

SAWDUST

SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION • STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY • THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY



Centennial

1923-2023

CONGRATULATIONS ON
HISTORY FOR A CENTURY

the
Fredonia
Hotel

President's Letter



What an incredible year it has been for SFA! By the time you are reading this issue of Sawdust, SFA will have transitioned to membership in The University of Texas

System on Sept. 1. Working on the affiliation evaluation and transition process over this past year, and now serving as interim president of this beloved institution to see the transition through, is truly a blessing and an honor that I do not take lightly. I offer sincere appreciation to Dr. Steve Westbrook for his work on the affiliation. In addition, our SFA Board of Regents, Karen Gantt, Tom Mason, Jennifer Winston, David Alders, Robert Flores, Brigitte Henderson, Judy Olson, Laura Rectenwald and Nancy Windham, and student Regent Paige Vadnais, deserve a huge thank-you for their leadership, service and selfless action.

As we celebrate 100 years of this place of higher learning, SFA's future is indeed bright. Looking backward and forward at this pivotal moment and reflecting on all who have come before us, and all that they have done, we acknowledge the challenges that were faced, the accomplishments that were celebrated, and the opportunities that were created that make us who we are today. SFA has grown in so many ways, and now we face a new century of possibilities. Our colleagues within the UT System have such an appreciation for our history and the people who make SFA what it is today, from our faculty and staff to our alumni and, most of all, our students. We are privileged to live where we live, and to be among the good people who make up SFA and now the UT System family.

We will continue to reflect and to celebrate as we reach the 100-year mark. We have so much

more to accomplish, and that is invigorating. We know how essential our relationship is with Nacogdoches and surrounding Deep East Texas. We know how we contribute to our state and the country. We even see the impact our graduates and faculty make on the entire globe in some cases. We are both humbled by and proud of the significant reach of SFA, which will be furthered by our membership in the UT System.

Celebrate with us! Think about what SFA has meant to you and what role it has played in your life — perhaps how it helped you to discover yourself, to form lasting friendships, to meet the love of your life, and to establish within you the knowledge, confidence and faith necessary for your chosen profession or path in life. Come celebrate with us in person on Monday, Sept. 18, at the Centennial birthday celebration.

As we cross the 100-year threshold and start our first year as a member of the UT System, our alma mater's lyrics continue to ring true:

Oh future bright 'neath the
Purple and White
All hail to SFA.
'Mid Texas pines we have
found peaceful shrines
Where ev'ry month is May.
Long live our Alma Mater,
Honor to thee for aye.
As years unfold,
happy mem'ries we'll hold,
All hail to SFA.

Axe 'em, Jacks!

Gina Smith Oglesbee

Gina Oglesbee '11
Interim President
Stephen F. Austin State University



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S CABINET

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interim president

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for academic affairs*

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for student affairs*

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*vice president
for university advancement*

Dr. Charlotte Sullivan
director of governmental relations

Stephen F. Austin State University is a comprehensive institution in The University of Texas System 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.





Let yourself laugh again.

There's a reason those years are filled with so many memories. And nothing brings them to life like a road trip back. Plan your "Back to Nac" weekend with the Visit Nac app or at VisitNac.com



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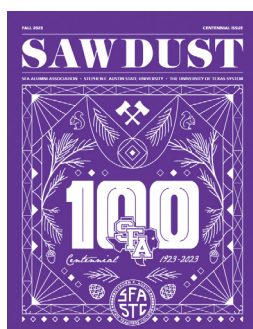
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On the Cover



As an ode to the art-deco-filled century in which SFA was established, our 1920s-themed iconic cover is filled with images of

what makes our great university unique — it's idyllic campus in the piney woods. See what you can spot, and create your own version by downloading our centennial coloring pages at sfasu.edu/centennial.

Sawdust

FALL 2023 ★ Volume 50, No. 2

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Read past issues, watch video extras and submit class notes at sfasu.edu/sawdust.

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

News Briefs

Board of Regents names Gina Oglesbee interim president, accepts Dr. Steve Westbrook's second retirement



SFA's Board of Regents accepted the May 31 retirement of President Steve Westbrook and named Gina Oglesbee, vice president for finance and administration, as interim president beginning June 1. Oglesbee will serve as interim president until a new president is named. She will not be a candidate for the permanent position.

"The SFA community has worked with Gina for almost 20 years," said SFA Board of Regents Chair Karen Gantt.

"She has a deep knowledge of the university's business operations, finances, culture and traditions, and she is an ideal candidate to lead SFA in its transition to The University of Texas System."

Oglesbee participated in the system affiliation evaluation process last fall and has been closely involved with the work surrounding the transfer of management and control of the university into the UT System. She served as a member of the SFA/UT Transition Steering Committee and as a member of the Core Transition Support Team. She was the chief audit executive at SFA for 17 years before being named as the vice president for finance and administration in April 2022. Oglesbee

is a certified public accountant and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from The University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Public Administration from SFA.

Sylvans win 64th annual Southern Forestry Conclave



The Sylvans, SFA's forestry club and timbersports team, claimed top honors at the 64th annual Southern Forestry Conclave in March, marking the fifth consecutive conclave SFA has been crowned. The accomplishment also marks the team's eighth win of the past nine conclaves and 17 wins total.

"I told the team going into this year's Conclave there was only one team we needed to worry about this year – SFA," said Dr. Jeremy Stovall, Bone Hill Distinguished Professor of Silviculture and Sylvans faculty advisor. "Winning the previous four conclaves wasn't by chance. We'd put in the practice, worked hard to earn and raise money for the right equipment, did our homework, and learned our events inside and out."

Griffith Fine Arts Building hosts fall grand reopening

The expansion and renovation of SFA's Griffith Fine Arts Building was completed in time for the start of the fall semester, with a grand reopening and ribbon-cutting set to take place during the centennial anniversary weekend in mid-September.

"Naturally, we grew more eager as the summer progressed to take up residence in the new and improved Griffith Fine Arts Building," said Dr. Gary Wurtz, dean of the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts. "It's the talk of the town! This summer, I took a group of about a dozen alumni on a private tour, and they were both thrilled and proud of what they saw."

The building was vacated in spring 2020 to allow for demolition followed by renovation and new construction over the following three years. The project involved renovations to Turner Auditorium. The state-of-the-art building also has two dance studios, two new theatres, recording studio, sound stage, audio and video editing rooms, an art gallery, multiple classrooms, rehearsal facilities, faculty offices and the offices of the College of Fine Arts dean. The facilities house the college's sound recording technology, filmmaking, theatre, dance and musical theatre programs.



The stone reliefs by German/American sculptor Anton Grauel at the former entrance of the Griffith Fine Arts Building on the SFA campus were preserved and are now incorporated into the interior of the newly renovated and expanded building, as was the SFA seal in the former foyer/lobby.

SFA's education college joins national organization for educator preparation

SFA's James I. Perkins College of Education has joined the University-School Partnerships for the Renewal of Educator Preparation Coalition, a national organization dedicated to supporting educator preparation programs to meet the needs of future pre-K-12 students.

The US PREP Coalition is an organization of universities that provides resources and guidance to educator preparation programs to prepare teacher candidates to be classroom ready from the very first day of their careers. It helps teachers develop the content knowledge and competency to meet the needs of all K-12 students, especially those who have been historically underserved, such as Black, Latino, Native American and/or economically disadvantaged students.

According to Dr. Jannah Nerren, chair of SFA's Department of Education Studies, the US PREP Coalition will provide \$300,000 in grant funds; travel funds for faculty and staff to attend professional development events conducted by US PREP over the next four years; the support of a regional transformation specialist and a clinical coach; access to materials and learning resources; and opportunities to collaborate with a coalition of educator preparation programs across the country.

SFA receives Tree Campus Higher Education recognition



SFA recently became a recognized member of Tree Campus Higher Education, which is an Arbor Day Foundation program that recognizes colleges and

universities for promoting healthy trees and engaging faculty, students and staff in conservation efforts. Since 2008, the program has strived to establish and support thriving community forests across the country.

As a newly recognized campus, SFA joins over 400 universities in the U.S. in planting thousands of trees each year. In 2022, SFA students, faculty, staff and administrators contributed 950 volunteer hours planting, mulching, pruning and evaluating tree care and health on campus.

To receive the recognition, SFA met five Tree Campus Higher Education standards, including forming an advisory committee, developing a care plan, allocating funds to the program, observing Arbor Day and completing a service-learning project.

Survey shows high career placement rate, positive trends for SFA graduates

Nearly 90% of SFA's May 2022 graduating class reported positive career outcomes within six months of graduation, according to a class-specific survey conducted by the university's Center for Career and Professional Development.

The First Destination Survey is used to capture information from SFA's new graduates within their first six months after graduation. Specifically, it looks at information related to post-graduation next steps, including whether they are working, continuing education, joining the military or another option.

From SFA's results, 60% marked themselves as working, 29% are pursuing some form of continuing education and less than 1% had joined the military. Of those within the working category, the average annual salary reported by SFA alumni hired within six months of graduation was \$56,309. For those hired within the same time span at an hourly rate, the average salary was \$44,393.

Cross-disciplinary effort by SFA faculty and staff leads to creation of Parkinson's disease support group

Faculty and staff from several SFA programs worked together to create the Nacogdoches Parkinson's Support Group, which meets once a month at Christ Episcopal Church.

"There's a need for a Parkinson's disease support group in this area because the closest ones are in Tyler and Longview," said Deena Petersen, clinic director for SFA's Stanley Center for Speech and Language Disorders, who was instrumental in the group's creation. "Those with the disease will benefit from the support of others dealing with the same issues. We want spouses and loved ones to come and be a part of this because they also are affected."

The support group is the result of collaboration by faculty and staff from the James I. Perkins College of Education's Department of Human Services and Educational Leadership and the College of Liberal and Applied Arts' School of Social Work.

SFA launches '100,000 service hours for 100 years' centennial competition



To mark SFA's first 100 years, university students, faculty, staff and alumni are holding a friendly competition to see which group can complete the most service hours before SFA's Founders Day, Sept. 18.

The goal is for all four groups to earn a total of 100,000 service hours by that date. If they don't reach that goal, the competition

will be extended to the end of the fall 2023 semester, said Dr. Hollie Smith, executive director of Student Life at SFA.

"We want to get all four groups involved in our centennial celebration, and the best way to do that is by giving back to the Nacogdoches community that has supported SFA for a century, as well as to the communities in which our alumni live now," Smith said.

Keep up with each group's total hours and log your own at sfasu.edu/centennial. ★

UNIVERSITY HISTORICAL TIMELINE

COMPILED BY ROBIN JOHNSON '99 & '19

1917-21

SFA was chartered by the Texas Legislature. Nacogdoches was selected as its location and the appropriations bill for funding was signed; however, World War I delayed the process. Dr. Alton W. Birdwell, right, was appointed the first president of the Stephen F. Austin State Normal School in 1917.



1936

The Stone Fort Museum replica was moved to the SFA campus by the Texas Centennial Commission. It is a replica of the late 1700s Spanish colonial-style home of Antonio Gil Y'Barbo that was located on the Camino Real in Nacogdoches. Below is a photo from dedication day.



1923

On Sept. 18, Stephen F. Austin State Teachers College and its Demonstration School opened at the Nacogdoches High School campus on Washington Square since the Austin Building was still under construction. "The Shack" housed administrative offices. This day also was Birdwell's 53th birthday.

1938

The science building opened. It was named the Lehmann Chemistry Building in 2017 in honor of Robert and Kathy Lehmann, who contributed to student scholarships and to the advancement of university programs.

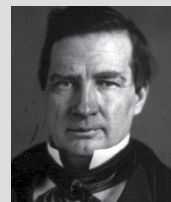
1924

The Austin Building opened May 1, costing a total of \$129,590 to build.

Aikman Gymnasium was completed and named after prominent Nacogdoches businessman and manufacturer Frank Speir Aikman, who donated \$12,000 for its construction.

1926

The Rusk Building was completed. It was built on part of the homestead land of Thomas Jefferson Rusk, right, who served as a politician and military leader for the Republic of Texas as well as one of the first U.S. Texas senators from 1846 to 1857.



1923

The Demonstration School, which existed between 1923 to 1950, served two very important purposes: it offered elementary children an education with some of the most knowledgeable teachers in the profession and provided SFA student-teachers with an opportunity to gain valuable experience.

The Lumberjack mascot was selected by popular vote at a special student assembly of faculty and students. Suggested by Dr. T.E. Ferguson, Lumberjacks beat out Pinecones in a spirit rally to decide the mascot.

The Letter Men Association (jacket shown) was established by SFA football coach Bob Shelton. It continues today as the J Association and aims to keep all former student-athletes, coaches, trainers and leaders involved and connected with the SFA Athletics family.



1935

Wisely Hall became the first on-campus dormitory. The dorm was named in honor of John Harold Wisely, left, who served as SFA's business manager and head of the former Department of Commerce.



The first fall Homecoming was held by the Ex-Students Association Nov. 22-23. Everyone was invited to a morning parade, which wound from Mound Street through downtown Nacogdoches, and to the afternoon football game against Sam Houston State University.

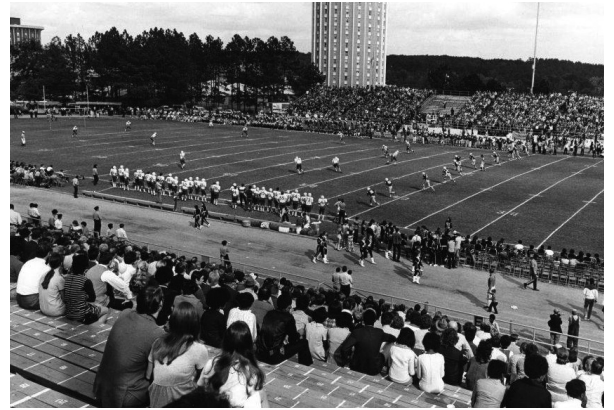
1939

Gibbs Hall, right, opened. The building was the first women's residence hall on campus and was named after Eleanor H. Gibbs, below, SFA's first art teacher.



1946

In February, the citizens of Nacogdoches voted in favor of the issuance of \$60,000 in bonds to build a stadium, below, and field house as the first part of a community recreation center. At the same time, there was a petition to name it Memorial Stadium in honor of the men and women of Nacogdoches County and SFA students who lost their lives in World War II.



1942

Dr. Paul L. Boynton, right, was named the second president of SFA May 14.



1949

Stephen F. Austin State Teachers College was renamed Stephen F. Austin State College.

1951

Mays Hall opened and was one of the first residence halls on the south side of campus. It was named in honor of Ruth E. Mays, SFA's first dean of women.

1943

SFA established the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, a training school to enlist women for auxiliary noncombat duty in World War II. Over 2,000 were trained.

1946



The forestry department was organized under the direction of W.R. Owens, left, and the Sylvans Professional Forestry Students Club officially began on campus with the adoption of its constitution Dec. 17.

1955

Originally called the Boynton Library, construction began on what is now called the Boynton Building.

1944

The Stephen F. Austin Experimental Forest was established by an act of Congress and measures more than 2,500 acres. It is still in use for recreation, forestry and wildlife management research and is the only one of its kind in Texas.



1947

The inaugural Lumberjack Day, right, was established by a proclamation of the student body president. Students on campus were expected to wear blue jeans, overalls, plaid shirts and boots. The tradition continues annually.

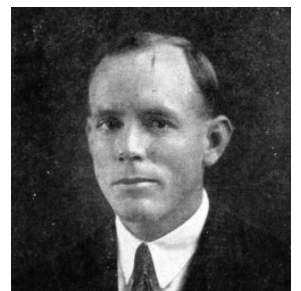


1948

The Student Union Building opened. The building was under the management of Henrietta Baker and contained a recreation room, ballroom, lunch room, student offices, student conference room, book store and post office.

