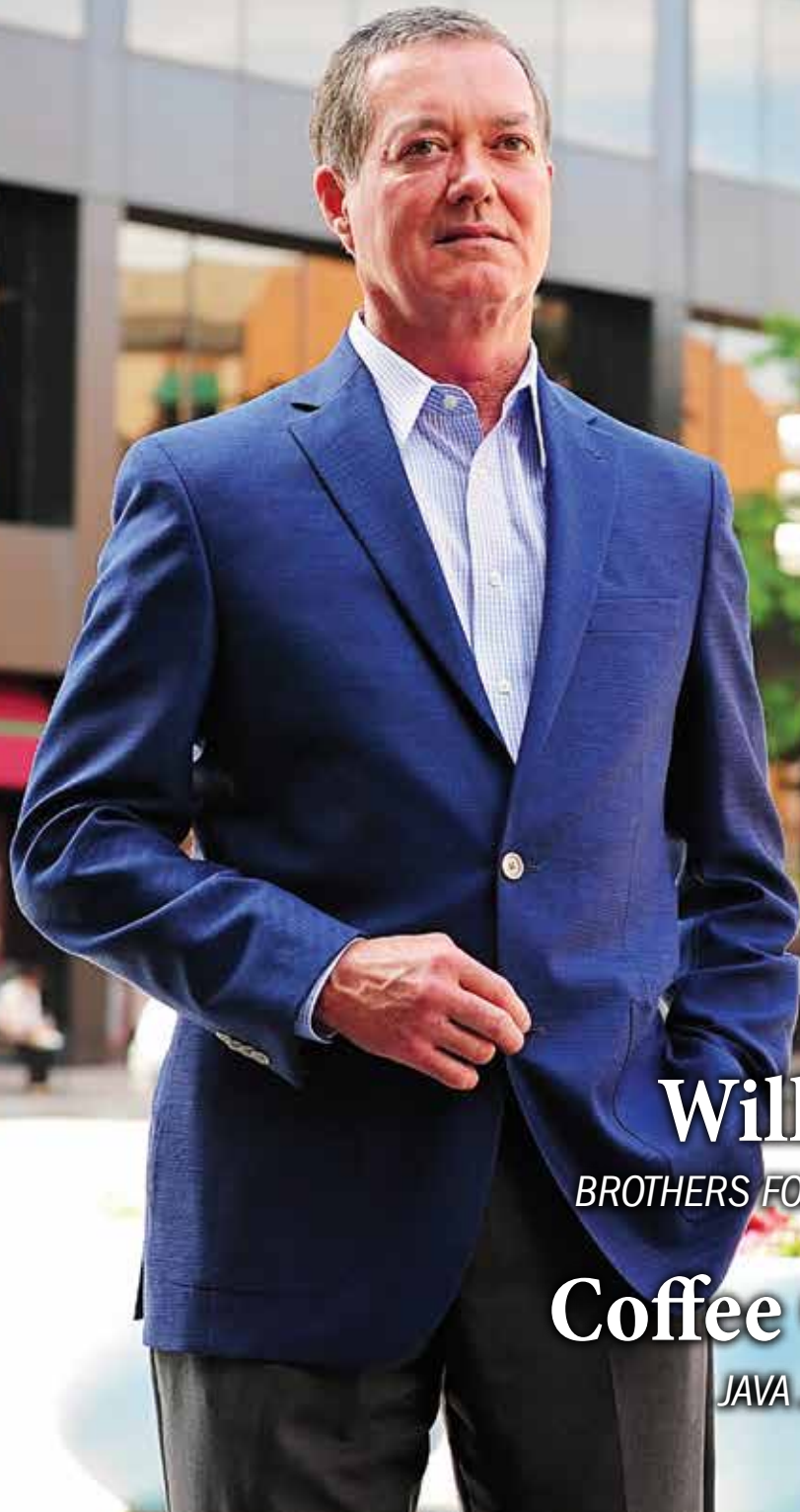


Sawdust

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY



Oath of Office

FORMER
COLORADO
GOVERNOR
DISCUSSES
HIS POLITICAL
JOURNEY

The Doctors Will See You Now

BROTHERS FOLLOW IN FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

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The Board of Regents voted in April to name the new science, technology, engineering and mathematics facility the Ed and Gwen Cole STEM Building. I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to these cherished SFA benefactors whose generous support of our students, faculty members and programs has changed the lives of countless grateful Lumberjacks.

Building, locations of sporting events and athletic competitions, and portions of the University Police Department. In addition, SFA became a tobacco-free campus this fall, meaning the use of all tobacco and vape products is now prohibited on SFA property. I am grateful for the extensive work contributed by SFA faculty and staff members to both of these important issues, which were studied by the university in depth before the relevant policies were enacted. The safety and well-being of all members of the SFA family remain our top priorities.

There is one more change coming to SFA that you will likely never see, but you will definitely hear beginning in early 2017. With funding provided by the Charles and Lois Marie Bright Foundation, the bell tower atop the Griffith Fine Arts Building will be restored and enhanced this fall. Ten bells will be added to the existing 15 to create a carillon, a two-octave musical instrument consisting of 25 cast-bronze, cup-shaped bells. The carillon's melodies will commemorate special on-campus occasions and holidays, serving to enhance the campus, celebrate SFA's unique history and welcome Lumberjacks back home for generations to come. ★

Axe 'em, Jacks!

Baker Pattillo '65 & '66
President, Stephen F. Austin State University



Sawdust

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
Fall 2016 • Volume 43, No. 2

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

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ON THE COVER:

Bill Owens '73 had a passion for public service years before attending and graduating from SFA. But it was the time he spent among the SFA student

body that would play a large role in shaping his two terms as the governor of Colorado. *Photography by Trey Cartwright*

▲ IN JUNE, SAWDUST LAUNCHED

its new website, which allows viewers to select only the content they wish to view and easily access it with one click. Updated components include video capabilities and photo galleries.

Previously, the online version of the magazine was accessible through a digital publishing platform where viewers flipped through PDF versions of the magazine.

Past issues of *Sawdust* are currently being coded and uploaded to the new website at sfasu.edu/sawdust.

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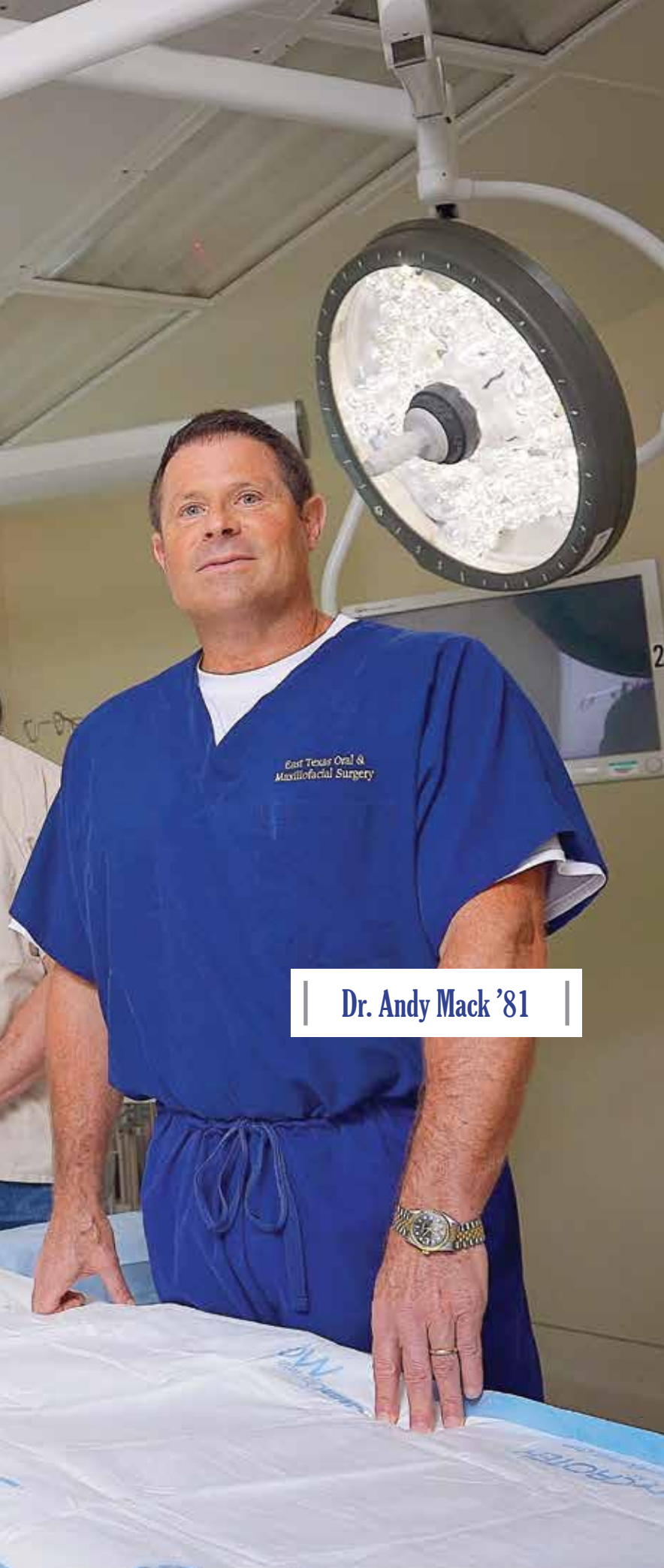
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The Doctors Will See You Now

Brothers follow in father's footsteps

Story by Kasi Dickerson

Photography by Hardy Meredith

THE MACK FAMILY might be a candidate for a Guinness World Record. With eight extended family members who have earned the prefix "Dr.," the family's story is one of hard work, dedication and the example set by a grandfather, father and brother. →

“I will never forget many of my SFA instructors because they were so instrumental in my career and where I am today. I remember how they pushed me to be so much better than I thought I could be.” Dr. Ben Mack ’83, physician



As children, Chris, Andy and Ben Mack shadowed their father, the late Dr. Sam Mack, a dual-degree dentist and physician, who practiced both oral and general surgery in Longview for 33 years. Sam and his younger brother, dentist Ed Mack, were both well respected in the Longview community.

Sam was the first physician on the Good Shepherd Medical Center board of directors, and he was instrumental in establishing the hospital’s first full-time emergency room physician position. He also was the driving force behind his sons’ desires to enter dental and health care professions.

The brothers recall fond childhood memories of their father’s four-room clinic, where they often visited and intently watched him work. Sometimes, they accompanied their father to the hospital as he made rounds and visited patients. Occasionally, the brothers would observe their dad perform surgery.

Even as youngsters, the brothers said they wanted to be doctors. Many might have chalked up the notion to nothing more than childhood fantasies, but the Mack brothers meant it.

Chris ’79 became the first brother to enroll in SFA’s pre-professional program in 1977. Andy ’81 and Ben ’83 soon followed. The brothers’ similarities did not end with their career aspirations. While at SFA, all three siblings pursued majors in biology, lived in Garner Apartments, played intramural sports and were members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

Andy recalled SFA’s stellar reputation for graduating top-quality alumni who were exceedingly prepared to enter dental and medical schools as a key factor in his decision to enroll. He also remembers the guidance and resoluteness of his SFA professors.

“I chose SFA because I knew I wanted to be a dentist,” Andy said. “SFA had a fantastic reputation as being one of the premier schools for pre-med and pre-dental acceptance rates because of faculty members like Dr. James M. Garrett, who taught organic chemistry, and Dr. Wayne Slagle, who was our pre-dentistry and pre-medical adviser.”

Chris and Ben agree organic chemistry with Garrett was their favorite albeit most challenging course. Chris said Garrett was the

best instructor he ever had, and Ben recalled that making an A in organic chemistry gave him the confidence to continue to pursue his dream of being a doctor.

“I will never forget many of my SFA instructors because they were so instrumental in my career and where I am today,” Ben said. “I remember how they pushed me to be so much better than I thought I could be.”

Garrett, who retired from teaching at SFA in 2005, distinctly remembers the Mack brothers as being some of his best students. He said SFA’s pre-professional program had established a reputation as a flagship in the state, and there was no shortage of outstanding students who were eager to enroll.

“Excellence attracted excellence, and that’s how I remember the Mack brothers,” Garrett said. “All three were exceptional students. If you gave them a challenge, they would take it and run with it. There was never a doubt as to their success.”

After Chris graduated from SFA, he attended and graduated from dental school. He then returned home to Longview, where he’s been providing dental care to patients

“My dad also was an excellent teacher, and he really was my first teacher. He had a profound impact on my career...”

Dr. Chris Mack ’79, dentist





The Mack brothers followed in the footsteps of their father, the late Dr. Sam Mack, a dual-degree dentist and physician, who practiced both oral and general surgery in Longview for 33 years.

Clockwise from left: Andy, Chris, Sam, Ben and Marion Mack.

for more than 30 years. Chris also acts as his own lab technician, making dentures, crowns and implants.

Education holds a special place in Chris' heart. He has served on the Longview Independent School District's Board of Trustees for 17 years, currently serving as the board's president.

"I'm a big proponent of education," Chris said. "I've been fortunate to have benefited from the knowledge shared by wonderful teachers, and I like to give back where I can. My dad also was an excellent teacher, and he really was my first teacher. He had a profound impact on my career, and I know he'd be proud I'm paying it forward."

Andy, whose office is just across the street from Chris' clinic, also graduated from dental school and attended a four-year surgical residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery. An oral and maxillofacial surgeon for 28 years, his practice provides dental implants, bone grafting, reconstructive surgery and anesthesia.

Andy has served on the Longview City Council for nine years and is the city's mayor.

"I ran for mayor because I wanted to make a difference in this community, and I will do it as long as I believe I can. I enjoy giving back to the community that has given me so much," Andy said.

Andy's children are following in their dad's and grandfather's footsteps. Daughters Spencer and Madison Mack also are Longview dentists, and son, Luke, is a dental student.

