

Sawdust

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY



House of Payne

SFA POLE VAULTER ON TRACK FOR 2016 OLYMPICS

A Matter of Life and Breath

ALUMNA COMMITS CAREER TO HELPING SAVE INFANTS AND CHILDREN

The Greatest Race

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The SFA family also is celebrating the upcoming construction of a long-awaited multi-million-dollar Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics building.

of proud SFA alumni. As with all our graduates, I hope they maintain a close connection to their alma mater as they pursue their future goals and dreams.

I also am pleased to share with you that the Board of Regents recently approved a new strategic plan, affirming a yearlong process by which a shared picture of SFA's future was developed collaboratively with the input of thousands of university and community stakeholders, including alumni. The two overarching goals of the plan, known as SFA ★ Envisioned, are transformative experiences for SFA students and meaningful and sustained enrollment growth. Supporting goals are: attract and support high-quality faculty and staff; academic and co-curricular innovation; redefine university culture; and increase connections. With the expertise we have on our campus, combined with good advice from others, I am confident we will be able to meet the challenges of preparing SFA for the future and achieving the vision to which we all aspire.

As you can see within these pages of *Sawdust*, there is much to celebrate and take pride in at your university. Thank you for your continued loyalty and support of SFA and its students, faculty, staff and programs. We hope to see you on campus soon.

Axe 'em, Jacks!

Baker Pattillo '65 & '66

President, Stephen F. Austin State University



Sawdust

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Fall 2015 • Volume 42, No. 2

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is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the alumni, friends and current students of Stephen F. Austin State University through programs, scholarships and activities that create an attitude of continued loyalty and support.

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ON THE COVER:

Champion pole vaulter Demi Payne had a remarkable season as a Ladyjack. In addition to being at the top of her sport, Payne also is a stellar student, fiancé and mother. *Sawdust* caught up with her during a photo shoot with SFA alumnus and professional photographer Robert Seale in Houston.

▲ **MEMBERS OF SFA'S A Cappella** Choir traveled to Italy in May on an 11-day tour. The 52-member choir, along with its director Dr. Tim King, made stops in Florence, Rome and Venice and performed at several venues, including High Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. The group is pictured performing at Florence's Basilica of Santa Maria del Santo Spirito, which dates to 1252.

Additional highlights included performing at St. Mark's Basilica in Venice and visiting many of Italy's exceptional museums and historical landmarks like the Coliseum and St. Mark's Square.

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HomeAway

Story by Dr. Shirley Luna
Photos by Hardy Meredith

{From Home}



HomeAway's corporate offices are decorated with a variety of vacation mementos, including hundreds of snow globes representing cities and countries from all over the world and birdhouses, which also serve as the company's logo.

SFA alumna serves as CFO for leading online vacation rental company



Lynn and Randy Atchison met while both were SFA students in the 1980s.

IT'S OK THAT Lynn Atchison '82 spends every day at work thinking about vacation. As chief financial officer of HomeAway, the world leader in vacation rentals with more than 1 million listings worldwide in almost 200 countries, Atchison's accounting degree from SFA led her to her dream job.

When the Duncanville native first applied to attend SFA, she had her heart set on a career as a forest ranger. "I think I had just read a Jack London book or something," she recalled. "When it was finally time to go to Orientation, that dream had faded, but I decided to go anyway. I thought if I still liked SFA, I would stay."

Fortunately, Orientation was a success, and Atchison met the roommate she would live with for the next four years. "I started taking my basics, not really knowing what I wanted to do," she explained. "When I took accounting, it was easy for me. My roommate told me that was not normal, and that I ought to stick with accounting because I would get a good job. So I did."

Atchison became an SFA cheerleader during her sophomore year. She was part of the squad that launched the now-famous "Axe 'em, Jacks" hand sign, and she worked during several summers as a National Cheerleaders Association cheer instructor. After graduating, Atchison worked for a national accounting firm and then began a consulting career, providing senior-level financial advising to smaller companies that did not need a full-time CFO. Many of the companies she worked with were tech companies that were beginning to flourish in Austin in the 1990s.

Atchison was hired as the CFO of Hoovers Online in 1996. "Hoovers started out as a printed publication – Hoovers handbooks – that provided background information about businesses. Previously, the only way to get this information was to go to the library and get a prospectus. We took all that information and put it online and created a subscription-based Internet company to provide proprietary business information to assist in corporate decision making."

As CFO, Atchison had an integral role in the company's initial sale of stock to the public in 1999. "Those years were just so interesting to me because there were so many brilliant ideas in technology businesses that completely failed from an execution standpoint," she said. "There were people who had amazing vision, but they weren't able to 'product-ize' their concepts."

The dot-com crash at the turn of the century didn't destroy the

company and instead fueled the infatuation Atchison had for Web-based commerce. "Hoovers survived because we were subscription based and still had revenue coming in. We took the company from losses to profits and sold the business to Dun & Bradstreet in 2003."

Atchison became CFO of HomeAway in 2006. The company had been established the previous year, when the founder realized that finding and booking beach houses and mountain homes was not as easy as reserving a hotel room. Transforming the fragmented vacation rental industry into the world's leading marketplace for online vacation rentals required both vision and numerous acquisitions of other companies.

"We have completed 22 acquisitions and now have offices in 18 countries around the world," Atchison said. "You have to be comfortable with ambiguity and with change. It doesn't mean that you can't expect that things be orderly – credits have to balance here just like they do everywhere else. But if you are too rigid, you wouldn't be happy in an environment like this."

Although her daily work no longer revolves around the basic accounting concepts she learned at SFA, Atchison still credits her degree as the foundation for her success. "Accounting is the language of business. My accounting degree taught me the language and got me in the door to a public accounting firm where I was exposed to how companies operate and make a profit. My education gave me the perfect base for the first eight years of my career, which led to my work with emerging technology companies, and that became my passion."

That passion has led to many accolades for Atchison. She serves on the Austin Technology Council Board of Directors and was named by the Austin Business Journal as CFO of the Year for large private Austin companies in 2009 and for large public companies in 2014.

Atchison is equally passionate about HomeAway and the business of vacation rentals. "It's a growing way to travel, particularly for families and groups. It's not as relevant if you are a business person traveling for one night, but it is ideal if you are looking for the experience, time to spend together with your family and friends. You can have privacy when you want privacy; you can have togetherness when you want togetherness. It's kind of the opposite of a hotel, where there is no privacy and 'togetherness' may mean visits with everyone sitting on the edge of the bed."

Atchison and husband Randy '83 have even purchased vacation rental properties of their own. "We recently bought a house in Angel Fire, New Mexico, but our favorite place is the beach. We have a house in Rockport that we only rent to wintering Texans so that it's open to us in the summer. It's close enough so that we can get away from home for the weekend."

And getting away from home is something Atchison always encourages. ★

VISTA VIEWPOINT

DANIELLE ROGERS #25

ENGLISH MAJOR,
PRE-LAW MINOR AND
LADYJACK BASKETBALL
FORWARD



EVEN BEFORE I began my freshman year, SFA's beautiful scenery, friendly environment and great atmosphere captured my heart. Many freshmen hear horror stories about what to expect in college: the infamous freshman 15, tales of awesome parties and everything in between. But in all honesty, college is what you make of it.

I was anxious about starting this new chapter in my life, however, summer Orientation melted away my concerns. Orientation was a fun way

to familiarize myself with campus, learn SFA's traditions, discover ways to join the many organizations and gain answers to first-year student questions. It also was an avenue for me to meet people and develop friendships before school started in the fall.

The Orientation leaders were genuine and personable, and it was helpful and refreshing to learn about SFA life from current student leaders' perspectives.

My first day of classes came, and despite sitting in the wrong class for an hour and a half, I'd say everything went well. As the semester progressed, my classes became increasingly challenging, especially college algebra, but I received help from tutors in SFA's Academic Assistance and Resource Center. This helped me better understand my classwork and improve my grades.

Time management also can be a problem for college students, and I quickly began to understand that time is a student's most precious resource. It's true that many college students often refer to this as "the best time of their lives." This statement may be true regarding the social aspects of college, but students must plan for the other areas—like studying and completing classwork—to stay in college and be successful.

Another tool I used to keep me organized was my student planner, which was handed out to all freshmen during Orientation. This helped me a great deal with managing my time and staying on task.

As I began joining various campus organizations, my social life blossomed. But after a while, it became hard to balance coursework, basketball and social activities. I recall being told at Orientation, "You won't have time to sleep, study and socialize. You will have to choose two." At the time, this statement meant little to me, but as my freshman year continued, I began to grasp the concept. I had to prioritize.

As an SFA freshman, it was a surreal experience being a member of the conference-championship-winning Ladyjack basketball team. This basketball season helped me understand what it takes to earn what you want from life. Winning a conference championship was far from easy. Although we had an extremely talented team, we all knew that talent would only take us so far, but hard work could take us all the way.

Whether it was on the court or in the weight room, every day was more challenging than the day before. Daily practices guarding Porsha Roberts, the Southland Conference Player of the Year, not only helped me improve my game but also aided me in gaining toughness.

My teammates and I were coached to be the best athletes and students we could be. We were dedicated on and off the court, which developed us into a championship team.

In retrospect, my first year of college fell nothing short of exciting, challenging and nerve-racking.

All students face difficult times at some point during their college lives. It is okay to enter college not knowing what you want to do for the rest of your life. College is a time for growth and self-discovery. Although I still am uncertain about a lot of things, I'm absolutely certain I made the right decision in coming to SFA.

Axe 'em, Jacks! ★

Rogers works as an intern in SFA's University Marketing Communications office.

Bisping Named Dean of Nelson Rusche College of Business



DR. TIMOTHY BISPING has been named dean of SFA's Nelson Rusche College of Business.

Before his SFA appointment, Bisping served as interim dean of the College of Business at Louisiana Tech University. Prior, he was associate dean of graduate programs and research and associate professor of economics at LTU.

Bisping received his doctoral degree in economics from Oklahoma State University in 1997. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in economics from Wichita State University in 1991 and 1993, respectively.

His career includes serving as chair of the Department of Economics, Finance, Insurance and Risk Management and associate professor of economics for the University of Central Arkansas' College of Business.

Additionally, he was director of institutional research and assistant professor of economics for Concordia University Wisconsin.

"The Nelson Rusche College of Business has accomplished a great deal in recent years," Bisping said. "Given the exceptional quality of the faculty, staff and students, in addition to the strong support of SFA's alumni and friends, I am confident we will continue to build on past accomplishments in a significant way." ★

Mast Student Investment Roundtable Members Win Award

STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN SFA's Mast Student Investment Roundtable proved they have what it takes to be top-notch financial portfolio managers.

The group, comprising 15 SFA stu-

dents who demonstrated exemplary performance in specific investment courses, won first place in the competition's growth category at the ENGAGE

International Investment Education Symposium held in the spring.

ENGAGE is one of the largest student investment conferences in the U.S., which provides students with the opportunity to participate in discussions with leading investment professionals in preparation for their roles as tomorrow's financial leaders.

Student teams from 57 universities participated in this year's event. Universities with student-managed portfolios were invited to compete based on their financial performance in the areas of growth, value, blend/core and asset allocation

styles of management. Twelve-month risk-adjusted returns from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2014, were used to identify the top portfolio team in each category.

"The growth category focused on universities with student teams that only invest in stocks," said Dr. Kyle Jones, SFA associate professor of finance, who accompanied the team to the

competition. "SFA's students had a return rate of approximately 19 percent in 2014. That's incredibly impressive, especially when you consider that the Standard and Poor's 500 index return rate averaged markedly less at about 13 percent."

The children of A.T. and Patricia Mast, honoring the Mast family's longtime support of the university, established the Mast Student Investment Roundtable in 2012. The roundtable's members invest more than \$500,000 of real money, which includes funds from the SFA Alumni Foundation and the SFASU Foundation. ★



FACULTY ADVISING



Why go native?

By Dr. Dave Creech

SFA Gardens director and professor emeritus of agriculture

WHEN VISITORS FROM near and far comment on the beauty of SFA Gardens, I tell them it's not easy. In 1981, Henry Mitchell wrote in *The Essential Earthman*, "It is not nice to garden anywhere. Everywhere, there are violent winds, startling once-per-five-century floods, unprecedented droughts, record-setting freezes, abusive and blasting heats never known before. There is no place, no garden, where these terrible things do not drive gardeners mad." This quote pretty much sums up gardening in East Texas.

One of the questions I am most frequently asked is, "What should I plant in my landscape?" I always respond with a checklist of questions. Do you enjoy gardening? How much time do you intend to dedicate to your garden? Is your location shady or sunny? What's your soil situation? Do you like lots of color or prefer shades of green?

My usual response is go native for at least 80 percent of the landscape. Why native? Well, think about it. Native trees, shrubs and perennials have been here a long time. They are adapted to the region and have staying power. Planting natives makes sense for the backbone of your garden. They're usually unaffected by insects and pests. Once established in the garden, they can usually make it on their own.

So what does well in my location? Well, for large trees, I love swamp chestnut oak, Nuttall oak, live oak, tupelo, magnolia, bald cypress, Florida maple and chalk maple. For smaller understory trees, it's hard to beat dogwoods, redbuds, silverbellies, snowbells, witch hazels, fringe trees and native plums. For shrubs, you can't go wrong with sweetspire, strawberry bush, spicebush, Southern wax myrtle, American beautyberry, Yaupon and deciduous azalea. And, there are many more to choose from.