1951

SFA opened the men's gymnasium, now known as Shelton Gymnasium. The gym was named after Bob Shelton, below, who was the SFA Athletics program director and football coach and was known as the "father of SFA Athletics."



1955

The first of three Units, right, were built at the corner of East College and Raguet streets. Construction on the second building began in 1956, and the third was completed in 1959.



1958

Construction began on the Griffith Fine Arts Building, right, in July after Temple Associates of Diboll was awarded the construction contract for the \$1.5 million auditorium and fine arts building. Recently, the building has been completely transformed, reopening this fall after extensive upgrades and additions.



1958

On Nov. 1, Dr. Ralph W. Steen, right, was named the third president of Stephen F. Austin State College. During Steen's tenure, SFA grew from a college of fewer than 2,000 students to the status of university with more than 11,000 students enrolled.

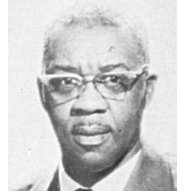


1963

Hall 14 construction began.

1964

The Rev. Ulysses L. Sanders, right, of Zion Baptist Church in Lufkin, became the first Black student to enroll at SFA. He was a graduate student.

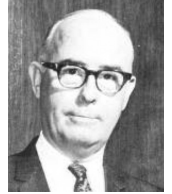


1967

Kerr Hall construction began. The residence hall was named after S.A. Kerr, a former SFA Board of Regents member.

1968

The Miller Science Building opened and was named after Dr. E.L. Miller, dean of sciences and mathematics.



1968

Ferguson Building construction began. The building was dedicated in honor of Dr. Thomas Ewing Ferguson, former chair of the department of English and dean of faculty.

1958

The Association of Southern Forestry Clubs was organized by the University of Georgia. The SFA Sylvars were a part of the first ASFC Conclaves.



1959

The Lambda Gamma social club proposed a new tradition to Steen — no stepping on the university seal. This tradition continues today.

1966

Steen Hall construction began. It was named after Steen's wife, Gladys E. Steen, and today is used as a coed facility.

1968

Garner Hall construction began. It was named after W.F. Garner, the first department head of SFA's history and political science department.

1960

The College Center, below, opened and included the college cafeteria with seating for 478 people, book store, luncheonette, post office and recreational facilities. Throughout the years, it has been called the University Center and the Baker Pattillo Student Center and has undergone major renovations.



1960

North and South Halls opened as female dormitories.



1963

Vista Drive, below, opened as a paved street with parking.

1965

Griffith Hall opened. The building was constructed on the site of Griffith Park, which was purchased by SFA from the City of Nacogdoches in 1963.

Hall 16 construction began.

Kennedy Auditorium opened. In 1975, the Board of Regents named it Kennedy Auditorium in honor of Joseph W. Kennedy '35, an SFA alumnus with extraordinary achievements in the field of chemistry.

1966

Construction began on East College Cafeteria, now known as Eatery on East.

1966

Willie Gene Whitaker, right, became the first Black student to graduate from SFA. He received a master's degree in education.



1969

SFA transitioned out of the Texas State System and became Stephen F. Austin State University.

The agriculture research center was established. The facility was renamed the Todd Agricultural Research Center in honor of Walter C. Todd, an SFA agriculture alumnus who served on the SFA Board of Regents and was named a Distinguished Alumnus.



1970

Forestry Building construction began.

Music building construction began. Now known as the Wright Music Building, the facility was named after Tom and Peggy Wright, right. Peggy worked in many roles at SFA after graduating from the university in 1944, among them as a member of the Board of Regents, SFASU Foundation trustee and Alumni Association Board of Directors member.



1974

Steen allowed students to streak on campus, above, for one night, March 6, without repercussions.

McGee Business Building construction began. It was named after R.E. McGee, top right, a former Board of Regents member.

McKibben Education Building construction began. It was named after Robert T. McKibben, bottom right, first dean of education.

1976

Dr. William R. Johnson was named the fourth president of SFA July 1.



1979

The "Axe 'em, Jacks" hand sign was created. Thanks to the school spirit of a small group of creative SFA cheerleaders, the university received its own signature hand sign.

1983

Mathematics building construction began. The building is known today as the Bush Mathematical Sciences Building, named after Roy E. '57 and Linda Bush. Roy graduated from SFA and worked in the oil and gas industry.

1973

Construction began on the Ralph W. Steen Library, named after SFA's third president.

Norton HPE Complex construction began and was named after Dr. Lucille Norton, an avid advocate for women's intercollegiate athletics at SFA.

1977

Agriculture Building construction began.

1984

Dugas Liberal Arts North construction began. The building was named after Dr. Vera Lea Dugas, right, a former SFA history professor.



1985

Hall 20 opened and was the first coed dorm on campus.



1972

Homer Bryce Stadium, above, home of the SFA Lumberjacks football team, was constructed on the northeast side of campus. Bryce was a former SFA student-athlete and Board of Regents member.

The Art Studio opened with offices and facilities for fine arts.

1986

The Stephen F. Austin statue was unveiled on campus. Due to a dramatic stance and flowing water, this iconic statue is affectionately nicknamed Surfin' Steve. In 1983, the Student Government Association proposed the idea for a statue to commemorate the state's sesquicentennial celebration. From over 180 entries, Richard MacDonald's statue was chosen.

Dianne Baker, right, coached softball at SFA for 15 years and led the Ladyjacks to an NCAA Division II Championship in 1986.



1989

The football team was ranked No. 1 in the nation in NCAA Division I-AA for the first time in SFA's history. The Lumberjacks lost in the national championship game.



1990

Dr. Donald E. Bowen, left, was elected the fifth president of SFA March 26.

1992

Dr. Dan Angel, right, was elected the sixth president of SFA June 16.

The coliseum was renamed William R. Johnson Coliseum in recognition of the former university president's efforts to advance athletics.



2002

The Big Dip, right, was started by the Student Foundation Association and is today considered a favorite SFA tradition.

Human Services Building construction began.



1995

The university and its military science department purchased Ol' Cotton, below, the cannon fired at SFA football games, to help promote school spirit.



2006

The Board of Regents named Dr. Baker Pattillo, left, SFA's eighth president. He previously served in multiple SFA administrative roles before becoming the university's first alumnus to serve as president.

Construction began on Lumberjack Lodge and Lumberjack Village residential buildings.



1996

Jimmy W. Murphy Wellness Center construction began. It was named after a former member of the SFA Board of Regents, right.



2008

Schlieff Tennis Complex opened and was named after Gerald and Candace Schlieff. Gerald is a 1970 SFA graduate, who was a varsity tennis player and an ROTC cadet while at SFA.

1993

As part of the university's 70th anniversary, SFA's first Sweat Equity Day was established, leading to a tradition of SFA involvement in community assistance projects.

2001

Dr. Tito Guerrero III, right, was elected the seventh president of SFA May 8.



2007

The 100,000th diploma was awarded.

1997

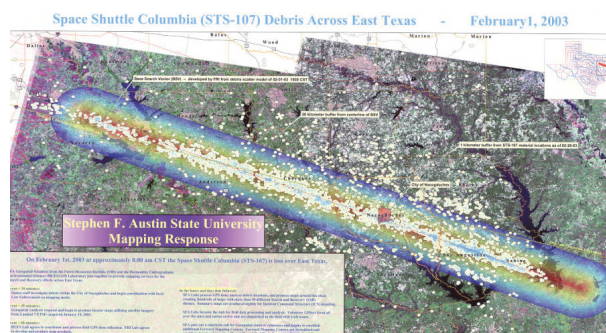
Course registration moved online. Every office on campus received its own website, and in-person paper-based course registration moved out of the Norton HPE Complex and onto the internet.

The campaign "Share the Legacy" gave the university its first permanent endowment. Approximately 3,500 alumni and private donors gave more than \$37 million to aid the university in serving the educational needs of East Texas.

Email technology arrived on campus.

2003

Several forestry, geospatial and geography professors, along with SFA geospatial students, designed a map of Space Shuttle Columbia's debris path, below, within hours after the crash over East Texas. The map was used by NASA officials and the Nacogdoches County Emergency Operations Center to aid in the search and recovery effort.



2007

The College Center, known today as the Baker Pattillo Student Center, opened after major construction updates and was named after Pattillo. The new student center additions included a movie theater, Starbucks, a dining hall and food court, as well as ample office spaces for student affairs and student organizations.

The long-awaited Student Recreation Center opened. The \$24 million facility featured a 39-foot freestanding climbing wall, a 12,000-square-foot weight and fitness center, and an outdoor center with a pool, among many other features.

■ 2009

The Janice A. Pattillo Early Childhood Research Center, right, was named after the former chair of the Department of Elementary Education — and Baker Pattillo's wife — and featured an early childhood lab and the one-of-a-kind SFA Charter School.



■ 2010

Garner Apartments, right, was demolished. What was once the tallest building in town was razed to make way for Lumberjack Landing. Purple victory lights were moved to the top of the Steen Hall towers.



■ 2010

The DeWitt School of Nursing Complex opened. It was named for Richard and Lucille DeWitt, right, who donated the land after it served as a distribution center for Kentucky Fried Chicken.

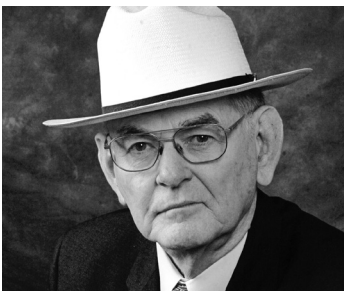


■ 2011

Lumberjack Landing residence hall opened.

■ 2010

The Archie McDonald Speaker Series hosted its first guest, former professional boxer George Foreman. The series was created to honor McDonald's, below, legacy as a distinguished scholar, educator, historical author and community commentator. He taught history at SFA for 48 years.



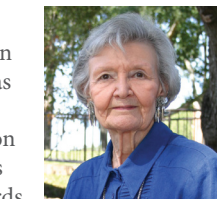
■ 2018

Cole STEM Building opened and was named after Ed and Gwen Cole, right, longtime supporters of SFA.



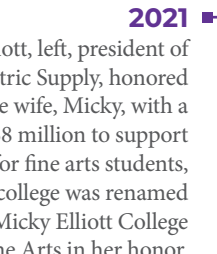
■ 2014

Brundrett Conservation Education Building opened. The building was named for Ina Brundrett, right, a Tyler philanthropist who served on the SFA Gardens and Pinewoods Native Plant Center advising boards.



■ 2021

Bill Elliott, left, president of Elliott Electric Supply, honored his late wife, Micky, with a pledge of \$8 million to support scholarships for fine arts students, and the college was renamed the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts in her honor.



■ 2016

The Nelson Rusche Distinguished Lecture Series hosted its first guest, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. The series was created to honor the endowed gift Rusche '49, right, made for business student scholarships and support for other educational programs within the Rusche College of Business.



■ 2016

The Ladyjack Bowling team earned its first NCAA National Championship defeating defending national champion University of Nebraska.



■ 2019

The Ladyjack Bowling team earned its second NCAA National Championship.

■ 2019

Dr. Scott Gordon was elected as SFA's ninth president of SFA Aug. 19.



■ 2021

The Naymola Basketball Performance Center was completed along with cosmetic changes to the Johnson Coliseum. It was named after Loddie Naymola '79, a business graduate and former SFA basketball player.



■ 2023

Dr. Steve Westbrook '81 & '89, left, was named the 10th president of SFA Feb. 20.

■ 2023

The Griffith Fine Arts Building renovation and expansion was completed in time for the fall semester.

SFA joined The University of Texas System Sept. 1 after legislation unanimously passed both chambers of the Texas Legislature in April and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed the bill in May.

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

Student journalists document university's story through century-old publications

STORY BY NATHAN WICKER '19

The Pine Log writer and sports editor
fall 2017 to spring 2019

and

MEAGHAN MORTON '19 & '22

The Pine Log editor and editor-in-chief
fall 2017 to spring 2019

Stone Fort yearbook editor-in-chief
fall 2020 to spring 2022



TOP: First photo of the Stone Fort yearbook staff from the 1924 Stone Fort yearbook

BOTTOM: First photo of The Pine Log newspaper staff from the 1925 Stone Fort yearbook

Since SFA's inception, students staffing The Pine Log newspaper and Stone Fort yearbook have documented the university's history.

The department of student publications at SFA houses The Pine Log and the Stone Fort — both award-winning, independent, student-run publications. The department has trained hundreds of student journalists who have moved on to successful careers in journalism and photography. The publications have history of their own, covering local and localizing national news while being crucial resources for students in need of campus information.

"Student media give a college a sense of community. It's how readers learn about what's happening now, how they learn about their history, how they celebrate big occasions and how they mourn when there's tragedy," said Chris Whitley, College Media Association president. "College media bind all the parts of the college together. That's why college media need to be supported and why they should be celebrated when they reach milestone anniversaries."

To honor the 100 years of history the newspaper and yearbook have both shared with their university, we here recall some of the major moments that shaped the trajectory of both publications over the past century.

1924-29

THE BEGINNING

Among a number of changes taking place in East Texas in 1924 was the addition of SFA's Stone Fort yearbook and The Pine Log newspaper. For its first issue printed May 31, 1924 (see Page 20), The Pine Log staff consisted of two: Editor-in-Chief Mary Edwards of Troup — whose father was the editor of The Troup Banner and The Tyler Journal — and Business Manager Greer Orton Jr. of Nacogdoches. The two, under

the supervision of faculty member Dr. Thomas E. Ferguson, disseminated the news of the graduating class and encouraged students to pick up the inaugural Stone Fort yearbook (see Page 20).

In the newspaper's first editorial, Edwards set the intent for every future Pine Log:

"Its purpose, as is indicated by the name, is to be an organ of expression for the College community — the Stephen F. Austin State Teachers College community. Its purpose is to give the news pertaining to this particular community."

Luther J. Garner, editor, and Grady Thompson, manager, captured the brief history of the school in the yearbook with portraits, illustrations, text detailing events and organizations, and a dedication to the first president, Dr. A.W. Birdwell. In the first issue of The Pine Log, staffers wrote about the first book and a letter the engravers (now referred to as printers) sent to the staff. It read, "We have just received a copy of the 1924 Stone Fort, and wish to commend you, your staff, and your student body on the excellent annual that you have edited for your first year. It is quite out of the ordinary and far beyond the books put out by the average young college."

1930-39

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

Student publications have always been a safe space for journalists to learn and practice their

craft. In the Sept. 18, 1939, issue of The Pine Log, an advertisement calls on interested students to join the staff: "No experience is required — only a willingness to work."

However, a willingness to work couldn't save the Stone Fort yearbook from the effects of the Great Depression. Lack of funds made printing a

full-scale yearbook out of the question. In its place, Madge Stallings, former director of the SFA printing operation, collected information from friends and families of the 1933 senior class to create a 28-page publication for the class's 1958 Homecoming. The pages were dotted with illustrated doodles and gave information about

the students 25 years prior and their then-current professions. Among the class were "housewives," teachers and Louise Spies, a former Stone Fort editor and Pine logger who was co-owner of Patterson Publishing Company.

