

Sawdust

FALL 2017

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

Scholar-Athlete

Lumberjack is Johns Hopkins intern,
Academic All-American





Your SFA Ring Awaits!

It's never too late to show your love for SFA through your purchase of an SFA Ring.

Perhaps you were unable to purchase a class ring as a student, but you have always desired one. Ring purchases can be completed in person at the Alumni Association office, or you can build your ring virtually online and place your order.

There are hundreds of options from which to choose, and payment plans are available. Visit sfaring.com to learn more.

Later, you'll have the opportunity to participate in the university's official Big Dip Ceremony, where you'll be presented your ring by SFA President Baker Pattillo alongside hundreds of other Lumberjacks who are receiving their official class rings.

It's never too late! To participate in the ring ceremony or for more information, call the Alumni Association at (936) 468-3407.



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SFA alumni David Madrid '02 and Bob Francis '78 receive their SFA Rings during the spring 2017 Big Dip Ceremony. ↓



President's Letter

"In April, we celebrated the naming of the Robert and Kathy Lehmann Chemistry Building. ... Naming the chemistry building in the Lehmanns' honor will ensure their contributions will never be forgotten."



THE START OF a new academic year is always an exciting time to be at SFA. Even after spending more than 50 autumns on our beautiful campus, I still look forward to the sights, sounds and unique traditions that make fall one of the best times to enjoy being a Lumberjack.

As always, we have much to look forward to this semester: new students, faculty members, programs, projects, and opportunities to engage with our alma mater and fellow alumni. But before looking ahead, I want to ensure some recent SFA news didn't escape your notice.

In April, we celebrated the naming of the Robert and Kathy Lehmann Chemistry Building. Over the years, the Lehmanns have contributed to SFA scholarships and to the advancement of many university programs, including fine arts, modern languages, hospitality, athletics, nursing, the College of Sciences and Mathematics, and the Women in STEM initiative. Their generous support is a testament to their strong commitment to the success of our students and the advancement of the university. Naming the chemistry building in the Lehmanns' honor will ensure their contributions will never be forgotten.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize the extraordinary contributions of our students in the area of volunteer service. In addition to attending classes, being involved in the university and, in many cases, working on or off campus, our students logged a total of 103,740 hours of community service during the 2016-17 academic year. Nearly 2,000 students participated in The BIG Event held in April, providing volunteer service at more than 150 residential and community sites throughout Nacogdoches County — all in one day. The BIG Event, along with other service-learning initiatives such as MLK Day of Service, Alternative Breaks and Jacks Give Back, provide invaluable opportunities for our students to make a difference in others' lives while they work toward their SFA degrees.

For the third-straight year, SFA was awarded the 2016-17 Commissioner's Cup recognizing the top athletic program in the Southland

Conference. This is the fifth time SFA has received this honor, and we are now tied for the most all-time wins since the competition was instituted 15 years ago. With the hard work of our student-athletes, coaches and staff members, as well as the support of our alumni and Lumberjack fans far and wide, we hope to be sitting alone in the all-time category by next summer.

Some of your first opportunities to support SFA athletics this fall will be Lumberjack football games. I hope you'll mark your calendars for the first game of the 2017 season against Southern Methodist University Sept. 2 in Dallas, the first home game against Southern Utah University Sept. 9, the annual Battle of the Piney Woods against Sam Houston State University Oct. 7 at NRG Stadium in Houston and the Homecoming game against Houston Baptist University Oct. 21.

As we look forward to the new academic year, we also are addressing some financial challenges. As expected, higher education is absorbing a significant portion of state budget cuts. That translates to a reduction of more than \$5 million in SFA's general revenue operating funds for the upcoming biennium. Our administration and faculty and staff members have been diligently working to make difficult but necessary adjustments while striving to keep the impact on our students and academic programs to a minimum. Despite these challenges, our commitment to providing transformative student experiences remains as strong as ever.

In May, we celebrated the largest graduating class in SFA history with more than 1,400 students receiving degrees and joining the ranks of proud SFA alumni. I encourage them and all of you to continue to nurture your relationship with SFA by visiting campus, attending games and other university events, and wearing your purple with pride as often as you can. Thank you for all you do to make SFA such a special place to live and learn. ★

Axe 'em, Jacks!