So, seek out a gardening expert in your area for advice. Many times, nurseries employ horticulturists who can point you in the direction of native plants and trees that will provide the foundation for your beautiful garden.

There also are numerous online resources that can supply information on what grows well where you live. Remember, in the South, fall is the best time to plant because the root system begins to grow right away and continues to grow throughout the winter, giving the plant a better chance to survive that first summer.

Keep planting! ★

Putting Down Roots

SFA alumni make their home
on award-winning tree farm

Story by Tim Monzingo

Photos by Ryan Perry



AT RICHARD '70 and Pat Saunders' sprawling East Texas farm, it's a well-established fact that good things take time to grow, and Richard's ancestors began growing their farm nearly 150 years ago.

This spring – 145 years after Richard's great grandfather put down roots in the idyllic piney woods in Anderson County – generations of managing the land paid off in an unexpected way for Richard and his wife, both SFA alumni who met in Nacogdoches in the 1970s. The Texas Forestry Association, an organization of timber growers across the state, honored the Saunders with the 2015 Texas Outstanding Tree Farmer award.

The award is presented to timber growers who exemplify the best practices in land management by maintaining renewable forest resources, wildlife habitat, soil conservation and the production of forest products, according to the association.

"We weren't doing it for the award," Pat said, adding that the accolade took the couple by surprise.

The Saunders do it because it's in their blood and has been for generations.

When Richard's great grandfather moved to East Texas from Dick-

son, Tennessee, in 1870, he quickly found a dilapidated, two-room dog-trot-style structure along what is now FM 19 at the edge of Frankston.

The cabin already had a long history in the area before becoming the heart of today's farm.

Originally, it was part of an unfinished fort and later part of Kickapoo Iron Works, which was abandoned following the end of the Civil War, Richard said.

Though Richard and Pat are the fourth generation to live in and add to the home, much of the original structure stands unchanged. Chisel marks left by the original carpenters are still visible on the massive beams forming the home's walls.

Scattered throughout the house, Richard and Pat can point out pieces of antique furniture from past generations of their family.

The recent award and others in previous years add to the farm's reputation, but within Anderson County at least, the home and land have always been well known.

When Richard and Pat decided to move to Frankston permanently in 1999, no physical address was on record for the farm, and the home was simply known by the community as "the old log house," which was even listed on the electric bill. It wasn't until they



moved in that it was given a street address.

Richard's ties to the house aren't only through his family, though. After graduating from SFA with degrees in biology and chemistry, Richard worked for Texas Power and Light – the precursor to Oncor – until his retirement five years ago. When electricity-wired homes were becoming the norm, Texas Power and Light ran the first wires to the cabin and installed wiring in the home in 1930, Richard said.

For her part, Pat said she's been coming to the property since she met Richard, when the farm was still in the hands of Richard's grandfather, and she was always enamored with the place. So, the opportunity to move into the home and share Richard's dream of living there was her own "dream come true," she said.

"Every generation has added on to the house and updated it," she said. "If these logs could talk, what stories they would tell."

Like the home itself, changes have come throughout the generations to the acreage under the Saunders' care.

When Richard's father managed the property, cattle ranching was the main business. As the market for timber increased, the focus grew more and more to include trees. Richard said his natural passion for towering pines and hardwood forests were a perfect fit.

Though the Saunders still run cattle on the property, it isn't their goal to become barons of the beef industry. Conservation and responsible land use are where their focus lies.

With help from the Texas Forest Service and independent consulting foresters, the Saunders have developed management plans to balance the need for agriculture and conservation. The help they've received has been essential.

"We've not done anything on our own here," Richard said.

Even before the couple moved into the home, they spent a lot of time on the land cultivating it to become what it is today.

Most recently, their focus on conservation means they're planting chestnut trees to re-establish populations that were devastated by blight.

For the Saunders, the recreational and conservation value of the land is as important, if not more so, than the agricultural value.

Despite working tirelessly on the property day in and day out—what Richard calls the "7-to-9 job" that he took up after his retirement—he often comes home, cleans up, and he and Pat head back out to walk or ride through the woods and fields.

"I've always loved trees," Richard said. "I just kind of fell into tree farming." ★

HOUSE OF

Story by Belen Casillas

Photos courtesy of Robert Seale



PAYNE

SFA pole vaulter
on track for
2016 Olympics



ADYJACK STANDOUT POLE vaulter

Demi Payne is going places—likely the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She's accomplished a lot during the past year, including qualifying for the 2015 Team USA World Championships in Beijing, China.

However, the 6-foot junior kinesiology major from New Braunfels isn't just one of the leading female pole vaulters in the world; she's also a mother, 3.9-GPA student, wife-to-be and daughter of a former All-American pole vaulter. Payne makes flying over a 15-foot-high crossbar look easy, but it hasn't always been so for the record-setting athlete. ➔



Demi Payne with daughter Charlee and fiancé Thomas Taylor

Photo by Hardy Meredith

THE BEGINNING

It could have been that she watched her father do it countless times during track meets or an untapped, natural talent pumping through her veins. Or, perhaps, it was a mystical combination of both that led Demi Payne to pick up a pole for the first time in her parents' backyard. It was the summer of her high school freshman year. Her father, Bill Payne, had encouraged her to give the sport a try many times before. However, Payne had always refused until this particular day.

Her curiosity piqued, she opened the back door, grabbed her father's athletic gear and walked toward the training pit. She had always been athletic, whether it was spiking a volleyball over the net or running. So on this sunny afternoon, Payne knew exactly what to do. She picked up speed, placed one hand in front of the other and nailed the pole on the ground to aid the jump over the bar. Feet pointed skyward, her body followed, allowing Payne to clear the 10-foot 6-inch bar.

It was love at first flight.

THE SPORT

Soon after that first jump, Payne joined her high school track and field team and began her career in competitive pole vaulting. With the help of her father and coaches, Payne drastically improved. By the end of her sophomore year, she was jumping 12 feet 3 inches.

"It was really awesome to begin my first year and jump with girls who were the best in my high school," Payne said.

By the end of her high school senior year, Payne cleared the bar at 13 feet 1 inch and secured a track and field scholarship to the University of Kansas. There, she continued to increase her speed and strength, yet she failed to reach her goal height.

TRUE MOTIVATION

Payne struggled to keep her eye on the bar.

Juggling the demands of collegiate track meets, workouts, class projects and social life, Payne wasn't devoting 100 percent to her pole vault goals. She was losing her focus.

"I wasn't the best student. I was concentrating on the fun part of college life," she said.

While completing the first semester of her junior year at the University of Kansas, Payne and her fiancé, Thomas Taylor, learned she was pregnant.

Payne was granted a yearlong red-shirt leave to continue pole vaulting after her child's birth. During that time, she returned to Texas to be closer to her family, including her father, who helped her stay in condition before and after the baby's birth.

"I remember telling my dad during the pregnancy, 'I am going to do this and show everyone you can come back and be awesome,'" Payne said.

Soon after, she delivered a baby girl she and her fiancé named Charlee.

In addition to a new daughter, Payne also had a newfound inspiration: return to school, clear the highest bar and win every meet.

Determined to make the biggest comeback in pole vault history, Payne made it her mission to find a university close to home willing to support her dream. She found it at SEA.

"My main motivation is Charlee," she said. "My life is living proof that you can do anything and overcome challenges no matter what."

CHAMPION IN THE MAKING

With the expertise of a family friend, former pole vaulter and volunteer coach Jeff Erickson, Payne trained and looked forward to her comeback.

Although she didn't know anyone at SFA, Payne moved to Nacogdoches with her daughter and fiancé, and excited for the next chapter in her life, began her Ladyjack career in fall 2014.

Since the start of indoor and outdoor track season, Payne has taken the runway by storm.

"I knew this was going to happen. I knew she was going to set records. I see it every day in practice," Erickson said. "I just didn't know if it was going to be at the first or last meet of the season."

Payne describes the thought pattern she utilizes to successfully clear the bar as a simple "mind game," which she starts the night before a meet.

"I lay in bed and picture myself clearing the bar. I never imagine it falling," Payne said.

Through the power of self-visualization and technique, Payne is able to achieve significant momentum on the runway by aligning her head, shoulders and hips with a slight forward lean. Running at maximum speed, she said she places both hands on the pole, gripping one in front of the other, plants it into the vault box and lets her body do the rest.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Although the pole vault field is very competitive, Payne has set her sights on accomplishing what she'd never imagined possible only a year ago—winning a gold medal at the Olympics.

"That's always been my dream," Payne said. "I know it will change my and my family's lives, and I want that more than anything."

With the next chapter in her life waiting to be written, there's one sure thing that Payne said she'll rely on as she goes forward. "Now, sometimes when I lay down at night, I visualize standing on a podium with the national anthem playing in the background. It's a dream, but one that I hope will soon become a reality." ★

NCAA OUTDOOR POLE VAULT CHAMPION

U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches
Association All-Academic Team

NCAA OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP RECORD HOLDER

13 Individual Pole Vault Titles

Southland Conference Outstanding Indoor and
Outdoor Women's Field Performer of the Year

SLC Outdoor Female Athlete of the Year

FIVE-TIME NATIONAL ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

SLC Track & Field Newcomer of the Year

U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches
Association First Team All-American
For Outdoor Track & Field

National Honda Sports Award
Finalist for Track & Field

BOWERMAN TROPHY FINALIST

USA Team Qualifier for Outdoor World
Championships in Beijing, China

Six-Time SLC Athlete of the Week

INDOOR COLLEGIATE RECORD HOLDER

USA TRACK & FIELD INDOOR CHAMPION

Pan American Games Fourth-place Finisher

Two-Time Southland Conference C H A M P I O N

NCAA Division I Women's Field Athlete of the Year
for the South Central Region



YEAR OF THE VAULT

Demi Payne, SFA pole vault sensation, made 2015 a season to remember. The New Braunfels native garnered almost every collegiate accolade possible in her sport.

Payne isn't done yet. She hopes she'll be headed to the Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2016. She's definitely one to root for and watch. Go, Demi!



“ [Winning a gold medal at the Olympics has] always been my dream. I know it will change my and my family's lives, and I want that more than anything.”

'JACK TALK

Ahhhh ... 30 years ago,
I WAS DOING THE
"GRADUATION STROLL."
Congrats to the Class of '15 from a member
of the Class of '85! Axe 'em!

JOHN W. ROWE III / FACEBOOK

IT'S TIME!! #3rdyeargrad
#sfasu #sfagrad #sfa15 #graduation
#AxeEmJacks **#ForeverAlumberjack**

KIMBERLY FERGUSON / TWITTER

IF MY FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS REMEMBER
ONLY ONE THING FROM CLASS, I HOPE THEY
REMEMBER TO SAVE MONEY FOR COLLEGE.
TEACHING OUR FUTURE
LUMBERJACKS!
COLLEGE IS A MUST IN OUR CLASS.
#littlelumberjacks #proudalumni

DENISSE PACHECO / FACEBOOK

My SFA tour guide sent me a
note, and it just solidifies how
much I want to go here. @SFASU

ERIN MILLER / TWITTER

Can't express the **EXCITEMENT** I
feel to finally get my SFA ring today!

#onestepcloser
#SFASU #ringdip

MIGUELJUNIORAR / INSTAGRAM

My **FAVORITE** professor at SFA was
Dr. Andrew Parr. He **INSPIRED** me
to develop my talent and pursue a
career in **MUSIC**. Twenty
years later, I am still using the
things he taught me and am
GRATEFUL for his instruction.

STEVEN HAYS / FACEBOOK



Lumberjacks Make Great Graduates

A RECORD-BREAKING NUMBER of Lumberjacks received their degrees at the spring graduation ceremonies. Two ceremonies were held May 16 to accommodate the 1,302 graduates, their families and friends, and SFA faculty and staff members. During graduation, 1,017 bachelor's, 271 master's and 14 doctoral degrees were awarded. Students graduating with honors included 129 cum laude, 110 magna cum laude and 105 summa cum laude.

Spring graduation also broke the record for the number of graduates receiving bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in each category. Previously, May 2013 held the record for the largest graduating class receiving bachelor's and master's degrees. May 2012 held the record for the most doctoral students.



What you'll find in . . . Dr. Mark Barringer's office:

- 1.** A colorful tapestry from Antigua, Guatemala, gifted by SFA professors Drs. Jeana Paul- and Juan Carlos Ureña drapes the table.
- 2.** Barringer is an avid fly fisherman who prefers to tie his own flies. A friend from Indiana, whom Barringer taught to fly fish, gave him these pheasant tail feathers to utilize in making his flies.
- 3.** Yellowstone National Park served as Barringer's home for almost four years. While conducting research for his dissertation, he lived in a tent inside the park for 22 weeks during two summers. Three items on the wall behind his desk remind Barringer of this special time: a Union Pacific Railroad advertisement from 1921 announcing the park is again open after limited access during WWI, a map Barringer purchased at one of his favorite places, Park's Fly Shop in Gardiner, Montana, and a photo that shows Barringer fishing the upper Yellowstone River.
- 4.** Since East Texas provides little opportunity to fly fish, Barringer began woodworking as an additional hobby. During a visit to Costa Rica, Barringer's friends purchased this handcrafted wooden pen and case and presented it to him, knowing he would appreciate the artistry involved in creating it.
- 5.** Two of Barringer's favorite books rest on the desk. Dr. Jere Jackson, SFA professor of history,

wrote the book on bottom, and Chris Talbot, director of SFA's School of Art, took the book's photographs. The publication documents the work of Nacogdoches' architect Deidrich Rulfs. The book on top is titled *Owning It All* by William Kittredge. According to Barringer, it is the best collection of essays about the American West and its role in defining the collective American identity and our national mythology.