Not far from his brothers' offices, Ben serves as a general surgeon at the Diagnostic Clinic of Longview, where he has practiced all types of general surgery for 25 years. Ben said witnessing the difference his father made in people's lives made him want to become a physician.

"My father was my inspiration," Ben said. "I always enjoyed going to the hospital as he made rounds and treated patients. Dad's presence had a calming effect on them, and they respected him."

Likewise, Ben's son Drew is studying biochemistry and plans to attend medical school. Combined, the Mack brothers treat thousands of patients a year, which Ben said helps put life in perspective.

"Dealing with people suffering from illnesses reminds me how blessed I am to be healthy. The best part of my job is helping people get better when they are suffering from cancer, traumatic events or other health-related issues," Ben said. "Many of my patients will come see me after they've healed — 20 or more years after their surgery — just to visit."

Although he hasn't taught at SFA in more than a decade, Garrett, SFA professor emeritus of chemistry, still keeps up to date on the whereabouts and careers of many of his former students — a list of alumni that he says comprises several of the most highly regarded health care professionals in the state. He includes the Mack brothers among them.

"Sometimes, people have anxieties about going to the doctor," Garrett said. "They may already be uneasy because they don't feel well. The greatest assurance I can give them is to look on the wall and see where the doctor's degrees came from. If they have an SFA degree, there's no need to worry." ★



"I enjoy giving back to the community that has given me so much."

Dr. Andy Mack '81, dentist

Brock Vinson competes in men's bowsawing at the 2012 Southern Forestry Conclave held in North Carolina as fellow Sylvans, from left, Courtney Hall, Grant Korbel, Brian Blades, Mike Hartford, John Rogers and Seth Walling provide encouragement. Vinson placed fourth in the event.



VISTA VIEWPOINT

DR. JEREMY STOVALL

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
OF SILVICULTURE

ARTHUR TEMPLE COLLEGE
OF FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE



OUR TWO VANS and trailer rolled to a stop in the midst of a freak March heatwave in North Carolina. We had driven through the night with one student unsuccessfully battling carsickness through Alabama. Seventeen forestry students and I dragged our gear across North Carolina State University's golf course and set up camp mid-morning. We tried to sleep, but the sun beat down on our tents and roasted us until we admitted defeat. It was 2012, and this was my first forestry conclave.

Dr. Mike 'Conclave' Fountain, SFA professor emeritus of forestry, had just retired after serving as the SFA Sylvans' adviser for 30-plus conclaves across the South. He could throw an axe backward over his shoulder and hit the bull's-eye. He led the Sylvans to eight championships. I had no clue what I was doing, and everyone kept reminding me of the size of the shoes I was filling.

That evening, I met the advisers from the other 14 schools. I struggled to remember their names under a fog of exhaustion, having been awake for 36 hours. As I drifted to sleep that night, I wondered if I could get someone else to advise the Sylvans next year.

As the competition unfolded during the next two days, Bubba Loofboro, Sylvans' president, sank one arrow after the next in the archery target, winning. Chelsea Lopez and Courtney Hall sawed through a yellow-poplar log in 7.56 seconds. Then, Chelsea and Caleb Murray did the same in 7.17 seconds, both winning times. The roar of our small student group belied their numbers as they cheered on their teammates.

I sat sunburned at the awards ceremony as we fell short, placing second overall. The University of Georgia students jumped up and down celebrating their hard-earned win with a trophy carved in 2009 in Nacogdoches by an SFA alumnus. I was hooked. These students invested countless hours in training. They took this seriously. No one was taking my job as the Sylvans' adviser, and next year, we were going to be better.

In March 2013, Auburn University hosted the 56th conclave. As we pitched our tents in darkness, the university police warned us of

imminent peril from a marauding coyote. We didn't tell them we had axes and knives.

The academic events concluded before lunch the second day. The results were not disclosed, which held us in suspense. I had judged tree identification, so I knew SFA's Scott Wahlberg had narrowly won that event. I had hope. As the timber sports events proceeded, we tracked our progress: axe throwing, Courtney Williams, third place, one of only two women in the event; pole climbing, Mike Hartford, first place, 3.745 seconds to scale a 20-foot pole; log chopping, Ryan Assenheimer, fourth place, his axe splitting a poplar timber in 61 seconds.

As a representative from Auburn University announced the results of the technical events during the awards ceremony, we held our breath: Grant Korbel, first place, tree-diameter estimation; Lopez and Brant Day, first place, wildlife identification; and then the announcement of the overall winner — the Stephen F. Austin State University Sylvans! We leapt elated to our feet as Sylvans' President Caleb Murray claimed the hefty walnut trophy. It was the first championship for each and every one of us.

We again brought the trophy home to Texas in 2014 from Virginia Tech and in 2015 from Mississippi State University. This past March in South Carolina, our team was strong, but Clemson University dominated at home with the fifth-highest conclave score in history.

Now it is our turn. The SFA Sylvans will host the 60th Southern Forestry Conclave from March 16 through 18, 2017, in Mount Enterprise at Durango's Canyon.

Make plans to come witness us in action as we go boot-to-boot in competition with schools like Louisiana State University, Louisiana Tech University and the University of Florida. You won't be disappointed. We promise.

And, if you'd like to support the SFA Sylvans with a donation, we welcome the gift. Conclave registration fees cover only half the cost of the event, and we rely heavily on fundraising to help us with the remainder.

Donations to the 2017 conclave can be made online at sfau.edu/conclave; by calling the SFA Office of Development at (936) 468-5406 or by check mailed to P.O. Box 6092, SFA Station, Nacogdoches, Texas 75962. Simply include a note that states your contribution is for the 2017 conclave. ★

Bullard named provost and vice president for academic affairs



THE SFA BOARD of Regents appointed Dr. Steve Bullard as provost and vice president for academic affairs during its April 2016 board meeting.

Bullard served as interim provost since July 2015 and as dean of the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture since 2009. He also holds the Henry M. Rockwell Chair in forestry.

Prior to his appointment at SFA, Bullard served as a professor and chair of the Department of Forestry at the University of Kentucky from 2004 to 2009 and as a faculty member and administrator at Mississippi State University from 1983 to 2004.

Bullard received both bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from MSU, as well as a doctoral degree in forest management economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

"One of the most impressive things about SFA is the university's focus on student success," Bullard said. "The goal is clearly 'transforming lives one Lumberjack at a time' through teaching, research and service activities. Serving as provost and vice president for academic affairs is the most challenging position I've held and also the most rewarding. I'm honored to serve in this role and look forward to working with the faculty and staff members and administration to make a positive difference in our students' lives." ★

SFA expanding its educational reach

TWO NEW PARTNERSHIPS with area colleges are helping SFA reach out and encourage community college students and graduates to enroll as Lumberjacks.

LONE STAR COLLEGE UNIVERSITY CENTER AT THE WOODLANDS

SFA's College of Liberal and Applied Arts has teamed with Lone Star College University Center at The Woodlands to offer one master's and two bachelor's degree programs.

SFA's University Center office will draw students predominantly from the North Houston area seeking to build on associate degrees, vocational or technical training programs, military training, and occupational licensure or certification, or to work toward or advance in a social work career.

Degree programs available through the partnership include a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work. The B.A.A.S. option gives students holding an Associate in Applied Sciences or certificate program completers an opportunity to apply workforce education credit toward a bachelor's degree.

"This partnership creates a pathway for people to move from a vocational/technical field into a bachelor's and graduate program," said Dr. Stephen Cooper, associate dean of SFA's College of Liberal and Applied Arts and director of the Division of Multidisciplinary Programs. "It

provides them an opportunity to advance their career or change career paths without losing all the work they've already done."

Additionally, Cooper said offering a bachelor's degree in social work is a good fit for the area because there are no similar degree offerings on the north side of Houston.

Cooper said there are only two Master of Social Work programs in the Houston area, and admission is very competitive, so the market demand is not being met. Cooper said SFA alumni from the Houston area who already hold a bachelor's degree in social work will find this program particularly appealing because they can return home and also receive their Master of Social Work from SFA.

Many courses will be offered during the evening, online or through web and video conferencing, allowing students to pursue their degrees without interfering with their work schedules.

DESTINATION SFA AT TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE

Tyler Junior College has partnered with the university to offer Destination SFA, which provides a seamless transfer process for TJC students who wish to transfer into a baccalaureate program at SFA.

"This articulation agreement offers myriad benefits for TJC students," said Monique Cossich, SFA executive director of enrollment management. "TJC provides a special residence

hall section reserved for students who plan to transfer to SFA, which enables them to make friends with other community college students who will someday be their classmates at SFA. The area also is decorated in an SFA theme to help them start to feel at home."

Other benefits include a free SFA course to help facilitate the students' transfer to SFA and connect them with Lumberjack life.

"The course will teach students about SFA's many resources, including where to go to receive help. Students also will explore the various degree options SFA offers and discuss campus traditions," Cossich said. "Once they arrive on SFA's campus, it's almost like they have already attended classes here. They are acclimated and ready to go."

Additionally, TJC students will be assigned their own SFA financial aid counselor to help with scholarship and financial aid information, and when TJC students graduate and arrive at SFA, they will be able to remain close to home while pursuing bachelor's degrees.

★ ★ ★

For more information about SFA's B.A.A.S. degree offering at LSC University Center at The Woodlands, contact Cooper at (936) 468-6066. For information about the social work degrees, contact Dr. Freddie Avant at (936) 468-5105.

Contact SFA's admissions office at admissions@sfasu.edu or call (936) 468-2504 for more information about the Tyler Junior College partnership. ★



ath of Office

*Former Colorado
governor discusses his
political journey*

Story by Christine Broussard



IN A SMALL A-frame home set back off a quiet residential street in Nacogdoches, an SFA student plugged away at political science homework, his duties as student body president and campaign fundraising for a would-be Texas senator.

Unbeknownst to Bill Owens '73, each of these roles was one more step in his decades-long journey toward becoming a leading political figure and, eventually, two-term governor of Colorado.

"I am very proud to have graduated from SFA," Owens said over the phone from his Denver-based office at international law firm Greenberg Traurig. "It was the perfect mix for me of education and the broader culture of college, which I think is so valuable. Any student who spends his or her college career at a desk studying without learning more about life is going

to be shortchanged. The friends I met and the activities I participated in made me a much better public servant, as well as a better person."

"I knew that I was going to get a lot out of any school, but I wanted a school about the size of SFA, and I just fell in love with the campus and the people. It had a lot going for it, even then, and certainly even more so now."

Bill Owens

and Owens' parents expected him and his brother to be responsible for putting themselves through college.

"I have three sisters, and in those days it was harder for the girls to have summer jobs and earn money compared to my brother and me," Owens explained. "I could attend any school I could afford, so I looked at state schools such as SFA, Texas Tech University and the University of Texas. I chose SFA for its campus. I knew that I was going to get a lot out of any school, but I wanted a school about the size of SFA, and I just fell in love with the campus and the people. It had a lot going for it, even then, and certainly even more so now." →



Freshman photo from Stone Fort yearbook, 1971

BUDDING POLI-SCI PASSION

Owens' interest in politics solidified in high school after his father helped Jim Wright, future speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, get elected as a Texas congressman.

"I was first introduced to Jim Wright when I was 6 or 7 years old and always looked up to him — and was therefore really excited when he appointed me as his page in the U.S. House of Representatives," Owens said. "I spent one year in high school working in the House of Representatives and around that time coincidentally became a Republican. I was in the House Chamber when Lyndon Johnson was president and gave his 1967 State of the Union address and was honored to work for Gerald Ford, George H.W. Bush and Bob Dole — all of whom were Republican members of the House at that time."

Born and raised in Fort Worth, Owens attended Paschal High School and graduated in 1969. There were five children in the family,



Bill Owens, right, served as SFA's Student Government Association president.

Picture from Stone Fort yearbook, 1972



Owens was honored to be named to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Picture from Stone Fort yearbook, 1973

This photo taken with George H.W. Bush was snapped when Owens was 17 years old and is one of Owens' prize possessions. It has been signed by Bush on three occasions — in 1967 when Bush was elected to the Texas House of Representatives, in 1988 when he was serving as U.S. vice president and again in the 1990s after he became president of the United States.

Photo courtesy of Bill Owens



INTRODUCTION TO THE BUSHES

During his four-year tenure at SFA, Owens was active not only in the classroom but also as vice president and president of the student body. He also served as the student coordinator for George H.W. Bush's unsuccessful 1970 campaign for the U.S. Senate. It was during that time that Owens would befriend future Texas governor and U.S. President George W. Bush.

"George Herbert Walker Bush ran for the U.S. Senate in Texas. I was the head of Students for Bush in East Texas in 1970, and the person I reported to was George W. Bush," Owens said. "I was helping the father and was reporting to the son. So, I met George W. Bush in 1970, and we have been friends since."

ROAD TO COLORADO'S LEGISLATURE

Living in Colorado had been a dream of Owens' since a road trip to Wyoming during high school took him on a direct route through the state. But his move to the Midwest wasn't immediate. After graduating with a master's degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs in Austin, Owens landed a position in Washington, D.C., as a management consultant with Deloitte, a large accounting firm.

With his sights still set on Colorado, Owens continued to apply for jobs in the state while working for Deloitte on the East Coast. Several years later, he was offered and accepted a position with the Gates Corporation in Colorado.

"I was always interested in public policy but didn't want to work for government. I wanted to impact public policy," Owens explained when

discussing his choice of the LBJ School at the University of Texas. "What I wanted to do was to graduate from SFA and graduate school, settle down, and maybe someday go into public service. So from SFA, I went to LBJ, and I was one of the few graduates who didn't go immediately into government."

The governorship wasn't a thought in Owens' mind when he made the move west. It was a role that he said "accrued over time."