1940-49

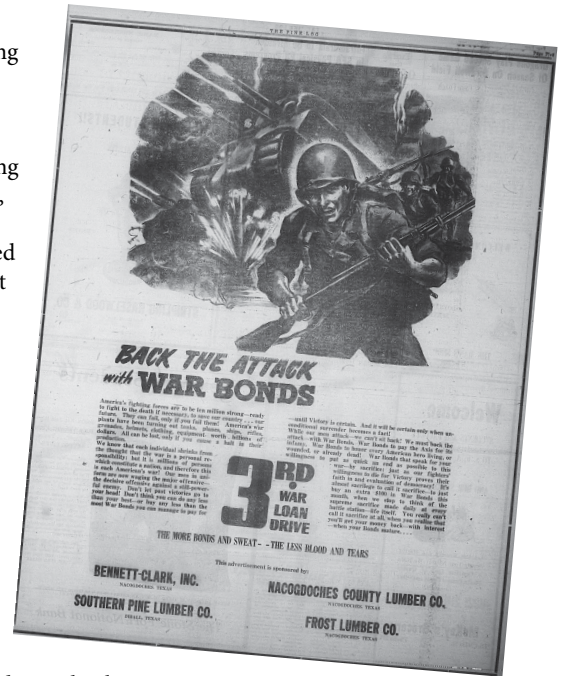
"TOTAL WAR"

No doubt following the lead of their professional counterparts engaging in the era's yellow journalism practices, Pine

Log staffers weren't reporting only hard news in the paper's columns. A section recurring since the 1920s, "The Campus Rambler," dished out nondescript gossip. An entry from the June 30, 1947, edition read, "It certainly must be love when a girl gets up at 7:00 on Sunday morning and catches a bus."

As idle gossip spread, the students also began to endure the effects of World War II. "Students Prepare to Face Total War; Dr. Birdwell Tells Students What They Can Do in National Emergency" was emblazoned across the top of the first page of the Dec. 13, 1941, edition of The Pine Log. Birdwell gave three points of advice for students as they prepared, not knowing they would face four more years of war:

1. Be calm and keep poised. Do not believe everything you hear until you know it is from an official source. Do not discuss unconfirmed war rumors.
2. Continue with recreational entertainments and schoolwork as in normal times. This will relieve tension and make life more enjoyable in these critical times. Also, you should accept any opportunity to help in any kind of patriotic work. Use your talents for rallies, bond drives and to assist the Red Cross.
3. Prepare for a 10-year struggle with the Axis. Furthermore, students should not enter the Army with the idea that your future is blasted. There have been several instances where young men have found exactly what they wanted to do while serving in the Armed Forces of America. ➔



1950-59 COMMUNITY LOSS

Not only was *The Pine Log* a way for students to get the latest on clubs and organizations, but it was also a way to build community, keep up with peers and publish opinions that would influence campus politics. Pine loggers reported on events like the ballot box stuffing that took place during the student body president race in April 1953.

"Local or student papers report on the issues that affect the community and also help you better understand the community you live in," said Chris Cotton '21, SFA's current university archives and research coordinator. "Yearbooks are much the same except it is an entire year's worth of important events condensed into a few hundred pages. The Stone Fort often has features written by students that tell me pieces of SFA history that I only knew a little about, but those pieces can really fill in the gaps."

On Oct. 25, 1954, SFA took one of its biggest blows with the death of its first president, Dr. Alton W. Birdwell. Five days later, papers hit the stands making the community aware of his death. Included in the issue were a previously run poem

about Birdwell by a student, memories from associates of Birdwell recalling the first days of SFA, and an article honoring his most outstanding speeches. He was president emeritus at the time of his death. Four years later, SFA's second president Dr. Paul L. Boynton died in his office on campus. Dr. Ralph W. Steen was then chosen as the college's third president.

1960-69 FAMILY MATTERS

Bettye (Herrington) Craddock '70 & '72, found her heart in student publications and would later

dedicate her days writing her master's thesis, "*The Golden Years: The First Half Century of Stephen F. Austin State University*," detailing the university's history.

She and her then-future husband, Van Craddock '70, both worked for the publications and met in the class of Ben Hobbs, communications professor and student publications supporter. Bettye held

many positions within student publications, and Van was the sports editor for *The Pine Log*. It was in Hobbs' class that Van leaned on a chalkboard rail and asked Bettye on a date. After the two Pine loggers were married, Hobbs gifted the chalkboard rail to the Craddocks. Bettye still has the rail in her home as a fond memory and reminder of her late husband, who died in 2022.

SFA enrolled its first Black student in 1964. However, it wasn't until the late '60s that *The Pine Log* had its first Black editor, Wilbert Love Jr. '69 of Grapeland. In 1969, Bettye traveled with Love and other editors to San Antonio to attend the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association convention — the oldest state collegiate press association in the nation.

The group searched for a place to eat along the riverwalk. As they began to walk into a restaurant, the group was stopped.

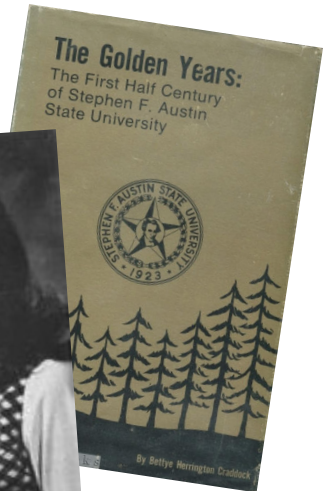
"We were stopped at the door and the waiter said, 'You all can come in,' but he pointed at Wilbert and said, 'He cannot. No Blacks allowed.' We said, 'No, thank you,' walked out of that place and found somewhere else. We were insulted. He was our friend," Bettye said.

Bettye found herself having to say goodbye to Van in 1969 when he was conscripted into the Vietnam War through a lottery-style draft.

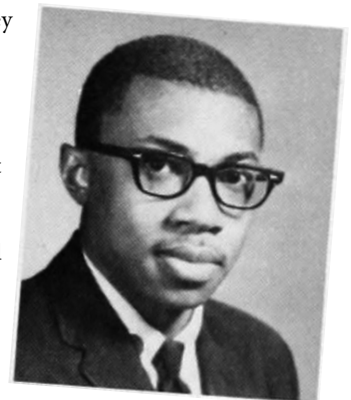
"Van said it was the only lottery he ever won," Bettye said. "Winning that is ensuring you a one-way ticket to Vietnam. We were listening to the radio waiting to hear the numbers. July 1 was number 93, and that assured he would be sent to Vietnam. We went into the dorm where I lived, and everybody was just sitting gathered around this one TV in the corner. It was either people cheering or people crying. Vietnam was breathing down a lot of people's necks."

1970-79 'CAN YA DIG IT?' STUDENT PUBLICATIONS HAS THE SCOOP

Facing the end of the Vietnam War, national integration issues and an increasingly diverse student body, student journalists at SFA had ample opportunities to practice their craft.



ABOVE: Bettye Craddock '70 & '72 and her master's thesis in book form titled "*The Golden Years: The First Half Century of Stephen F. Austin State University*"



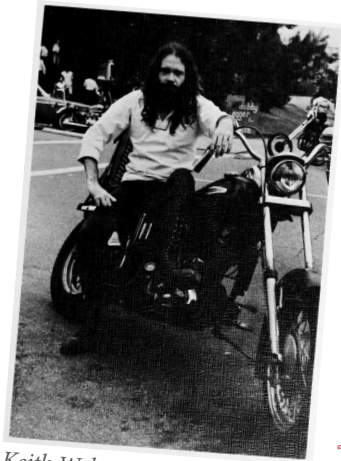
Wilbert Love Jr. '69

Wanda (Peterson) Mouton '74, a spry reporter for The Pine Log at the beginning of the decade, recalled those times fondly.

"The 1970s were an exciting time on campus, and we on the newspaper did not lack for stories to cover on a weekly basis," she said.

As Mouton recalls, one of the biggest series of stories at the time was the streaking incidents of 1973-74, which concluded with the Streak Party Night at SFA that was approved by then-President Steen. Stories were published about students streaking in classes, the student center, on the football field and anywhere student groups gathered regularly.

Local stories of the decade ranged from alcohol consumption at campus organization functions, anti-war protests, bra-burnings and former SFA mascot Keith Wyborny '74 — a male who ran and lost the race for Homecoming queen in 1973. The decade was also The Pine Log's introduction to running editorials on national issues, such as the Vietnam War, racial tensions and the Watergate scandal, to name a few.



Keith Wyborny '74

1980-89

A TUBULAR TIME FOR STUDENT JOURNALISM

Student journalists learn to adapt to reporting on a smorgasbord of stories as they happen. In the 1980s, for example, stories involving Greek life and successes in softball and football filled SFA newspapers and yearbooks.

Rhonda Minton '90 & '99, Pine Log editor in 1989, covered then-President Dr. William R. Johnson's unexpected retirement in October 1989. On the day of the announcement, after seeing Johnson enter the crowded auditorium through an inconspicuous side door, Minton had a journalistic hunch he'd make a swift exit the same way.

After the announcement, Minton quickly walked to the side door where Johnson greeted her with a smile.

"I asked if I could walk back with him toward the Austin Building," Minton recalled. "We talked, and I asked if it was possible to meet again later in the day for a story on him for The Pine Log."

Minton was the only reporter to get an exclusive interview that day.

In 1986, student publications also gained a new leader, Pat Spence, who is revered by many past students as the matriarch of SFA's student publications department. Spence led the publications to tremendous heights for 28 years.

"My initial hope and goals were that we could bring the paper up to a level where it could compete statewide with other college newspapers, and I

believe we achieved that and even surpassed that goal in some cases," Spence said.

1990-99

A NEW LOOK

In 1991, a desire to breathe fresh life into the Stone Fort yearbook's design topped the staff's priorities.

Backed by Spence, Robert Seale '92, chief photographer from 1988 to 1992 and co-editor of the 1991 yearbook, and his staff wanted to take a fresh and sophisticated approach to an otherwise outdated design.

"We wanted to include things that everyone experienced," Seale said.

By cutting out mundane photo captions that were prevalent in past issues, opting for a slick black cover with a small SFA silhouette and styling it similar to a coffee table book, the 1991 yearbook paved a path for future editions.

For Rachel Stallard '95 & '99, newspaper executive editor at the time, the Oklahoma City bombing on April 19, 1995, stood out as one of the decade's most notable events.

Stallard recalled contacting alumni living in Oklahoma City at the time of the bombing.

"A few people answered the phones and told me they had felt the blast," Stallard said. "I did not find any of our students who had been in the building at the time."

2000-09

IF IT BLEEDS, IT LEADS

The turn of the millennium brought with it a change to the scale of news on which staffers were reporting.

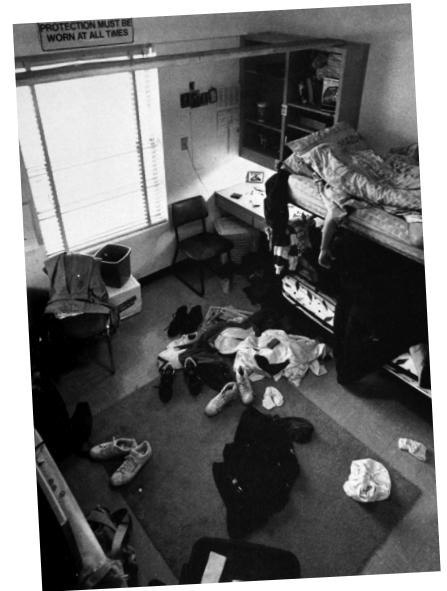
The Pine Log reported on many notable events throughout the decade. However, it was the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, and the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster Feb. 1, 2003, that dominated the decade's headlines.

"It was a numb, surreal time," recalled Chris Anderson '03 and Kathryn Morton '02 & '04, editor and feature editor, respectively, during 9/11.

As the campus community was catapulted into a state of sorrow and fear, Pine Log staff members reacted. The publication enlisted the help of Clare Williams '09, a Pine Log alumna who was interning in New York City during the attacks, to provide eye-witness accounts. ➔



Pat Spence



One of many photos taken by Robert Seale '92 for the 1991 Stone Fort yearbook

"My fondest memories are with all my kids. All of the honors and awards don't mean anything without those kids and their successes. That's what we were there for — to get them to a place in their lives where they could be happy and make a living."

Pat Spence

"Working at a newspaper was like a passport to do all the interesting things you wanted to do."

Robert Seale '92



Photo taken
by student
photographer
Sam Craft '04
for *The Pine
Log* a year
after 9/11

“Every
university
needs a
watchdog.
And that’s
what
student
publications
are.”

Chris
Anderson '03

In the Sept. 13, 2001, issue of *The Pine Log*, Williams’ haunting accounts were printed on the front page, and many staffers and students wrote about the events from a local perspective, including commentary from Anderson.

“1,520 miles. The daunting distance separating Nacogdoches and New York City

seems to have just gotten closer,” Anderson wrote.

Less than two years later, the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster hit a little closer to home.

Anderson, who was in Denton when news broke of the disaster, dashed back to Nacogdoches. With the help of Sam Craft '04, former photo editor, and Jamie (Fussell) Bouldin '05, former editorial editor, they immediately gathered staff members to begin coverage.

“I knew instantly this was a massive story and a life-changing event for us Pine loggers,” Anderson said. “At that point, our paper was known for pushing news, and we really prided ourselves on doing everything as best as we could to tell stories that related to SFA. I’m forever proud of that.”

While some staffers covered the events, others led NASA officials around Nacogdoches County to find shuttle parts. Staffers worked alongside national and international reporters from prominent publications, who also used the student publications’ office for internet.

2010-19 LOGOS TELL STORIES

The decade brought with it a lot of excitement for student publications. SFA was hurled into the national spotlight as a basketball powerhouse, the university turned 90 years old, and campus was revitalized with new structures, such as Lumberjack Landing and the Cole STEM Building.

One event, however, stands out to Kasi (Dickerson) Key '13 & '15 as excitement for perhaps the wrong reasons.

Key served as editor-in-chief from 2013 to 2014 and remembers outrage over a proposed change to the university logo, sparked from a leaked photo on Twitter the day before the big reveal.

“It was an all-hands-on-deck situation as we worked to cover all the different angles of the story,” Key said.

The Pine Log staff members covered every step of the logo saga, from reporting on meetings and online petitions to interviewing SFA administrators

and representatives from Richards/Carlberg, now Carlberg Branding & Advertising — the firm responsible for the proposed logo and rebranding campaign. The saga was covered until then-President Dr. Baker Pattillo axed the new logo in late March 2014.

On Dec. 30, 2018, tragedy struck the university as Pattillo, SFA’s eighth president who was appointed in 2006, passed away after nearly 13 years as the university’s top administrator. The Pine Log ran a full-page tribute in the Jan. 30, 2019, edition.



Illustration
by Rodney
Thomas as
seen in the
April 2, 2014,
edition of *The
Pine Log*

2020-PRESENT THE END OF PRINT

The Pine Log, along with media outlets around the world, could not evade the devastating blow that the COVID-19 pandemic had on print media.

Following media trends, a decline in print advertising revenue and changes in how society consumed news, The Pine Log ended print editions and went fully online in March 2020. Originally slated to go fully online in summer 2020, the university shutdown pushed the transition forward several months.

“I think we were all a little heartbroken,” said Meredith Janning '21 & '23, former Pine Log editor-in-chief. “There technically wouldn’t be any more worknights, no more page review sessions. I’m sure there was maybe a little bit of fear, too, because with such a big change, nobody could say what the next semester would look like.”

But students again rose to the challenge, taking advantage of opportunities to break news any day of the week rather than being tied down to print deadlines. The newspaper continues to win state awards each year for its online content.

The Stone Fort yearbook, however, remains a printed publication and continues to be a shining example of excellence in print media.

In September 2022, the yearbook earned national recognition as a finalist in two categories of the prestigious College Media Association Pinnacle Awards. As of spring 2022, only eight universities in Texas were producing traditional, printed yearbooks.