6. The fishing net was handed down to Barringer from Drs. Bobby Johnson and Robert Mathis, two retired SFA history professors. The pair used it to catch bats inhabiting the fourth floor of the Liberal Arts North Building when it was first constructed.

7. The painting Barringer now proudly displays in his office sat unfinished in the closet of Dr. Jeana Paul-Ureña, chair of SFA's Department of Languages, Cultures and Communication, for years. When Barringer saw it, he asked her to complete it.

8. The Mayan calendar is a gift from Dr. Kandy Stahl, former chair of the Department of Psychology at SFA, who retired a few years ago and now resides in Cancun.

9. The cover story of this 1950's *LIFE* magazine featured what was then dubbed as the college football game of the year with No. 1 SMU vs. No. 2 the University of Texas. Ben Procter, a football

standout for the Longhorns, later played for the Los Angeles Rams. When his professional football career ended, Procter attended Harvard University, where he received his doctoral degree in history. He later became one of Barringer's professors and a man whom Barringer thought of as a second father.

10. Another of Barringer's professors, Dr. Donald Emmett Worcester, established the history doctoral program at Texas Christian University in 1962. Worcester was a prolific author who wrote academic history, as well as children's books about the American West. Barringer received his doctorate from TCU. This photograph of Worcester and his dog was taken by the son of one of Barringer's graduate school colleagues at Worcester's ranch near Fort Worth.

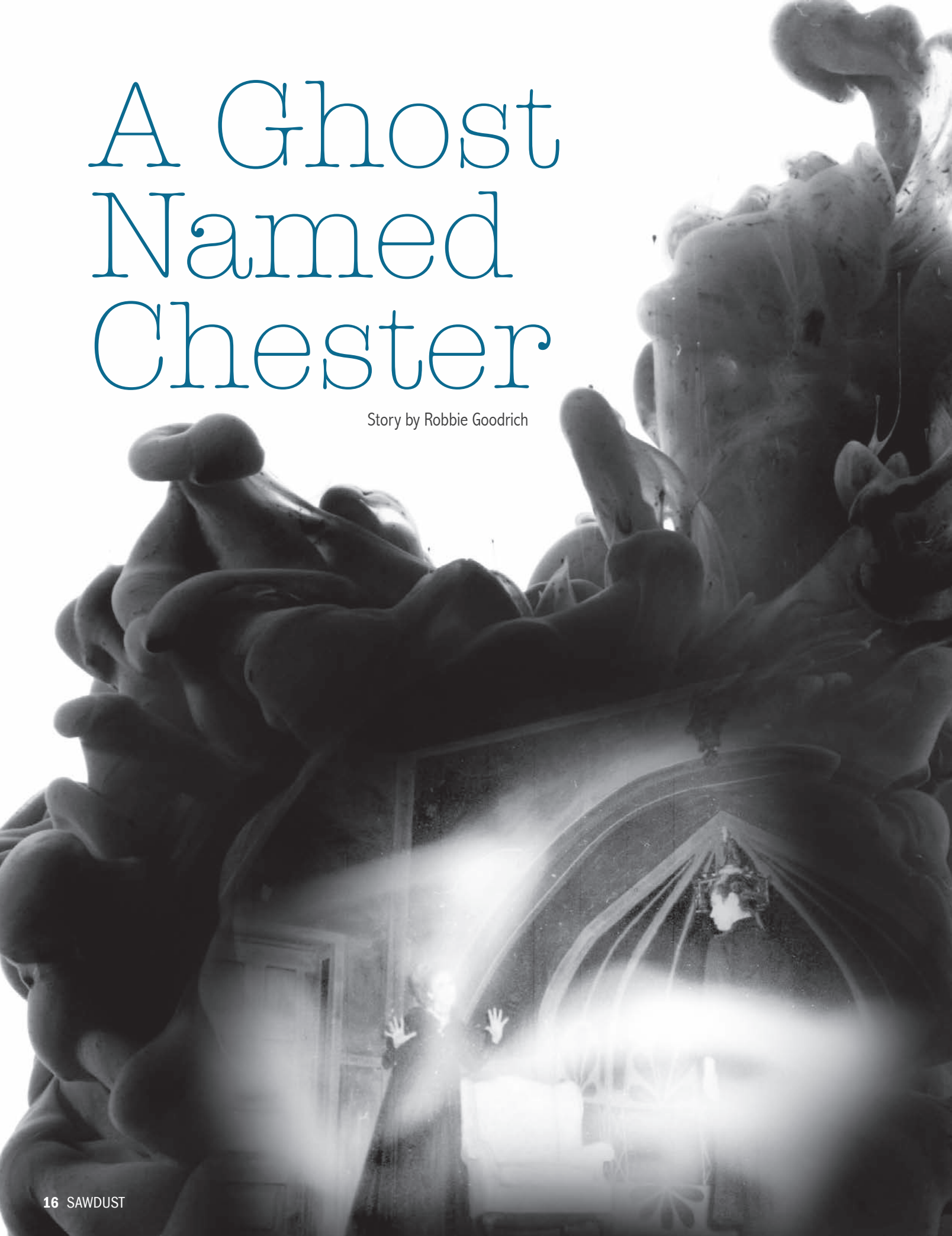
11. Barringer acquired these stones from the shore of Lake Superior near the mouth of the Presque Isle River. Michigan's western-upper peninsula and the Yellowstone region of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming are the places that feel most like home to him.



Dr. Mark Barringer
Chair, SFA history department
associate professor of history

A Ghost Named Chester

Story by Robbie Goodrich





AS OCT. 31 nears each fall, journalists search for stories to write that capture the spirit of Halloween. Legends of ghosts, goblins and other paranormal creatures find their way from the past to the present with each writer hoping to tell these stories in a new and exciting way.

Such is the case with the “ghost” that supposedly inhabits the Griffith Fine Arts Building on SFA’s campus. Just about every student who has attended SFA has heard about Chester, and many news articles have been written about him, usually around Halloween. No one knows these stories better than Tomy Matthys, retired SFA theatre faculty member, who had a few unexplainable incidents during his 45 years working in Griffith, which houses W.M. Turner Auditorium.

“I don’t know that anyone can prove or disprove ghosts,” he said, “but I’ve never been in a theatre that didn’t have one.”

Strange things began happening in Griffith in 1967 during the SFA theatre department’s production of Edward Albee’s *Tiny Alice*. Directed by Dr. Kenneth Waters with costume and set designs by Matthys, *Tiny Alice* is remembered for the phenomenon of a “presence” reported by students and professors associated with the play – drafts of cold air, approaching footsteps with no one visible, doors rattling and opening by themselves, and what appeared to be a luminous face on the auditorium wall.

In addition to those first encounters with Chester, (who was given his name by Waters) the most compelling “evidence” of a ghost is the now-famous photograph taken by Matthys on the *Tiny Alice* set that shows a vaporous image floating across the scene in the form of a human body wearing a cowed hood.

The developed negative was returned to Kodak to ensure the film was not damaged, and the company responded by saying everything in the image was “a part of the subject matter; there was not a flaw in the negative,” Matthys said.

After that, unusual things continued to happen in the building.

A few months after *Tiny Alice*, during a production of William Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, which is surrounded with superstition and is considered by many “a haunted show,” Chester was blamed for another strange occurrence.

In this SFA production, when the glowing faces of the ghosts of the eight kings of Banquo appear to Macbeth on a black-light set, instead of eight heads, there were nine. It was first suspected that the technical crew was playing a joke, but the actors portraying the eight ghosts could not explain the extra head.

In following years, Chester made less dramatic appearances — unaccounted-for lights going on and off during a rehearsal for *Winterset*, footsteps on the catwalks when no one was there and spotlights flashing on and off with no operators present during late-night props work for *Fiddler on the Roof*. ➔

Actual photo taken by Tomy Matthys on the set of *Tiny Alice* in 1967. The photo shows a vaporous image floating across the scene in the form of a human body wearing a cowed hood.



A 1968 *Stone Fort* yearbook image from the fall 1967 stage production of *Macbeth*.

Chester jokingly gets blamed for jammed copiers, malfunctioning equipment and missing food in refrigerators.

“What people define as a ghost are unusual events occurring to only one or two people,” Matthys said. “If you want a rational, physical reason for it, there is a high energy that develops in a theatre, especially around the time a play is premiering. People are in the theatre at all hours of the night. You turn lights on, burn them for several hours, then turn them off, and you’ve built up a lot of heat energy that expands and contracts the lumber.”

Having said that, Mattys remembers an incident that happened one afternoon in the late ’90s. “We had just gotten a new electronic lighting board. I walked into the theatre and up on stage, and a spotlight shined on me,” Matthys said. “I looked up, expecting to see someone in the lighting booth but there was no one there. That light went off, and another came on in a different location. This went on for about 30 minutes. As it continued, it got more and more intense. I sent someone up to the booth. No one was there, and the board was turned off, yet all of these lights were coming on and going off, as if Chester was checking out the new system.”

Two stories that have been told over the years to explain Chester’s origin—the architect of the Griffith Fine Arts Building dying of a heart attack and a construction worker who fell to his death while Griffith was under construction—are not true.

What is true is that faculty members prefer to pay little attention to the lore of Chester and instead concentrate on the performances and satisfaction of the audiences.

But, some people believe Chester still shows up at times, playing with lighting or whistling in “the cave,” which is adjacent to the costume shop and

used for storing props and sets. Chester jokingly gets blamed for jammed copiers, malfunctioning equipment and missing food in refrigerators.

“In the theatre, you are dealing with artistic, imaginative individuals with creative minds who are hyped up on the emotional moment of a production,” Matthys said. “You’re not dealing with scientists or physicists. You’re dealing with people who explain things metaphorically instead of pragmatically. And all that energy has to go somewhere.”

“I came to the point where I could tell how successful a show was going to be by how noisy Chester became after hours,” he said. “The more noise, I could guarantee the show’s success. That’s probably because of the energy of the students themselves, the hustle and bustle and excitement they had over the show.”

Matthys is often asked about Chester, and he mostly avoids the conversation. He said people want to create something that is sensational. “People want to hear about it as a ghost story; they want to sensationalize it,” he said. “I have my experiences, and that diminishes my experiences.”

Perhaps a presence will return to Turner Auditorium for the November production of *Macbeth*, which will be directed by Dr. Richard Jones, professor of theatre. Like many professional actors and directors, Jones prefers to not call this Shakespearean masterpiece by its name. He superstitiously refers to it as “that Scottish play” or “MacBee.”

If an eerie glow is seen late at night in Turner auditorium after the performances Nov. 17 through 21, it’s probably just the ghost light illuminating the stage. ★



ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

01 SFA CAPTURES THIRD SLC COMMISSIONER'S CUP



AFTER ONE OF the most successful years in program history, SFA claimed its third Southland Conference Commissioner's Cup last spring. The Commissioner's Cup is annually awarded to the top overall athletics program in the conference. SFA racked up 177.5 points throughout the 2014-15 season, defeating second-place Lamar University by 20.5 points to claim the title.

It was truly the "Year of the 'Jacks," as SFA claimed a Southland Conference record 10 conference titles.

In addition, the Ladyjacks won a second-straight Women's All Sports trophy, defeating Lamar University by 23.5 points. All Sports trophies are awarded annually for men's and women's competition based on a 13-point system

for all conference sports. Point values are 13 through 1, pending place of finish. Regular-season standings are used for sports that have a conference tournament.

02 BOWLING TEAM CLAIMS NATIONAL RUNNER-UP TITLE

SFA'S BOWLING TEAM made quite a name for itself this past April while making a run to the NCAA Championships in St. Louis, Missouri. Reaching its first NCAA tournament appearance in program history, SFA started out strong and earned the No. 1 overall seed heading into the double-elimination bracket.

SFA then advanced to the national championship match, going head-to-head with perennial powerhouse the University of Nebraska on ESPN. After splitting the first four games, the Cornhuskers pulled away in the final two, giving SFA a national runner-up showing.

Stephanie Schwartz was named a first-team National Tenpin Coaches Association All-American and Freshman of the Year, while Amber Lemke was named the NTCA National Coach of the Year.

03 TRACK AND FIELD RALLIES TO SWEEP SLC CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE SFA MEN'S and women's track and field programs made the Southland Conference Outdoor

Championships one for the ages in 2015 after both teams made late charges on the final day to sweep the team titles in dramatic fashion.

Trailing by a large margin with just a few events remaining, the Ladyjacks scored 34 points in the final three events to complete the comeback, while the Lumberjacks got big performances down the stretch from two-time All-American Josh Taylor. Overall, SFA boasted eight event titles to edge Sam Houston State University for first place by 14 points on the men's side and 4.5 points on the women's side.

The outdoor team sweep capped a perfect year for head coach Phil Olson's squad as the 'Jacks also took both SLC titles during the indoor campaign.

04 POLE VAULTING POWERHOUSE DEMI PAYNE CONTINUES HER WINNING STRIDE

SFA POLE VAULTING sensation Demi Payne is poised to compete at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. However, she still has some major hurdles to clear going forward.