"In 1982, there was the opportunity to run for the Colorado House of Representatives. I was elected to the House in '82, and then in '88, I ran for the state Senate," Owens recalled. "So all of a sudden, I'm a state senator. A few years later, I went to lunch with a friend, and he said, 'You know what, Bill? You can either be in the Legislature the rest of your life, or you can try to move up and out. If you win,

that's great. If you lose, you can always go back and build a career in the private sector.'

"I was elected state treasurer in 1994 and decided I would run for governor in 1998. I had seen George W. Bush run successfully for governor in Texas in 1996 and, as his friend, I followed his campaign model. He even came to Colorado twice to campaign for me in my 1998 race and was a big help in my ultimate win."

"I was always interested in public policy but didn't want to work for government. I wanted to impact public policy."

Bill Owens

Owens signing legislation to expand Colorado's highway systems.

Photo courtesy of Bill Owens



POLITICS

Owens and his administration accomplished much during his eight years as the governor of Colorado.

"I loved being governor. It was everything I expected, and my team did a good job," he said. "We were able to improve public education. We also worked on infrastructure — built light rail and passed a huge highway construction bond issue. I was governor during the Columbine shooting tragedy and during

9/11, so it was tough. But even so, I think being governor represents the best opportunity for public service, particularly as compared to Congress.

"I was proud of the fact that after my eight years as governor, I was more popular than when I started — and that doesn't happen very often in today's partisan political climate. I was elected by the narrowest margin in Colorado history in 1998 — I won by less than 1 percent. But, I was

re-elected four years later by the largest margin in Colorado history. I am proud of that."

Owens has, throughout the years, collected trinkets of knowledge on politics, serving the people and, exemplified by a tumultuous presidential election year, how the basics of democracy play out among the people.

"Democracy is not always a smoothly functioning mechanism," Owens said. "We

have arguments, we fight and we disagree. Democracy is not supposed to be boring and staid and composed. It is 300 million people deciding how they're going to govern themselves. So my advice is to accept the fact that it's not always going to be perfect and that, just like athletes, businesspeople and even educators, politicians can be flawed. So let's use the process to pick the best people to serve, realizing we will not achieve perfection. Sometimes we are not going to have all the choices we want, but ultimately, we'll be stronger because we have these loud, crazy, raucous things called 'elections.'"

Owens fondly remembers his years at SFA and attributes many of the lessons he learned about connecting to people to his time there. He also was excited to learn the same little A-frame home that provided him a space to grow still remains, nestled peacefully on a residential street near the SFA campus. ★



*Sept. 11
Remembrance
Ceremony at
Civic Center
Park in
Denver, Sept.
11, 2003*

*Photo
courtesy
of Bill
Owens*

*"...I think
being governor
represents the best
opportunity for
public service..."*

Bill Owens

FACULTY ADVISING

People and Politics

By Dr. Ken Collier

SFA associate professor of political science



A LOT OF Americans are worried about the 2016 presidential campaign as political analysts wring their hands about the state of democracy and complain about a lack of quality candidates.

We now have a full-time outrage industry that stands ready to tell Americans how and by whom they are being victimized. A chorus of "political experts" repeats the refrain that the political system in our country has fallen on hard times. However, we need to remember that hyperbole has a long history in the United States, and it is easy to lose perspective in the heat of the campaign and forget how the U.S. has thrived for 240 years with flawed leaders.

My suggestion to friends troubled by this election coverage is to turn off cable television and avoid clicking on melodramatic internet headlines. Additionally, pause before being drawn deeper into the political battleground by fundraising appeals based on stoking fear. People who oppose your position are not likely to change their minds based on a 30-second commercial, and we are not making the world a better place by funding another nasty television attack ad. It is much more likely that your contribution will benefit a political campaign consultant who makes a nice commission making these types of ads.

If the presidential campaign is particularly depressing to you, remember there are countless elections held annually at the local, state and national levels that provide opportunities to demonstrate democracy. Unfortunately, many citizens pay little attention to elections involving their local and state leaders. It is important to avoid obsessing about only the presidential election and start investing more fully in representative democracy at every level.

Don't let hysterical media sources discourage you with their fixation on finding the worst of the political world and their implication that this is the first generation of flawed politicians. And, instead of adding to the noise by giving money to political action committees, consider making a contribution to charity or supporting a scholarship for a student attending SFA or another institution of higher learning. ★



Coffee Connoisseurs

Java Jack's celebrates 20 years

Story by Donna Parish / Photography by Robin Johnson



THE DAILY GRIND for Sarah '91 and Brent Patton begins in much the same way it does for millions of people worldwide – brewing a fresh cup of coffee. But they don't stop there. By day's end, employees at the couple's Nacogdoches coffeehouse, Java Jack's, brew hundreds of cups of coffee and serve them to SFA students, Nacogdoches residents and sleepy-eyed travelers. →



Java Jack's baristas: Jeremy Suarez, Jennifer Alvarez and Miranda Cheever, SFA education student

The Pattons met while attending SFA in the early '90s. Sarah's family moved to Nacogdoches from Denton when she was a child so her mother could attend SFA. Sarah's mother, two brothers and sister are all SFA alumni. Brent came to Nacogdoches from Katy, Texas, to attend the university.

Brent, a business major, and Sarah, who majored in art, recall meeting at a downtown nightspot and striking up a conversation.

"Sarah lived next door to a friend," Brent said. "Although I had noticed her many times, we had never actually talked. So, when I saw her that night, I waved, and she waved back. We've been together ever since."

The couple later moved to Houston where Sarah leveraged her degree in art to land a job working in prepress, and Brent, who had a love of music, started work as an audio engineer.

Intrigued by the small coffeeshops in the city, the Pattons wanted to learn more about the business. They started conducting research and attending trade shows, which led to networking with other coffee connoisseurs. Eventually, they wrote a business plan and decided to pursue their own coffee business.

"We thought about locations," Sarah said, "and we knew if we were still SFA students, we'd love having a coffeehouse near campus. We also thought the support of my family and the community would be a

huge benefit. Another selling point was that the SFA faculty, staff and students are generally very well traveled and know a lot about coffee, so Nacogdoches was a natural fit."

Twenty-three years of marriage and three children later, the Pattons are celebrating the 20th anniversary of Java Jack's. What started out as a storefront on East College Street with Sarah and Brent serving as owners, baristas and everything else has now grown to a two-story building on North Street with more than a dozen employees and their own coffee blends, which are roasted just up the street in the Pattons' own roastery.

The couple's main focus has always been on staff and customer satisfaction with coffee being a secondary function of those relationships. Sarah explained if the staff isn't well trained and happy in their jobs, those frustrations can spill over and derail everything.

"A coffeehouse is a social place," Sarah said. "We have so many loyal customers who have become our friends. They talk to and confide in us. They share their happy and sad times with us. It's the same with our staff. It's always been a business about family, and we intend to keep it that way."

Joan Allen, a longtime Java Jack's customer, said she appreciates the always kind and helpful staff. "I have met at Java Jack's with friends for many years, and it continues to draw me back," Allen said. "In addition to the excellent coffee, I enjoy the friendly atmosphere."



The Pattons' expertise in coffee is largely self-taught. The couple has attended seminars and taken courses to widen their knowledge, and Brent is a licensed Q Grader — a professional accreditation that recognizes cuppers (professional coffee tasters) as being skilled to objectively assess coffee quality, detect coffee defects, and identify, quantify and articulate coffee characteristics using common industry terminology.

"The certification allows me to better communicate with others in the industry," Brent said. "Many of the people I purchase coffee from reside in South America and Africa, and it's important that we all share a common vocabulary when it comes to coffee."

The couple has traveled to Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Peru to see firsthand how the coffees they purchase are grown and harvested. In September, the Pattons plan to visit Colombia.

"We travel seasonally to build our relationships with coffee producers," Sarah said. "The economics of coffee is very complicated. We make our purchases based on trust. For example, we might buy coffee from a farmer in Ethiopia and must have confidence in him to deliver what we paid for. When dealing with developing countries, you don't get a money-back guarantee, so it's vital that we trust the people we're dealing with."

As with any language, the ability to fluently speak it requires education and practice. Tools also can be helpful. One device that coffee cuppers use extensively is the coffee flavor wheel, which was developed by the Specialty Coffee Association of America. The wheel serves as a color-coded guide to identifying and discussing flavors found in coffee. Everyone on the coffee supply chain — from farmers to roasters to baristas — treat the terms on the wheel as a shared vocabulary.

"Just as with grapes and wine, coffee beans must be sampled for their quality so that we know how to best roast, blend and brew them," Brent said. "This formal tasting process is called cupping."

After the coffee is roasted, the beans are ground, brewed and sampled. Josh McLain, an SFA senior engineering and physics major, has been

working for Java Jack's since January. He works alongside the Pattons to ensure that the coffee beans are roasted to perfection. Afterward, he, Brent and Sarah "cup" the day's roasted varieties and use their smell and taste senses to evaluate the coffee samples.

"We smell the coffee and slurp and swirl it in our mouths to obtain the full experience and unique combination of sensations," McLain said. "Then, we score the coffee using the taste and aroma and taints and faults descriptors found on the wheel. If the coffees don't meet our quality standards, they don't make it to the store."

During the past 20 years, coffee has evolved into a science, according to Sarah. Gone are the days of simply walking into the grocery store and selecting a can from only a handful of brands. Today, there are literally hundreds of products and blends from which to choose.

"While some of our customers want to know the coffee's country of origin and altitude the beans were grown in, many just want to sip and enjoy it, and that's OK," Sarah said. "Coffee is one of life's simple pleasures and shouldn't require too much thought." ★



Counter Culture Coffee
Taster's Flavor Wheel



Left: SFA senior engineering and physics major Josh McLain roasts coffee beans with Brent Patton, Java Jack's co-owner.

Above: Licensed Q Grader Brent Patton "cups" freshly ground coffee and uses his sense of smell to help evaluate where it should be categorized on the coffee flavor wheel.



I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG of all Ladyjacks and Lumberjacks, and to the prettiest college campus in Texas, where in the Piney Woods of Nacogdoches

we learned how to **LIVE, LOVE and LAUGH** with each other.

Oh how **LOYAL** we are to SFA, and we wish we could move back and stay. But no matter where we are, SFA IS STILL OUR SHINING STAR.

ORAN J. JONES / FACEBOOK



Does anyone else have a hard time finding the perfect place to hang their axe? **No. Just me?** #lumberjackproblems

KATIESJAR / INSTAGRAM

Anytime I see someone who goes to SFA on social media, I automatically follow them because #AxeEm

@THEKBIRK / TWITTER

HUNTER DOZIER for AA Royals affiliate leads the team in hits, doubles, HRs, RBIs, BA, SLG and OBP. **Wow!** #AxeEm

@LUMBERJACKFANS / TWITTER



The pine tree I received at Showcase Saturday in February 2013 is now taller than me! #AxeEm

JON_B_1856 / INSTAGRAM

WENT SHOPPING IN THE SQUARE TODAY AND GOT A DISCOUNT ON A CUTE LITTLE DRESS AND EARRINGS FROM THE OWNER BECAUSE HE WAS AN SFA ALUM. #AXEEM #THANKSDAVE

@KELSEEKIMBROUGH / TWITTER



Future @SFA_Athletics Lumberjacks. #AxeEm #Knox #Jaxson

JUSTIN CRAWFORD / TWITTER

WORK SPACE



WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN . . . SHERRY WILLIFORD'S OFFICE:

1. Two original, framed radio posters from the National Public Radio broadcasts of *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Star Wars* hang on Williford's wall. George Lucas sold NPR the trilogy's radio rights for \$1 and did the sound effects for the broadcasts.
2. Williford cherishes her broadcast-themed Barbie collection, which is displayed on top of an old tube radio that she and her husband refinished. Dolls she owns include Blaine the DJ, complete with his own audio board; Barbie with her movie camera and glittering dress; and Jessica, a journalist wearing a trench coat with a tape recorder and press badge.
3. Visitors to Williford's office are occasionally startled when they walk in and come face-to-face with two life-size cutouts of Bruce Willis and Will Ferrell as Ron Burgundy. Willis was given to Williford when she left the ABC affiliate KAIT in Jonesboro, Arkansas. She acquired Burgundy later as a Christmas gift from her husband.
4. What broadcaster can be without a working "On The Air" light and vintage RCA microphone?
5. Tucked between books on Williford's office shelves is one of her prize possessions: a personalized, autographed picture of baseball Hall-of-Famer Joe Torre, whom she met in 1989. Williford is a baseball fan with rookie and career baseball cards of her favorite players: Torre, Dale Murphy and Phil Niekro.
6. Williford has several vinyl records, including an old Joan Edwards picture record with the song "What Am I Gonna Do About You." The record is unusual due to the "vogue" romantic photo pressed on each side. And yes, Williford confirmed it still plays.
7. As anyone can tell simply from stepping into her office, the small space contains an assortment of odds and ends. You never quite know what you'll find, such as a lime-green kickball stuck neatly underneath the lowest shelf. Williford takes her SFA 101 class behind the Boynton Building for a "good, old game of kickball," as she calls it. It allows the students to escape from the daily grind of college and jobs and have a little team-building fun, she explained.
8. Members of the campus radio station, KSAU, of which Williford serves as faculty adviser, participate each year in the national College Radio Day, which the station broadcasts live from the plaza on the SFA campus. To remind her of this unique opportunity, Williford keeps one of the early College Radio Day T-shirts on display.
9. Williford enjoys collecting small radio trinkets, such as the ones grouped on her middle shelf. Her collection includes small microphones, a computer and the silver "Radio" piece on the top shelf, which was part of an advertisement for Ford tractors found and gifted to her by Dr. Jim Towns, a fellow SFA professor of communication studies.
10. An entire shelf in Williford's office is dedicated for items students have brought her from their travels. The collection includes a small "bobby," or a British constable, from England; a space man named Major Tom from NASA; a miniature Statue of Liberty with thermometer; and a box of cereal advertising a radio morning show.
11. Keeping watch over the office from the top shelf is her Bobby Sherman — the Justin Bieber of her time, she chuckled — teen idol lunch box. She purchased it from a restaurant across from campus where Napoli's Italian Restaurant is now. ★

Sherry Williford
Instructor

Mass Communication
College of Liberal and
Applied Arts





STEMulating PROGRESS

New building to
provide more
collaborative
spaces and bolster
science, technology,
engineering and
mathematics
disciplines

STORY BY
CHRISTINE BROUSSARD



Ed Cole and his late wife, Gwen

PROGRESS TAKES TIME, and after seven years and three legislative sessions since SFA first made its appeal to the state, the university is moving forward with plans to build a state-of-the-art, four-story building that will support science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.