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



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In This Issue



PROFESSOR OF MUSIC and recently retired Director of Choral Activities Dr. Tim King conducted his final European tour of the SFA A Cappella Choir when the ensemble traveled to Germany and Prague in May. King, who retired after almost 30 years of service to SFA, has toured the choir abroad six times, including performances in the Vatican and Saint Mark's Basilica and at the International Choral Festival. He also led touring invitational performances of Mozart's "Great Mass in C Minor" during Austria's celebration of Mozart's 250th birthday.

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Sawdust

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

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engineering

physics student Marlon Walls is accomplished on and off the field. Not only does the senior maintain a 4.0 GPA, but he also was the first in SFA football program history to be named a College Sports Information Directors of America first-team Academic All-American. Photo by Hardy Meredith

Labor of Father and son restore iconic Fredonia Hotel

LOVE

Story by
Kasi Dickerson

Photography by
Hardy Meredith

HISTORY HAS A way of repeating itself. Bud DeWitt '07, manager of The Fredonia Hotel, was born into the hospitality industry much like the hotel's founder, Jack Raines McKinney, whose parents owned and operated the Banita Hotel where McKinney was born in 1911.

Bud has worked in the service industry since he was a teenager at restaurants owned by his father, Richard DeWitt Jr. '72. Richard owns two of Nacogdoches' most-visited restaurants, Auntie Pastas and Clear Springs.



"My dad definitely did not let me get away with being the son of a restaurant owner," Bud laughed. "I've picked up cigarette butts, washed dishes, bused tables and worked my way up."

In his new role as manager of The Fredonia Hotel, Bud has the responsibility of running the most iconic hotel in Nacogdoches. Bud and his dad's mission to reopen the East Texas landmark has taken several years to complete.

Situated in the oldest town in Texas, the family-owned-and-operated hotel is historic in every sense. From the hotel's groundbreaking in the 1950s to its reopening this summer, The Fredonia Hotel's story is one of trials and triumphs. →

As manager of The Fredonia Hotel, Bud DeWitt '07 is responsible for running the most iconic hotel in Nacogdoches. Bud's background in hospitality administration has helped him establish a work culture focused on teamwork and service.



The Fredonia Hotel reopened in June. Updates to the facade include a new sign and landscaping. The inside boasts a completely new look featuring futuristic lighting and midcentury modern decor.



The design team, led by Barbara DeWitt, included Army Curtis, architect, and Amy Still, interior designer. The team merged 1950s-retro character with modern design and sophistication.



Richard DeWitt Jr. '72, owner of two local restaurants, purchased The Fredonia Hotel in 2015 and began a multimillion-dollar renovation to restore the historic landmark.

1. Dining options within the hotel include 1st City Café, which features country-fresh, farm-to-table culinary options. The café is open for breakfast from 6:30 to 10 a.m. and for lunch and dinner from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. ★ 2. Hotel amenities include 109 guest rooms, featuring single rooms, suites, and cabana and terrace rooms. There are two outdoor pools and a 24-hour fitness center. ★ 3. The Nine Flags Bar offers guests a unique place to unwind. The tabletops located inside the bar were carved from a pecan tree that grew on the hotel's property.



Photo by Wendy Floyd



‘FROM THE HEART’

The vision to build the Hotel Fredonia (its original name) began with McKinney in the 1950s. Raised in the Banita Hotel, McKinney graduated from Nacogdoches High School and attended SFA. He later worked for his brother in the construction business where he traveled extensively, often staying in hotels.

McKinney concluded Nacogdoches needed a first-class hotel to attract and cater to vacationers who came to see the city's historic sites and to provide a place for executives from the lumber, gas and oil industries to stay while on business trips.

In 1952, McKinney shared his idea with community leaders, who agreed. The group presented its proposal to the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce. Chamber board members approved the venture June 16, 1952, and the hotel officially opened April 1, 1955.

Whether it was hosting banquets, conventions, executives, family reunions or vacationers, the hotel was always bustling with activity. Richard remembers staying at the hotel as a child and worrying how Santa would find and leave him presents without a chimney to climb down.

Later, Richard lived on the hotel's sixth floor while building a home in Nacogdoches. Bud would sometimes stay at the hotel with his dad and recalls running around the lobby staircase, exploring the hotel, and attending banquets and festivals.