Payne will compete at the World Championships in Beijing, China, this fall. She is one of only 16 collegians to qualify for the championships after placing third at the USA Championships in June to make the USA Track & Field team and advance. All eyes will continue to be on Payne as she represents SFA and the United States.

"I'm fine with creating those positive musical experiences to guide Nio to wherever he eventually settles on focusing his attention. With all my students, but especially my kids, that's what I want to be remembered for: helping them achieve those magical moments of music-making on stage that make them feel special." ~ Dr. Mario Ajero





LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Father-son piano duo creates magical moments on stage

Story by Robbie Goodrich | Photos by Hardy Meredith

IT IS REWARDING for all teachers to see their students succeed. But when the student also is your son, the reward is magnified many times over.

When Dr. Mario Ajero, associate professor of piano at SFA, presents one of his many faculty concerts on campus, his son, 11-year-old Antonio “Nio” Ajero, often joins him to perform a portion of the program.

Last spring, Nio was a guest soloist at his father’s faculty recital, performing the *Piano Concerto in A Major, K. 414* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Mario played the orchestra portion on a second piano.

“It was one of the most satisfying musical experiences both professionally and personally,” Mario said. →

Watch YouTube
performances
with a smartphone
QR scanner:



Nio and Mario



Nio



A few semesters ago, the two presented a unique program that showcased accompaniment by a computer-generated virtual orchestra. The pair often performs four-hand piano duets with the help of the Yamaha Disklavier Piano's video-synchronization capabilities.

These father-son performances, some of which can be quite comical at times, have become favorites of SFA School of Music concert fans and can be experienced online through YouTube video archives. The popular Ajero piano performances translate into fun-filled events that are a win-win for father, son and audiences alike.

Mario came to SFA in 2006 after former music faculty member and collaborative pianist Shirley Watterston retired. He teaches piano pedagogy, class piano and applied piano lessons. He recently was named keyboard area coordinator. Before arriving at SFA, he taught piano in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. His degrees are from the University of Oklahoma and Temple University.

Like many musicians, it was at the insistence of his parents that he began studying music as a child.

"I don't recall when I ever showed an interest in music by myself," he said. "However, my parents got me into piano lessons around age 7. I had a lot of positive experiences performing in recitals that probably had the biggest influence on my musical pursuits. Of course, it wouldn't have been possible without my parents' support and making me do it."

Likewise, Nio didn't initially show any more interest in music than his father. But again, his parents decided to immerse him in music at an early age.

"We have videos of him just messing around at the piano at 18 months old," Mario said. "I recall the first classical music concert we brought him to was the Chamber Music in the Pines that featured Drs. Jennifer Dalmas and Evgeni Raychev and other SFA faculty members in 2007 when he was only 3 years old. We sat in

These father-son performances, some of which can be quite comical at times, have become favorites of SFA School of Music concert fans and can be experienced online through YouTube video archives.

the back row because most young kids that age usually get pretty restless, and we wanted to be ready for a quick getaway.

"On the contrary, Nio was just the perfect audience member," he said. "He sat there fully focused on the performers on stage, and never once did he act up or fall asleep. So, we continued bringing him to as many recitals and concerts as we could—every piano recital with Dr. Andrew Parr, vocal recitals, instrumental recitals, bands, orchestras, etc. I can't help but think that those concert experiences were a major influence on him."

A lot of fellow musicians have told Mario how they couldn't teach their own children.

"But it has been a tremendous experience for both of us," he said. "Since we were able to get to the piano every day, we cover more ground than the traditional once-a-week lesson. It convinced me that having the parents deeply involved in their children's music education translates to greater success and persistence in the discipline."

Mario also describes his son as "sort of a guinea pig" for some of the research he has done in music technology and computer-assisted-instruction integrated in piano lessons.

"I think he's experienced benefits from that," he said.

Nio said he enjoys performing pieces by Frédéric Chopin, like his *Waltz in G-flat Major and Preludes*, because they have some flashy moments but also have moments of rubato. His favorite piece is the *Mozart Piano Concerto in A Major, K. 414* because it is fun, has lyrical melodies "and makes me feel like I'm playing like Mozart," he said. Math is his favorite subject, and he is a red belt in Taekwondo at Nacogdoches Blackbelt Academy.

Mario says that it's probably still early to pinpoint a specific dream for the young Nio, although he already has performed numerous solo recitals in the community and at SFA and won prizes in piano competitions across the state.

"His demeanor feels more as if he's just going with the flow," Mario said. "He has expressed an interest in teaching, and he gets a little bit of that experience at home when he accompanies, plays with and even gives lessons to his 6-year-old sister.

"I'm fine with creating those positive musical experiences to guide him to wherever he eventually settles on focusing his attention," he said. "With all my students, but especially my kids, that's what I want to be remembered for: helping them achieve those magical moments of music-making on stage that make them feel special." ★



A Matter of Life and Breath

Story by Donna Parish
Photos by Robin Johnson



Alumna commits career to helping save infants and children

IT WASN'T A difficult decision for Julia Gaona '08 to choose a career. She's known the professional pathway she was going to follow since she was 8 years old. The difficult part was how she came to know.

In 1993, Gaona's mother gave birth to a full-term, seemingly healthy baby boy named Daniel. However, shortly after birth, the medical team noticed he had difficulty breathing.

As Daniel remained in the hospital during the next few months, Gaona, the oldest of four children, spent more and more time there, too, alongside her mother.

As the months passed, Gaona witnessed the care and concern the medical staff had for her brother and parents. "They did everything they could," she said.

Despite the most-current medical treatments at the time

and the health care team's best efforts, Daniel died when he was 3 months old from complications of a congenital diaphragmatic hernia at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

"A congenital diaphragmatic hernia occurs when the fetus is forming," Gaona said. "A defect in the baby's diaphragm allows one or more of its abdominal organs to move into the chest cavity and occupy the space where the lungs should be. As a result, the baby's lungs are unable to properly develop."

Although Daniel, or Danny Boy as the family called him, never went home, his short life inspired his sister to commit to pursuing a career where she would be able to help children do just that.

"I knew I wanted to work in the medical field," Gaona said. "It became my passion." ➔



“My life’s mission is to continue to pursue a career where I can help people. It’s my way of paying tribute to my brother.”



A trip to SFA in spring 2003 started Gaona in that direction. As a first-generation college student, Gaona said she fell in love with SFA on a campus visit and loved Nacogdoches and the small-town feel. “I knew it was my home for the next four years.”

In addition to pursuing a bachelor’s degree in biology and a minor in Spanish, Gaona also was involved in many extracurricular activities at SFA, including Student Activities Association and serving as a Jack Camp counselor. She also was elected Homecoming queen in 2007.

After she graduated in 2008, she enrolled at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and received her Bachelor of Science in respiratory care. She later became a registered respiratory therapist.

Today, Gaona has transitioned back to the place where her love of health care started—Texas Children’s Hospital. There, she is a member of an elite neonatal and pediatric intensive care team that travels by jet to patients more than 100 miles from the hospital and ambulance for distances less than 100 miles to help save infants and children in critical need of medical care.

“I have been a member of the Kangaroo Crew since 2012,” Gaona said. “We are a critical care team of specialized nurses, respiratory therapists and emergency medical technicians who transport, assess and treat infants and children needing specialized medical care.”

Based at Texas Children’s, the team receives transport and treatment calls from hospitals all over the world. The farthest she’s traveled is Guatemala City, Guatemala.

As a respiratory therapist, Gaona is responsible for assisting the patient with breathing, which may include intubating the patient, securing X-rays to ensure proper intubation and patient ventilation.

“I analyze my patient’s age, weight and disease factors (if any), and that helps provide the information I need to determine the size of the endotracheal tube the patient needs and how much air volume he or she requires based on blood gas numbers. En route, we are in contact with the hospital’s staff and physicians for further instructions on specific care the patient may require,” Gaona said.

Quite often, the team is faced with critical patients when they arrive at an outlying facility. “Many of them may need corrective or transplant surgeries, which the outlying facilities are unable to provide. Together, my teammates and I work quickly and efficiently to stabilize and treat them as we travel to a facility that can meet their medical needs.”

According to Tonya Jack, registered nurse and clinical manager of the Kangaroo Crew, Gaona is a professional who strives to set a positive example. “During transport of our critically ill patients, Julia ensures



Proud parents Juan Antonio and SanJuana Gaona are pictured with their daughter Julia and her fiancé Alejandro Calvo.



the patient receives the best possible care. She comes to work with a positive attitude and readily shares her knowledge with others. She goes above and beyond what is asked of her."

The Kangaroo Crew's mascot is named Katie. Gaona explained that the kangaroo is the perfect animal to represent the group. "Katie is swift on her feet and fiercely protects her babies inside her pouch—just like we do when we pick up our sick babies."

In addition to treating and transporting the children, the Kangaroo Crew also makes it its mission to keep parents informed of their child's condition.

"One parent is always permitted to travel along with us and their child," Gaona said. "We really try to communicate and alleviate parents' anxiety by educating them about what is happening and what is being done while we're en route."

Gaona's ability to speak fluent Spanish also is a benefit. She recalls the language barrier between her Spanish-speaking parents and the mostly English-speaking medical team when her brother was born.

"Trying to explain the diagnosis and procedures to my parents in their non-native language in a way they could understand the complex-

ities of what was occurring was very difficult," she said. "When your child is sick, you need answers. It is a blessing to be able to step in."

When she's not working with the Kangaroo Crew, Gaona assists in the hospital's pediatric intensive care unit. She also has two other jobs. She is a respiratory therapy clinical instructor at UTMB-Galveston and works part-time for a pulmonary specialist. She's also planning for her wedding next summer.

"My fiancé, Alejandro Calvo, proposed in May 2014 in Cabo San Lucas while we were scuba diving. He had the proposal written out on a waterproof tablet. We dove to the bottom of the ocean, and he got down on one knee," she said. "He even had a photographer in on it, and he captured the whole thing."

Gaona said her future plans also include advancing her education. "I see me continuing to teach, and I'd love to some day work toward my master's degree in education. I'm also contemplating going back to school to become a physician assistant. My life's mission is to continue to pursue a career where I can help people. It's my way of paying tribute to my brother." ★





THE GREATEST RACE

SFA ALUMNUS RUNS MARATHONS FOR CHARITY

TOM MASON'S HOBBY has taken him around the world, and it has taught him that the most meaningful run might not be the one that takes him farthest from home.

Mason, who earned a degree in mathematics and general business from SFA in 1970 and a CPA license in 1973, began running in 1974 to prepare for a trip to climb Mount Rainier with one of his fraternity brothers. The climbing trip came and went, but the running stuck with Mason. He decided to step up his game when he turned 60 and began training as a marathon runner. He ran his first marathon in November 2008 and has now completed 23 marathons.

Two years ago, the Dallas resident set a goal to complete all the World Marathon Majors, seven of the largest and best-known races in the world, including the Boston, Paris, London and Berlin Marathons. With that goal attained, Mason is near the halfway point in his next quest – to participate in a marathon on every continent.

Along with his son Lee, Mason ran his first marathon outside of the United States in Paris in spring 2013. “I had never been to Paris, so my wife and I rented a house about a mile away from the Arc de Triomphe, and we all stayed for 10 days,” he explained. ➔

STORY BY DR. SHIRLEY LUNA



In September 2013, Mason ran in the Berlin Marathon and then went with a group to Munich for Oktoberfest. “We toured the Dachau concentration camps outside Munich and just got a thorough immersion into the country.”

The next stop on Mason’s international race itinerary was England for the April 2014 London Marathon. “The race starts in Greenwich Park and winds along the Thames River, crossing the Tower of London Bridge at the halfway point,” Mason recalled. “The finish line is on the Mall in front of Buckingham Palace, where the ceremonial processions always take place. It was just a great setting.”

Tokyo was the most recent stop. After the February 2015 Tokyo Marathon, Mason and his wife took a bullet train to Kyoto and visited the Shogun Palace and Mount Fuji. “Finishing a marathon is an accomplishment, but marathons in locations like these are just invigorating and inspirational.”

In order to qualify for certain marathons, runners must meet standards based on age and completion times of other certified marathons. Other athletes run to raise money for non-profit organizations. In the 2014 Boston Marathon, for example, more than \$38.4 million was raised for associated charitable organizations.

The minimum charitable contribution for many marathons is \$500, but for the historical Boston Marathon, the oldest race in America, the minimum contribution is \$5,000. “I had never asked anyone to support my marathons, but I decided to send an email to some close friends and family members to see if I could get a few donations. I decided it made sense to ask my boss, and he wrote a check to cover the entire minimum.”

Mason is executive vice president and treasurer at Hillwood, one of the top industrial, commercial and residential real estate developers in the country, and his boss is company founder Ross Perot Jr. “I ended up raising \$17,000, and with the matching contributions that were offered by several companies, the total donation was \$26,000.”

That amount was just a portion of the \$350,000 raised during the event by 40 runners supporting Massachusetts General Hospital’s emergency response team. “This emergency response program was one of the early responders to provide critical trauma care to victims of the Boston Marathon bombings in 2013,” Mason said. “Through their teamwork and preparation, they were able to respond to critical injuries sustained by runners and spectators with no loss of life at the hospital following

that tragedy. It was an honor to help build and support the work they do.”