Three campus residential facilities are in the process of being razed to make way for the new Ed and Gwen Cole STEM Building after the 84th

Texas Legislature granted SFA approximately \$46.4 million in tuition revenue bond funding in 2015. Ed and his wife, the late Gwen Cole, have supported a number of SFA endeavors, including the Cole Art Center, Cole Concert Hall and the Ed and Gwen Cole Student Success Center.

REMEMBERING GIBBS HALL

ANITA BEAM: "There were huge Chippendale wing chairs in orange velvet upholstery. And they were SO big, someone could be sitting in one, and, from the back, you couldn't even see him/her. Our dorm mother was Nina McCarty or Mrs. Mac. The movie I remember crowding into the TV room to watch was *Brian's Song* starring James Caan and Billy Dee Williams. Barely a dry eye in the place."

And, though the residential facilities will no longer physically be part of SFA's campus, Lumberjacks will continue to hold special memories of the facilities.

"Although I am sad to see the removal of these residence halls that hold so many happy memories for so many alumni, I am excited about SFA's future and the progress we are making in recruiting and graduating Lumberjacks who will have careers in STEM-related disciplines," said D'nese Haddox, associate director of SFA's Residence Life Department.

Haddox has worked in the department for more than 32 years. She attended SFA from 1980 to 1984 and lived in Steen Hall as a student. She was then hired by the department as a hall director for Hall 10 and Griffith Hall from 1987 to 1989.

THE RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

As part of the university's 2020 master plan, the Board of Regents approved the demolition of Gibbs Hall, Todd Hall and University Woods in preparation for construction of the new STEM building and relocation of the Residence Life Operations headquarters.

According to a historical summary of each building researched and provided by Haddox, Gibbs Hall was an all-female dormitory constructed in 1938 with a 140-bed capacity.

Talk of a dormitory for women dated back to 1927, according to the summary. A hopeful article about the funding for the new women's project appeared in the newspaper in July 1936 at the time the Board of Regents authorized \$225,000 for its construction.

The first floor was to include a kitchen, dining room, library, reception room, writing room, parlor, music room, offices and storage rooms. While every effort was made to make the building as economical for students as possible, SFA President Alton Birdwell said the rooms were to be nicely furnished and have a window on an outside wall.

Upon completion, Gibbs Hall quickly became a meeting location for receptions and events that "required food and ambiance," the summary states. It was named in honor of Eleanor H. Gibbs, former art faculty member and department head.

"Gibbs Hall was so cool. It was a step-back-in-time type of place with wooden floors and old-fashioned doors," SFA alumna Dawn Wallace '95 said in response to a post on the university's Facebook page asking for alumni memories. "I was one of the last residents there before we all moved to Hall 20. I remember I had the front corner room on the third floor in front of a tall pine. Every semester, I would watch a family of squirrels grow up. What memories!"

Two different buildings were named Todd Hall. The first was an all-male dormitory constructed in 1953 and built under the stands of Memorial Stadium. The second facility, which is the Todd Hall being razed, was built in 1962 as an all-female hall. It was later converted to an all-male facility and then back to

all-female in 1986.

"I will always remember being so nervous about moving to a city where I knew absolutely no one and how living in Todd helped me make lifelong friends through fellow residents and the Residence Hall Association as a whole," Stephanie Maybee '12 said on Facebook.

University Woods was built on University Drive across from the Johnson Coliseum in 1980 as a coed, apartment-style facility. The building is being demolished to make way for the construction of a new facility that will house the Residence Life Operations headquarters, which was formerly located in Gibbs Hall.

"I was the apartment manager for University Woods in 2000-01. I loved the secluded feeling of being out there, yet still being on campus," Corrinne Skelton '01 said on Facebook. "I also was in the interior design class that used Gibbs Hall as a remodeling project. Change is good, but also sad for those of us who have so many good memories of these places." →



LEA CLARK: "I lived in Gibbs Hall, and my future husband lived next door in Todd Hall. We played four square in the parking lot between the two dorms."

JULIE RICE: "I loved the wooden floors and the wonderful feel of the rooms. A big group gathered in the great room and watched the last *M*A*S*H* show."

BECKY ROBINS: "My high school ring was lost in the sink in 1965. It was found in the sewer system across the street in 2003. I became a national celebrity! My picture was in all the newspapers, and I was on *The Today Show*."

'PRIORITY ONE FOR SFA'

In response to a national call for reform in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, SFA began years ago to implement activities, courses and public outreach initiatives that would enrich STEM-related interests. That same push for STEM reform was later incorporated into the SFA 2020 campus master plan.

"Results from the most recent external assessment of campus needs conducted by Perkins & Will Architects identified the STEM building as priority one for SFA as we seek to expand our efforts in the recruitment and retention of STEM majors," said Dr. Kimberly Childs, dean of the SFA College of Sciences and Mathematics. "The STEM building will provide space to support the overall teaching, research and outreach mission of the College of Sciences and Mathematics."

STEM BUILDING

Located across the street from the existing science facility, the new STEM building will house the Department of Physics and Astronomy, the Department of Computer Science, a new SFA planetarium with a 52-foot dome, and makerspaces, which are areas that allow students to collaborate and create prototypes or other manufactured works. The facility also will feature a machine shop, research laboratories, multipurpose labs, computer labs, collaborative classrooms and a terrace equipped with telescopes.

"The case we made to the Texas Legislature is that, first and foremost, SFA is engaged in the call for reform in STEM education. As a result, the College of Sciences and Mathematics is growing," Childs said. "We've added an engineering program, and we will be adding programs in other areas that are viable options for us as a university. Knowing that we were growing and that we were beginning to venture out into other areas, we realized that the capabilities we have on campus are limited."

During the past several years, the College of Sciences and Mathematics has experienced growth in several areas. Offering the only geology program in the upper northeast quartile of Texas, the college recently added a four-year engineering physics degree to its baccalaureate offerings and acquired the Department of Computer Science from the Rusche College of Business.

"The current Miller Science Building is crowded and underequipped to meet the needs of the College of Sciences and Mathematics. With classrooms and labs built for students 50 years ago, we are challenged to provide 21st-century instruction in this outdated environment," Childs said. "After renovations of the chemistry labs were completed, we realized how critical updated facilities are to the advancement of STEM education. However, renovation is often more costly than new construction. Therefore, we requested support from the state Legislature for a much-needed STEM facility."



REMEMBERING TODD HALL

BRENT ACUFF: "Loved that place and was part of the reason I loved going to SFA. I remember walking past the Stone Fort every day to and from classes."

TERRY HUCKABY: "Many bizarre things occurred there but lots of friendships made. Every day after lunch, we piled into the lobby and watched the soaps: *General Hospital*, *All My Children* and *One Life to Live*, then off to football practice."

MAGGIE MORGAN: "Todd Hall was such a blast! So many nights watching *Glee* in that common room."



REMEMBERING UNIVERSITY WOODS

MIA BROWN: "I loved University Woods! My porch had the best woods view and was very peaceful. The ROTC students would wake us up at 6 a.m. on weekends during their maneuvers, and everyone would grumble about it. During Hurricane Ike, we lost electricity immediately and didn't get it back for a week. It was scary listening to the trees fall around us. I couldn't believe trees didn't fall on at least one of the buildings."

KAYLEE CARSON: "There was something magical about being able to live among the trees and the trails."

JACOB LUSK: "The wasps outside University Woods held me hostage in my unit on a daily basis."

"We will have updated, state-of-the-art labs that support STEM teaching and research. From discipline-specific labs such as those for thermodynamics and cybersecurity to multipurpose labs that can convert from physics to biology, we are designing labs to meet student needs. The College of Sciences and Mathematics is taking the next step into the future."

A building inspired by innovation and collaboration is what Childs and other administrators envisioned for the new structure.

"As we strive to provide transformative experiences for our students, we encourage them to take ownership in their education," Childs said. "This current era in higher education introduces a heightened emphasis on student learning and technologically enhanced pedagogy, encouraging students to be actively engaged in their learning experiences."

"Between makerspaces, huddle spaces, collaborative classrooms, computer/cybersecurity labs and multipurpose labs, we believe this building will give students that experience. Other campus buildings must be razed in the process, but there's new life here, and it meets the needs of the 21st century."

Construction of the new STEM building is projected to be complete in August 2018. ★



THOUGHTS FROM STEM MAJORS

CADE ARCHER / COMPUTER SCIENCE JUNIOR: "I'm very hopeful about the new building because it shows SFA understands the unique importance STEM majors will play in the future."

IAN CAMPBELL / INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SENIOR: "I feel that SFA, at last, will have a great STEM building to match its great STEM program. I'm excited because it will help SFA to develop further — a great way to start SFA's second century."

STEPHEN JANOVSKY / MATHEMATICS SOPHOMORE: "With more classrooms and places to work for STEM students and faculty members, SFA will be able to continue strengthening its STEM departments that are becoming more and more relevant in today's job market."

WHITNEY SINGLETON / BIOLOGY JUNIOR: "What is truly exciting about SFA's new STEM building is the opportunity to demonstrate to future students what our campus offers in these fields. Through new and improved facilities, SFA can provide a deeper, more modern take on the STEM fields — and stimulate public interests in STEM and in the university in general."

KYLIE SMELLEY / BIOLOGY FRESHMAN: "I am very excited about the wonderful opportunities that the building will provide for all STEM majors, as well as the growth of the STEM program that this building will help provide."



"Goodbye, Gibbs Hall, and thanks for the memories." These have been my recurring thoughts as I drive by that historic girl's dormitory since the announcement it is being demolished to make room for SFA's new science, technology, engineering and mathematics building.

I was one of a crew of male college students who served breakfast cafeteria-style and lunch and dinner family-style to Gibbs Hall residents. Though I served meals for the last time in August 1951 when I graduated from SFA, the memories of the people and events associated with those three years are fresh. Friendships and contacts with several fellow waiters are ongoing, and I am grateful. Also, I occasionally see former residents of Gibbs Hall who were there during our service as waiters.

I share the affection many have for the building because of the pleasant memories associated with working there. I will admit feeling some sadness with its demolition. But, I also feel joy as I anticipate the rise of a building in its place that will house much-needed academic programs for future students.

My service on the SFA faculty from September 1963 to August 2000 enables me to recognize such a need. My status as an alumnus of SFA and as the father of four children and two grandchildren who have earned degrees at SFA (plus one grandchild currently enrolled), add to my understanding of the need. One of my sons and two of my grandsons went elsewhere to earn degrees in engineering. The building that will occupy the Gibbs Hall space will house SFA's new four-year engineering program.

Gibbs Hall's lifespan served thousands of SFA students well. It will survive in the memories of all those who benefited from its presence as a storied part of the rich history of SFA.

Dr. Thomas Franks '51
Professor Emeritus of Elementary Education
Former Dean, College of Education

ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS IN REVIEW

SLC COMMISSIONER'S CUP

2010, 2012, 2015, 2016

SLC WOMEN'S ALL-SPORTS CHAMPION

2014, 2015, 2016



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Regular season SLC Champions – 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

SLC Tournament Champions – 2014, 2015, 2016

NCAA Tournament appearances – 2014, 2015, 2016

Advanced to round two of NCAA Tournament – 2014, 2016

Thomas Walkup, SLC Player of the Year – 2015, 2016

Thomas Walkup, SLC Tournament MVP – 2014, 2015, 2016

Thomas Walkup, Lou Henson Mid-Major Player of the Year – 2016



BOWLING

NCAA National Champions

(SFA's first at the Division I team level) – 2016

Stephanie Schwartz, NTCA National Player of the Year,
U.S. Amateur Champion and Team USA Member – 2016

Kiara Grant, NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player – 2016

NCAA National Runner-Up – 2015



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sixth team in NCAA Division I history to
reach 1,000 program wins

Taylor Schippers,
SLC Newcomer of the Year – 2016

CROSS COUNTRY

Charles Mathenge, NCAA Nationals
qualifier – 2014, 2015

FOOTBALL

John Franklin, Second team All-SLC and
Academic All SLC selection – 2015

Marlon Walls, First team CoSIDA
Academic All-District selection – 2015

WEB: SFAJACKS.COM f SFA ATHLETICS @SFA_ATHLETICS SFA_ATHLETICS



Soccer

Regular season SLC Champions – 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

Amanda Doyle, SLC Player of the Year – 2015

Wally Crittenden, SLC Soccer Coach of the Year – 2013, 2014, 2015



Track and Field

Men's Outdoor SLC Champions – 2015, 2016

Phil Olson, SLC Men's Outdoor Track and Field Coach of the Year – 2015, 2016 (22 Coach of the Year Awards and 31 SLC Championships in his SFA career)

Men's and Women's Indoor and Outdoor SLC Championships – 22 total

Three events advanced to NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships: 400m, 10,000m and 4x400m relay – 2016



THOMAS WALKUP

Golden State Warriors added Thomas Walkup to its roster for the 2016 NBA Summer League games, an 11-day extravaganza that showcased the best up-and-coming NBA talent.



HUNTER DOZIER

Kansas City Royals' prospect Hunter Dozier was one of 25 players from the minor leagues to earn a roster spot on the U.S. team for the 2016 SiriusXM All-Star Futures Game.