After 58 years in business, the hotel's heyday came to an end in 2013.

"Just after the hotel closed, a friend told me he was scheduled to be married there," Bud said. "He joked that my father and I should purchase the building and work to reopen it."

While Bud first laughed off his friend's remark, he now sees the irony in it.

"When dad talked to me about buying the hotel, I asked if he thought he would make money," Bud recalled. "Dad said he wanted to do this for Nacogdoches. He knew it was important to the community, and he wanted to bring more economic development into the area."

Richard admits financial profits were not a priority when considering purchasing the hotel. Instead, giving back to the community and treasuring the nostalgic building were the deciding factors.

"Buying and renovating the hotel has been a challenge and new adventure for my family that has been stressful and rewarding," Richard said. "Nacogdoches and the hotel both hold a special place in my life, and I'm happy to bring this landmark back to life for the community."

In September 2015, Richard purchased the hotel for \$2 million and began a multimillion-dollar renovation, which Bud describes as "a labor of love."

"My dad did this from the heart, so it has a lot of promise and opportunity for success," Bud said. "That was one reason I moved back to Nacogdoches from New Braunfels — I wanted to be a part of something."

Dr. Chay Runnels, SFA hospitality administration program coordinator and graduate program co-coordinator, taught Bud when he was a hospitality student at SFA and agrees the hotel will help fuel economic growth.

"The Fredonia Hotel will once again be among the crown-jewel hotels in Texas," Runnels said. "People traveling to visit Texas' oldest town will want to stay in the hotel and experience Nacogdoches in a new way."

4. A new pool has claimed the area that formerly served as a parking lot. Here, guests also can enjoy a movie or game on the new video screen or sit by the fire pit. ★ 5. A metal art piece depicting a tree is attached to the hotel's atrium wall to commemorate a catalpa tree that once stood nearby. ★ 6. Inside the hotel, a new gift shop showcases a variety of novelty items, such as bowls carved from the catalpa tree that grew on the property.



‘HAVEN’T PUT ON BANDAGES’

A historical restoration is no easy task, as there are many restrictions and regulations in effect to preserve the structure's historical aspects. Contractors were prohibited from changing the building's exterior, including the windows. However, the DeWitts were allowed to install a new sign on the building's front, which boldly displays the hotel's name.

While the hotel may look much the same on the outside, the interior showcases a completely new look. Walking into the lobby, the hotel is almost unrecognizable with futuristic lighting and a mixture of 1950s seating and midcentury modern decor.

A design team, led by Richard and his wife, Barbara, remodeled the hotel to look simultaneously historic and contemporary. The custom design merges 1950s-retro character with modern design and sophistication.

“The design team knocked it out of the park,” Bud said. “The furniture and amenities are not what you’d find in most 109-room hotels. Our decor is akin to what you would see in places like the Four Seasons and The Ritz-Carlton.”

A new gift shop showcases a variety of novelty items, such as bowls carved from a catalpa tree that once stood by the hotel's duck pond. The Nine Flags Bar also houses wooden tabletops made from a pecan tree that grew on the hotel's property.

As the hotel's renewal progressed, everything from the plumbing and electrical work to the towels has been replaced.

“We haven’t put on bandages or tape on the building and fixtures,” Bud said. “We’ve done everything we can to ensure the hotel is here for a long time.”

‘MEMORIES WILL CONTINUE’

This summer, the hotel hosted its much-anticipated grand opening.

“Reopening the hotel was truly a team effort. So many people have poured their hearts into this project,” Bud said. “It makes me happy that memories will continue to be made here for future generations.”

The DeWitts have reached out to their Lumberjack family to help staff the hotel. Along with Bud, several SFA alumni and current students work there.

“SFA’s hospitality administration program is thrilled to have alumni running the hotel, and we are excited about sending our students to learn from Nacogdoches’ best,” Runnels said. “It’s exciting that we have such a close tie to the hotel with the DeWitt family. We are looking forward to a long partnership.”

The Fredonia Hotel has a full-service concierge, convention center, banquet facilities, and fitness and business centers. Dining options include the Republic Steakhouse, a fine-dining chophouse; 1st City Café, a casual dining experience with farm-to-table Southern cuisine; and the iconic Nine Flags Bar. A special roast from local coffeehouse Java Jacks is served, and outside, visitors can enjoy a new pool with a video screen, cabanas and a fire pit.