The Boston Marathon is held on Patriots’ Day, a statewide, celebration-filled holiday, and the 2015 race was the 119th running of the 26.2-mile course. “It was misty and cold, with temperatures in the low 40s,” Mason said. “The crowds were deep at many points along the course, but when we got to Boston College, the students were lined up for a quarter of a mile, cheering and encouraging each runner. The patriotism surrounding the entire event was really special, and that race by far is the one that I cherish most highly. It was an incredible experience.”

As any good accountant would, Mason documents the completion of each run, as well as other pertinent details, on a spreadsheet, and he believes that the time he invests in running is beneficial on both a personal and professional level. “Running helps me stay in shape, but the benefits aren’t just physical. I do some of my best thinking when I am running.”

Mason estimates that it will take approximately two years to attain his membership in the Seven Continent Club. “I contacted Marathon Tours, the company that arranges the travel, about the annual marathons they host in Antarctica each March, and they said they could guarantee me a spot in 2018, but the marathons for the next two years were already booked up. So, I’m on the waiting list.”

While he’s waiting, Mason is busy training and counting the days until Cuba’s Havana Marathon in November 2015 and the Amazing Maasai Marathon in Africa in August 2016. ★

“THE PATRIOTISM SURROUNDING THE ENTIRE EVENT WAS REALLY SPECIAL, AND THAT RACE BY FAR IS THE ONE THAT I CHERISH MOST HIGHLY. IT WAS AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE.” - TOM MASON



Lumberjack Network quarterly breakfasts are coming soon to your neighborhood.

During the past several months, we have conducted research concerning how to better engage our alumni, and we specifically focused on an approach by which SFA alumni have the opportunity to interact on a regular basis to expand and develop their professional networks.

SFA's quarterly network will launch with a breakfast in Dallas during fall 2015 with the Lumberjack Business Network, later expanding to Houston and other areas in 2016. We expect to expand the program to include similar networks for alumni with careers in nursing, education, forestry and many others.

Yes, great things are happening at SFA, and we hope you'll be in attendance during Homecoming 2015 to witness it firsthand. If you're unable to join us, watch for information about the new Lumberjack Network program.

And, as always, remember to follow us on social media. "Like" the SFA Alumni Association on Facebook, and follow SFA Alumni on Twitter.

Axe 'em, Jacks!

Karen Gregory Gantt '95 – McKinney, Texas
President, SFA Alumni Association

IN THE SPRING issue of *Sawdust*, I discussed the great things happening at SFA, and I encouraged you to connect with your university friends and return to campus soon for a visit. Well, your opportunity is just around the corner during Homecoming 2015.

Each fall, the Alumni Association proudly hosts Homecoming, and this year's event is one you won't want to miss. Of course, we will continue with our annual Homecoming traditions, including the torchlight parade and concert at the intramural fields Friday evening, the Homecoming parade through downtown Nacogdoches Saturday morning, and the excitement of Duck Dash and tailgating at Alumni Corner before the Lumberjack football game.

This year's Homecoming will have a slight twist, however, as it will be held Oct. 30-31. Halloween themes will be included throughout the festivities, and the weekend will be known as "A Haunted Homecoming."

Alumni Corner will feature Jack-O-Ween—a family friendly fall fest with bounce houses, face painting, games, giveaways and fun for kids of all ages. Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes or dress like a Lumberjack or Ladyjack.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Alumni Association staff want every SFA graduate to attend Homecoming 2015, but we understand there will be scheduling conflicts. So, there is more good news—we will be coming to you soon through a new program, the **Lumberjack Network**.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Karen Gantt '95, McKinney
president

David Madrid '02, Bossier City, Louisiana
president-elect

Curtis Sparks '85, Tyler
past president

ASSOCIATION BOARD

Charlotte Ashcraft '80, Nacogdoches

Jeremy Cleverly '98, Mansfield

Don Cox '71 & '76, Nacogdoches

Robin Dawley '77, Nacogdoches

Bob Francis '78, Bullard

Mike Harbordt '63, Nacogdoches

Doris Havard, Nacogdoches

James Hawkins '83, Silsbee

Ron Hunt '91 & '94, McKinney

Bruce Mayberry II '08, Nacogdoches

Justin McFaul '04, Gilmer

Erika Tolar '02, Spring

Steve Whitbeck '75, Nacogdoches

Bob Williams '70, Dallas

Chris Woelfel '95, Kingwood

SFA ALUMNI FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

Bill Roberds '75, Dallas - Chairman

Wendy Buchanan '85, Nacogdoches

Lewie Byers '68, Rusk

Ford "Sparky" Cartwright '69, Lufkin

Rick Couvillon '85, Houston

Karen Gantt '95, McKinney

Stephen Greak '92, Lufkin

James Hamilton '77, Porter

ASSOCIATION STAFF

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

Jennifer Sowell
assistant to the executive director

Heather Hawkins '00
assistant director of alumni relations

Samantha Mora '08
director of events and engagement

Alicia Roland Chatman
gifts and records specialist

Amie Morton '09 & '11
scholarship coordinator

Derek Snyder '01
communications and marketing
coordinator

Hannah Franks '13
accountant

'JACKS OF ALL TRADES

Mike Karns '85 Founder and CEO, Firebird Restaurant Group



MIKE KARNS MIGHT have seemed like a typical student waiting tables in Nacogdoches to earn a few bucks before he graduated from SFA in 1985. In actuality, he was gaining important information for his future role as founder, owner and CEO of the Dallas-based Firebird Restaurant Group, which comprises four award-winning brands: El Fenix, Meso Maya, Taqueria La Ventana, and Snuffer's Restaurant & Bar.

After graduating from SFA with a degree in general business, Karns worked two jobs in order to finance his future goals.

"I worked at a bank during the day and at a restaurant at night," he explained. "When I had saved some money, I took a straight-commission real estate position and did leasing work for strip shopping centers. I started doing tenant representation and brokered more than 400 transactions for new restaurant locations; it was the perfect opportunity to acquire experience on both sides of the business."

Karns' purchase of El Fenix in 2008, a family-owned company with 15 locations, coincided with one of the worst real estate market downturns in recent history. Refusing to let the economy alter his course, he closed on the property. "We had worked so hard to put this purchase together, when it finally went through, it felt a little like we had caught a whale with a fly rod," he recalled. "Economic corrections of that magnitude are the greatest challenge in business."

Karns describes the relaunch of El Fenix, which had been in existence through five generations and about 100 years,

not so much as rebranding, but as restoring and repackaging a successful brand for the next generation of diners. Three years later, adjacent to the flagship El Fenix location near Klyde Warren Park and the Perot Museum of

Nature and Science, he opened two additional restaurants – the Meso Maya restaurant, with a menu inspired by the bold flavors of interior Mexico, and Taqueria La Ventana, offering authentic hand-made gourmet tacos, along with burritos, salads and desserts.

"I know some people probably thought the new concepts would take business away from El Fenix, but the result was actually the opposite," he said. "Business at El Fenix increased."

In March 2014, Karns became the owner of Snuffer's, a chain of seven Dallas restaurants that had been operating for three decades with a stalwart reputation for burgers and cheddar fries.

Regardless of the venue, Karns speaks from experience when he says food-service employees should approach their work with the spirit of an entrepreneur. "Every waiter establishes a tone for his or her section," he said. "Star waiters have the opportunity to become managers. Managers can become owners. It really is an opportunity to change your future."

Firebird Restaurant Group employs more than 2,000 people, and Karns instills in each employee the mindset of genuine, authentic engagement. For food service employees, Karns describes this warm and welcoming approach as the opposite of a robotic order-taker.

"One thing you learn fairly quickly is that life is not always fair," he said. "Sometimes you provide excellent service, and you don't always get what you deserve in return. The take away for a waiter is to continue being positive. In the big picture, it always works out if you are doing the right thing."

Karns operates a commercial real estate firm and also owns Sunrise Mexican Foods, a restaurant supply company that produces the chips for which El Fenix is famous, along with tortillas and other food items for retail and food-service operations.

Firebird operates in 35 locations, and Karns is currently executing "Firebird 2020 Vision," which details his plans to expand current and future brands to 140 restaurants. For Karns, whose hobbies brand him an auto enthusiast, pilot, motocross racer and snowboarder, this fast-paced growth is just his style.

"My goal is for Firebird Restaurant Group to be the number one restaurant-career opportunity in the nation," he explained. "Early in my career, I was given great opportunities. I was young, and people who had many responsibilities put their trust in me. It's nice now to be able to do that for other people."

- STORY BY DR. SHIRLEY LUNA



ALUMNI CALENDAR

Times and dates are subject to change.
Visit sfaalumni.com/events for the most recent information.

SEPTEMBER

5

Alumni Corner Tailgate
3 p.m. / Corner of Raguet and Hayter Streets

SFA Football vs. Northern Arizona
6 p.m. / Homer Bryce Stadium

8

Fall Tuition Raffle Drawing

12

Alumni Corner Tailgate at TCU
11:30 a.m. / Fort Worth, Texas

SFA Football vs. TCU
2:30 p.m. / Amon G. Carter Stadium
Fort Worth, Texas

15

SFA Business Lumberjack Network Breakfast - Dallas
7 to 8 a.m. / Maggiano's Little Italy – Northpark / Dallas, Texas

18

Alumni Awards
Reception: 6 p.m. / Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Grand Ballroom / Nacogdoches, Texas

18-19

SFA Parents Weekend
Nacogdoches, Texas

19

SFA Golf Tournament
10 a.m. / Piney Woods Country Club
Nacogdoches, Texas

Sports Medicine Sporting Clay Shoot
10 a.m. / Nacogdoches Skeet Club

Alumni Corner Tailgate
3 p.m. / Corner of Raguet and Hayter Streets

Parent's Fund Reception
3:30 to 4:30 p.m. / Austin Building, Third floor

SFA Football vs. McNeese State
6 p.m. / Homer Bryce Stadium



23

TAG Ice Cream Social
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tracie D. Pearman Alumni Center

26

SFA Football vs. Abilene Christian
6 p.m. / Gray Stadium / Abilene, Texas

OCTOBER

1

Touchdown Club of Houston Luncheon
Noon / Westin Galleria

2

Battle of the Piney Woods Pre-Game Reception
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
JW Marriott / Houston, Texas

3

Battle of the Piney Woods Tailgate
Noon / NRG Stadium
Houston, Texas



Battle of the Piney Woods Kick-Off
3 p.m. / NRG Stadium / Houston, Texas

10

Alumni Corner Tailgate
Noon / Corner of Raguet and Hayter Streets

SFA Football vs. Nicholls State
3 p.m. / Homer Bryce Stadium

12-15

SFA Ring Week
Tracie D. Pearman Alumni Center

17

SFA Football vs. Southeastern Louisiana
7 p.m. / Strawberry Stadium
Hammond, Louisiana

30-31

HOMECOMING WEEKEND
See pages 34-35 for more information.

NOVEMBER

7

SFA Football vs. Central Arkansas
3 p.m. / Estes Stadium / Conway, Arkansas

14

Golden Jacks 50-Year Reunion

Alumni Corner Tailgate
Noon / Corner of Raguet and Hayter Streets

Alumni Day at SFA Football
3 p.m. / Homer Bryce Stadium
Two free tickets for Alumni Association members

SFA Football vs. Houston Baptist
3 p.m. / Homer Bryce Stadium

17

SFA Business Lumberjack Network Breakfast - Dallas
7 to 8 a.m. / Maggiano's Little Italy – Northpark / Dallas, Texas

21

SFA Football vs. Northwestern State
3 p.m. / Harry Turpin Stadium
Natchitoches, Louisiana

DECEMBER

4

Big Dip Ring Ceremonies
9:30 a.m. - James I. Perkins
College of Education and
College of Fine Arts

2 p.m. - Nelson Rusche
College of Business, College of Liberal and
Applied Arts, Arthur Temple College of
Forestry and Agriculture, and College of
Sciences and Mathematics

8

Senior Send-Off
5:30 to 7 p.m.



HOMECOMING OCT. 30-31

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS www.sfaalumni.com/event/homecoming

HOMECOMING ONLINE AUCTION

Begins: 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15

Ends: 9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1

Visit biddingforgood.com/sfahomecoming to bid on your favorite items, and help raise money for SFA scholarships!

FRIDAY, OCT. 30



SFA HOMECOMING GOLF TOURNAMENT

Cost: \$150 individual; \$600 team

Registration: 9:30 a.m.

Begins: 11 a.m.

Piney Woods Country Club

Four-player scramble. Players may enter as a single or recruit their own team. Entry fee includes tournament play, golf cart, refreshments, box lunch and post-tournament hors d'oeuvres. Tee gifts to all contestants, great prizes for all gross and net winners, and closest-to-hole prizes also will be awarded.

ANNUAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

4:30 to 5 p.m.

Tracie D. Pearman Alumni Center

"BACK IN NAC" SOCIAL

5:30 to 8 p.m.

The Liberty Bell, 422 E. Main St.

To kick off the weekend, join the SFA Alumni Nacogdoches Chapter for the happiest of all happy hours at the "Back in Nac" Social, which

includes purple beer for purchase, complimentary appetizer buffet (while it lasts), awesome appetizer specials, live jazz starting at 7 p.m., photo booth and all your friends. Be sure to go by after the bonfire festivities for late-night specials, too!



TORCHLIGHT PARADE AND BONFIRE

Torchlight Parade: 8:30 p.m.