WOMEN'S GOLF

UIW Fall Invitational Champions
2014, 2015

Volleyball

O.J. Olson, third player in program history
to reach 2,000 career digs – 2015



A Fitting Tribute

The grandson of a pipefitter continues fighting for workers' rights

Story by Dr. Shirley Luna / Photography by Hardy Meredith

WHEN O.D. KENEMORE, a pipefitter in the fume-filled plants of Dow Chemical, was working as a union representative in the early 1950s, he surely knew the safer working conditions he was fighting for would have a positive impact on the lives of his co-workers and their families. He may not have realized the long-lasting impact he would have on workers across the state — and even on someone much closer to home.

After his initiation into the pipefitters union, Kenemore went on to serve as president of the Tidelands Central Labor Council and later as vice president and trustee of the Texas AFL-CIO. In 1990, he was appointed as an employee representative on the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission by Republican Gov. Bill Clements. He was reappointed by Gov. Ann Richards, a Democrat, and continued serving while George W. Bush was governor. He served as chair of the commission, helping to write rules concerning the administration of the Workers'

Compensation Act. He was inducted into the Texas Labor Hall of Fame in 2002.

"He was best known in the labor movement for his fierce support of injured workers during his service on the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission," said Kenemore's grandson, Jason Gibson '95. "He was working with a law that was slanted toward employers and insurers, but he dedicated himself to learning the system, and I was always impressed with how injured workers and their families came to him for help. Through his sheer will, he created the best possible situation for working people."

Union workers and politicians weren't the only ones watching Kenemore work; Gibson was watching and was formulating his own plans to follow in his grandfather's footsteps. After graduating magna cum laude from SFA, Gibson earned a law degree from the University of Houston in 1998 and took up the family business. →

Jason Gibson has been named one of Houston's Top Lawyers every year since 2009 and has served as an adjunct professor in trial advocacy for the University of Houston Law Center.





By age 31, Gibson had accumulated more than \$80 million in settlements and verdicts and was one of the youngest lawyers ever to have served on the board of directors for both the Houston Trial Lawyers Association and the Texas Trial Lawyers Association. Gibson later went on to serve as president of the Houston Trial Lawyers from 2011 to 2012.

Gibson was the lead attorney and first to file suit against Tyler Pipe Industries Inc., resulting in the establishment of a \$500 million fund for former workers suffering from lung disease, mostly silicosis and asbestosis.

"Basically, it is impossible to sue an employer who offers workers' compensation," Gibson explained. "So many people had been hurt at this facility, but their attorneys weren't going after Tyler Pipe. I started looking into it and realized, for tax incentives and a more lucrative financial position, Tyler Pipe Foundry was a wholly owned subsidiary of Tyler Pipe Industries Inc., the parent company. The parent company didn't provide workers' compensation and controlled the foundry, so they were fair game."

In 2010, a jury awarded \$14 million to one of Gibson's clients who was severely burned in a 2007 tanker explosion. It was named one of the top verdicts in the state by the research organization Verdict Search.

More recently, Gibson won a \$53 million settlement for the family of a 28-year-old man, Angel Garcia, killed in 2013 while working on the construction of a football stadium in College Station.

"If the general contractor did not complete the facility by a certain date, they had to pay \$1.5 million for each game the team wasn't able to play in the facility," Gibson stated. "As a result, basic safety fell through the cracks, and bad decisions were being made."

During the trial, Gibson said the company's lawyer had tried to paint the family as not having a very close relationship. "I put Mr. Garcia's young daughter on the stand and asked her about the last conversation she had with her dad. She recalled that the last thing he asked her was what she wanted for Christmas. So, that strategy definitely backfired on them."

Born in New Braunfels, Gibson grew up in Lake Jackson and graduated from high school in Sugar Land. One of the benefits of enrolling at SFA centered around his family — Gibson's uncle lived in Nacogdoches. While his extracurricular activities included boxing, Gibson also had an interest in theatre.

"I grew up in a single-parent household, so I knew my first priority was a career that would allow me to support myself," Gibson said. "However, I always enjoyed acting, and I never really gave up on it."

ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Gibson produced and played a role in the 2015 film *Blunt Force Trauma* with Mickey Rourke and Freida Pinto, and he played Anthony Hopkins' right-hand man in *Misconduct* in 2016. He has roles in three movies that will be released next year.

Even as an actor, Gibson could not escape the reality of the pain induced by work-related injuries. On one of the sets of *Blunt Force Trauma*, an abandoned train station in Bogotá, Colombia, Gibson was wearing a bullet-proof vest that featured small pockets filled with explosives.

"Of course the guns were shooting blanks, but a person standing off camera would detonate the explosives so it appeared that bullets were hitting the vest. They warned us to keep our hands out to the sides and not directly in front of our bodies, because if the explosives hit our hands, it would be painful."

Unfortunately, two explosive pockets in Gibson's vest were installed incorrectly, and rather than discharging from the front of his vest, they blasted directly into his stomach and chest.

"I never broke character," Gibson recalled. "I fell to the ground and remained there until Freida Pinto's character walked over to me and added insults to the injury she had already inflicted on my character. When the director yelled, 'Cut,' I jumped up and just tore my vest and shirt off."

Fortunately, the production company had a medic on standby to tend to such injuries. "The building we were in was just filthy," Gibson said. "The medic didn't speak English, and I'm not even sure that he had washed his hands, but he rubbed a lotion of some sort on the burns and indicated that I would be fine."

"When I was just starting out, one of my grandfather's favorite things to do was to come to court and watch me work."

THE DAY JOB

Despite the allure of his recent accomplishments, Gibson is not giving up his day job and looks forward to his days in the courtroom, often feeling that his grandfather is there with him in spirit.

"When I was just starting out, one of my grandfather's favorite things to do was to come to court and watch me work," Gibson said.

Gibson welcomed his grandfather's presence because he felt it helped him establish a rapport with his audience.

"You have to develop a relationship with each member of the jury, so that he or she feels they know who you are and see you, not just as an attorney, but as a fellow human being. I generally start out by telling a story that has nothing to do with the case, usually about my personal life. But when my grandfather was alive and in the courtroom with me, he made it easy for me. Sometimes before I could even point him out, someone would ask, 'Who's the old guy?' And I would say, 'Oh, him? That's my grandpa.'" ★



GYMNAST FINDS HIS PLACE IN THE SUN



When Dustin Walston '06 landed a gig with Cirque du Soleil, it was the fulfillment of a longtime ambition

BY HOLLY BERETTO

// GOT INTO gymnastics late," said Dustin Walston, explaining just how almost unbelievable it is that he's touring the country with Cirque du Soleil's *Toruk: The First Flight*.

"Usually, people start gymnastics so much earlier. I was a teenager," he said.

Coincidentally, it was a television performance of a Cirque du Soleil show that made Walston think, "I want to do that." So, he began teaching himself tumbling in his backyard.

"At one point, my dad said, 'Hey, you're getting really good at that.' So, we found a gym in Marshall, Texas, where I could get instruction. I just took off like a rocket."

Walston got his first job at that gym when he was 16 and spent more than four hours every day practicing. He got better and better and later made the organization's club gymnastics team.

The Longview, Texas, native was on his way, but he had no way of knowing just how far he'd go. He came to SFA as an international business major and Spirit Team member. With dreams to see the world, Walston took French classes and continued his gymnastic pursuits, parlaying his abilities onto SFA's cheerleading squad.

"I'm a tumbler," Walston explained. "We (the cheerleaders) would spend the first semester of the year cheering at games, and then the second semester in competition mode."

While at SFA, Walston helped take the team to multiple National Cheerleaders Association Collegiate Cheer National Championship competitions. The group brought home titles in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

"It was amazing to win," Walston said. "I was so happy to be part of such a great team of strong competitors. When you work together like that, you become like bricks in a wall for each other, and you're such good friends."

That idea of bricks in the wall serving as a foundation is how he feels about SFA, as well. He credits his time as a Lumberjack with helping him formulate a world view and learning more about the things he wanted to do in life.

Following his SFA graduation, Walston received a scholarship to attend Hawaii Pacific University. He said that experience gave him a taste of what "international" really meant. Hawaii's diverse population, as well as its place geographically in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, attracted students from around the world.

"Sometimes, I was the only American in my class," he said.

As he studied in Hawaii, Walston learned the value of cross-cultural communication and realized there are different approaches to challenges.

After he completed his Master of Business Administration in 2009, he went to work for Chaminade University in Honolulu, overseeing the development of strategic planning and special projects for a Department of Defense-funded initiative.

"I was still tumbling every weekend," he said. "I had it in my heart that I would perform someday, somehow."

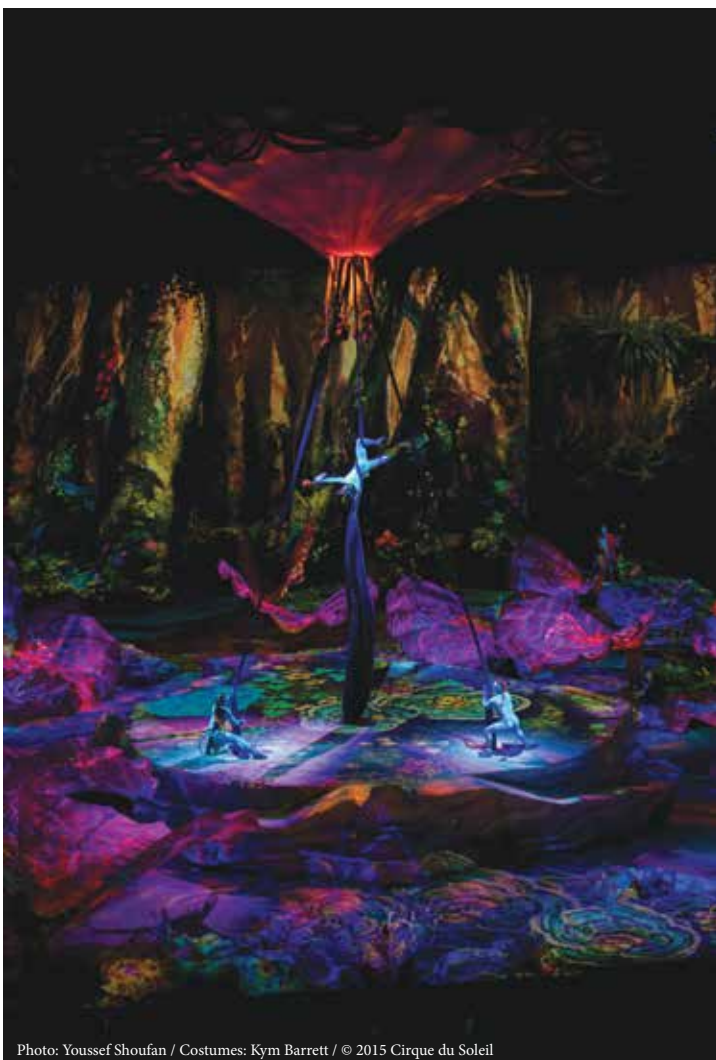
That "somehow" came by chance. He learned Cirque du Soleil was accepting audition tapes, and he and a friend spent a few days traveling around the island videotaping Walston completing every gymnastic move he had in his arsenal. He submitted the video in the summer of 2009.

"They invited me to audition in Las Vegas," he said. "And it was two days and five rounds of cutting 120 people to only 11. I was one of the 11."

Walston said when Cirque du Soleil accepts a performer, the performer is entered into its database, and if a part develops that fits the performer, he or she is called. So, while Walston was elated to be "in" with Cirque du Soleil, he knew it was only a toe in the door.

"In 2010, I moved to Las Vegas," he said, intent on pursuing his dream to perform. His first opportunity came in the spring working as a performer with iL Circo, a Cirque-like troupe, traveling to Mexico, Venezuela and Greece. Two years later, he was a stunt pirate in *The Sirens of Treasure Island*, the pirate-themed show performed multiple times each day at the famed Treasure Island Las Vegas casino and resort. In 2013, he did body double work for Criss Angel in Cirque du Soleil's *Believe*.

In winter 2015, Walston got his biggest break. →



"I had it in my heart that I would perform someday, somehow."

Dustin Walston

“When I got the call for *Toruk*, I really couldn’t believe it. If you had asked me what I wanted to do, the idea that I could create a role in a world-touring production of a Cirque du Soleil show — it was like winning a jackpot.”

Toruk: The First Flight is based on the blockbuster James Cameron film *Avatar* with the action taking place 1,000 years before that depicted in the movie. A natural catastrophe threatens to destroy the Na’avis’ sacred Tree of Souls, and two boys on the cusp of adulthood embark on a quest to save their people from a terrible fate.

Walston and his cast members spent 12 hours a day, six days a week crafting characters and rehearsing before the show opened in December 2015. In 2016, the production came to Texas, and Walston said it was fantastic to have so many friends and family attend.

“Texans love to see Texans succeed, and knowing friends and family are coming to see and support the work I do — that makes the show so much better,” he said.

One of his favorite things about being in *Toruk*, however, is more personal.

“I love it when I am in the arena during a scene positioned to the side, and I see the show unfolding before me. I feel like I have a front-row seat to such an immense and colorful adventure,” Walston said. “Cirque du Soleil is an amazing company to work for with a rich collection of talented employees.

“Therefore, it’s easy for me to say I love what I do. I also have to give credit to SFA for providing me with the necessary experiences to be successful in such a big endeavor.” ★

Photo: Errisson Lawrence / Costumes: Kym Barrett / © 2015 Cirque du Soleil





**We want you
to be connected
to SFA and
the Alumni
Association.
We want you
to be engaged.
We want you
to be a lifelong
Lumberjack.**

THERE ARE MORE than 100,000 SFA alumni working and living in Texas, across the country and all over the world. Wherever you are, we want **you** to be connected to your university. Your connection can start with the Alumni Association. If you are not connected, it's time.