Behind the front desk, a giant vintage photograph pays homage to the building's history and welcomes guests to check in and check out the “restored, renewed, remarkable” Fredonia Hotel. ★

[Visit sfasu.edu/sawdust](http://Visit.sfasu.edu/sawdust) to view more images of The Fredonia Hotel.

Vista Viewpoint / By Dr. John T. Moore



DR. JOHN T. MOORE

College of
Sciences and
Mathematics

Professor
Emeritus of
Chemistry and
Biochemistry

UPON RETIRING, I suppose it is natural to reflect upon your career. In my case, my career spanned 46 years of teaching at SFA. In 1971, I was at Fort Hood preparing for discharge from the Army, having served my required two years. I had a master's degree in chemistry and wanted to work in industry (for a big salary), but after 45 rejection letters, I finally got the idea that industry wasn't hiring just then.

In desperation, I finally began looking for a teaching position and found an opening for a lab coordinator at SFA. I applied and was granted an interview. I got a map and finally located Nacogdoches. A T-shirt for sale in

the SFA bookstore at the time asked the same question I had asked: "Where the hell is Nacogdoches?"

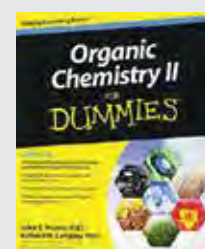
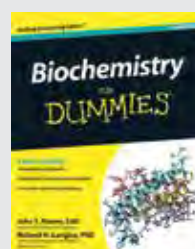
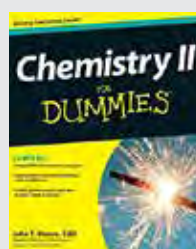
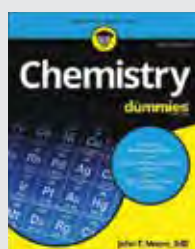
I got the position and came to SFA with the idea of staying a couple of years and then moving into industry. My \$8,000 annual salary was much less than I envisioned.

Both SFA and Nacogdoches were very different back then. SFA had more trees and fewer buildings. Nacogdoches had more beautiful homes and fewer fast food restaurants and apartments. Those were interesting times. SFA was trying to find its identity (in some respects, I feel that is still going on). We had an outbreak of streaking (I was a gawker, not a streaker), and I discovered that I really liked teaching, SFA and Nacogdoches.

As SFA and Nacogdoches grew, so did I. With encouragement from my wife, Robin, and Dr. Glen Clayton, former dean of sciences and mathematics, I began my doctoral work at Texas A&M University. I continued teaching, took classes and worked at Memorial Hospital on the weekends. I received my doctoral degree in 1991 and began developing science classes and doing workshops for K-12 teachers.

I have been fortunate that just when I began to get complacent with my life something happened to challenge me and keep my thinking fresh. I became interim chair of the chemistry department for a year; I lucked into writing "Chemistry for Dummies," which led to more books; I was appointed director of the Teaching Excellence Center doing faculty development; I was interim chair of the biology department for two and a half years; and I have enjoyed working with the STEM Center. And yes, I continued teaching.

SFA, Nacogdoches and I have changed a lot during the past 46 years, but one thing that has remained constant is the people. I have been so lucky to have had colleagues, department chairs and administrators who have encouraged and challenged me to be more and do more than I could imagine, and in return, I have tried to encourage and challenge my students to be more and do more than they could imagine. I hope SFA, Nacogdoches and I will continue our growth. ★



During Homecoming weekend (Oct. 20-21), visit these local businesses to purchase or sample a bit of Lumberjack pride.

SFA Campus, Baker Patillo Student Center

Registered with the International Tartan Registry in Edinburgh, Scotland, the official SFA tartan scarf measures almost 13 inches long and is 95-percent wool and 5-percent cashmere.

1122 North St.

Wake up to the Lumberjack Blend aroma, a dark roast coffee with a bold and semi-sweet taste.

309 Commerce St.

The "Best of Nac" T-shirt displays text that highlights SFA and Nacogdoches.

Help the little Lumberjacks catch the SFA spirit with the "Jacks Arrow" youth T-shirt, perfect for showing their college pride at school.

402 E. Main St.

Find vintage-inspired, hand-painted Nacogdoches and SFA-themed items ideal for home or office decor.