Bonfire: 9 p.m. at the Intramural Fields

Show your school spirit as SFA alumni, students and the Nacogdoches community gather to cheer on the SFA football team, cheerleaders, dance team and band! The Alumni Association will be on hand distributing FREE 3-D fireworks glasses (while supplies last), so be sure to stop by our purple tent. Fireworks and a special performance will conclude the night's festivities!

SATURDAY, OCT. 31



HOMECOMING FLAP "JACK" BREAKFAST

8 to 10 a.m.

Downtown Nacogdoches Square (in front of City Hall)

Enjoy breakfast like a Lumberjack with flap "jacks" (while they last).

Decorate your flapjacks with purple goodies, grab a Lumberjack coloring sheet, take photos with the SFA Lumberjack, Ladyjack and spirit teams (8-9 a.m.), and listen to live music on the downtown stage.



Join the SFA Alumni Association at Alumni Corner for five home and one away football game tailgates, FREE for all Alumni Association members!

Tailgate includes lawn games like washers, oversized Jenga, ladder ball, cornhole and more. Catch college sports at the Suddenlink "Bundle U" viewing lounge with friends before the game while enjoying tasty tailgate food and beverages.

Non-members can gain access to Alumni Corner by purchasing a single-game tailgate pass online at sfaalumni.com or at the tent.

PASS PRICES

SFA Alumni Association members: FREE

Non-members: \$15

Children Ages 6 to 10: \$5 (with adult)

Children Ages 5 and younger: Free (with adult)

Join the SFA Alumni Association today! Sign up online at sfaalumni.com to take advantage of the many benefits the membership provides.



SIXTH ANNUAL LUMBERJACK HOMECOMING CERTIFIED 5K

Cost: \$25 students; \$35 faculty/staff/alumni/community

Registration: 7 a.m. Begins: 8 a.m.

Race Start: Student Recreation Center parking lot near the Schlieff Tennis Complex, corner of Wilson Drive and Starr Avenue

Parking and Bus Pick-Up: Regions Bank Parking Lot, 300 E. Main St.

Shuttles from downtown: 6:45 to 7:40 a.m. (Two buses every 10 minutes)

Start your day with a run around the SFA campus and beautiful Nacogdoches! All participants will receive a free flap "jack" breakfast downtown, and the first 100 participants are guaranteed a T-shirt! Prizes awarded to best overall male and female times, the top three male and females in each age group, and to the largest group/organization registered. Come dressed in your Halloween costume. The race will end downtown, so a shuttle bus will pick up participants parking at Regions Bank. Proceeds benefit the Dr. Raymond Lee Worsham Scholarship.



HOMECOMING PARADE

10 a.m.

Downtown Nacogdoches

Celebrate SFA and enjoy themed floats, music and pageantry. FREE for all to attend. This year's theme is "A Haunted Homecoming!"

ALUMNI CORNER/BENEFIT TICKET DRAWING

Kickoff: Noon

Corner of Raguet and Hayter Streets

Benefit Ticket Drawing: 2 p.m.

NEW LAYOUT THIS YEAR and LIVE MUSIC! Join the SFA Alumni Association for delicious tailgate food, the Suddenlink "Bundle U" Viewing Lounge and tailgate games. Benefit tickets will be sold until 2 p.m. at Alumni Corner for \$100. The winner of the Benefit Ticket

Drawing will receive \$10,000 to put toward the scholarship of his/her choice. Alumni Corner is FREE for Alumni Association members; \$15 for non-members; *\$5 for children ages 6-10 (with adult); FREE for children under 5 (with adult).

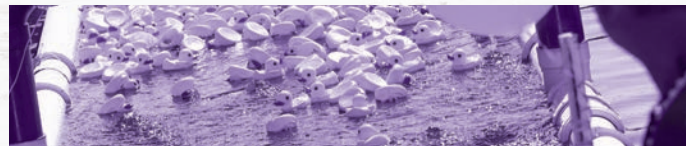
*Child passes will be available for purchase at the door.

JACK-O-WEEN

Kickoff: Noon

Corner of Raguet and Hayter Streets

Family friendly fall fest with bounce houses, face painting, games and giveaways. FREE and fun for children of all ages. Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes or dress like a Lumberjack or Ladyjack. The first 100 children receive a FREE T-shirt.



DUCK DASH

Noon

Ag Pond

Watch rubber ducks race to win cash prizes and raise money for scholarships. Tickets cost \$5 each or \$25 for six. The top-selling organization will receive \$500 to benefit the scholarship of its choice. 1st place: \$1,000 cash; 2nd place: \$500 cash; 3rd place: \$250 cash. **Buy ducks online at sfaalumni.com.**

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

3 p.m.

Homer Bryce Stadium

Cheer on the Lumberjacks as they face the University of the Incarnate Word. Visit sfajacks.com to purchase game tickets or call (936) 468-JACK (5225).



HOMECOMING SPIRIT SPONSOR

Dine and drink at Liberty Bell, 422 E. Main St., during Homecoming Weekend and support SFA and its Lumberjacks! The Liberty Bell will donate a portion of its sales to the SFA Alumni Association.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5

Alumni Corner Tailgate: 3 p.m.

SFA vs. Northern Arizona: 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

SFA Alumni Corner @ TCU: 11:30 a.m.

SFA vs. TCU: 2:30 p.m.

Fort Worth, Texas

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19 - PARENTS WEEKEND

Alumni Corner Tailgate: 3 p.m.

SFA vs. McNeese State: 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 10

Alumni Corner Tailgate: Noon

SFA vs. Nicholls State: 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 31

Homecoming Weekend

Alumni Corner Tailgate: Noon

SFA vs. Incarnate Word: 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 14

Alumni Corner Tailgate: Noon

SFA vs. Houston Baptist: 3 p.m.



Alumni Awards

THE SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BESTOWS ITS HIGHEST HONORS ON INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE MADE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR PROFESSIONS AND COMMUNITY, COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO ADVANCING THE VALUES AND GOALS OF SFA, AND ENSURED A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

HALL OF FAME BOB SITTON '60



The Hall of Fame Award was established in 1973. The first four selected members were announced at a program celebrating the 50th anniversary of SFA. The purpose of the Hall of Fame Award is to honor SFA graduates and former students who have distinguished themselves and SFA through exemplary contributions in their fields of endeavor and who have been acclaimed at state, national and/or international levels.

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR DR. BRIAN OSWALD



The Distinguished Professor Award was established in 1966. Its purpose is to honor a current SFA faculty member who has made significant contributions to society and whose accomplishments and career have brought credit to the institution.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 1966.



RON COLLINS '79



SUSAN ROBERTS '75

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award was established in 1989.



NICK PESINA '04 & '06



TRAVIS TURNER '05 & '11

LUMBERJACK PRIDE

The Lumberjack Pride Award was established in 2015.



JIM DRENNAN '73



JACLYN PARTIN '08 & '14

New this year, the Lumberjack Pride Award honors SFA graduates and former students who demonstrate outstanding Lumberjack Pride and Spirit or who have gone above and beyond to support SFA or the Alumni Association through outstanding volunteerism, service or other efforts beyond financial support.

AWARDS CEREMONY / FRIDAY, SEPT. 18

RECEPTION: 6 P.M. / DINNER: 6:30 P.M. / BAKER PATILLO STUDENT CENTER GRAND BALLROOM
LIMITED SEATING / TICKETS: (936) 468-3407 OR SOWELLJM1@SFASU.EDU



THE EMMONS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

supports students enrolled in the James I. Perkins College of Education or Nelson Rusche College of Business who also are members of an Interfraternity council or Panhellenic sorority.

The scholarship was endowed by Julie (Bulnes) and Ryan Emmons. Julie received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from SFA and was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. She continued her education at Sam Houston State University, receiving her master's degree in counseling. She is employed as an elementary school counselor.

Ryan received his bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from SFA, and he was a member of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity. He is a CPA working in the energy sector.

Ryan and Julie met at SFA and immensely benefited from the experiences and relationships each built in the classroom and through cultural and social activities offered through the university. They endowed the scholarship to show their appreciation to SFA and "pay it forward" to future Lumberjacks.



THE MR. AND MRS. JOHNNIE A. LOUDD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

will benefit minority and underprivileged students from Northeast Texas who desire to major in education at SFA.

The Loudds' grandson, Gary, and his wife, Deena Peppers, established the scholarship to honor the memory of Loudd's grandparents, Johnnie A. and Lutee Loudd. Johnnie was a teacher, coach and principal in Avinger, Texas, and he served in similar positions in the Jefferson, Texas, school system. He also was a licensed electrician.

Johnnie served in World War II and used a government grant to teach reading and writing to rural citizens in Marion County. He also served on the President's Council for Physical Fitness. A graduate of Bishop College, Johnnie earned his master's degree in science from Prairie View A&M University and did post-graduate work at Huston-Tillotson University in Austin.

Lutee was a homemaker who was well known for her outgoing personality and love for her family. She was an avid supporter of higher education, encouraging her husband, children and grandchildren to pursue college degrees.



THE DR. RAYMOND LEE WORSHAM SCHOLARSHIP

provides financial assistance to current SFA Campus Recreation student employees with a minimum of one-year employment and a minimum 2.5 GPA.

Worsham was the SFA intramural department director and keystone for the intramural department for more than four decades.

Under Worsham's leadership, intramural sports flourished, and he set the tone for the strong intramural tradition that continues through current intramural offerings and THE Intramural Champ shirt, which is awarded to intramural champions.

**Your gift to support
SFA students
secures educational
opportunities for
generations of future
Lumberjacks.
Contact us to create
your legacy today.**

DAMAGED SFA DIPLOMA?



If you were impacted by the spring flooding and need to replace your damaged SFA diploma, please contact the Office of the Registrar at graduation@sfasu.edu or (936) 468-2120 for re-order information.

SFA Alumni Association
P.O. Box 6096, SFA Station,
Nacogdoches, Texas 75962-6096

Phone: (936) 468-3407

Toll Free: (800) 765-1534

Fax: (936) 468-1007

Website: sfaalumni.com

Email: alumni@sfasu.edu

1950s

The Park View Area Middle School was named in honor of Marshall Kendrick '59 of Pasadena, Texas, retired director and general manager of the Bayer Corporation and former Pasadena ISD Board of Trustees member.

1960s

Al '66, civil servant and retired Air Force officer, and Abbie Watters '74, certified public accountant, of Dallas celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.



Linda and Jerry Hill '69 of Woodway celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

David Stamps '69 of Conroe, a member of the SFA Lettermen's Board, retired as global director in procurement for Chicago Bridge & Iron Co.



LUMBERJACKS MAKE GREAT FRIENDS

Members of the 1960s Pikes (Pi Kappa Alpha chapter at SFA) fraternity met for a reunion in April. After a four-year absence (2009-13) the Pikes were re-chartered at SFA in May 2015. Subgroups represent the decade members attended SFA and meet annually to catch up. Currently, SFA has more than 1,100 Pikes alumni, with the current chapter having 70 members.

1970s

Cotton George '72 of Martinsville is the national director for the Texas High School Rodeo Association.

Boyd '72, former director of research compliance for the University of North Texas, and Susan Herndon '72 & '77, math and history teacher for Southlake Carroll ISD, both retired.

Susan Pate '72 of Pineland retired after 42 years of teaching.

Andy Griffin '73 is president of the Troup ISD School Board.

Dr. Alan Sowards '73 of Nacogdoches, professor of elementary education in the James I. Perkins College of Education, was named a 2015 National Outstanding Educator by Project Learning Tree, an environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation.

Dr. David Allard '71 & '74, professor of biology at Texas A&M University – Texarkana, was inducted into the Chancellor's Academy of Teacher Educators for the Texas A&M University System.



Rebekah Johnson '74, dean of liberal and fine arts at Kilgore College, was the commencement speaker at the college's spring graduation ceremonies.

Ray Driver '75 of Houston, a founder of Q10 Capital and chairman of the board for 16 offices nationwide, joined the advisory board of the University of Houston Master's of Real Estate program.

Steve Hartz '75 & '88 of Nacogdoches owns General Mercantile and Oldtime String Shop.

Debbie Fleitman '76 & '78 of Gainesville, Texas, published her first book *Life After the Storm*, which depicts the survival of a young Joplin, Missouri, family following the devastating tornado May 22, 2012.

Letitia "Tish" Haley Barker '77 of Colleyville, president of the Dallas-based company Haley-Greer, one of the largest curtain wall and specialty glass contractors in the U.S., will serve as the 2015-16 president for the American Subcontractors Association.

Tom Guidry '77 of Boerne, Texas, plays the trumpet and flute for the Liberty County Blues Band, which specializes in blues, rock and Southeast Texas swamp pop.

Leman and Dr. Nancy McNeal '77 of Bivins celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Dr. Renee Truncale '77 of Garland is director of special services for Wylie ISD's Educational Service Center.

Charles H. Castle '79 of Colorado Springs, Colorado, published *Inspiration for the Heart*, a book comprising 31 non-fiction short stories with a portion of the profits benefiting Community Partnerships for Child Development.

Dr. Chris Mack '79 of Longview owns Chris Mack Comprehensive Dental Care.

Brad Streit '79 of Tyler, senior vice president of Raycom Media, was honored by the Texas Association of Broadcast Educators as the 2015 Broadcaster of the Year.

1980s

Dr. Karen Guenther '80, faculty associate/assistant to the provost and professor of history at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania, presented the academic convocation in August 2015.