I mentioned in my previous letter that the university is in the midst of a comprehensive strategic plan. You play a role. "Increasing Connections with Alumni" is a critical component of the strategic plan. Within this component are approaches to **reconnect** with our SFA alumni, **engage** our alumni through networks close to where our alumni live and work, and **make lifelong Lumberjacks** who carry their Lumberjack Pride throughout their communities. This means you. We want you to be connected to SFA and the Alumni Association. We want you to be engaged. We want you to be a lifelong Lumberjack.

Lumberjack Network events are one way the Alumni Association is working to increase connections with our alumni and friends. The Alumni Association launched the Lumberjack Network in fall 2015. During the past year, the Alumni Association has hosted Lumberjack Network breakfasts in Dallas, Houston and The Woodlands. These events will continue in those same cities throughout 2016 and 2017, and new opportunities are on the horizon for Austin, San Antonio and Fort Worth.

We know many of our alumni are not able to attend a network breakfast during the workweek. Therefore, the Alumni Association team attended educator conferences in 2016 such as the Texas Elementary Principal and Supervisors conference and the Texas Music Educators Association convention. Our team will continue to participate in these events, as well as other similar professional events, to further engage SFA alumni. If your profession has an annual conference with groups of SFA alumni in attendance, please let us know!

Raise the Flag is another important and fun initiative the Alumni Association is launching in 2016. We want you to raise your SFA flag to show your friends and neighbors your Lumberjack Pride. As part of the Raise the Flag campaign, if you are a current member of the Alumni Association, you will have the opportunity to purchase a newly designed SFA flag for your home. If you join the Alumni Association as a new member, you will receive the flag as part of your new membership.

Be on the lookout for more information on the Raise the Flag campaign at www.sfaalumni.com and on SFA's social media. "Like" the SFA Alumni Association on Facebook, and follow SFA Alumni on Twitter for Raise the Flag and other Alumni Association news.

It's time, Lumberjacks. It's time to be connected to your university. It's time to be part of an engaged alumni network. It's time to raise your SFA flag. It's time to show your Lumberjack Pride. ★

Axe 'em, Jacks!

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

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Karen Gantt '95, McKinney
president

David Madrid '02, Bossier City, Louisiana
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Mike Harbordt '63, Nacogdoches
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James Hamilton '77, Porter - *chairman*
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Stephen Greak '92, Lufkin - *recording secretary*
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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 '16
gifts and records specialist

Amie Ford '09 & '11
scholarship coordinator

Derek Snyder '01
communications and marketing coordinator

Hannah Franks '13
accountant

'JACKS OF ALL TRADES

Dr. Bonita Jacobs '71 & '73 - President, University of North Georgia

DR. BONITA JACOBS '71 & '73 said she never imagined herself with a career in higher education, but through life's twists and turns, she has discovered and answered her calling, currently serving as president of the University of North Georgia.

Recently named among the 100 Most Influential Georgians by *Georgia Trend* magazine and an Atlanta top education leader by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, Jacobs' unexpected career in higher education has led to more scholarships, expanded curriculum, increased research and other notable accomplishments.

A Huntington, Texas, native, Jacobs first found her feet on Nacogdoches soil when she attended SFA as an undergraduate student, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Spanish in 1971, followed by a Master of Education in counseling in 1973.

After graduation, she and her husband moved from Texas' Oldest Town to Beaumont, Texas, but returned a short time later when he was transferred back for work. Once settled again in Nacogdoches, Jacobs applied for a staff position at SFA and was hired as a counselor in student affairs.

"I quickly learned two things," Jacobs said. "First, I loved higher education, and second, I was drawn to working with students, particularly the planning, programming and supervising side."

Keeping this knowledge in mind, Jacobs learned of a position within SFA's Residence Life Department and applied. She was hired and began work as a coordinator. Working her way up the ladder, she advanced to the role of director in 1983, a position she held until 1986 when she temporarily moved to College Station to complete her doctoral degree.

With her doctoral degree in educational administration under her belt, Jacobs and her family again relocated, this time settling in North Carolina, where she joined Western Carolina University as assistant vice chancellor and later served as interim vice chancellor. Twelve years later, she came back to Texas to serve as vice president for student development and professor of higher education at the University of North Texas.

In 2011, an opportunity arose for Jacobs in Georgia that would lead to her current position. Jacobs, hired as president of North Georgia College and State University, directed the consolidation of NGCSU and Gainesville State College, when the two combined in 2013 to form the University of North Georgia.

During her presidency, Jacobs has worked with staff members to increase alumni giving and scholarship funding by 500 percent. Another area she is particularly proud of is her involvement with the success of transfer students.

Jacobs founded the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students, which she said bridges knowledge, policies and practice by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to explore the issues related to the transfer process to facilitate student success and degree completion.

Additionally, she authored *The College Transfer Student in America: The Forgotten Student*, a book presenting research and efforts that share the intent of boosting transfer student success. She also has served as the editor of the *Journal of College Orientation and Transition*.

Although her career has led her to various higher education administrative positions throughout the South, Jacobs said she still recalls fond memories of her time at SFA and the influence the university and its faculty members had on her career.



"When I look back at my time as a student at SFA, what stands out to me is that the university possesses faculty and staff members who genuinely care for the students, and the students know that," she said. "During the time I was there, SFA was growing very rapidly. It was a busy time, but the faculty never lost sight of the fact that the university was a student-focused institution."

Jacobs said her involvement as a member in the Chi Omega sorority chapter at SFA also greatly contributed to her success both as a student and professional.

"I have to point to Chi Omega as a turning point for me," she said. "I was involved in Gamma Sigma Sigma National Service Sorority as well as Chi Omega, and both gave me opportunities for student leadership and to learn more about how to lead and how to follow. I have great memories of my time with those organizations." ★

- STORY BY STEPHANIE BALLARD
- PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. BONITA JACOBS

ALUMNI CALENDAR

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

SEPTEMBER

9

Alumni Awards
6 p.m. / Cocktail Hour
6:45 p.m. / Dinner
Baker Pattillo Student Center
Grand Ballroom / Nacogdoches

9-11

**Lumberjack Marching Band
and Twirl-O-Jacks Reunion**
Nacogdoches

10

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



**SFA Football vs.
University of West Alabama**
6 p.m. / Homer Bryce Stadium / Nacogdoches

16-17

**Holiday Inn-Express SFA Ladyjack
Volleyball Invitational**
Nacogdoches

24

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



**SFA Football vs.
Abilene Christian University**
6 p.m. / Homer Bryce Stadium / Nacogdoches

29

Battle of the Piney Woods Luncheon
Noon / Touchdown Club of Houston
JW Marriott on Westheimer / Houston
For questions, contact Neal Farmer at
(713) 849-9860 or houtdclub@att.net.

30

Lettermen's Reunion Golf Tournament
10 a.m. / Tour 18 Golf Course / Houston

OCTOBER

1

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

**Battle of the Piney
Woods Game**
SFA Football vs.
Sam Houston State
University

3 p.m.
NRG Stadium / Houston
*Please call the SFA Alumni Association at
(936) 468-3407 to learn more about the fan
bus traveling from Nacogdoches to Houston
for the tailgate and game.*



3-6

SFA Ring Week
Pearman Alumni Center
Nacogdoches

8-15

Colors of New England Alumni Travel
Learn more at sfaalumni.com.

11

**SFA Lumberjack
Business Network**
Breakfast - Dallas
7 to 8 a.m.
Maggiano's Little Italy - NorthPark Center



15

Alumni Corner Tailgate
Noon / Corner of Raguet and
Hayter Streets / Nacogdoches



SFA Football vs.
Southeastern Louisiana University
3 p.m. / Homer Bryce Stadium / Nacogdoches

Lettermen's Day/Jacks of Honor Induction
Football halftime show
Homer Bryce Stadium / Nacogdoches

18

SFA Lumberjack Business Network
Breakfast - The Woodlands / 7 to 8 a.m.
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse
Speaker: Mike Taff, EVP and CFO of
Chicago Bridge & Iron Company

NOVEMBER

4-5

HOMECOMING WEEKEND
See pages 36-37 for more information.

**Alpha Chi Omega Alumni
Homecoming Weekend**
Nacogdoches

19

Golden Jacks 50-Year Reunion
Nacogdoches

Alumni Corner Tailgate
Noon / Corner of Raguet and
Hayter Streets / Nacogdoches



SFA Football vs.
Northwestern State University
3 p.m. / Homer Bryce Stadium / Nacogdoches

DECEMBER

2

Big Dip Ring Ceremony
Baker Pattillo Student Center
Grand Ballroom
Nacogdoches

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

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



6

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



10

SFA Gala
Baker Pattillo Student Center
Grand Ballroom / Nacogdoches

HOMECOMING

NOV.
4-5

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

HOMECOMING ONLINE AUCTION

Begins: 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 27

Ends: 9 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 6

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

FRIDAY, NOV. 4

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.

Pearman Alumni Center

"BACK IN NAC" SOCIAL

5:30 to 8 p.m.

Location: TBD

Special event details coming soon

TORCHLIGHT PARADE AND BONFIRE

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

Bonfire: 9 p.m. at the Intramural Fields

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



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

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

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 membership provides.

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

HOMEcoming FLAP "JACK" BREAKFAST

8 to 10 a.m.

CBTx downtown lobby, 215 E. Main St.

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 to 9 a.m.), and listen to live music by the Crime Stoppers Band.

SEVENTH ANNUAL LUMBERJACK HOMEcoming 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. Since the race ends downtown, a shuttle bus will pick up participants parking at Regions Bank and take them to the start location. 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 males and females in each age group. Proceeds benefit the Dr. Raymond Lee Worsham Scholarship.

HOMEcoming PARADE

10 a.m.

Downtown Nacogdoches

Celebrate SFA and enjoy themed floats, music and pageantry. The parade is FREE for all to attend. This year's theme is "Life, Liberty and Lumberjacks."

ALUMNI CORNER/BENEFIT TICKET DRAWING

Noon at the corner of Raguet and Hayter Streets

Benefit Ticket Drawing: 2 p.m.

Join the SFA Alumni Association for delicious tailgate food, the Suddenlink "Bundle U" Viewing Lounge, games and live music. Benefit tickets will be sold until 2 p.m. at Alumni Corner for \$100. The winner of the Benefit Ticket Drawing will receive \$5,000 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); and FREE for children under 5 (with adult).

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

ALUMNI FALL FEST

Noon at the corner of Raguet and Hayter Streets

Enjoy the family-friendly fall fest with bounce houses, face painting, magic, balloon animals, games and giveaways. The event is FREE and fun for children of all ages. Children are encouraged to dress like a Lumberjack or Ladyjack. The first 100 children receive a FREE T-shirt.

DUCK DASH

1 p.m. at the Ag Pond

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

HOMEcoming FOOTBALL GAME

3 p.m. at Homer Bryce Stadium

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

SATURDAY, SEPT. 10

Alumni Corner Tailgate: 3 p.m.

SFA vs. University of West Alabama: 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24

PARENTS DAY

Alumni Corner Tailgate: 3 p.m.

SFA vs. Abilene Christian University: 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 15

Alumni Corner Tailgate: Noon

SFA vs. Southeastern Louisiana University: 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

HOMEcoming

Alumni Corner Tailgate: Noon

SFA vs. University of Central Arkansas: 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 19

Alumni Corner Tailgate: Noon

SFA vs. Northwestern State University: 3 p.m.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AWARDS

THE SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUALLY 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

The Hall of Fame Award was established in 1973.



PEGGY WRIGHT '44

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

The Distinguished Professor Award was established in 1966.



DANA COOPER



ALAN SOWARDS '73

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 1966.



DORRIS FORTSON '92



MIKE KARNS '86

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award was established in 1989.



JULIAMARIA CALVO '08

LUMBERJACK PRIDE

The Lumberjack Pride Award was established in 2015.



MATT ADKINS '06



ALEX RANC '11 & '13

AWARDS CEREMONY / FRIDAY, SEPT. 9

RECEPTION: 6 P.M. / DINNER: 6:45 P.M.

BAKER PATILLO STUDENT CENTER GRAND BALLROOM

TICKETS: (936) 468-3407 OR SMORA@SFASU.EDU

LIMITED SEATING

BILLY JOE AND BERNICE ELLIS IRWIN SCHOLARSHIP



THE BILLY JOE and Bernice Ellis Irwin Scholarship benefits full-time nursing students from Rusk County who maintain a 3.0 GPA and are studying in the Richard and Lucille DeWitt School of Nursing.

Billy Joe grew up in Laneville. He received a Bachelor of Science in agriculture from

SFA in 1938. Billy Joe served in World War II in France, England and Germany. After returning home from the war, he received his Master of Science in agriculture from Sam Houston State Teachers College.

A member of the Masonic Lodge in Laneville and Sharon Temple Shrine in Tyler, Billy Joe was a founding member of the Rusk County Mini Patrol and served on the Divan.

Bernice Evelyn Ellis graduated from New London High School in 1931. Just after her 18th birthday, Bernice left New London to pursue her passion — nursing. She attended and graduated from Scott and White School of Nursing in Temple in 1945.

Often called “Bea” by her colleagues, she worked at Henderson Memorial Hospital for many years. In 1962, Bernice became director of the Henderson Memorial Hospital Vocational Nursing School where she taught for 22 years.

After retiring from the hospital, she joined Visiting Nurses of East Texas, a home health care agency, where she served as regional director in 1986. Bernice was a member of the Daughters of the Nile of Sharon Temple.

Billy Joe and Bernice married Dec. 11, 1945. Until Billy Joe’s death on Jan. 17, 1984, the couple lived in Laneville. Billy Joe and Bernice enjoyed many exciting years as members of Sharon Temple Shrine Club. ★

BENNETT AND RHONDA MONTES SCHOLARSHIP



THE BENNETT AND Rhonda Montes Scholarship supports deserving students majoring in astronomy, engineering or physics.

Bennett retired from SFA’s Department of Physics and Astronomy after serving 35 years as a scientific machinist. During his decades of service, he fabricated and machined

thousands of pieces of equipment, including a 41-inch telescope, which is housed at the SFA Observatory.