315 E. College St.

Do you need an SFA dartboard for your game room? Yes, please!

116 S. Pecan St.

Served all day, the Lumberjack meal and flap "Jack" breakfasts are great options for any Lumberjack or Ladyjack appetite.



1330 N. University Drive

Create your own statement with a variety of colored bracelets and several distinctive charms.



112 N. Church St.

A cookie lover's delight, these sweet buttercream-covered sugar cookies are addictive.

STORY BY CHRISTINE BROUSSARD

BALANCING ACT

**STUDENT-ATHLETE
ACHIEVES SUCCESS
IN CLASS AND ON THE FIELD**



A PRECISE MEASUREMENT here and a few nails there, and there it stood — a handmade table.

Staring at what he had just made, it struck Marlon Walls that this little piece of furniture meant he could fuse two of his favorite subjects, math and science, into tangible and real-life concepts. The innovation he experienced during that class led him to pursue an engineering degree at SFA.

Even now, years after that day in his construction technology course at Pearland High School, Walls' interests and achievements are dual in nature.

While maintaining a 4.0 GPA in SFA's rigorous engineering physics program and interning with Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory during the summer, the SFA senior and football safety also was the first in SFA football program history to be named a College Sports Information Directors of America first-team Academic All-American.

"That was a huge accomplishment because I was one of only 23 people in the entire U.S. to receive that award," Walls said. "On top of being the first one in SFA football history to receive it, that's a very big honor for me."

The award is presented to student-athletes who perform strongly on the field and excel academically. Walls attributes the accomplishment to his dedication and ability to manage time.

"I've always been pretty good at balancing myself," he said. "I've been good at time management since I was in high school and carried that to SFA. I knew college would be tough, and the course load would be more rigorous, and I just had to step up my game. SFA has exceeded my expectations by far." ➔

Photo by Hardy Meredith

SFA engineering physics senior Marlon Walls works during his summer internship at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory with a full-assembly mock-up of the Europa Propulsion Module, a spacecraft with a mission to identify whether there is the potential for life on Jupiter's moon, Europa.

Walls was part of the mechanical systems staff working on the module during his time in Maryland.

Walls was tasked with finding the mass properties of each component of the spacecraft to find its total center of gravity in different configurations.

Photo by Stuart Hill



GETTING INTO FOOTBALL

Walls' love of math and science began when he was in the third grade, but it wasn't until the eighth grade that a passion for football developed.

"I actually hated the game of football growing up," Walls chuckled, seated in the SFA field house at Homer Bryce Stadium. "I didn't want anything to do with it, but then one day I met Adrian Peterson. My dad and I were at the Galleria Mall in Houston, and he pointed Adrian out to me."

At the time, Peterson was a running back for the Minnesota Vikings; he now plays in the same position for the New Orleans Saints. The football player, who is a native of Palestine, Texas, was unrecognizable to Walls.

"I wasn't quite sure who this man was, but I shook his hand," Walls said, adding how much of a vice-grip handshake Peterson had. "So I searched online that night and found out he's a professional football running back, and it pretty much inspired me to play. If he could do it, I could, too, and so my eighth-grade year, I played for the first time, and I've played ever since."

'HONORABLE YOUNG MAN'

As both an athlete and student, Walls has been able to strike a masterful balance between two demanding areas. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA in SFA's engineering physics program, having just entered his senior year, and he continues to receive accolades such as his recent first-team All-American award.

Walls' versatility, intelligence and talents don't go unnoticed.

"What I like best about Marlon is his focus and work ethic. As a student-athlete, the demands placed on our young men and women are tremendous," said Robert Hill, SFA director of athletics. "What sets him apart is his uncanny ability to balance his football career with

his academic responsibilities, and he does it at the highest level. He excels at both, and that says volumes about our faculty and athletic staff members. He is the ultimate student-athlete."

His professors and instructors agree.

"Marlon is a great time manager — one has to be able to successfully handle football and engineering physics simultaneously," said Dr. Harry Downing, professor and chair of SFA's Department of Physics, Engineering and Astronomy. "Marlon is one of the best students I have ever had the privilege of teaching. He is a respectful, responsible and honorable young man."