As the university’s story is well-documented through the worn, yellowed editions of *The Pine Log* newspaper and Stone Fort yearbook, so, too, are the memories — good and bad — of the gutsy staff members who sought to tell those stories. Though not all memories may be documented in print or online, they endure between the special bonds forged from late production nights, sudden news breaks and early morning ice cream excursions. For the next 100 years as they have in the last, may SFA’s student publications live on as an unwavering service documenting the university’s history and success. ★

PUBLICATIONS TIMELINE

1920s

- The Stone Fort yearbook was printed using metal plates engraved with a cutting tool called a burin. The section division spreads showed just how intricate the engravings can be with prints showing shading in artwork and smaller details.

1930s

- The 1938 Stone Fort staff had 21 editors and one business manager. This was a large staff compared to the 2020s, when between five and 10 people created the book.

1940s

- The Pine Log associate editor Irvine Moses took over editing duties for an issue in 1941. “Oldtimers will recall that Moses edited last spring’s April Fool edition and a few more on various

occasions, so students may rest assured that next week’s Log will be a considerable improvement over this and previous rags.”

1950s

- Stone Fort editors dedicated the 1957 book to the university’s oldest students at the time, a canine duo named Tripod and Jess. “These educated two dogs have probably attended more classes, club meetings and other gatherings than any two properly enrolled students on the campus.”

1960s

- After graduating with her master’s degree in the 1970s, Bettye Craddock ’70 & ’72 took on teaching roles in school districts but finally found her place as the adviser for Kilgore College’s former student newspaper, The Flare. Her student and former Pine Log staffer Rachel Stallard ’95 & ’99 took her role as advisor at Kilgore College and together sent around 30 students from the community college paper to SFA’s student publications.

1970s

- Overseeing the two publications in the 1970s was Dr. Francine Hoffman, The Pine Log advisor, and Ben Hobbs, Stone Fort yearbook advisor.
- The newspaper was produced with basic computers, scissors and waxed machines to paste the copy onto the layout page. A staffer delivered the pasted final product to The Daily Sentinel newspaper office downtown late on Wednesday. The Sentinel press personnel printed the newspapers

late at night and delivered them by Friday morning to the Boynton Annex, where they were distributed free throughout the campus and eagerly snatched up by students.

- Journalism classes and student publications

offices were located in what was then called the Boynton Building Annex, an old military barracks-style building located behind the Boynton Building, which was then the campus library.

1980s

- In the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s, The Pine Log doubled its production and began running twice per week.
- In 1986, Pat Spence was named student publications advisor and stayed in the position until her retirement in 1989. In that time, Spence helped encourage and enlighten hundreds of students by allowing them to learn from their mistakes.
- Student publications began designing pages on Macintosh computers in 1989. After printing their design with a laser printer, they would put their design together by hand.

1990s

- In parts of the 1980s and into the 1990s, the student publications offices were in what was once called the University Center Underground — where the university’s post office is currently located.

2000s

- As technology evolved, so did the production quality of both the newspaper and yearbook. The most notable change was the use of computers to lay out and design both pieces. This practice, barring outages, made the days of laying out the publications by hand virtually extinct.
- The decade also brought a change of scenery when student publications moved into their current home after the completion of the Baker Pattillo Student Center renovation in 2007. The offices, as was the case in previous locations, were a place of refuge for staff members. During Hurricane Ike in 2008, Nathan Hague, former Pine Log sports editor, recalled going to the office because it was one of only a few places in town with power.

2010s

- In fall 2013, The Pine Log, which printed twice a week for decades, transitioned back to printing once per week on Wednesdays due to dwindling advertisement sales. A year later, Spence announced her retirement.
- In 2015, Amy Roquemore, former Pine Log editor-in-chief, replaced Pat Spence following her 28 years in the position. Rachel Clark also joined as student publications coordinator.

2020s

- As print came to an end, the student publications department began sending email newsletters in fall 2021 to get stories to its readers and put a more robust focus on social media.
- Despite not printing every issue of The Pine Log, student publications produces a physical paper for the Welcome Edition and is planning a special centennial edition to mark the university’s 100th year.
- Since 2015, SFA student publications has received 262 awards. ★



April Fool edition of The Pine Log, April 1, 1943

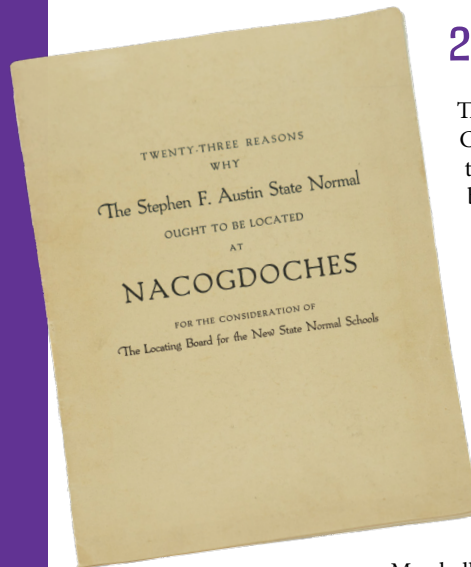
A HISTORY OF SFA IN 23 OBJECTS

The items
and people who
shaped SFA

WRITTEN AND CURATED BY
CHRIS COTTON '21

INTRODUCTION BY
ALYSSA FAYKUS '19

PHOTOS BY
LIZETH GARCIA



23 REASONS

This document was created in 1917 by the Citizens Committee of Nacogdoches to try to persuade members of the state locating board to place the Stephen F. Austin Normal College in their town. (Normal colleges were the names given to teachers colleges in the late 19th and early 20th century.) A 1915 law authorized the creation of a school “east of the 96th meridian” named Stephen F. Austin Normal College. This legislation was challenged, amended and passed as House Bill No. 72 in 1917.

This bill meant the Texas Legislature approved the creation of the school but had not yet set a location. The other locations considered were Longview,

Marshall, Beaumont, Texarkana, Athens and Lufkin.

Ultimately the 23 Reasons booklet, along with the hard work of the Citizens Committee and business leaders, convinced the state that Nacogdoches was the best location for the college.

PINE TREE HYMN

“The Pine Tree Hymn” is considered the first official school song with words written by Karle Wilson Baker and music composed by Ida Pritchett. Baker was one of the notable faculty members during SFA’s early years and was considered Texas’ premier poet. She wrote the lyrics to “The Pine Tree Hymn” at the urging of SFA’s first president, Dr. Alton W. Birdwell.

Birdwell enjoyed the poem so much that he asked Pritchett to reach out to musicians in Texas to compose music to the words. The best composition would receive a small prize; however, the submissions received were not acceptable.

The university then asked Pritchett to compose the music.

J.T. Cox, SFA’s band director, scaled the song up to be played by a large band. The song was played at commencements and public functions as the school hymn.

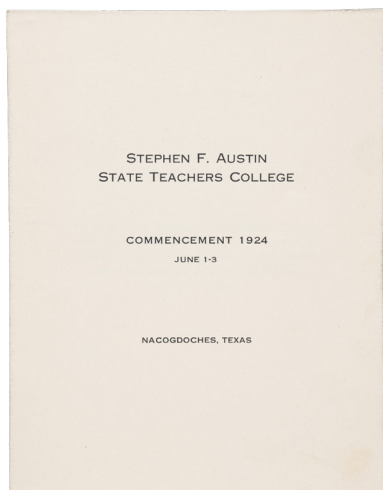


History lives in us and in our everyday objects, leaving decades of memories, knickknacks, events and historic moments to recall fondly during SFA’s centennial anniversary.

A catalogue of these objects handpicked and curated by Chris Cotton '21, university archives and research coordinator in SFA’s East Texas Research Center, is shared on the following pages. Some of these items may look familiar to our alumni while others will give a glimpse into how the first Lumberjack

cohorts started the traditions our current students still enjoy, even if they look different today.

The ETRC collects, preserves, maintains and makes archival materials available to support the educational and research goals of SFA and the surrounding East Texas community. If you have items of historical significance you would like to donate to the archive, contact the ETRC at (936) 468-4100 or asketrc@sfasu.edu for general East Texas donations or Cotton at (936) 468-1506 or christopher.cotton@sfasu.edu for SFA-related donations.



COMMENCEMENT PROGRAMS FROM FIRST COMMENCEMENT

SFA's first commencement took place in 1924. Even though SFA had only been open one year, Birdwell presented certificates and diplomas to 115 students in the sub-college. The sub-college served as a way for students who did not receive an 11th or 12th grade primary education to prepare for college. At the time, 11th and 12th grade educations were not required by the state but were deemed necessary for entering a college or university. More than half of the students at SFA were in the sub-college when SFA opened. Although the sub-college was later discontinued, the program was vital to SFA's early success.

The first official commencement to confer college degrees occurred in August 1925.

TOP: SFA sub-college commencement program from 1924

BOTTOM: SFA's first commencement program from 1925



AXE HANDLE FROM THE SAWYERS

This axe handle belonged to Orville Todd '47 who served as vice president of the Sawyers in 1947. Organized in the fall of 1927, the Sawyers were one of the first social clubs on campus and creators of the axe handle tradition, which was originally limited only to members of the Sawyers. Axe handles were uniquely decorated to show each member's personality. The group also started the tradition of pounding axe handles at sporting events. Their motto was "For the Lumberjacks and SFA — win, lose or draw." The Sawyers would later become Delta Sigma Phi fraternity in 1961. Todd's axe handle shows the years he was in school but uniquely also shows the time he served in World War II.



1937 HOMECOMING QUEEN CROWN

Helen Shattuck '38 wore this crown when she was named Miss SFA in 1937, the equivalent of Homecoming queen in the 1930s. Homecoming was originally celebrated in the spring by the Ex-Students Association, a forerunner to the Alumni Association. The first large-scale Homecoming occurred in May 1930 when more than 1,000 people attended the festivities. In the summer of 1935, the Ex-Students Association decided to add a Homecoming celebration in the fall for SFA's annual game against Sam Houston State University. This started the fall tradition we now know as Homecoming.

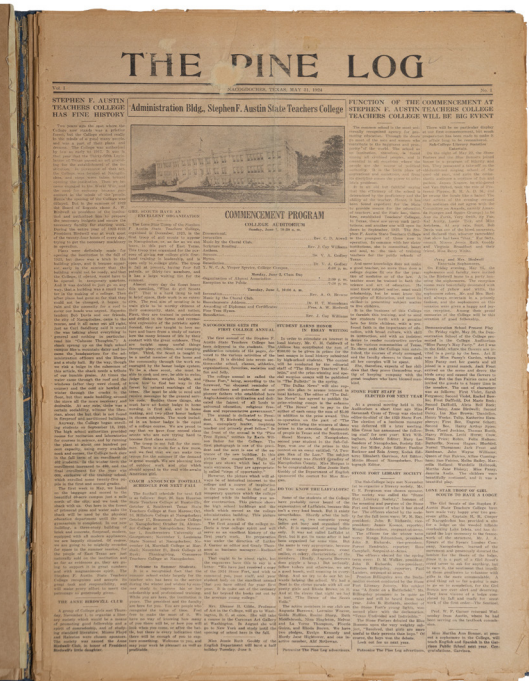


The 1935 event had a parade, pep rallies, numerous bonfires, dances and the coronations of class favorites. The first year an official Homecoming queen title was created and documented in the Stone Fort yearbook was 1940.

PINE BURR JUMPSUIT

This jumpsuit, donated by Jean Colley '53 of Henderson, was a popular item for members of the Pine Burrs to wear. The Pine Burrs started in the fall of 1929 and were committed to promoting service on campus, boosting the college and aiding the student body as a whole. The ladies' organization frequently hosted dances or socials on campus in conjunction with the Sawyers. Members of the Pine Burrs were often selected as Homecoming queens, and they would have a float for every Homecoming parade.

Two documented pledge traditions that occurred in the group were to have new members roll a mothball or peanut down Vista Drive or to have pledges take off their shoes and fling them on the field at halftime of the first football game. The Pine Burrs became Chi Omega sorority in 1963.



FIRST EDITION OF THE PINE LOG

The Pine Log's name was proposed by Virginia Broadfoot, the women's physical education teacher, as a play on words. The name's double meaning — a literal pine log and a detailed record — was voted on by faculty and staff who agreed it was a good name.

The first edition, pictured, was published May 31, 1924. Mary Edwards '27 was the paper's first editor, and her first editorial told students the purpose of the student newspaper. "The purpose of The Pine Log is to give the news pertaining to the community. It will try to have a college view — to publish the

worthwhile things in all student activities, to present in an authoritative, if not official manner, the student endeavors, the faculty plans, and the hopes of the friends of the college," Edwards wrote in the first edition.

STUDENT SCRAPBOOKS

Creating scrapbooks for organizations across campus is a long-standing tradition that current students still enjoy, echoing the spirit of the Lumberjacks who came before them. Student scrapbooks have always been a popular way for student organizations and clubs to document their history.

This scrapbook is from the Ellen Richards Home Economics Club. The club was started in 1926 on SFA's campus, making it one of the university's oldest clubs. In 1932, members added the name "Ellen Richards" to the club's title in honor of the pioneering chemist, educator and founder of home economics. The club put on various home economics programs for the campus community, including sponsoring coffee hours on Homecoming day, entering floats in the Homecoming parade; hosting a Christmas party, as well as fall and spring picnics; and aiding with the banquets for the Ex-Students Association in the spring.

The club is still in existence today as the Family and Consumer Sciences Student Organization, making it one of SFA's oldest active student organizations.



FIRST EDITION OF STONE FORT

First printed in 1924, the Stone Fort name was chosen for the SFA yearbook because the students felt the historic Stone Fort represented the sacrifices, patriotism and pioneering spirit of the early settlers of Nacogdoches.

The Stone Fort committee said the following about the inaugural issue of the yearbook: "Our own Stone Fort is a pleasant reminder of our first year at Stephen F. Austin State Teachers College, a year through whose sacrifices and work and comradeship we have advanced a step in the direction of a better civilization and education for ourselves and our beloved Texas."

The Stone Fort has been published every year of SFA's existence except for the 1933 and 1934 class years due to lack of funds during the Great Depression. However, in 1958, an annual was produced with memories and reflections to document the class of 1933's missing academic year as a commemoration of its 25th anniversary. Learn more about SFA's student publications on Page 12.

SPIRIT OF SFA 45 VINYL RECORD, INCLUDING "MAKE WAY FOR SFA"

"Make Way for SFA" is SFA's first fight song and the second officially recognized song at the university, following Karle Wilson Baker's "Pine Tree Hymn." The song was created by Fred Waring, a well-known composer during the 1930s, along with his musical group, the Pennsylvanians. Waring and the Pennsylvanians were considered one of the most popular musical acts in the country. Waring's popularity among college students was due to his evening radio show "Pleasure Time" sponsored by Chesterfield Cigarettes.