W. Russell Callender '81 & '85 of Houston is assistant administrator in charge of the National Ocean Service with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Kristen Gusa '81 of Tyler was named partner at Gollob Morgan Peddy certified public accountants.

Shawn G. Head '81 of Elkins, West Virginia, retired after 31 years as a wildlife biologist for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

Dr. Andy Mack '81, surgeon at East Texas Oral Surgery, is mayor of Longview.

Gil Baumgarten '82 of Austin, an investment adviser, is president of Segment Wealth Management, managing client portfolios worth approximately \$600 million.

Robin Grantham Blake '82 & '88 of Corsicana, public educator for 32 years, retired as principal of Mildred Elementary.

Dr. John Roesse '82, biology professor, received the Distinguished Teaching Award for Lake Superior State University in Marie, Michigan.

Dr. Ben Mack '83 is a general surgeon at the Diagnostic Clinic of Longview.

Dr. Kriss Myers '83 of Fort Worth owns Azle Family Practice – Healthfirst Medical Group.

Chris Stewart '83 of Tyler, president, general manager and funeral director in charge of Stewart Family Funeral Home, was named Funeral Director of the Year by East Texas Funeral Directors.

Michael S. Taff '84 of Houston is executive vice president and chief financial officer for Chicago Bridge & Iron Co.

Coordinator for disaster response and the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, Laraine Waughtal '84 of Granbury has served as pastor for the Central Texas United Methodist Conference for 16 years.

Jeff Moore '85 of Longview is senior manager at Henry & Peters P.C.

David Craft '86 of Coppell is the 2014 Companywide Realtor of the Year.

Roger Dulude Jr. '86 of Enfield, Connecticut, is corporate compliance officer and director of risk management for Holyoke Medical Center and Valley Health Systems.

Col. Tim Smith '86 of Georgetown retired from the U.S. Army after 28 years of honorable service, including two combat tours in Iraq, and he serves as deputy director of IT Business Services for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission in Austin.

Paul S. Woodard Jr. '86 of Palestine is president of J&M Premier Services and serves on the Austin Bank Board of Directors.

Dr. Larry Redmon '87 & '89 of College Station, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service state forage specialist, received the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture's Department of Agriculture Outstanding Alumni Award.

Ann Russell '87 & '89 of Nacogdoches, junior high history and geography teacher, has taught for 25 years in the Central Heights ISD.

Mark Griffin '88 of San Antonio is vice president of sales and marketing for Food Safety Net Services.

Dr. Robert Sterken Jr. '88 & '91, associate professor of political science at the University of Texas at Tyler, was named a Fulbright Scholar and will travel to Southeast Asia to collaborate with international partners in the educational, political, cultural and economic fields.

Kristina Knowles '89 of Denton is partner at Chandler & Knowles, a financial planning firm.

Kathy Marshall '89 is the 2015 Troup High School Teacher of the Year.

Neil Netoskie '89 of Houston is president of Keystone Retirement Group, which focuses on consulting and advising companies on their retirement plans.

1990s

Laura Barrett '90 & '95 of Stafford is principal of Cy-Fair ISD's Yeager Elementary.

Pamela Brown '90 of Sugar Land is principal of Fort Bend ISD's Elementary School 46 in the Aliana community.

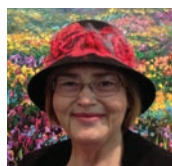
Scott Martin '90, general manager of Lake Palestine Resort, created the mobile application "instagrati," now available on iTunes.

Charlie Roberts '90 is director of sales for T/CCI Manufacturing.

Jeff Traylor '90 is the tight ends and special teams football coach for the University of Texas.

Michael Ferguson '91 of Longview teaches criminal justice at Kilgore College and criminal law at the East Texas Police Academy.

Jim Holley '91 is athletic operations coordinator for New Caney ISD.



Linda Calvert Jacobson '91 of Fischer opened Wildflower Art Gallery in Wimberly, displaying her wildflower art, which is represented by several



DR. DOUG FRANTZ '94 received Eli Lilly's Outstanding Open Innovation Drug Discovery Collaborator Award. Frantz serves as the Max and Minnie Tomerlin Voelcker Distinguished Professor in Chemistry at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Under his guidance, university graduate and post-doctoral students have developed approximately 1,500 new chemical compounds. Eli Lilly, a pharmaceutical company, studied the compounds' potential as medicinal treatments. Two of the compounds developed by Frantz and his students are being considered as possible treatments for schizophrenia and chronic pain. After earning his chemistry degree at SFA, Frantz received his doctoral degree in organic chemistry from Texas A&M University. He has served on the faculty at UT Southwestern and as part of the research and development team at Merck and Co. "Almost all of the credit goes to the outstanding professors I had in the SFA Department of Chemistry," Frantz said. "Without their guidance, none of my accomplishments would have been possible."

national galleries, in private collections and licensed internationally.

Frances Payne-Morgan '91 of Mount Pleasant is the E.C. Brice Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Becky Chenevert '92 of Tyler is principal of St. Gregory Cathedral School.

Amy Hunt '92 & '94 of Emory is an Advanced Placement U.S. history teacher at Wylie High School.

Donna Sharp '92 of Longview is executive director of Greater Longview United Way.



Derrick Wright '92 of Sunnyvale is sergeant of police for the Dallas Police Department.

King Davis '93 & '02 is superintendent of Wharton ISD.

Dr. Les Fout '93 of Knoxville, Tennessee, is director of the Scott Hamilton CARES Foundation and the Provision CARES Foundation, which fund cancer research and survivorship programs.

Former Kilgore College Rangerette Laura Guidry '93 is director of the Cherokee Charters Drill Team for Jacksonville High School.



Chastiti Horne '93 of Houston, managing and majority shareholder with Horne Rota Moos, LLP, received the 2014 Woman on the Move award by Texas Executive Women.

David Morton '93 of Atlanta, Georgia, is senior vice president of sales and marketing for AmeriSafe.

Greg Reed '93 is athletic director of Waxahachie ISD.

Amy Roquemore '93 & '12 of Cushing is director of student publications and divisional media at SFA.

John Glaze '94 of Houston is president and chief of safety for Fast Track Specialties.

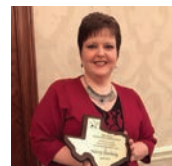
The Rev. James Otte '94 of Arlington is a licensed professional counselor and part-time associate pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in Plano.

Licensed professional counselor Leigh Anne Barber '95 & '02 is director of Tyler ISD's guidance and counseling program.

Shay Domann '95 of Tomball is a country music recording artist.

Jason Holman '95, '96 & '02 is the defensive coordinator for Lufkin High School.

Mike Medlin '95 of Rockwall is director of Royse City ISD's extended day program.



Ada M. Anthony '96 of Nacogdoches is director of the Angelina County Community Supervision and Corrections Department.

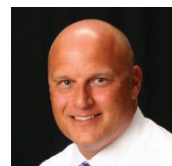


Kimberley Donaldson James '96 is principal at Corpus Christi ISD's Veterans Memorial High School.

Vivian Nichols '96 of Palestine has taught secondary English at Elkhart ISD for 19 years, as well as published three children's books.

Jamie Wisneski '96 is principal at Pearson Middle School in Frisco.

Jackie Zigtema '96 of Tyler is the physical education/recreation representative for the 2015 Special Olympics Texas Board of Directors.



Brian Batten '97 is vice president of operations for LGI Homes.

Meshell Scott '97 is co-chair of the 2015 Athens Chamber of Commerce's chamber ambassadors.

Brent Howell '98 of Vernon is a trust officer for Waggoner National Bank.

Jacy King '98 of Chireno was awarded the Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award, presented by Humanities Texas. King received \$5,000, which will go toward obtaining a Master of Arts in history from SFA.

Stacy Miles '98 is Tyler ISD's Head Start director and instructional coach.

2010 Master Chef finalist Chris Spradley '98 of Houston created and hosts *Destination Beer*, a show featuring travel destinations for craft beer and food lovers.

Charles Worley '98 of Carthage serves on the Panola Schools Board.



Wesley Copeland '99 of Sweeny is executive director of the Brazosport Fine Art Council's The Center for the Arts and Sciences.



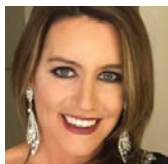
Kathy Cromwell '99 of Spring is the 2015 Teacher of the Year for Cooper Elementary in Spring ISD.

Tonya Harry '99 of Nacogdoches is executive director of CASA of Deep East Texas.



Alise Lamoreaux '99 of Clear Lake and Matthew Neff of Galveston married March 20.

2000s



Chante Mayorga '01 of Dallas is the senior catering sales manager at The Hilton Dallas Rockwall Lakefront.

Erika Wulff Tolar '02 was selected Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce Role Model of the Year.

Dr. Son Mai '03 of Lake Charles, Louisiana, instructor of history at McNeese State University, received his doctoral degree from Texas Tech University in May.



Karl Seelbach '03 of Austin opened Doyle & Seelbach PLLC, focusing on business disputes, personal injury and property damage litigation.

Hayley Merren '04 of Lumberton owns Olympic Dreams Gymnastics and Cheer-leading in Beaumont.

Amy Frank '05 of Cypress is principal of Cy-Fair ISD's Owens Elementary.

Ryan Conley '07 of Atascocita is store director for Brookshire Brothers in Liberty, Texas.

Lt. Col. Chad Foster '07 received the Baltimore County Citizen's Medal of Honor.



Lauren Adams Lanford '08 & '09, SFA assistant volleyball coach, and husband Joey Lanford of Nacogdoches welcomed baby girl Reese Olivia June 8.

Mallory Craig '09 of Sugar Land is a member of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the American Bar Association and serves as a public finance attorney for Coats Rose in Houston.

Jami Hill Dover '09 of The Colony, former SFA assistant volleyball coach and player, was inducted into the 2015 Fannin County Sports Hall of Fame.



Brittany Green '09 and Jacob Beck married Feb. 21 in Jacksonville, Texas.

2010s

Scott Hill '10 of Manhattan, New York, is a licensed real estate salesperson for The Corcoran Group.

Cole Tomberlain '10 of Longview is chairman of the Longview World of Wonders Hands-on Discovery Center's Bourbon and Bowties fundraising event.

Jenni Howsman '11 of Lebanon, Missouri, is a criminal defense attorney in the Lebanon Public Defender's Office.

Christa Oberthier '11, a licensed professional counselor-intern, is the maternity counselor for Buckner Children and Family Services in East Texas.

Professional bass fisherman Andrew Upshaw '11 of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, represents ATC Truck Covers while competing on the 2015 FLW BASS Tour.

Deanna Wilson '11 of Warrenton teaches first grade at West End Elementary in Industry, Texas.

Cheryl Reid '12 & '14 of San Antonio is a human resources specialist for the U.S. Department of the Air Force Civilian

Personnel Center Headquarters at Randolph Air Force Base.



Errol Reid '12 is executive management assistant to the deputy city manager for the City of San Antonio.

Austin Matthews '12 and Sarah Schlichting of Houston married in Conroe in June 2015.

President of Alexander ArtSpace, a nonprofit mobile art gallery, LeAnne Alexander '13 of Lufkin had her work, *Faithful Abstraction*, exhibited at the Museum of East Texas in May 2015.

DrugFree Greenville 2015 Board of Directors member Wendi Kunkel '13 is the community relations assistant at L-3 Mission Integration in Greenville, Texas.

Darius Handy '14 is a safety supervisor with Integrated Global Services.

La Shae Jones '14 of Austin is an ELA success tutor at Reagan Early College High School and serves the Austin ISD as an AmeriCorp volunteer.

Kirstie Kibbe '14 is a campus missionary intern with Go Now Missions for SFA's Baptist Student Ministry.

Tyler Montgomery '14 of Lampasas is assistant manager of McCoy's Building Supply in Lufkin.

Hannah Mattson '15 of Kingwood is a Woodrow Wilson Georgia Teaching Fellow at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia.

Dr. DesMontes Stewart '15 is deputy superintendent for Killeen ISD.

LIFE MEMBERS

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

- 7997. Joann M. Black '01, Nacogdoches
- 7999. Carlie D. Allen '14, Nacogdoches
- 8000. Christopher J. Rodriguez '14, Fort Worth
- 8001. Dr. John D. Holman '66, College Station
- 8002. Kenton E. Schaefer '70, Brownsville
- 8003. Rebecca A. Waldrop '95, Austin
- 8004. Matthew B. Norton '04, Midkiff
- 8005. Jerry W. Oney '14, Nacogdoches
- 8006. Charity E. Vaughn '09, Bryan
- 8008. Sean F. Hightower '09, Nacogdoches
- 8009. Gina Franke, friend, Nacogdoches
- 8010. Charles E. Franks '11, Huntington
- 8011. Hannah E. Franks '13, Huntington
- 8012. Brittany N. Morton '14, Tyler
- 8013. Jessica M. Gilligan '14, Tolovana, Oregon
- 8015. Taylor B. Johnson '15, League City
- 8016. Nicanor Pesina Jr. '04, Tyler
- 8017. Erika N. Bazaldua '14, Lufkin
- 8018. Paul R. Nelson '77, Dallas
- 8019. Jessica L. Calhoun '87, Houston
- 8020. Rachel N. Sacco '13, College Station
- 8021. Roger L. Russell '70, Houston
- 8022. Ryan C. Wolf '05, Shreveport
- 8023. Nicholas Ryan Kelley '15, Lufkin
- 8024. Steven R. Dittich '12, Houston

IN MEMORIAM



Dr. Francis E. "Ab" Abernethy passed away March 21. Abernethy was born Dec. 3, 1925, in Altus, Oklahoma, and grew up near Palestine, Texas. Abernethy's family moved to Nacogdoches, where he graduated high school in 1943. Abernethy joined the Navy two weeks later and served in the South Pacific during World War II. After the war, Abernethy attended SFA and received his bachelor's degree in English in 1949. He continued his education and received both his master's and doctoral degrees in literature from Louisiana State University. In 1965, he began his career at SFA, where he taught for 32 years. Abernethy retired in 1997 as a member of the Texas Institute of Letters and SFA professor emeritus. Abernethy was a longtime member of the Texas Folklore Society, where he served as secretary-editor. Abernethy's wife, Hazel Shelton Abernethy, preceded him in death.



