  
Noel E. Corbin '71 & '76 of Schertz, Sept. 23  
Van D. Craddock '70 of Longview, Jan. 1  
Donnah J. Crater '79 of Lufkin, Oct. 4  
Geneva G. Craycraft '53 & '58 of Mount Enterprise, Nov. 17  
Anne G. Derfus '82 & '95 of Tyler, Sept. 29  
Billy C. Duncan '53 of Center, Oct. 16  
Patricia B. Edmundson '65 of Waskom, Sept. 8  
Daniel A. Engelking '08 of Nacogdoches, Nov. 4  
Kim R. Foster '89 of Collierville, Tennessee, Nov. 2  
Dewey P. Fuller '67 of Bullard, Oct. 6  
Cheryl L. Garihan '79 of Ingram, Sept. 23  
Royce L. Garrett '80 & '85 of Lufkin, Dec. 18  
Karl S. Gibson '80 & '11 of Nacogdoches, Sept. 1  
Benny R. Gowan '74 & '76 of Nacogdoches, Nov. 20  
Robert Greer '74 & '77 and former faculty member of Beaumont, Oct. 5  
Van C. Hale '61 of Gatesville, Sept. 18  
Ayanna M. Fray-Hamilton '04 of Lufkin, Dec. 7  
Calvin H. Hancock '52 of Richmond, Virginia, June 11  
Don H. Hillin '73 of Carthage, Oct. 30  
David W. Hornsby '96 of Henderson, Nov. 7  
James P. Hunter of Houston, friend of SFA, Oct. 3  
Eugene J. Hutchinson '71 of Henderson, Nevada, Oct. 26  
Sue Jared '72 of Rusk, Oct. 10  
George J. Kale '77 of Longview, Oct. 7  
Karen L. Kennedy '86 of Humble, Sept. 18  
Robert L. Lamb '51 of Shelby, North Carolina, Oct. 19  
Robert James Landry '70 of Flatonia, Nov. 12

Barbara A. Laws '83 of Jefferson, Iowa, Sept. 19  
Eric L. Lokey '88 of Mabank, Dec. 20  
Bradley V. Lowery '96 of Nacogdoches, Sept. 29  
Marsha S. Marshall '70 of Orange, Dec. 26  
Ed M. Mason '56 of Lufkin, Nov. 23  
Dr. Gregory L. Maze '17 of Livingston, Sept. 24  
Josephine M. McCullough '06 of Jasper, Nov. 4  
Theresa Ann Merka '80 of Crosby, Nov. 5  
David L. Miller '87 of Dallas, Aug. 17  
Jimmy Moses of Alto, former faculty member, Sept. 24  
Jeffrey E. Mote '99 of McKinney, Nov. 8  
Charlsie Neathery '74 of Houston, Oct. 3  
Robert W. Nelson '54 of Nacogdoches, Sept. 25  
Charmis Nerren '99 of Lufkin, Nov. 14  
Kenneth L. Penney of Alto, friend of SFA, Nov. 7  
Christian W. Prutzman '96 of Douglass, Nov. 21  
Marye J. Pulsipher-Jones '65 of Nacogdoches, Sept. 26  
Joe L. Radford '81 of Palestine, Sept. 10  
Joe Renfro '60 of Poteau, Oklahoma, Sept. 21  
Mary Kathryn Rhodes '65 & '77 of Carthage, Nov. 11  
Johnnie Richey '72 & '76 of Rusk, Oct. 15  
Billie E. Rix '56 of Tyler, Dec. 4  
Loreley C. Russ '96 of Claremore, Oklahoma, Dec. 23  
Bill W. Scott '87 of Morgan Hill, California, Oct. 27  
Sam W. Sitton '81 of Nacogdoches, Sept. 18  
Carl J. Stephens '64 of Sugar Land, Sept. 20  
Charles H. Stoddard '61 of Bryan, Oct. 23  
David V. Stroud '72 of Kilgore, Dec. 20  
Aaron L. Thigpen '70 of Hillsboro, Oct. 17  
Raymond L. Thomas '64 of Carthage, Sept. 8  
Janet S. Thompson '91 of Hamilton, Oct. 10  
Spencer G. Tiller '58 of Lake Charles, Louisiana, Dec. 5  
Frederick S. Towery '75 of Houston, Sept. 29  
Arthur W. Voirin '72 & '75 of Nacogdoches, Dec. 26  
Martha V. Waggoner '59 of Houston, Dec. 10  
Susan Washburn '90 & '92 of Nacogdoches, Oct. 10  
Prestene M. Weaver '73 of Caldwell, Nov. 10  
Linda G. Whisenant '83 of Beaumont, Nov. 19  
Inell P. Whitehead '60 & '69 of Henderson, Dec. 29  
Harry L. Williams '58 of Beaumont, Sept. 7  
Bridgett Willoughby '08 of Nacogdoches, Nov. 20  
Bobbie L. Woodruff '74 of Kilgore, Dec. 22  
Melody A. Yount '84 of Elgin, Nov. 7



## *SFA students*

Melissa Aguilar of Mount Carmel, Dec. 5  
TyKuirra Bryant of Carthage, Oct. 31



# Splash Kingdom

"Seek the Kingdom" - Matthew 6:33

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