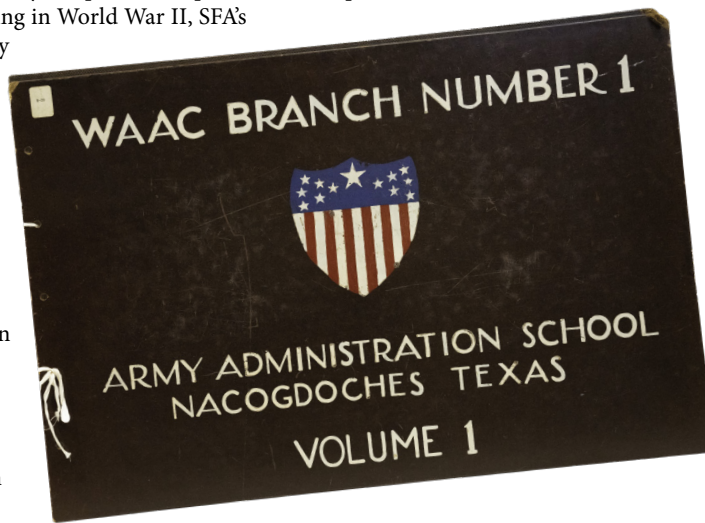
A campaign led by the Sawyers worked to get Waring to compose a song for SFA. He debuted the fight song during his radio show Jan. 12, 1940. This would be the university's fight song until it was replaced by the "SFA Fight Song" in the late 1970s. The "SFA Fight Song" was expanded in 2022 with the addition of multiple stanzas.



WOMEN'S AUXILIARY ARMY CORPS SCRAPBOOK

The Women's Auxiliary Army Corps school operated on campus from 1943 to 1944. Due to young men enlisting in World War II, SFA's enrollment was drastically reduced. SFA's second president, Dr. Paul Boynton, arranged for the first Women's Auxiliary Army Corps administration school in the nation to be located at SFA.

The purpose of the WAAC was to release men for other military duties while women served in a military administrative capacity during the war. This brought people from all over the United States in groups of 200 to SFA's campus. Members were housed in campus dormitories and attended their training classes in the Austin Building. The corps school both contributed to the war effort and helped keep the university afloat until the end of World War II. The return of veterans after the war ushered in a new era of prosperity to SFA. This scrapbook holds a collection of articles about the WAAC.



1949 LUMBERJACK MARCHING BAND MASCOT UNIFORM

This tiny uniform was made for Joan Stallings Leach '65 of Fredericksburg, who donated it to the SFA archives in 2019. The uniform is nearly an exact replica — in miniature — of the band uniforms worn by the SFA band during the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Leach was 4 years old when she became the band mascot in 1949. J.T. Cox was the band director at the time. Leach remained the mascot for a few years while she and her family attended almost every SFA football and basketball game while she was in Nacogdoches. Leach's mother was an SFA alumna and worked on campus in various positions for 50 years. Leach attended the demonstration school on campus as a child.



FRESHMAN BEANIE, 1950

The tradition of wearing beanies was widespread among higher education institutions from the late 19th century until the mid-20th century. All first-year students were expected to wear their beanies — or bonnets, if women preferred — from sunup to sundown except on Sundays.

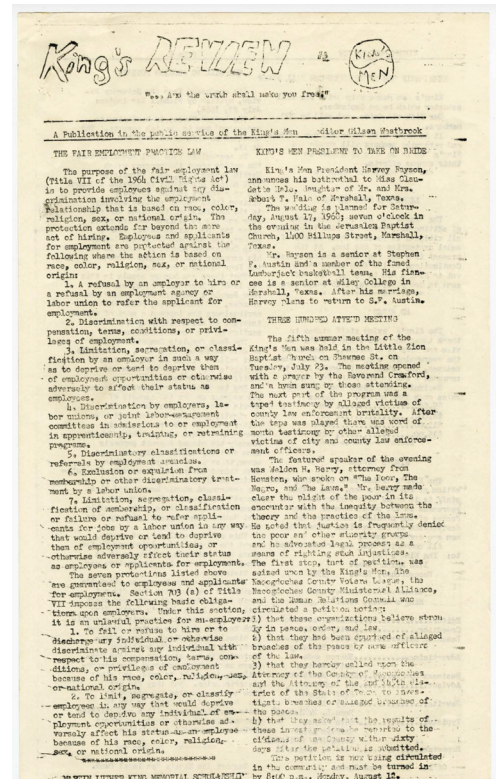
At SFA, the tradition can be seen in first-year student photographs from the late 1930s until the mid-1960s. The tradition was started by student Bergman "Boots" Morrison who ordered 300 beanies. These were then sold to first-year students at a cost of \$0.25 for women and \$0.35 for men. First-year students caught without beanies were fined the cost of a beanie. Beanies were used to quickly identify who was a first-year student on campus. Students had mixed feelings about the tradition, with some saying it created a shared experience while others thought it made it easier for first-year students to get picked on.



KING'S MEN PAPERS

The King's Men was an organization created after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. The group was formed in April 1968 with the mission of "gaining equality for everyone through peaceful means" as King had advocated. The group participated in protests to desegregate a local washeteria and skating rink and to boycott downtown businesses that refused to serve Black Americans. The group was made up of faculty, staff and students at SFA.

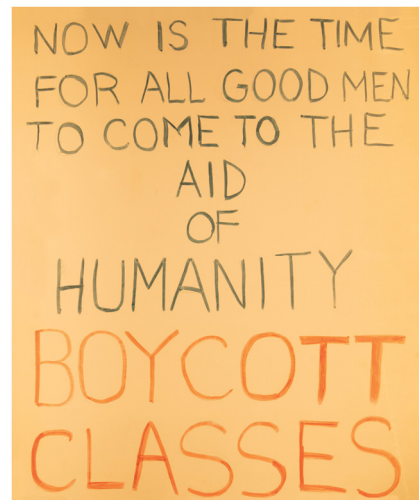
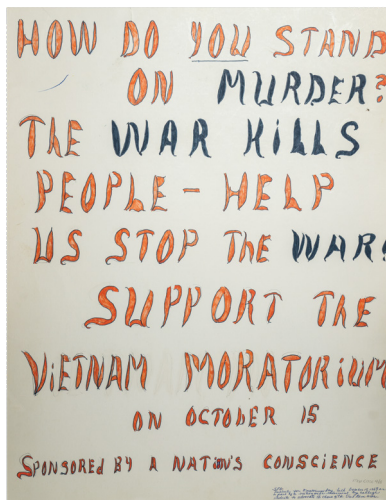
The group also published a regular independent newsletter called the King's Review, pictured, that let people know about upcoming events and how to properly file complaints when a person felt their civil rights were violated, as well as compiled addresses to send complaints to when the 1964 Civil Rights Act was violated. The purpose of the King's Review was "to bring awareness in the population of Nacogdoches of the problems that face the destruction of the American creed, 'All men are created equal.'"



VIETNAM ANTI-WAR POSTERS

These posters were created by students for student-organized protests of the Vietnam War on SFA's campus. The protest events were organized by the League for Student Involvement, which also petitioned for free speech on and off campus, held a teach-in on Nixon's decision to bomb Cambodia, and helped coordinate Earth Day with other student organizations. The largest protest event occurred Oct. 15, 1969, in conjunction with the Nationwide Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam Day.

On this day, a bell was rung once for every Texan killed in Vietnam, and organized protests occurred across the nation on many campuses. Another large protest occurred Nov. 15, 1969, to coincide with a march in Washington, D.C. Monthly demonstrations continued throughout the school year against the war.



LUMBERJACK MASCOT BOOTS



These boots were donated by Steve Whitbeck '75 who served as Lumberjack mascot in 1972. Whitbeck was also a Lumberjack cheerleader for two years. In September 2019, he was recognized at the Alumni Association Awards Banquet with the Lumberjack Pride Award.

The official Lumberjack mascot of SFA was selected by students, faculty and staff in 1923. The name was put forward by T.E. Ferguson, an English professor. The Lumberjack represents SFA at athletic, civic and off-campus events. In fact, during the Jacks' 2014 NCAA basketball tournament appearance, our Lumberjack was one of the most talked about aspects of SFA.

The appearance of a physical mascot did not start until the 1960s, and this was primarily

at Homecoming parades and games or on Lumberjack Days, an event hosted by the Sylvals.

Lumberjack Days included allowing students to watch or participate in double buck log sawing, log chopping, caber toss, tug of war and axe throwing. Usually, the event took place around Homecoming and had a very large participation rate among student groups.

From SFA's beginning, most school spirit and pep activities were led by male and female cheerleaders. Male cheerleaders were also regularly referred to as yell leaders. Starting in the late 1960s, it was much more common to see a Lumberjack mascot at official SFA events. Starting in the early 1970s, there was also an accompanying female mascot called the Ladyjack who attended all the events alongside the Lumberjack.

LUMBERJACK MASCOT AXE

This donation is from Steve Whitbeck '75, who served as the Lumberjack mascot in 1972. Iterations of this axe are still used by the Lumberjack mascot today.



POULTRY BOWL SIGNED FOOTBALL

The Poultry Bowl was a short-lived college football bowl game played in 1973 and 1974. The bowl game was created for smaller colleges that couldn't participate in the major bowl games. SFA was invited to the Poultry Bowl after finishing third in the Lone Star Conference.

The 1973 Bowl was played in Gainesville, Georgia, between SFA and Gardner-Webb University.

SFA won the game 31-10 on Dec. 8, 1973. That season was one of SFA's most successful, setting a season win record of eight victories, six of which came in conference play. SFA also set the team's individual rushing yards record in a game with Larry Mayer gaining 237 yards in the bowl game.



CAFETERIA TRAY

The tray, known as a Camtray, is from the 1970s or 1980s. It is made of fiberglass and is manufactured by Cambro, a company that still makes fiberglass cafeteria trays. The tray was used in the East College Cafeteria, which was SFA's most modern and state-of-the-art dining facility upon completion in 1966. It was designed to show off the unique mid-century architectural style and became a centerpiece of the growth of SFA during the 1960s and 1970s.

Steen Hall, situated across the street from the cafeteria, and later Garner Hall, a dorm that was razed in 2010, were all designed to complement each other architecturally. The East College Cafeteria, along with the Steen and Garner halls, were often the most recognizable buildings on campus due to their distinct architectural style.



PRESIDENT'S BIBLE

The President's Bible contains the signatures of SFA's 10 presidents and is displayed in the president's office. Each SFA president was sworn into office on this Bible. SFA's past presidents include:

1. Dr. Alton Birdwell, 1917-42
2. Dr. Paul L. Boynton, 1942-58
3. Dr. Ralph W. Steen, 1958-76
4. Dr. William R. Johnson, 1976-91
5. Dr. Donald Bowen, 1990-91
6. Dr. Dan Angel, 1992-99
7. Dr. Tito Guerrero, 2001-06
8. Dr. Baker Pattillo, 2006-18
9. Dr. Scott Gordon, 2019-22
10. and Dr. Steve Westbrook, 2023.



WILLIE NELSON POSTER AND PAUL BUSKIRK MANDOLA

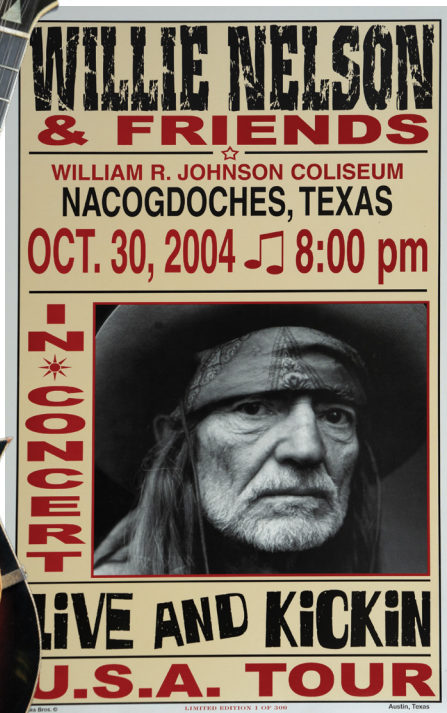
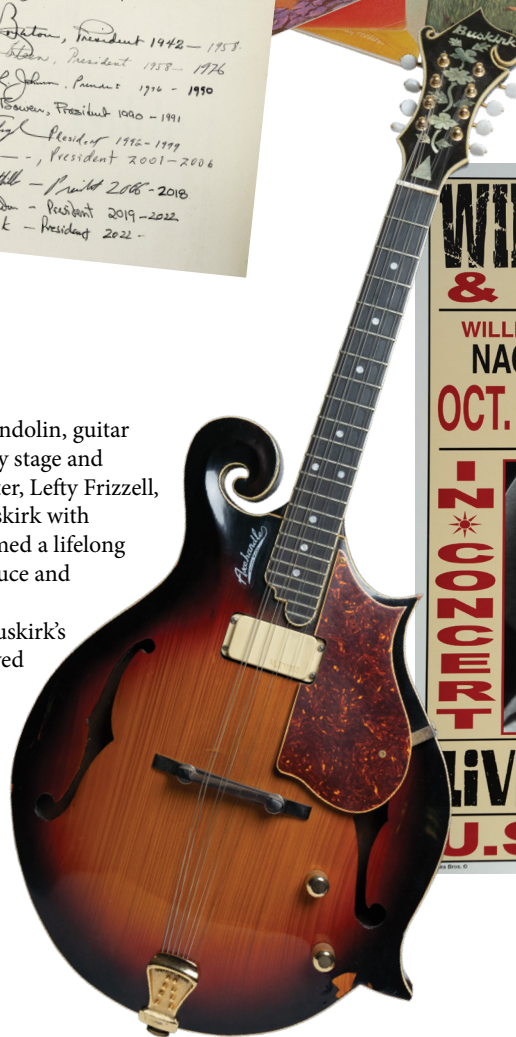
Paul Buskirk (1924-2002) was a musician famous for his mandolin, guitar and banjo abilities. Buskirk appeared on the Grand Ole Opry stage and worked with prominent musicians like Chet Atkins, Tex Ritter, Lefty Frizzell, Ray Price, Rex Allen and Willie Nelson. Nelson credited Buskirk with teaching him all he knew about playing guitar, and they formed a lifelong professional and personal relationship. Buskirk helped produce and performed on some of Nelson's albums.

In 1992, Nelson returned the favor and helped produce Buskirk's record, "Nacogdoches Waltz." Legend has it that Nelson played Buskirk's mandola during these recording sessions. Buskirk donated his estate to SFA after his death to help fund the Paul Buskirk Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is intended for native Texans who are music majors and play a string instrument. After the death of Buskirk, Nelson played a benefit concert for the Buskirk Scholarship on Oct. 30, 2004, in Johnson Coliseum. The mandola donated by Buskirk is a custom-built piece that was on display at the Pearman Alumni Center for many years. ★

FOOTBALL PROGRAMS (LATE '50s TO MID '60s)

During the post-war era, football games were must-attend events for SFA students, faculty, staff and the Nacogdoches community. Every social club or Greek organization usually had designated seating areas staked out in the stands. The football programs used Norman-Rockwell-style images on the front, which was an extremely popular art style during this time.

The images were licensed from artists like Joe Little, Gil Evergreen, Fred Fixler and Larry Tisdale. These same images can be found on NFL and other college football programs from the time. Though not every program featured SFA's iconic purple and white, these football programs truly are works of art that created both a sense of nostalgia for the pre-war era and post-war optimism. Students would regularly put the covers of winning games on their walls as cheap wall art and a way to remember the victories of the Lumberjacks.



'NEATH THE PURPLE AND WHITE



SFA traditions
bring generations
of Lumberjacks
together for 100 years

STORY BY JOHANNA GILMORE

CLASSIC PHOTOS COURTESY OF
THE EAST TEXAS RESEARCH CENTER

It's a close game. Homer Bryce Stadium is rockin'. The boldest sound from the oldest town launches into the familiar intro of the "SFA Fight Song."

Except now, you no longer have to wait until the drum break to sing along. In spring 2022, the expanded lyrics received an overwhelmingly positive response from many student organizations and groups, including student-athletes, the Student Government Association, the student leader advisory board, AXExperience, the Student Activities Association, the Alumni Association board of directors, Office of Multicultural Affairs ambassadors, and the Lumberjack Marching Band.