Rhonda retired after 17 years with the SFA Health Clinic, where she worked as a medical records technician. She cherished her years working there with students, doctors, nurses and staff members.

Bennett and Rhonda are Nacogdoches natives and remain active in their community.

The couple’s family includes two sons, Michael and Matthew. Michael and his wife, Jennifer Criss Montes, an SFA graduate and Nacogdoches dentist, have two children, Lillian and Anderson. Matthew, also an SFA graduate, and his wife, Wendy, a dental hygienist, reside in Katy, Texas. ★

JACK AND CHERYL NELSON SCHOLARSHIP



THE JACK AND Cheryl Nelson Scholarship supports School of Music students majoring in piano.

The scholarship was established in loving memory of Cheryl, who passed away in October 2013.

Jack and Cheryl were lifelong members of North

Street Church of Christ, where Cheryl served as the church pianist and was active in numerous church activities and social clubs. Cheryl loved God, her husband, children and grandchildren.

She also enjoyed spending her golden years on their family farm, located in Cushing. Jack served almost 25 years as the director of the SFA student center auxiliary services before retiring from the university in 2005.

The couple was married almost 50 years and have two sons: Jack Nelson Jr., and his wife, Melinda, and Keith Nelson. ★

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

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1960s



LUMBERJACKS MAKE GREAT FRIENDS

Members of the 1960s Pikes (Pi Kappa Alpha chapter at SFA) fraternity met for their 14th reunion at The Middle Ground Ranch in Hext, Texas. After a four-year absence (2009-13), the Pikes were rechartered 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.



Robert Loper '66 & '76 of Jacksonville, Texas, announced his retirement from Frankston ISD following 50 years in education. Loper will complete his 41-year head-coaching career with 867 wins — 610 of those achieved during the past 28 years he's spent with Frankston ISD.

1970s



Mike Mathis '70 of Lufkin was named the 2015 Justin Committeeman of the Year by the John Justin Standard of the West Award program, which annually recognizes 100 behind-the-scenes individuals and one grand prize winner for his/her outstanding volunteer contribution to local rodeo. Mathis is the rodeo coordinator for the Angelina County Benefit Rodeo in Lufkin and has been a committee member for 40 years.



Mark Moseley '70 of Middletown, Virginia, was honored by the National Football League with \$5,000 and a gold football presented to Livingston High School for his participation in a Super Bowl game. Moseley was named the NFL Most Valuable Player in 1982, and he won a Super Bowl ring with the Washington Redskins in 1983.



EUGENE MITCHELL WEATHERLY '70 of Kerrville recently was inducted into the U.S. Army Cadet Command Reserve Officer

Training Hall of Fame, which recognizes overall excellence and accomplishment in leadership, in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

A Nacogdoches County native, Weatherly is one of only a handful of cadets to receive this honor.

"I am both immensely honored and humbled to be inducted into the U.S. Army ROTC Hall of Fame," Weatherly said. "Throughout the past 100 years, 600,000 cadets have been commissioned through ROTC and only 323 chosen for the Hall of Fame — a sitting Supreme Court justice, a Medal of Honor recipient, hundreds of distinguished Army generals and a few business leaders like me. One could not help but feel greatly honored and humbled."

Weatherly was inducted into the ROTC Hall of Fame for his exceptional accomplishment as a leader in business. He retired as executive vice president for Pier 1 Imports in 2007. In that role, he oversaw operations of all 1,200 Pier 1 Import stores in the U.S. and Canada.



Three generations of SFA graduates unexpectedly bumped into each other in Mikkeli, Finland, in January during a Nordic Masterclass for Conductors: from right, **RANDY NAVARRE** '73 of Glenmoore, Pennsylvania, **MARK CRIM** '03 of White Oak and **TRISTAN ROBERTS** '15 of Kilgore.

"It was a remarkable experience conducting the St. Michel Strings, a wonderful professional orchestra. The three of us had a great time telling SFA stories and remembering faculty members. We all agree, the SFA School of Music greatly prepared us for our careers in music. I am quite proud to be a Lumberjack," Navarre said.

Dr. Horace Stearman '73 & '87 of Grand Prairie was named assistant vice president for accreditation, planning and policy at the University of North Texas at Dallas.

Rep. Marvin Abney '75 of Newport, Rhode Island, was named chairman of the Rhode Island House Finance Committee.

Dr. Richard White '75 of Quitman was voted 2015 Clergy of the Year by the Greater Quitman Area Chamber of Commerce.

Terry Comingore '76 & '79 of Wylie was named the 2016 inductee for the Texas Distance Learning Hall of Fame. The recognition honors long-term distance learning practitioners or advocates whose careers are characterized by exceptional commitment, outstanding achievements and enduring impact.

Terry Parker '76 of Murchison coached the Chireno Lady Owls to the 1-A semifinals of the Girls Basketball State Tournament in San Antonio.

Karl Lindekugel III '78 of Tyler was named to the Barron's Top 1,200 Financial Advisors in the country — a list designed to recognize the top 1 percent of advisors nationwide. Lindekugel works with Merrill Lynch and is senior vice president of wealth management for and founding partner of the LMT Management Group.

Eric Beaty '79 of France, the economic and commercial attaché to the United States Consulate for Western France, visited the University of Kentucky for the College of Arts and Sciences Year of Europe event this academic year. He presented "U.S. and European Union Trade Relations: The French Example."

1980s



Chair of the SFA Board of Regents **DR. SCOTT COLEMAN**, right, '80 of Houston and Kent Underwood had grandsons born within hours of each other between July 24 and 25, 2015. Coleman and Underwood were roommates in Hall 16 nearly 40 years ago when they were both SFA freshmen. Both men attended the 2016 Southland Conference Championship game with their grandsons, Parker and Easton.

Brian Bondy '81 of Conroe is president of the Lake Conroe/Conroe Chamber of Commerce.

Mickey Bufalini '81 of Houston was honored by SFA with the 2016 Edna Wilkin Teagarden Award for exemplary service in human sciences. Bufalini has been an interior designer for 35 years and has received numerous awards at the national, state and city levels.

Kathrine Stewart '82 of Grandview is principal of Grandview Elementary School, which was recently awarded the title of 2015 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Gary Lamar '84 of Fort Davis coached the Fort Davis High School Indians to the 1-A semifinals of the Volleyball State Tournament.

James Muckleroy '84 of Whitehouse was promoted to senior vice president of UBS Financial Services.

Reah Suzanne Reedy '84 of Arlington was selected as administrative officer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fire Management Branch at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

Harmon Smith '85 of Atlanta, Georgia, was named chief operating officer of PulteGroup Inc.

Joe Sigler '87 of Beaumont coached the Silsbee ISD Tigers to the 4-A semifinals of the Boys Basketball State Tournament in San Antonio.

Stacey Stroman '88 & '89 of Spring coached the Dekaney High School girls' basketball team to the 4-A semifinals of the Girls Basketball State Tournament in San Antonio.

1990s



Sixty-eight golfers convened at Woodland Hills Golf Course in Nacogdoches April 23 for the **22ND ANNUAL ROBERT DICKERSON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**. This event has become a reunion and annual remembrance of Dickerson's friends, family and fraternity brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Dickerson graduated from SFA in 1991. He died of cancer in 1994. The event benefits the Robert D. Dickerson Memorial Sigma Phi Epsilon Housing Fund and adds to the Robert D. Dickerson Memorial Scholarship, which was established by this group in 2013.

The Gilmer ISD Board of Trustees renamed Buckeye Stadium in honor of **Jeff Traylor** '90 & '02. Traylor is a former Gilmer football coach who brought the Buckeyes to five state final championships, winning three. He now serves on the University of Texas coaching staff.

John Eastman '92 of Quitman was selected as the new athletic director and head football coach of Troup High School.

Dr. Jeremy Moreland '93 of Glendale, Arizona, was appointed provost for the University of the Rockies, located in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is founding editor-in-chief of the award-winning *Journal of Leadership Studies*.

Carl Lucas '94 of Dallas was hired by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas as lead communications consultant. He is responsible for creating and overseeing implementation of communication plans supporting Texas group marketing and sales.

Holly Reichle '94 of Pearl, Mississippi, and her Mississippi School for the Deaf girls' basketball team were honored by the Mississippi House of Representatives after winning the 2016 Mason-Dixon Schools for the Deaf Athletic Championship girls' basketball tournament.

Donna Ullrich '96 of Kingwood was named the new principal of Humble High School. With 25 years experience as an educator, Ullrich moved to the high school from the board offices where she served as curriculum coordinator for two years.

Whitney Keeling '97 of Marshall coached the Waskom High School Wildcats to the football team's second-straight 3-A state championship win in December at NRG Stadium in Houston.

Kyle Manary '97 of Lufkin was named the new head men's basketball coach for Angelina College. While at SFA, Manary was a student assistant under Ned Fowler and third assistant under Derek Allister.

Shane Rohrbach '97 of Flint was one of two presenters at the Better Business Bureau Serving Central East Texas' Lunch.Learn.Lead Workshop in March. He is a CPA with Gollob Morgan Peddy Certified Public Accountants.

Siblings **Dr. Marie Sesay** '98 and **Yarta "Jr." Sesay** '06 recently visited Bangkok, Thailand.

Cameron McElroy '99 of Center graduated from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking Foundation at Southern Methodist University. He is a vice president of Shelby Savings Bank in Center.

2000s

Stephen Selman '00 of Woodway was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to the Texas Animal Health Commission, which works to protect and enhance the health of animal populations across the state.

Leslie Jo Sena (Moss) '00 of Albion, Washington, was named assistant director of first-year programs at Washington State University in Pullman.

Jeff Collum '03 of Hallsville was hired as superintendent of Hallsville ISD.

Dr. Son Mai '03 of Lake Charles, Louisiana, is the quality enhancement plan director at McNeese State University.

Kevin Foster '04 of Village Mills coached the Big Sandy ISD Wildcats to the team's second-straight Boys Basketball State Tournament appearance in the 1-A semifinals.

Mary Amanda Musselwhite '04 & '08 was named Aledo Middle School principal. She had been the school's assistant principal since 2013.



Casey Page '05 and **Sarah Page** '07 of The Woodlands welcomed their second daughter, Marjorie Kay Page, on March 16.

Dr. Joshua Rhodes '06 of Austin was invited to speak at Harvard in June and also spoke at an international conference in Italy. He finished his doctoral degree at the University of Texas, where he currently serves as a staff member, and he is part owner of IdeaSmiths, a private company that assists with engineering work for inventors.

James Daniel Hobbs '07 of Ennis was named assistant principal of Waxahachie ISD's Ninth Grade Academy.

2010s

Dr. Valerie Baxter '11 of Tyler was named assistant superintendent of student services and human resources for Pine Tree ISD.



Theda Strickler '11 of Austin received her juris doctorate and accepted a position as an attorney with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in Austin.

Jordan and Jesse Gallegos '12 & '14 celebrated their two-year anniversary on July 21. The couple met at St. Mary's Catholic Campus Ministry while attending SFA.

Candra Daniel '14 and **Chad Huckaby** '15 were married June 6, 2015. Chad is serving as student regent on the SFA Board of Regents.

LIFE MEMBERS

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

- 8099. Olivia M. Miller '16, Arlington
- 8100. Collin M. Rutherford '16, Celina
- 8101. Terri L. Moll '84, Missouri City
- 8104. Laura L. Turner '96 & '02, Nacogdoches
- 8105. Kathryn T. Lock '15, Nacogdoches
- 8106. Cody D. Lock '12, Austin
- 8108. John K. Ryder '90, New Caney
- 8109. Karyn S. Ryder '90, New Caney
- 8110. Mary A. Jones '07, Houston
- 8111. Meredith Love '87, Beaumont
- 8112. Casey L. Hawkins '14, Houston
- 8113. Morgann L. Hawkins '14, Houston
- 8114. Steven O. Casey '73, Houston
- 8115. Janet Z. Casey, Friend, Houston
- 8116. Dr. Matthew McBroom '95, '97 & '05, Alto
- 8117. Jacquelyn D. McBroom '96, Alto
- 8118. Joseph P. Darden '10, Nacogdoches
- 8119. Kathryn R. Darden '07 & '12, Nacogdoches
- 8120. Scott C. Diggs '00, Nacogdoches
- 8121. Katherine B. Diggs '01, Nacogdoches
- 8122. Matthew C. Adkins '06, Sammamish, Washington
- 8123. Tiffany M. Adkins '06, Sammamish, Washington
- 8124. Haley M. Doss '16, Fort Worth
- 8125. Arazely M. Paramo '15, Mesquite
- 8126. Randy G. Layton '14, Fort Worth
- 8127. Taylor M. Schippers '16, The Woodlands
- 8128. Connor M. Neagli '16, Houston
- 8129. Clara M. Julien '15, Houston
- 8130. Christopher J. Thompson '15, Nacogdoches
- 8131. Elyssa C. Thompson '12 & '13, Nacogdoches
- 8132. Judy E. Duffin '89 & '15, Nacogdoches
- 8133. Ashley L. Riley '15, Pearland
- 8134. Amanda Moreno '16, Lampasas
- 8135. Joslyn Williams '16, Pineland
- 8136. David E. Shumate Jr. '75, Mount Pleasant
- 8137. Ginger M. Dorman '02, Nacogdoches

Matthew Goode '14 of Marshall served as assistant coach for the Waskom High School Wildcat football team when the team won a second-straight 3-A state championship in December at NRG Stadium in Houston.



BRANDY HADDOX '14 of Nacogdoches advanced quickly in her professional career with

Pilgrim's, formerly known as Pilgrim's Pride, most recently taking a training program administrator position in Greeley, Colorado, with Pilgrim's parent company, JBS.

"It's just crazy all the things that have completely fallen into place," Haddox said. "I've been with Pilgrim's for two years, so I've been learning a lot. And in the human resources world, I kind of get a taste of everything, and I feel like now I am getting to do what I wanted to — my dream job."