Ina Pearl Riggs Brundrett, an educator, gardener and philanthropist from Tyler, passed away June 3. Brundrett held memberships in many garden clubs and related organizations. She served on SFA's Pineywoods Native Plant Center's board and was a major contributor in establishing the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building on SFA's campus. She generously gave to educational and botanical endeavors throughout the state. Texas Parks and Wildlife and the National Wildlife Federation declared the backyard of her Tyler residence a wildlife habitat.



Shirley Wooten Crawford passed away March 8. Crawford was born Sept. 10, 1937, in Panola County. She was a proud SFA graduate, receiving her bachelor's and master's degrees from the university in 1958 and 1970 and served on the SFA Alumni Association Board and the SFA Alumni Foundation Board of Governors. Crawford worked for Texas A&M University and retired as a district extension director. She was well known for her local civic participation, serving as executive director for the United Way of Rusk County and as a member of the Henderson Lion's Club and Keep Henderson Beautiful committee. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Henderson and served as pianist for Saint Paul's United Methodist Church.



James Galen "Jim" Dickson passed away March 18. He was born May 26, 1935, in Hugo, Oklahoma. Dickson moved to Texas in 1947, and he graduated from Honey Grove High School. He graduated from the University of North Texas and the University of Texas before serving in the Navy. After his military service, Dickson taught Texas government and constitutional law at SFA from 1965 until retiring as professor emeritus in May 2000. He is survived by his wife, Martha Barker Dickson.



Dr. June Irwin, former SFA professor of health and physical education, passed away April 5. Irwin was born Aug. 4, 1925, in Laneville, Texas. She earned her bachelor's degree from SFA in 1946 and her master's degree from Texas Women's University. In 1958, she received her doctoral degree from the University of Indiana in Bloomington. Irwin served on the SFA faculty from 1947 until 1985 and was a devoted supporter and fan of SFA athletics. Irwin was inducted into the SFA Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010.



Dr. David Jeffrey, former SFA associate vice president for graduate studies and research, passed away April 7. Jeffrey was born Sept. 28, 1940, and grew up in Oklahoma, served in the military and later received two degrees from Oklahoma State University. Jeffrey taught rehabilitation counseling at SFA and retired in 2007. He is survived by his wife, Jann Lowther Jeffrey.



Dr. Jerry N. Lackey, former SFA professor of psychology, passed away March 14. Lackey was born Nov. 30, 1939, in Overton, Texas. He graduated from Longview High School in 1958 and received his bachelor's degree in 1963 and doctoral degree in educational psychology from the University of Texas in 1971. He joined SFA in 1967, where he remained until his retirement in 2005. In 2011, he was named professor emeritus of psychology. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Verna Barron.



Arthur "Buddy" Temple III, an Angelina County businessman and conservationist, passed away April 14. SFA's Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture is named in honor of the Temple family's contributions to the study of forestry in East Texas. Temple was born in Texarkana, Arkansas, to Mary Denman and Arthur Temple Jr. on Feb. 26, 1942. He grew up in Lufkin, Texas, and attended the University of Texas before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1961, serving as a crew chief and helicopter co-pilot. Temple later served four terms as a Texas state representative. He played an active role in the management of his family business, Temple Industries and served on the Texas Railroad Commission, where he was named chair in 1985. He served on the Temple-Inland Board of Directors and as board chairman of the T.L.L. Temple Foundation. He also served on the boards of First Bank & Trust East Texas and the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute. In 2014, Temple received the Texas Forest Country Partnership's Silver Bucket award for his efforts in preserving the natural habitat of East Texas, including approximately 19,000 acres of hardwood forest and wetlands along the Neches River. His wife of 45 years, Ellen Clarke Temple, survives him.

Sawdust received incorrect information resulting in Nina Johnson McDaniel '56 being listed in memoriam in the fall 2014 issue of Sawdust. We apologize for this error.

IN MEMORIAM

Tommye Earle Adams '44 & '62 of Nacogdoches, April 2
Elisabeth Early Anderson of Nacogdoches, friend of SFA, April 2
Stephen F. Austin '74 of Spring, Feb. 10
Gilbert Baker '67 of Jacksonville, Jan. 31
Bo Barbe '57 & '63 of Center, April 19
John W. Barnett '50 of Carthage, March 16
Eva H. Barrett '68, '71 & '74 of Dallas, May 12
Dr. Stewart Sutherland Barron '49 of Nacogdoches, April 1
Thomas Jerrel Belk of Nacogdoches, friend of SFA, March 28
Marcus Brast '92 of Katy, May 24
Carolyn Muckleroy Price Bright '47 & '54 of Lufkin, retired faculty, May 23
Marian Brightwell '66 & '78 of Nacogdoches, June 2
Helen Brooks '69 of Tyler, June 4
Shannon Renee Brown '06 of Nacogdoches, March 8
Mary L. Bunn '49 & '50 of Orange, March 30
Sonja Burnett '84 of Shreveport, Louisiana, Feb. 4
Joe Edd Callaway III of Boerne, friend of SFA, April 30
Carroll Campbell '59 of Longview, Jan. 30
Dr. Janiece Buck Campbell '67 & '73 of Nacogdoches, May 31
Randell T. Clark '87 of Kilgore, March 15
Johnathan Brian Coppinger '13 of Marion, Jan. 23
Gregory Paul Covington of Nacogdoches, friend of SFA, Jan. 22
Gail Cuculic of Center, friend of SFA, Jan. 12
John M. Daniel '72 of Nacogdoches, retired faculty, April 1
Cathryn White Davis '54 of Jacksonville, Feb. 25
Dr. Harry Dale Dawson '59 of Dallas, Feb. 23
Arthur Baker Denman '48 & '50 of Nacogdoches, March 5
Frank T. Devereaux '49 & '68 of Diboll, March 25
Jacqueline Anne Dowden '55 of Pasadena, Texas, April 26
Jacqueline A. Dudley of Nacogdoches, former faculty/staff, May 1
Robert Russell Dunavant '70 of Ripley, Mississippi, May 18
Dr. Wentworth Guy Eaton '56 of The Woodlands, Feb. 12
William H. English Jr. '75 of Alabaster, Alabama, March 4
Cinda Elizabeth Farrell '77 & '99 of Longview, Jan. 30
John Ford III '91 of Port Arthur, Jan. 26
Ernestine Fountain '42 of New Williard, March 12
Judy Kay Furrh '90 of Spring, March 8
Jack Gatewood '69 of Hamshire, Jan. 28
Bret Allen Gentzler '96 & '99 of Orange, March 8
Laura Gates Graham '81 of Spring, July 28, 2014
Tracy D. Groom '87 of Eustace, March 29
Dr. Bettie Sue Florey White Hadac '67 & '69 of Nacogdoches, Jan. 19
Virginia Hangerstrom '42 of Queenstown, Maryland, May 28
Alison Audrey Haraway '99 of Calhoun City, Mississippi, Jan. 17
Sharron Heath Henson '73 of Nacogdoches, March 26
Ralph Higgs '70 of Cottonwood, Arizona, April 8
Charles D. Holmes '53 & '57 of Carthage, Feb. 16
Roger Guyton "Guy" Hopkins '72 of Americus, Georgia, March 11
Arthur "Gene" Howard of Dallas, developer of early childhood program/
lab, April 25
Matthew G. Jacoby '95 of Nacogdoches, April 20
Glenn Allen Johnson of Nacogdoches, friend of SFA, May 18
Victor J. Johnson '56 of Longview, March 4
Evelyn Jolley '69 & '76 of Longview, May 9
Juanita Vera Scott Kendrick of Nacogdoches, friend of SFA, Feb. 3
Terry D. Lamon '79 of Lufkin, Jan. 25
Clarence Langford '59 of Magnolia, Arkansas, May 5
James H. Langston '37 of Longview, Jan. 18
Thomas R. Machann '88 of Zavalla, Feb. 9

Henry Lee Malone '71 of San Antonio, April 2
Ila V. Martin '53 of Nacogdoches, Feb. 15
Bennie J. McMillan '54 of Tyler, Jan. 21
Minnie McMillan '55 of Jasper, April 29
Carlos Michel '66 of Conroe, April 16
Robert Joshua "Rudy" Millard '54 of Nacogdoches, Feb. 15
David Miller '82 of Rusk, June 3
Reginald Victor Monzingo '56 of Nacogdoches, April 29
Annette M. Moore '68 & '75 of Daingerfield, Jan. 18
R.H. "Rick" Murff '64 of Bullard, March 3
Dr. Charles Thomas Nall of Nacogdoches, retired faculty, Feb. 13
Pat N. Nash '46 of Tucson, Arizona, Jan. 20
Daryl W. Nooner '48 of Houston, June 9
Marilyn Zelle McKaskle Odom '54 & '58 of Nacogdoches, May 4
Simeon W. Oefinger Jr. '70 of Tyler, Feb. 17
Djuana R. Oxford '53 & '55 of Pasadena, Texas, April 3
Jack C. Peebles '56 of New Orleans, May 13
James Powell '46 of Shelbyville, May 22
Gary L. Price '74 & '82 of Atlanta, Texas, April 24
Father Paul Procella '56 & '57 of Houston, May 5
Betty Pruitt '75 & '78 of San Marcos, June 2
George K. Rambin '50 of Nacogdoches, May 5
Dr. Odis Odean Rhodes of Lufkin, retired faculty, April 17
Keifer Glen Richards '56 of Tyler, May 4
Wayne M. Roland '75 of Longview, March 15
Stanley D. Russell '81 of Anchorage, Jan. 2
Joe D. Sanders '68 of Orange, March 19
Gerald S. Schmale '68 of Round Rock, Feb. 23
Catherine Jordan Evans Schmidt '49 of Nacogdoches, March 7
Frank Sisco of Nacogdoches, friend of SFA, Jan. 15
James "Larry" Stanaland of Nacogdoches, friend of SFA, April 4
Sharon Stratton '79 of Longview, March 4
Jason Stringer '99 of Jonesboro, June 11
Cindy R. Strube '77 of Mount Pleasant, Feb. 10
Patsy R. Summers '58 of New London, March 8
Kathleen Taylor '51 of Timpson, June 6
Phillip K. Taylor '70 of Marshall, Jan. 20
Kathlyn LaGrone Tuttle '46 & '48 of Carthage, Jan. 17
Paul Ware '84 & '91 of Nederland, April 7
William David Whitescarver of Palestine, retired faculty, Jan. 27
Maxine Mozelle Langford Williamson '49 of Longview, May 3
J.R. Wright '60 of Nacogdoches, May 26
John William Y'Barbo Sr. '50 of Groves, March 3



SFA students

Anthony R. Gardner of Camden, April 7
Timberlee Gossett of Kountze, June 24
Qudus Jacobs of Houston, April 13
Alexandra Caroline Paccone of Dallas, March 16
Chikosolu Ughanze of Houston, April 13
Chelsie Davis Watts of Midlothian, Jan. 30

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THE EAST TEXAS

Research Center and *Sawdust* would like to know more about this SFA photo. If you have more information, please call (936) 468-4100.

The ETRC at SFA collects, preserves and provides physical and virtual access to East Texas' unique cultural history. It also is responsible for managing SFA's Records Management Program and caring for the university's archives.

If you have SFA-related photographs, journals or memorabilia you would like to donate, please contact the ETRC.



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with guest speaker

DR. DWIGHT T. PITCAITHLEY

7 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 5, 2015

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Pitcaithley's visit to SFA coincides with the 100th birthday of our National Park Service in 2016. His address, "Centennial of the National Park Service," will highlight the history and growth of the National Park System during the past century, explain its programs that encourage historic preservation in our communities and offer thoughts on the future of the agency.

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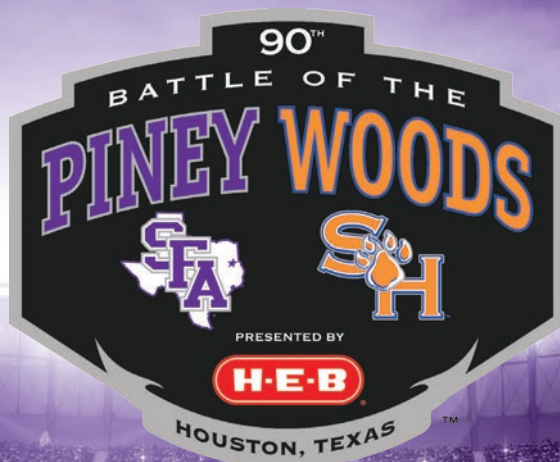
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