The idea to implement expanded fight song lyrics came from T.J. Maple '08 & '21, coordinator of SFA's Cheer and Dance Teams.

"After years of attending numerous sporting events and cheer and dance nationals where other schools were singing to their fight songs, I felt that this could help to unite us as Lumberjacks," he said.

Originally written in the 1970s, the expansion of these lyrics is the latest addition to a long list of beloved traditions celebrated by Lumberjacks everywhere — and which grow nearly every year. We've done our best to recount the development of key past traditions, especially those we continue to cherish today.



ABOVE: A former Sawyers member's axe handle on display in the East Texas Research Center features detailing that shows the time and effort SFA students put in to decorating their axe handles. Photo by Lizeth Garcia

LEFT: This Sawyers photo (P:50G:12, Photo Collection, ETRC) shows members with their axe handles on Vista Drive in 1930.

AXE HANDLES

Walk into any home or office of a current or former Lumberjack, and you're bound to see an axe handle that reflects that Lumberjack's personality.

"The axe handle has become so synonymous with SFA that almost every SFA tradition is seemingly connected to it in one way or another," said Chris Cotton '21, university archives and research coordinator in SFA's East Texas Research Center. "I am also an Aggie, and traditions mean a lot to me, but the axe handle is undeniably one of the coolest traditions in all of higher education. It is a tradition all students can participate in with a single unifying symbol while personalizing it to reflect their individuality."

SFA distributes more than 2,000 axe handles to new students each year during an

event called Holler @ Homer shortly after the fall semester begins. After decorating their handles, students then join the cadence by banging their handles on metal in the football stadium's student cheering section.

This tradition, which officially began in the 1970s, dates back to the 1920s, when members of the Sawyers, now Delta Sigma Phi, started banging their axe handles on bleachers at the football games to distract the competition.

"In fact, SFA head football coach Gene White credited the noise with helping SFA overcome Sam Houston State University in the Battle of the Piney Woods in 1932," Cotton said. "I have seen students sneak axe handles into NRG Stadium for that battle, demonstrating how important the axe handle is for anyone who went to SFA."

SFA's rivalry with the Bearkats was the second longest in the Football

Championship Subdivision until Sam Houston joined Conference USA in July 2023. Though the rivalry extended across all athletic teams, the universities' first football game Nov. 17, 1923, is considered the genesis. NRG Stadium in Houston served as home of the football rivalry from 2009 until the teams' last meeting Oct. 1, 2022, during the 96th Battle of the Piney Woods.

The cadence expanded to basketball games until it was banned in the early 1950s with the construction of a new gym. The tradition was eventually sanctioned in the 1970s, and opposing teams continue to find it daunting.

In celebration of SFA's centennial, a call went out to all Lumberjacks to send photos of their axe handles for a virtual exhibit. Learn how to participate at sfasu.edu/centennial. ➔



Purple Haze in 2011 / Photo by Jennifer Rogers '14



Photo by Hardy Meredith '81

PURPLE HAZE STUDENT SECTION

The Lumberjacks who sit in the student section at athletic games, known collectively as Purple Haze, have continued the tradition of using axe handles to drum up school spirit and wear down the competition. First-year students receive their Purple Haze T-shirts at Orientation so they can support SFA teams in this section and wear them on Spirit Fridays. They participate in Jacks Charge during football season, which involves rushing the field before kickoff and waving their axe handles. During basketball season, Purple Haze members don their craziest costumes, sit behind the visitors' hoop and try their best to distract the opposing team.

“AXE 'EM, JACKS!” HAND SIGN

School spirit is led by SFA's national award-winning Cheer and Dance Teams, Lumberjack Marching Band, and Roaring Buzzsaw Band, as well as its Lumberjack and Ladyjack mascots. Students and faculty members voted for the Lumberjack as the mascot during a special assembly in 1923, according to “The Golden Years: The First Half Century of Stephen F. Austin State University” published by Bettye Herrington Craddock '71 & '72 in 1973.

“Several names were considered, and those proposing the names led yells to demonstrate the fitness of their nominations,” Craddock wrote. “By vote, the assembly chose

Lumberjacks, the name submitted by T.E. Ferguson, professor of English.”

When she was an SFA student, Craddock met her husband, Van, while working at The Pine Log student newspaper. It and the Stone Fort yearbook were the two SFA traditions that recorded all other traditions.

The 1979 cheer squad contributed the “axe 'em” hand sign to Lumberjack customs, and SFA ROTC members began firing Ol' Cotton, a World War II-era 75 mm mountain howitzer positioned in the south end zone for each home game, every time SFA scored. Ol' Cotton is named for Lt. Gen. Orren R. “Cotton” Whiddon '55, the most senior military officer ever to have graduated from SFA.

PURPLE VICTORY LIGHTS

Today, SFA celebrates Lumberjack athletic victories by lighting the purple victory lights on the Steen Hall towers. This tradition grew from another tradition begun by cheerleaders and girlfriends of football players, who hung any purple fabric (towels, blankets, shirts, etc.) they had outside the windows of the 14-story Garner Apartments, previously the tallest building on campus, after SFA football victories.

The first set of lights was installed on Garner Apartments and then moved to Steen Hall after Garner was torn down in 2010. In addition, Purple Haze members notify Baker Pattillo Student Center staff members to turn on the lights in the center's clock tower to celebrate victories.

JACK CAMP

New Lumberjacks are introduced to these traditions during Orientation, but those who want to learn more attend Jack Camp in August right before their first fall semester starts. Begun in 2001, the three-day camp in Trinity welcomes incoming first-time and transfer students to the university each summer and helps them find their place within the Lumberjack family.

“Jack Camp is an opportunity for students to connect with their incoming class and learn about the university's rich history and traditions,” said Lacey Folsom '08 & '11, director of SFA's Office of Student Engagement. “They not only learn cheers and chants that prepare them for sitting in the Purple Haze student section, but they get to create lasting memories with new friends.”

AXEperience

Many of these traditions are preserved by SFA's more than 200 student groups. One of these groups, AXEperience, is the university-sponsored student organization whose members work closely with the SFA Alumni Association, Student Activities Association, Campus Recreation and SFA Athletics to plan the university's annual Homecoming celebration. It features a concert, bonfire, downtown parade, 5K scholarship race, Homecoming court elections, and, of course, the football game and tailgating.

GREEK TRADITIONS

SFA's Greek traditions can be traced back to the aforementioned Sawyers, which became the Delta Pi chapter of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity in 1960, and the Pine Burrs, which became the Epsilon Zeta chapter of the Chi Omega sorority in 1963. The Sawyers and Pine Burrs were established in the late 1920s to help men and women socialize.

Today, Fraternity and Sorority Life at SFA features a variety of groups governed by the Interfraternity, Multicultural Greek, National Pan-Hellenic and Panhellenic councils.

WEEKS OF WELCOME

Weeks of Welcome offers students a chance to visit with all these groups at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters.

In the fall, this new tradition encompasses the Student Government Association's oldest-standing tradition: the Watermelon Bash. Faculty members originally organized the event at the end of the summer in the mid-1920s to help students who were arriving for the fall semester get to know each other. The deans purchased the watermelons for the bash, which originally took place in front of the Austin Building on Vista Drive.

Students now beat the heat with a slice of watermelon next to the Surfin' Steve fountain — another beloved structure added to the middle of campus in the 1980s.

GIVING BACK

Service traditions are also a prominent part of SFA student life. In addition to MLK Day of Service, SFA students raise more than \$20,000 annually for the Children's Miracle Network through the SFA Dance Marathon, and hundreds of Lumberjacks complete service projects in Nacogdoches County during The Big Event in the spring.

Service is also an important part of the centennial celebration as students, faculty, staff and alumni compete in the 100,000

Service Hours for 100 Years contest. Keep up with each group's total hours and log your own at sfasu.edu/centennial.

THE BIG DIP

After earning a minimum of 60 hours, students are eligible to purchase their SFA ring and celebrate what has been voted as the "best tradition on campus" by participating in The Big Dip ceremony.

Started in 2002, The Big Dip is a ceremony held at the end of the fall and spring semesters. A more recent tradition added in 2019 has ROTC cadets stand guard outside the Stone Fort Museum, where SFA rings are placed the night before The Big Dip. At the ceremony, participants receive their rings and then dip their right hands into a mix of purple dye and water gathered from the Surfin' Steve fountain. The act symbolizes students' full immersion into the life and traditions of SFA.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

As they approach graduation, seniors get a sense of life as SFA alumni at the Senior Send-Off. Thrown by the SFA Alumni Association, this huge graduation party with food, games and prizes offers a bridge from student to alum.

Instead of the Ag Pond, these new alumni tailgate at the corner of Raguet and Hayter streets. They bid on Lumberjack memorabilia during the Alumni Association's Online Homecoming Auction, play the links at the Bob Sitton Classic golf tournament, and cheer on Texas baseball teams during SFA Ballpark Days.

The more than 115,000 SFA alumni hold a great deal of wisdom, both personal and professional, and continue to help one Lumberjack at a time. That's a tradition that will never change. ★



Watermelon Bash, Stone Fort yearbook 1961



Alumni ring replica, Stone Fort yearbook 2002



Pine Burrs, Stone Fort yearbook 1949

TRADITIONS WE MISS

When asked what past traditions they'd like to see return, Lumberjacks overwhelmingly responded, "The Battle of the Piney Woods."

Another favorite is the Homecoming Duck Dash featuring toy ducks racing on a specialized course at the Ag Pond.

Proceeds from the race helped fund scholarships.

We've noticed some people walking on the SFA seal when they enter the Baker Pattillo Student Center from Vista Drive. As Lacey Folsom, director of SFA's Office of Student Engagement, said, "We always tell students that walking on the seal is as disrespectful as not throwing up the axe 'em sign during the school song."



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF LUMBERJACKS
OH FUTURE BRIGHT
NEATH THE FUTURE WHITE. ALL
HAIL TO SFA. WE HAVE
FOUND PEAKS WHERE
EVERYONE LONGS TO
BE. OUR LUMBERJACK
ALUMNI RESERVE
LIMITED EDITION
BÜCHERON
TEXAS HIGH PLAINS
Sparkling
RIESLING
2022

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From the Association



Hello, Jack nation!

We are in full swing celebrating SFA's centennial with a jam-packed year of "bigger and better" events happening all over campus. We soared through the

summer months, celebrating the centennial with alumni across Texas during our Ballpark Days, and we're ready for more centennial festivities this fall in Nacogdoches.

Our signature Alumni Awards celebration Sept. 15 will represent the official kickoff event to SFA's centennial celebration filled with so many exciting events, from musical concerts and performances in the newly renovated Griffith Fine Arts Building to the dedication of a ring statue across from the Pearman Alumni Center. All of this will culminate in a community-wide day of celebration on campus Monday, Sept. 18. Check out the full slate of events at sfas.edu/centennial, and make time to come and celebrate with us.

Additionally, The University of Texas System integration continues to press forward seamlessly and to positively enhance SFA's already solid foundation as we join a best-in-class institution in Texas and beyond. Each day provides a little more excitement about our future — and it is oh so very bright 'neath our purple and white, my fellow alums!

In closing, I want to share a little story: my brother-in-law, sisters and I participated as a family unit in The Big Dip in April, showcasing our family's SFA legacy, "The Wulffpack Makes Great Lumberjacks," to coincide with 100 years of celebration and fun. Even our "future Lumberjack" children and our parents — all in custom purple shirts, of course — joined us to celebrate. It was a truly special moment, and I hope you all take time to reflect on the memories of your SFA days. Do something special to commemorate what SFA means to you, share it with us on our social media channels, and tag your friends and even a potential future Lumberjack or two — show them what it means to be a Lumberjack and make memories that last a lifetime!

I encourage everyone to schedule a trip back to Nacogdoches for SFA's centennial celebration, Homecoming, or to even join us for The Big Dip in December to honor the 100-year legacy we were all a part of creating and will help carry into the next century.

I can't wait to see you all back in Nac soon!

Axe 'em, Jacks!

Erika Tolar '02
Nacogdoches
President, SFA Alumni Association



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Erika Tolar '02, Nacogdoches
president

Brian Dawson '03, Conroe
president-elect

Charlotte Ashcraft '80, Nacogdoches
past president

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Larry Brooks '01, Houston

Pamm Coleman '80, Houston

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Autumn Finchum '08 & '08, Nacogdoches

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Mike Harbordt '63, Nacogdoches
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executive director of alumni affairs

Amber Lindsay
recording secretary

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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
coordinator of gifts and records

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

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

Bob Sitton '60, Nacogdoches
director emeritus

Sawdust

SFA Box 6096

Nacogdoches, TX 75962

(936) 468-3407

alumni@sfas.edu ★ 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.

2023 Alumni Awards

Hall of Fame

Dr. William R. Johnson



Dr. William R. Johnson was born in 1933 in Houston to Ernest Henry Johnson and Rosa Belle Thompson Johnson. He attended public school in Houston, and after graduating in 1951 from Charles H. Milby High School, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. The Korean War was underway, and Johnson served from 1951 to 1955 with duty stations in California, Morocco

and Kansas. After sustaining a serious injury in October 1954, he was hospitalized until July 31, 1955. At that time, he received a medical retirement from the Air Force.

Johnson then enrolled in college at the University of Houston in September 1955. He received a Bachelor of Science, cum laude, in 1958 and a Master of Arts in 1959, majoring in education and history. He completed his studies in American history at the University of Oklahoma, earning a doctoral degree in 1963. Johnson taught both history and political science at Austin Peay State College

(now university) in Clarksville, Tennessee. In 1964, he began a tenure track position at Texas Tech University teaching American history and then assumed various administrative roles, including associate dean of arts and sciences. He was named vice president for academic affairs at Texas Tech University in 1973.

Johnson was named the fourth president of SFA July 1, 1976. As president, he expanded programs and facilities, including the Rusk Building, the University Center and Steen Library, as well as those related liberal arts, forestry and chemistry. During his tenure, departmental governance was changed to involve departmental faculty members in the decision to award tenure and promotions. Johnson also served a term as chairman of the Council of Texas University Presidents and Chancellors. During this time, the Higher Education Assistance Fund was established as an amendment to the Texas Constitution. The fund provided resources to eligible institutions for the renovation of buildings, new construction and library improvements.

Johnson retired from SFA after 14 years as president. He was named president emeritus by the SFA Board of Regents. Johnson Coliseum was named in his honor.

Hall of Fame

Dr. Baker Pattillo '65 & '66



For 55 years, SFA was a major part of the life of the late Dr. Baker Pattillo. It is where he began as a student, became an administrator and, beginning in 2006, led the institution as its eighth president.

Pattillo earned an associate degree from Tyler Junior College, as well as a Bachelor of Science in English and history in 1965 and a master's degree in guidance and counseling in 1966

from SFA. He married his high school sweetheart, Janice Anderson, and joined the university staff as assistant director of placement and student financial aid, serving 52 years in all as an SFA administrator.

After earning a doctoral degree in educational administration from Texas A&M University in 1971, Pattillo continued to advance in his service to SFA. He was appointed dean of student services at age 30 and vice president for university affairs at age 36 before being named to the university's top job in 2006.

The Pattillos' lives were centered around SFA. Janice received a master's degree from SFA and taught elementary and early childhood education courses, eventually serving as chair of the Department of Elementary Education. The couple was honored by

the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce as Citizens of the Year in 2011. Their daughter, Paige Pattillo, an attorney, is an SFA alumna and former feature twirler for the Lumberjack Marching Band. She and her husband, Dr. Todd Brown, associate professor of economics and finance at SFA, have a son, Jackson Baker Brown.