After graduating in May 2014 with a bachelor's degree in agribusiness, Haddox began a six-month management training program that ended with her placement in a higher-level coordinator position in January 2015. She was then promoted to human resources supervisor in November 2015 and again as a training program administrator in May.

Jessica Klingsick '14 of Buda received the Genius Educator Award at Kyle Elementary School in Hays CISD.

Zachary Stewart '14 of Grandview was elected to a second term on the Grandview City Council.

Marina DonLevy '15 of Houston is associate editor for *Houston History* magazine. She is working as a research assistant within the Center for Public History and is interning with Vince Lee, the archivist at the University of Houston's Carey C. Stuart Women's Archive.



RAY ROBBERSON '16 of Nacogdoches, manager of mechanical maintenance and building trades with the SFA physical plant, graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in May after nine years of attending classes. He is pictured with his wife, Dr. Jacqueline Hilton, and SFA President Dr. Baker Pattillo.

In 2013, Robberson received the SFA President's Award in recognition of outstanding achievement and excellent service. This past year, he received the annual mentor ring given to those who exemplify what SFA considers a model student.

"The mentor ring and President's Award meant as much to me as the degree," Robberson said. Though he battled cancer throughout a significant portion of his time in school, he prides himself on only missing two classes in almost a decade of education.

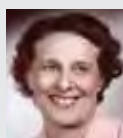


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As part of our continuous effort to improve *Sawdust*, we are conducting an online survey to gain information about reader preferences. Thank you for helping make *Sawdust* a better publication.

sfasu.edu/sawdust/survey

IN MEMORIAM



ERA ELIZABETH BILLINGSLEY passed away Jan. 31, 2016, in Garrison. Born Oct. 24, 1907, Billingsley was SFA's oldest-living alum, graduating in 1930 with a bachelor's degree. In 1940, she received a master's degree from Peabody College in Nashville, Tennessee.

The youngest of seven children, Billingsley's family moved to Nacogdoches in 1923. Her family likely traveled with their belongings in a horse-drawn wagon from the Silas community near Timpson with one of her older brothers leading the family milk cow.

Five of the Billingsley children attended school in Nacogdoches and completed degrees at SFA. Subsequently, all five taught school for many years in Texas public schools. After serving 40 years teaching mostly second grade, Billingsley retired in 1972, and she lived in the Houston Heights area until 2008 when she returned to Nacogdoches. Since 2009, she resided at the Garrison Nursing Home.



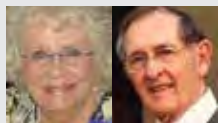
DEANA BOLTON COVIN passed away July 1, 2016. Covin was born in Henderson on June 22, 1922. She devoted her life to entertainment as a performer, director, organizer and producer, which began as a Henderson High School student and continued after her retirement from Kilgore College.

Covin served as the first drum major at Henderson High School. She won the national baton twirling championship twice, and during her senior year, she was named the most representative senior high school girl, received the citizenship award and was the highest-ranking female graduate.

At SFA, she continued twirling, serving four years as drum major for the Lumberjack band. Covin was named Miss SFA three consecutive years. She received her Bachelor of Science in 1943 — taking only three years to complete the degree. Covin later returned to SFA and graduated in 1971 with a Master of Education.

Professionally, Covin was the originator and director of the Kilgore Tops in Twirling Drill Team from 1956-84. She served as director of the Dallas Tex-Anns and director of halftime for the Dallas Texans. She was the coordinator of Superstar Drill Team camps from 1976-90 and taught twirling for 15 years.

As a Kilgore College employee for 27 years, Covin sponsored the cheerleaders and in 1979 was promoted to director of the world-famous Kilgore Rangerettes. She served in that capacity until her retirement in 1993. The gym where the Rangerettes practice daily was named the Deana Bolton Covin Rangerette Gymnasium in 2001 in her honor.



VIVIAN EARLINE FLANAGAN and **BOBBY G. FLANAGAN** passed away March 18, 2014, and May 24, 2016, respectively.

Vivian and Bobby met at SFA where Bobby played basketball for the Lumberjacks, lettering all four years. The college sweethearts married Sept. 5, 1953. Bobby received a Bachelor of Science in 1954 and a Master of Education in 1955. Vivian also graduated in 1955 with a Bachelor of Business Administration.

The couple moved to Woodsboro, Texas, where Bobby coached, and Vivian taught business classes. Bobby coached basketball, football, golf, track and baseball for 37 years while also serving as athletic director for 25 of those years. In addition, he taught government, history and economics. His basketball and football teams won numerous district titles, advancing to bi-district and regional playoffs. In 1994, Bobby was inducted into the Coastal Bend Coaches Association Hall of Honor.



JUDGE JOE B. GOLDEN JR. of Jasper passed away May 29, 2016. Golden was born Feb. 15, 1933, in Wichita Falls, Texas. Golden served on the SFA Board of Regents from 1969 to 1981. A longtime resident of Jasper, he was a 1950 graduate of Vernon High School in Vernon, Texas, and a 1954 graduate of the University of Texas.

Golden served in the U.S. Air Force as an intelligence officer in England. After military service, he returned to Texas, attended law school and met and married Suzanne Collier. He later moved to Jasper, where he went into private practice until 1988 when he was elected state district judge, 1st judicial district.



DR. ROBERT W. GRUEBEL passed away June 20, 2016, at his Nacogdoches residence. A native of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, Gruebel lived in Nacogdoches for 45 years and served on the SFA faculty as a professor of physics and astronomy. He was a Navy veteran, retiring from a 20-year career that included service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.



JIMMIE M. HUDGINS of Tyler passed away Feb. 19, 2016. Hudgins was born March 12, 1925, in Cumby, Texas. He was a musician and played French horn in the East Texas State Symphonic Orchestra at the age of 14. After graduating from Commerce High School in 1941, Hudgins joined the U.S. Navy and served on active duty until 1945. He remained in the Naval Reserve until 1949.

Hudgins received his Bachelor of Music Education from East Texas State Teachers College, where he was the drum major and a student coach of the boxing team. He received his Master of Education from SFA, became SFA director of bands and was the youngest college band director in the state at the time. Hudgins was honored with induction into the SFA Band Directors' Hall of Fame and the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame. The SFA Twirl-O-Jack Jimmie Hudgins Scholarship was established in his honor.



LT. GEN. ORREN RAY "COTTON" WHIDDON passed away March 20, 2016. He was born March 10, 1935, in Joaquin, Texas, graduated from SFA in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and earned a Master of Science in management from the University of Southern California. After his SFA graduation, Whiddon was drafted into the U.S. Army and was commissioned a second lieutenant, field artillery.

After serving in key military assessments in the United States, Vietnam and Europe, Whiddon retired in 1990. In recognition of his military service, he was honored with many awards and medals, including the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medals and the Army Commendation Medal. He also was authorized to wear the Combat Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and Army General Staff Identification Badge.

As the most senior military officer to graduate from SFA, he was inducted into SFA's Alumni Hall of Fame in 1988. The cannon fired at SFA home football games is named Ol' Cotton in his honor.

IN MEMORIAM

James Ira Allen Jr. '77 of Atlanta, Texas, Nov. 21
Dr. John C. Austin '52 of Kilgore, Feb. 16
Bettie J. Barnhart '62 of Central Heights, Feb. 28
Dwayne Barthol '74 of Hughes Springs, Feb. 19
Marcie D. Brown '94 of Round Rock, May 1
Mary J. Brown '60 of Lufkin, April 15
June H. Bryant '64 of Tyler, March 13
Deidra L. Cagle '77 of Fort Worth, Jan. 27
Polly Jennifer Campos '13 of Palestine, Feb. 21
Elizabeth "Libby" Horne Capel of Nacogdoches, friend of SFA, May 3
Pamela L. Chaney '69 & '76 of Dallas, May 7
Dr. Anna Beth Connell of Lufkin, friend of SFA, April 28
Randall L. Corley Sr. '70 of Marshall, May 15
David A. Cruz '05 of Lufkin, April 21
Royce Davidson Jr. '62 of DeBerry, April 9
David L. Dennard '54 of Dallas, Feb. 23
Valerie D. Doshier '07 of Amarillo, April 12
Dr. Casey M. Drawert '95 of San Antonio, March 11
James Weldon Ecford '14 of Houston, April 12
Donald R. Elrod '61 of Fort Worth, Jan. 31
Dr. Sue English '55 of Nacogdoches, June 13
Robert J. Fisher '00 of Nashville, Tennessee, March 28
Michelle A. Garcia '05 of Dallas, May 13
Rhonda L. Hampton '04 & '06 of Pollok, Feb. 7
Dr. Harold G. Hill of Nacogdoches, former faculty member, May 5
Mary C. Hunt '75 of Longview, June 18
Warren L. Hunter '83 of Garrison, April 18
Barbara A. Jackson of Lufkin, former staff member, June 17
Martha A. Jones '00 of Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 17
Thomas E. Jordan '57 & '58 of Huntsville, June 9
Ret. Sgt. Jimmie Ray Kelly '78 of Midland, Dec. 25
Wayne L. Killough Jr. '15 of Palestine, April 17
Loy G. Ladd '54 of Humble, June 11
Joe B. Lowery '78 of Pollok, June 8
Lewis "Darnell" Lynch of San Augustine, friend of SFA, March 24
Maria del Rosario "Charo" Blazquez MacLean '95 of Kingsland, Georgia, Aug. 11, 2015

Dr. James E. Magruder of Nacogdoches, former faculty member, June 5
Betty M. Marberry '92 of Center, June 10
John L. Markham '68 of Arlington, March 23
Elizabeth R. Momper '75 of Fort Worth, March 15
Joy G. Moncrief '41 of Athens, Georgia, May 25
Shannon Wayne Murdock '96 of The Woodlands, May 2
Chris C. Noble '09 of Clinton, Mississippi, March 10
Alton A. Nutt '49 & '53 of Carthage, April 26
Betty Jean O'Sullivan '68 & '84 of Baytown, Feb. 15
Charles Penney '54 & '58 of Big Sandy, May 14
Ronald E. Pettey '75 of Lufkin, March 14
Sarah J. Puett '82 of Madisonville, May 14
Barbara Rainey '77 of Kerrville, May 22
John W. Rawls '66 of Lufkin, May 10
Alan Lee Rose '85 of Flower Mound, April 4
Richard Sheridan '70 & '77 of Marshall, Feb. 11
Glenda Mixia (Rudd) Spradley '52 & '58 of Lufkin, March 11
Mary E. Spurlin '75 of Atlanta, Texas, Feb. 12
Melissa A. Stephenson '95 of Denton, March 15
Shirlene H. Stokes '79 of Henderson, Feb. 2
Dorothy L. Swor '72 & '87 of Lufkin, May 30
Don R. Taylor '71 of Greenville, South Carolina, June 2
John H. Tigner III '70 of Angleton, June 13
Nancy D. Turner '72 of Midlothian, March 15
Kathy Underwood '69 & '71 of Buda, April 20
Kristi K. Wendt '93 of Whitehouse, May 27
Jeff W. Wilson '93 of Dallas, March 11
Robert Youngblood '57 of Bullard, May 16



SFA students

Shermika Bolden '15 of Houston, July 13
Chace K. Scruggs of Webster, May 30
Rajeen "Ray" Williams of Burleson, May 30
Geena Zarick of Flower Mound, May 30

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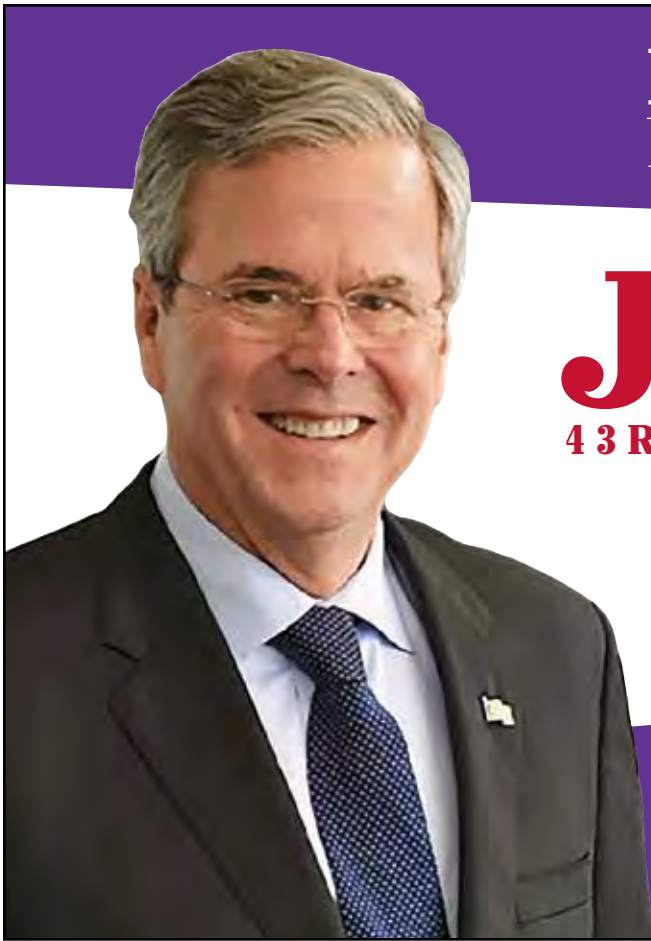
In celebration of SFA's 90-plus years in higher education, the SFA Press has published a 200-page book highlighting favorite recipes and a pictorial journey of the university's long history in Nacogdoches.

From appetizers to entrees, snacks to desserts, "Well Done: SFA's 90+ years and cooking" shares treasured images, memories and recipes that recall SFA's early beginnings as a teachers college to its present-day establishment as a regional institution with six academic colleges.

Purchase your copy Saturday, Nov. 5, at SFA's Homecoming Flapjack Breakfast or during the Alumni Corner tailgate. You also may purchase online. Visit sfasu.edu/sfapress for details.



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