Pattillo served as chair of the Southland Conference board of directors and as chair of the Southland Conference Advisory Council. Pattillo was known as a strong advocate dedicated to ensuring the academic and athletic success of student-athletes.

As an SFA leader, Pattillo guided \$425 million in campus construction projects, including the Student Recreation Center, three residential halls, four parking garages, new entry signs and a Student Success Center, as well as new academic buildings: the DeWitt School of Nursing Complex, the Cole STEM Building and the Janice A. Pattillo Early Childhood Research Center, named for his wife. In his final SFA Board of Regents meeting, the regents approved a \$125 million expansion and renovation of numerous campus facilities.

One of Pattillo's major goals was for SFA's enrollment to reach 13,000, and that goal was surpassed in August 2018 when the fall enrollment totaled 13,144, the highest enrollment in SFA's 100-year history.

2023 Alumni Awards

Distinguished Alumnus

James D. “Jimmy” Mize ’84



James D. “Jimmy” Mize is a 1984 graduate of SFA with a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance. In 1996, Mize graduated from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University. He has lived most of his life in Nacogdoches and graduated from Nacogdoches High School in 1980.

Mize currently works at Commercial Bank of Texas where he serves as Nacogdoches

market president and is a part of the executive team. Prior to his time with CBTx, Mize was regional market president for Southside Bank and executive vice president for Region's Bank. Mize has enjoyed a successful career of more than 40 years in the banking industry.

He has served as the mayor of Nacogdoches, board chair of the SFASU Foundation, chair of the Nacogdoches County Parks Board, chair of the Nacogdoches Economic Development Corporation, chair of the Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District, past president of the Nacogdoches Boosters Club, past president of the Nacogdoches Rotary Club and has been involved in many other organizations. He was appointed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to the board of the state's Product Development and Small Business Incubator.

Mize is married to Dr. Lisa (Rudisill) Mize of Nacogdoches, who also graduated from SFA in 1985 and 1989 and is an associate professor in SFA's School of Human Sciences. They have one son, Charles, who is the strategic planning manager at CenterPoint Energy in Houston and married this past summer.

Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. James “Jim” Ellington Rose ’64



While a student at SFA, Dr. James Ellington Rose was student body president, a member of Beta Beta Beta biological society, taught botany labs and was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Rose graduated from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and completed a general surgical internship prior to deployment to Vietnam as a combat surgeon. While in Vietnam, he was a senior

flight surgeon and was awarded the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He returned to the U.S. as an attending physician and senior flight surgeon at Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco at the Presidio.

Upon returning to Texas, Rose he completed a residency in neurological surgery at The University of Texas. He was a Kempner Fellow at the

University of Glasgow in Scotland, participating in the development of the Glasgow Coma Scale — the scoring system used to describe the level of consciousness in a person following a traumatic brain injury. While at UT, he was an assistant professor who taught residents in brain/spine surgery. He and Dr. Robert Grossman established the Department of Neurological Surgery, training doctors to be brain/spine surgeons at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. They established the Houston Methodist Neurological Institute. His clinical and research interests were focused on cerebrovascular disease, developing endovascular procedures that are now widely used for treating aneurysms and vascular malformations. Rose retired as a neurosurgeon at Ascension Seton Medical Center Austin.

His hobbies include playing jazz music in Austin and flying his Stearman biplane, which he has had for 35 years. He was recently awarded the prestigious Wright Brothers Award for aviation having had a pilot's license for 63 years. He and his wife, Pam, live in downtown Austin. He has two daughters and two grandchildren.

Distinguished Alumnus

Scott Thompson ’80



Scott Thompson received a Bachelor of Arts in accounting, was active in the Sigma Chi fraternity and, most importantly, met his wife of 40 years, Vanessa Thompson, while attending SFA. The Thompsons have two adult children.

Thompson is chair of the board of directors, CEO and president of Tempur Sealy International, a company valued at approximately \$10 billion. It is the largest bedding company in the world, servicing

more than 100 countries worldwide.

Previously, Thompson was chair of the board of directors and CEO of Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group. He also played a major role in the

founding and growth of Group 1 Automotive, a Fortune 500 company, serving as executive vice president and CFO until his retirement in 2005.

From 1991 to 1996, Thompson served as executive vice president for KSA Industries. With the KSA companies, he was director of Adams Resources & Energy, and he was CFO of the Houston Oilers.

Thompson previously served as chair of the board of Houston Wire and Cable and served on the board of directors of Asbury Automotive Group, Adams Resources & Energy, Conn's, UAP Holdings, Saint Francis Health System, Tulsa Community Foundation and Tulsa Metro Chamber.

Thompson also founded the charitable organizations the DTG Legacy Foundation, the Tempur Sealy Foundation and the Thompson Family Charitable Foundation. ➔

2023 Alumni Awards

Outstanding Young Alumnus

Sean Doyle '10



As a student at SFA majoring in communications with a minor in sports marketing, Texas City native Sean Doyle was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity SFA Nu-Xi Chapter, serving as philanthropy chair, historian and Interfraternity Council chair.

Following graduation, he served on the SFA Nu-Xi Alumni Board as an advisory member and as chapter advisor. He is a former member of the SFA President's Executive Advisory Board and is currently a member of the SFA Houston Executive Roundtable.

Following graduation, Doyle was employed with South Land Title as a business development representative and with the University of Houston Alumni Association as assistant director of sales and sponsorship before finding his true calling with Texas First Bank. He has been employed with Texas First since 2011, rising to the position of senior vice president and sales manager.

Doyle has volunteered with Galveston County Food Bank, the Texas City-La Marque Jaycees and the Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce. He serves on the board of directors of the Clear Creek Education Foundation and the Special Olympics East Region Advisory Board. Doyle and wife, Megan, reside in League City with their children, Emma and Kasen, and are members of St. Mary of the Expectation Catholic Church.

Outstanding Young Alumnus

Hardy C. Meredith '04



Hardy C. Meredith grew up in and around the Nacogdoches area and, therefore, was raised in close proximity to SFA. Even while attending high school, he was already taking summer and night courses at SFA.

He often accompanied his dad, SFA photographer emeritus Hardy Meredith '81, to SFA athletic and Homecoming events over the years.

In 2002, Meredith became an Orientation leader for the university, welcoming new students to campus all summer. During the final Orientation that summer, he met his future wife, Carley '07. Meredith was involved in several organizations at SFA, including Student

Activities Association. He served as a Jack Camp counselor and was named Mr. SFA in 2004.

Meredith graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science in radio/TV. He soon began working for KTBC Fox 7 in Austin as a camera operator and for News 8 Austin (now Spectrum News) as a news producer, where he was recognized as employee of the year.

Meredith and his family moved to the Bryan/College Station area where he continued to produce and direct daily newscasts for KBTX-TV. His editing for the station helped KBTX win the Associated Press first place award in photojournalism for Texas. Most recently, Meredith accepted a position at KSAT 12 News in San Antonio as a producer for Good Morning San Antonio.

Meredith and Carley have been married for 16 years. They have two children.

Lumberjack Pride

Scott '77 and Robbie '82 Goodrich



SFA has been an important part of the lives of Scott and Robbie (Battle) Goodrich, fostering business relationships and personal friendships for decades.

Scott was born and raised in Dallas, following his older brother Jim '69 to SFA in 1971 and pledging Delta Sigma Phi/

Sawyers, making lifelong friends of more than 50 years. His younger sister, Laurie, followed both brothers to SFA.

Scott worked offshore for Brown and Root to pay for college before graduating in 1977. He worked in Nacogdoches for the next 43 years in the malt beverage industry, the last 30 at R&K Distributors (Anheuser-Busch), retiring in 2020 as branch manager.

Robbie was born in Houston and raised in Nacogdoches. She graduated from SFA with a journalism degree and began a 30-year career at The Daily Sentinel newspaper as a reporter and editor. Upon leaving The Sentinel, she began a second career at SFA, recently completing 11 years as director of arts information and as a member of the dean's staff in the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts. Her brother and sister-in-law, Jimmy '77 & '83 and Ella '00 & '02 Battle, are also graduates of SFA.

Robbie has served on many organization boards, including the Humane Society of Nacogdoches County, Nacogdoches Crime Stoppers, Noon Lions Club, Nacogdoches High School Alumni Association, Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful, Nacogdoches Treatment Center and the Nacogdoches County Child Welfare Board.

Scott and Robbie married in 1981 while Robbie was still a student at SFA. Scott has been an alumni ambassador since 2020. Married for 42 years, Scott and Robbie attend as many home and away games as possible, supporting the Jacks and reuniting with past and present Lumberjacks. ★

CELEBRATE 100 YEARS WITH US!

Centennial

ALUMNI EVENTS

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EVENT INFORMATION, VISIT
SFAAlumni.com/Events

GO! FIGHT! WIN!



SEPT. 9
VS ALCORN
STATE

3 P.M.



SEPT. 23
VS AUSTIN
PEAY

3 P.M.



SEPT. 30
VS TEXAS A&M
COMMERCE

3 P.M.



OCT. 21
VS ABILENE
CHRISTIAN

HOMECOMING

1 P.M.



NOV. 11
VS SOUTHERN
UTAH

1 P.M.



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FOR **ALUMNI** TO BUY AN SFA RING!
We welcome alumni to join us and participate
in the Big Dip tradition!

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Centennial Celebration

Sept. 15-18



FOLLOW | LIKE | SHARE | AXE 'EM

Friday, Sept. 15

6 p.m. - Alumni Awards Dinner at the Fredonia Hotel
(Tickets available at SFAAlumni.com/AlumniAwards)

Saturday, Sept. 16

SFA @ Northwestern State University

Sunday, Sept. 17

1:30 p.m. - Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts
Griffith Fine Arts Building Grand Opening

4 p.m. - Centennial Concert featuring the SFA School of Music

Monday, Sept. 18

10:30 a.m. - Alumni Ring Plaza Dedication Ceremony

2 p.m. - Academic Open House

4 p.m. - Birthday Celebration on Vista Drive



Centennial 1923-2023

For questions, please contact the SFA Alumni Association at (936) 468-3407.

Homecoming Schedule

Homecoming Online Auction

6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22

sfaalumni.com/auction

Bid on your favorite items and help raise money for alumni programming and scholarships. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 in honor of SFA's Centennial. 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.

Thursday, Oct. 19

12th Annual Homecoming 5K

Visit sfasu.edu/campusrec for more information.

Friday, Oct. 20

"Back in Nac" Social

4 to 7 p.m.

Nine Flags Bar and Grill at The Fredonia Hotel
200 North 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 (for purchase), complimentary Lumberjack-themed bites, awesome appetizer specials, live music, a photo booth and more! Be sure to stop by after the bonfire festivities for late-night specials, too.

Jack Track Bus Shuttle

7:30 p.m. to midnight

Free shuttle service to the bonfire and The Fredonia Hotel.

Bus shuttle runs every 15 minutes.

Bonfire

8:30 p.m.

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, a drone show and special performances will conclude the night's festivities.

**For an updated schedule of
Homecoming events,
visit sfaalumni.com/homecoming.**



Homecoming Schedule

Saturday, Oct. 21

Flap "Jack" Breakfast

7:30 to 10 a.m.

The Fredonia Hotel, 200 N. Fredonia St.

Enjoy breakfast like a Lumberjack with flap "Jacks." Decorate your meal with purple goodies, take photos in our photo booth with the SFA Cheer and Dance Teams, get creative at our coloring wall, and listen to live music.

The cost is \$10 per person and free for life members.

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 "SFA Centennial."

Alumni Corner Tailgate

1 p.m.

Corner of Raguet and Hayter streets

Join the SFA Alumni Association for delicious barbecue and a signature drink, a viewing lounge with Wi-Fi powered by Optimum, SFA swag, tailgate games, a cash bar and live music. Alumni Corner is free for Alumni Association members, \$20 for nonmembers and \$5 for children under 10 (with an adult). Life members get in free plus a guest.

Alumni Fall Fest

1 p.m.

Corner of Raguet and Hayter streets

Enjoy the family-friendly fall fest with Kona premium tropical shaved ice, purple cotton candy and popcorn, a petting zoo, bounce houses, inflatable axe throwing, a 360° photo booth, balloon animals, a gaming bus, candy and prizes.

The event is free and fun for children of all ages.

Football Game

4 p.m.

Homer Bryce Stadium

Cheer on the Lumberjacks as they face Abilene Christian University.

Visit sfajacks.com to purchase tickets or call (936) 468-JACK (5225).

Sunday, Oct. 22

Brunch

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.



Class Notes

1960s



Fred G. Van Orsdol '69 retired in 2017 from a decades-long career in the oil and gas industry, working in such positions as vice president of audits and loss control, senior

international project engineer, and owner of Van Orsdol Consulting, among others. He was general chair and executive committee chair of the International School of Hydrocarbon Measurement, and he served in the Air Force as a captain, navigator, meteorologist and command briefer. Van Orsdol received a Bachelor of Science in physics.

1970s

Patricia Taylor Wells '77 published her second poetry collection, "Kaleidoscope," in September. Wells received a Bachelor of Arts in French.

1980s

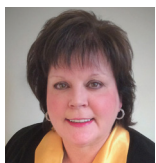


Henry Taylor Millard '80 published his second novel, "There Are No Rules," which begins at a small state university in 1980. He draws on his time at SFA and the friends he met at the university to create a story that takes place over decades. Millard received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.

W. Earle Connevey '81 was promoted to executive vice president/chief credit officer for First Liberty Bank.



Steve Sides '81 retired from a 34-year career with NASA. In that time, he worked 95 Space Shuttle missions and two Orion missions, which included Artemis I. He is now busy serving as a group leader with Trail Life USA. Sides received a Bachelor of Science in geology.



The United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship named **Dr. Geralyn McClure Franklin '82 & '85** as the recipient of the 2023 Max S.

Wortman Jr. Award for Lifetime Achievement in Entrepreneurship, the organization's highest individual honor. Franklin received a Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration, both in general business.

Vance Tiller '83 was promoted to chief executive officer of Impact Workforce Solutions in January. Tiller received a Bachelor of Business Administration in general business.



John Knapp '84 was named vice president of category insights and solutions at Reyes Coca-Cola Bottling. Knapp received a Bachelor of Business Administration in marketing.



Christopher Hrubesh '88 retired from CNN after a 35-year career. He then started a video production company and plans on dedicating his time and talent to reverse climate collapse. Hrubesh received a Bachelor of Arts in radio/TV.

Kerri Briggs '89 was appointed chief of staff to the Houston Independent School District superintendent's cabinet. Briggs received a Bachelor of Arts in political science.

1990s



Patti Williams Eden '90 retired in May after 33 years in the teaching field. She was the founding choral director at The Brook Hill School in Bullard and has served in that role for the past 25 years. Eden received a Bachelor of Music.



Terry Hoover '90 was named chief risk officer for Thread Bank. Hoover received a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance.

Stacie Shirley '90 was named chief financial officer for European Wax Center. Shirley received a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting.

Roger Dees '91 of Giddings was named deputy executive director at Region 13 Education Service Center. Dees received a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology.



Christine Welsh Mathers '91 of Houston was elected to the American Marketing Association board of directors after spending years of service with the international AMA organization and the local AMA Houston chapter. Mathers received a Bachelor of Science in interior design.

Sonny Livesay '92 was named director of regional title production for Doma Title Insurance's central region. Livesay received a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance.



Dr. Logan Faris '93, '96 & '06 was named area superintendent of the Round Rock Learning Community. Faris received a Bachelor of Science in biology, a Master of Education in secondary education and a Doctor of Education in educational leadership.

Kelly (Daniel) Augustine '94 was promoted to chief operating officer of the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce. Augustine received a Bachelor of Arts in journalism.

Cody W. Johnson '94 was appointed SCS Technologies president and CEO. Johnson received a Bachelor of Science in psychology.

Imelda De La Guardia '97 was appointed division superintendent to the Houston Independent School District superintendent's cabinet. De La Guardia received a Master of Education in secondary education.



Dr. Shelby Melton '97 & '99 was honored with the McGovern Medical School 2022 Distinguished Alumnus Award for significant contributions in the areas of medical science and education and for the treatment of disease, as well as a continued interest in McGovern Medical School and its students. He is chief of the pathology and laboratory medicine service at VA North Texas Health Care in Dallas and is an associate professor in the Department of Pathology at The University of Texas

Class Notes

Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Melton received a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science, both in biology.

2000s

Clint Formby '00 was hired as a technical specialist for turf and landscape with SePRO. Formby received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with an emphasis on horticulture.



D. Robert Holcomb '01 of Addison has been named senior vice president, associate general counsel of Triumph Financial. Holcomb received a Bachelor of Science in political science.

Lisa Richardson '01 was named principal of Kilgore Primary School. Richardson received a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Valerie Little '02 was selected to be the Region 3 director of the Texas High School Athletic Directors Association. She will represent all athletic directors in Region 3 and serve on the association's board of directors. Little received a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology.



Natasha '02 & '04 and Reginald Williams '03 of Houston celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in May. The college sweethearts met at SFA during their undergrad years and now have

three children. Natasha received a Bachelor of Science in speech and hearing therapy as well as a Master of Public Administration. Reginald received a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice/law enforcement.

Clinton Gehrman '03 was named Robroy Industries Raceway division president. Gehrman received a Master of Business Administration in general business.



Stephanie Wilcox '04 of Celina was named director of community relations for Thomson Reuters. Wilcox received a Bachelor of Arts in radio/TV.



Robert Eby '05 earned a Master of Science in sustainability studies from Texas State University in 2020, was hired by Austin Energy in 2022 as a green building project manager, and got his research paper on campus sustainability plans published in 2023. Eby received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry with an emphasis in environmental science.

Cory Blake '06 was recognized as a teacher ambassador by Retro-Report Education, one of 200 selections from across the U.S. He was also selected as a student favorite instructor for the third semester running and currently teaches AP micro- and macroeconomics.



Ryane Jackson '07 of Houston was named by Modern Healthcare magazine as one of the nation's top 25 emerging leaders in health care for 2023. She is vice president of community benefits at Houston Methodist Hospital. Jackson received a Bachelor of Arts in journalism.



Emily Lee '07 was named interim superintendent of DeKalb Independent School District. Lee received a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies.



Stephanie (Tilley) Funderburg '09 was elected Region 2 director for the Collegiate Information and Visitor Services Association. Funderburg received a Bachelor of Science in hospitality administration.



Ryan Kuether '09 was named the dean of boarding at Ecole d'Humanité, an international boarding school in Hasliberg-Goldern, Switzerland, where he has lived since 2020. Kuether received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in creative writing. ➔

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As part of our continuous effort to improve Sawdust, we are always seeking feedback to understand reader preferences. Fill out our online survey at

sfasu.edu/sawdust/survey

Class Notes

2010s



Jimmy Robertson '10 was recognized by the Texas Black Music Educators Association for outstanding service toward diversity in music education. He received

the recognition during the Texas Music Education Association's February conference. Richardson received a Bachelor of Music.



Justin Salge '16 graduated with his doctoral degree from East Tennessee State University and is a first-generation scholar. Salge received a Bachelor of Arts in history.

Mackenzie Wilson '17 of Houston and **Logan Ray '20** of Lubbock were married June 11. Wilson received a Bachelor of Science in human sciences. Ray, who was named Mr. SFA in 2020, received a Bachelor of Music.



Clarissa (Hughes) McNair '19 of Tyler joined the alumni relations team at LeTourneau University in Longview. Shortly

after this career change, she married Colton McNair of Carthage on Oct. 29. McNair received a Bachelor of Science in interior merchandising.



Carolyn Ross '19 of Lake Jackson was named assistant principal for Lake Jackson Intermediate School. Ross received a Master of Education in educational leadership.

Dr. Audrey G. Young '19 was reelected to the Texas State Board of Education for a four-year term serving from 2023 to 2027. She is currently director for student support services with Nacogdoches Independent School District. Young received a Doctor of Education in educational leadership.

2020s



Monica Loa '20 of Nacogdoches was named associate director of SFA's Center for Applied Research and Rural Innovation. Loa received a Bachelor of Science in sociology.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Zeta Psi Chapter of Delta Zeta (pictured) will celebrate its 60th anniversary Oct. 20-22. Contact Lisa Hjelm at lhjelm632@gmail.com for more information.

The Yellow House Christian Student Center will celebrate its 55th anniversary during Homecoming weekend Oct. 21-22. Contact Scotty Spake at yellowhousesfa@gmail.com for more information.

Life Members

SFA's Alumni Association thanks the following alumni and friends who became life members:

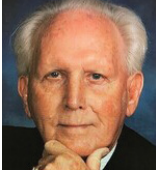
8577. Michelle R. Martinez '89, Houston
8578. Emily R. Still '12 & '12, Lufkin
8579. Christopher Fasy '08, Farmers Branch
8580. Justin L. Hall '00 & '07, Henderson
8581. Amelia E. Hall '00, Henderson
8582. Dr. James E. Johnson Jr. '94, San Antonio
8583. Melanie M. Northcutt '06, Longview
8584. Meshell D. Boyd '79, Tyler
8585. Bryce J. Berthot '23, Nacogdoches
8586. Matthew A. Oldham '05, Keller
8587. Jacquelyn C. Oldham '05, Keller
8588. Taylor R. Wisdom '21, Crystal Beach

8589. Mark W. Cunningham '15, Nacogdoches
8590. Jordan L. Cunningham '15, Nacogdoches
8591. Shalea J. Heigley '22, Brookeland
8592. Dylan T. Williams '21, Nacogdoches
8593. Jennifer H. Stricklin '21, Nacogdoches
8594. Joseph F. Mott '04, Lufkin
8595. Lindsey R. Mott '04, Lufkin
8596. Allison M. Weaver '23, Cypress
8597. River J. Lee '23, Normangee
8598. Bailey N. Cryer '23, Martinsville
8599. Gavin J. Winders '23, Crossroads

8600. Claire M. Howes '22, Conroe
8601. Kara R. Lingo '22, Huffman
8602. Jake A. McDonald '23, Cypress
8603. Peter L. Blanchette '76 & '85, Nacogdoches
8604. Barbara K. Blanchette '77, Nacogdoches
8605. Marc C. Abraham '05, Garland
8607. Dr. Jennifer T. Edwards '02 & '03, Granbury
8608. Anthony C. Edwards, friend of SFA, Granbury

In Memoriam

HERBERT G. BRANCH



Herbert G. Branch, a 1952 graduate, passed away Feb. 22.

Branch was offered a basketball scholarship to play for coach Glen Rose at SFA, where he majored in forestry. He often said without the scholarship he would have never been able to afford to attend college.

Branch played for the Lumberjacks for four years and was both a letter winner and a member of the 1948-49 team that won the Lone Star Conference championship.

Following his graduation from SFA, Branch was dispatched to Korea, where he saw active combat as a soldier from 1952-54. For most of his career as a forester, he worked for International Paper Company. His greatest contribution to the forests of the southern United States can be seen in every pine plantation today.

Always stressing the importance of community involvement, Branch led by example. He was an active member of the Woodville Rotary Club, where he was club president; an active member in the Tyler County Dogwood Festival, where he served as director on the operating board; and was elected to multiple terms on the Woodville City Council, serving 12 years.

DON LEROI HENRY



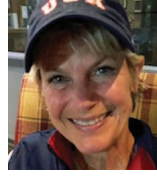
Don LeRoi Henry, former SFA administrator, passed away March 4.

Henry served as vice president for administrative and fiscal affairs at SFA from 1982 to 1992. He was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Nacogdoches.

Henry was a musician, artist, writer, traveler, runner, businessman, husband and father. He played the trumpet and piano by ear, sketched beautiful charcoal drawings, and co-wrote a movie script about the famous Yazoo Union gunboat that was sunk north of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Dec. 12, 1862, during the Civil War.

He was stationed in Germany during the Korean War and traveled to Europe, Mexico and Peru. He continued his international travels after retirement from SFA working in Ifrane, Morocco, opening the American-styled Al Akhawayn University from 1995-97. He later helped start another American-styled university in Azerbaijan. He logged more than 10,000 miles running, influencing many in the family to run and compete in triathlons. He volunteered in the Boy Scouts as a troop leader and greatly influenced young men in his life to become Eagle Scouts.

GENIE LYNN KILPATRICK



Genie Lynn Kilpatrick, class of 1984, passed away Nov. 23.

Kilpatrick played on the Ladyjack tennis team for four years and was recognized for her national collegiate tennis ranking. She continued her love of tennis after leaving SFA, teaching and coaching motivated students to achieve more in the classroom, on the court and in life.

Shortly after Kilpatrick retired from teaching and coaching, she was diagnosed with a rare genetic pulmonary disease, pulmonary capillary hemangiomatosis. She was given the gift of life through organ donation and received a double lung transplant in 2017. She lived five more incredibly blissful years to their fullest, playing tennis, pickleball, traveling and promoting organ donation through Donate Life. With two new lungs, she competed and won an Olympic gold medal at the U.S. Olympic Transplant Games in 2018 in tennis and table tennis. Then she went on to win a gold medal at the World Games in 2019. Kilpatrick inspired anyone she met with her favorite quote: "postpone nothing."

NELDA F. LONG



Nelda F. Long, former SFA staff member, passed away Feb. 22.

Long worked at SFA as department secretary in the biology and counseling and special education departments. She retired with 25 years of service in June 1994 to be a full-time grandmother to her first great-granddaughter.

Long was a member of University Baptist Church for more than 50 years. After the pandemic, she began to attend Westside Baptist Church until she became sick. She loved her Lord and enjoyed reading and studying the Bible. She would say her greatest achievement in life was being a wife, mother and grandmother. She was an independent, strong, spunky and feisty lady.

MONA EVELYN Y'BARBO



Mona Evelyn Y'Barbo, SFA library staff member, passed away May 26.

Y'Barbo worked in the Steen Library from May 1996 until August 2014, retiring at the age of 75. She was a member of New Hope Congregational Methodist Church in Nacogdoches. She was loved by her six children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Y'Barbo enjoyed reading, working crossword and jigsaw puzzles, embroidering, and sending birthday and holiday cards to family and friends.

In Memoriam

Teresa G. Agee '80 & '81 of Longview, April 10
Bennye Frances Baccarini '80 of Athens, May 13
Victor C. Bane '63 of Nacogdoches, Feb. 2
Kathrine M. Boles '14 of Houston, March 10
Betty J. Brown '77 of Dayton, May 29
John Byron Burrows Jr. '70 of San Augustine, May 23
Melvin Carroll Cassel '62 of Longview, May 5
Dan B. Cates '60 of Alto, April 21
Patricia Ann Childs '54 of Houston, Feb. 25
Todd Chilton '95 of Irving, Aug. 11, 2022
Charles "Chuck" Clayton IV '72 of Gilmer, April 4
Delores J. Clemons '67 & '81 of Cushing, May 4
Rob D. Colley '66 of Bowling Green, Kentucky, Feb. 14
Carolyn A. Copeland '77 of Llano, April 9
Spencer Kent Crenshaw '78 of Nacogdoches, March 16
Debra A. Darby '75 of Sugar Land, Nov. 12
Kenneth Y. Dinges '68 of Fairhope, Alabama, Dec. 26
Suzanne "Suzy" P. Durham '70 of Lufkin, May 13
Dee Anne Egan '72 of Fort Worth, May 7, 2022
Ronnie L. Flournoy '72 of Lufkin, April 19
Dr. Janice L. Franklin '72 & '73 of Dallas, May 13
Bethany C. Free '07 of Pasadena, March 19
Grady W. Fulbright '89 of West, March 5
Gwendolyn P. Gallagher '63 & '72 of Longview, March 2
Deborah S. Gober '73 of Dallas, Feb. 27
Maxwell E. Goodwin '60 of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Jan. 3, 2022
Peggy Culliton Gorham '72 & '74 of Nacogdoches, March 16
Vincent K. Hailey '85 of Houston, March 26
Robert W. Haltom '69 of Cleveland, May 28
Donald H. Hanks II '79 of Livingston, April 9
Jesse D. Higdon '56 of Roseburg, Oregon, Feb. 7
Marc C. Hood '72 of Eastland, March 7
Alice Sue Koonce Howard '80 of Center, July 8
Margaret S. Jacobs '60 of Nacogdoches, April 19
Linda S. Kessinger '65 of Tyler, Feb. 25

Reginald Hilton Lambeth '57 of Granbury, Feb. 10
Karl Kent Land, '72 & '05 of Nacogdoches, Feb. 24
Martha M. Lindsey '77 of Jasper, Feb. 1
Billy S. Lyles '63 of Henderson, April 17
Kimberly S. Magaldi '85 of Smithville, Jan. 18
Mary J. Martin '56 & '60 of Fort Worth, Jan. 24
James Byron McGough '70 of Nacogdoches, March 15
John Andrew Miller '95 of Pottsboro, Jan. 13
Winnie D. Morris '60 & '80 of Joinerville, May 15
Jean Anne Muckleroy '58 & '76 of Nacogdoches, March 20
Kathryn R. Muntzel '81 of Dallas, Aug. 18, 2022
Abraham L. Nader '63 of Rockville, Maryland, Aug. 8, 2022
Kathleen C. Nick '58 of Lufkin, April 13
Billy L. Noble '56 & '58 of Crockett, Jan. 28
Audrie "T." Powell '67 of Salado, Feb. 10
John R. Prince '66 of Grapevine, May 19
Earnest R. Procella '59 of Orange, April 1
Paul J. Reid '90 of Plano, Feb. 22
David A. Richardson '78 of Wellington, Feb. 17
Kimberly A. Roeder '80 of New Braunfels, April 15
Cinda S. Scott '78 of Palestine, April 14
Billy Bob Sitton '58 of Henderson, May 8
Sarah L. Slover '65 of Henderson, May 23
Dorothy J. Smith '78 of Longview, April 13
David R. Sorrell '69 & '72 of Tyler, Feb. 19
Mollie E. Spears '65 of Rusk, Jan. 30
Loretta G. Specie '63 of Texarkana, Jan. 25
Bubbue B. Stanfield Jr. '62 of Nacogdoches, Feb. 19
Vernon A. Swor '65 of Huntington, April 7
Tammi Johnson Trotter '98 of Marshall, March 1
Laura Teresa Turner '79 of Nacogdoches, May 26
Morgan "Brooke" Watson '10 of Gladewater, June 12
Thomas E. Westmoreland '61 of Lawton, Oklahoma, March 22
David C. Wilde '86 of Huntington, Feb. 23



SFA students

Tyler Burd of Mansfield, June 7
Yazmina Cormier of Warren, March 25
Debra Godbold Glymph of Nacogdoches, March 27
Alfredo Huerta Jr. of Lufkin, April 2
Alessandra Mackin of Houston, June 9

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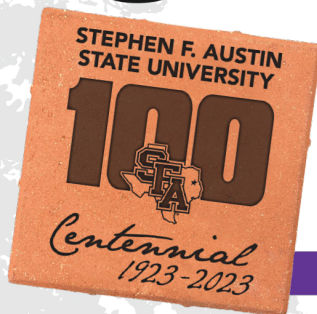
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