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY LAB



Walls' talents led him to receive an internship with Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory near Baltimore. He completed the internship during the summer months and was part of the mechanical systems staff working on the Europa Propulsion Module — a spacecraft, he explained, with a mission to identify whether there is the potential for life on Jupiter's moon, Europa (left).

"I didn't know what to expect coming in," Walls said. "I expected it to be a challenge and an overall new experience, which it definitely was. But the work itself was easier than I thought it would be and a lot more fun for me than I anticipated. They often had to tell me to not take my computer home because I would always try to do more work for 'homework' as if I was still a student! Overall, I loved this internship, and it was one of the best experiences I've had in my life. I'm very blessed to have received the opportunity."



Between May and July, Walls was tasked with finding the mass properties of each component of the spacecraft in order to find its total center of gravity in different configurations, he said. Walls also created a rapid prototype model of the spacecraft that was 3-D printed and used for Johns Hopkins University's Preliminary Design Review.

"This internship had so much more to offer in addition to my assigned work," Walls said. "I was able to see many other projects being worked on, such as the Parker Solar Probe with its mission to 'touch the sun.' I also was able to speak with other engineers about their work experience. That, by far, was the most beneficial part of this internship — learning about others' experiences and gaining those connections to use as references and mentors. A lot of things they did there directly correlated to classes I've taken or will take this semester at SFA, so that was very encouraging to see."

PREPARING FOR HIS FUTURE

Walls attributes the opportunities and accomplishments he has been afforded to many things, including the support of his family, fellow athletes, instructors and friends. As he enters his senior year, however, his main suggestion for incoming students — or anyone pursuing their dreams — is to look inward.

"Have your mind right and know that you have to have some give and take as far as your day-to-day life," Walls said. "If you want to excel academically, you have to give up something else. I actually posted something on Twitter one time that read, 'There are five things that you can focus on in college: partying, academics, athletics, a social life and sleep. At least one of those won't get done, so pick wisely.' I have a bigger plan for my future, and I think academics will definitely lead me in the right direction."

What started with a handmade table has grown into spacecraft gravity configurations and 3-D prototype models. Braced with the knowledge he's gleaned during his time at SFA, Walls is excited to see what comes next. ★

Faculty Advising

Keeping Your Résumé Current

BY BRANDI DEROUEN

Center for Career and Professional Development
Assistant Director



NEW JOB? CAREER

advancement? Position change? These are all opportunities we encounter as college graduates. And while some career advancements are secured through professional networks,

others are fiercely pursued through traditional recruiting strategies.

Nevertheless, a well-written, up-to-date résumé comes in handy whether you are actively seeking a career opportunity or documenting accomplishments in your current role.

Here are a few tips to keep your professional documents (and you) ready when opportunity knocks.

Create a master "living" résumé. Your résumé doesn't end when you land a job — it begins. Adding your current role to your résumé is something that we tend to forget about until we are seeking the next opportunity. Take the time now to update your résumé with your most recent employment. Be sure to keep an electronic copy of the posted job description to aid you in the process of building your résumé.

Maintain your résumé. What did you accomplish this quarter, this year, two years ago? Time zooms by and can leave you struggling to remember important information when trying to update your résumé. Challenge yourself to update your professional documents at least once a year. Note accomplishments, new responsibilities, awards, challenging projects, quantifiable successes and anything else you think is noteworthy.

Build your résumé. Imagine the career or job opportunity you most desire and work backward to find your starting point. My mentor's voice echoes in my mind with "begin with the end in mind" and "finish strong" each time I feel lost in my career journey. While these are wise words for anyone to follow, I encourage you to look forward. Where do you want to be? Where are you now? What do you need to do, experience or accomplish to get where you desire? Don't be shy. Put yourself in situations that provide an opportunity to meet the people who can help you. Work hard to build your professional brand. I challenge you to take control of your career by strategically building your résumé with experiences that market your transferable skills and prepare you for your next adventure. ★



The Performance of His Life

Alum serves as actor, theatre teacher

Story by Robbie Goodrich

FROM THE TALL pines of the SFA campus to the skyscrapers of New York City and Los Angeles, Richard Robichaux '96 is living his dream.

We've seen him in films like "Bernie," "Boyhood" and "The Book of Love" and in TV series such as "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," "Better Off Ted" and "Law & Order." Next year, we will see him in "Ocean's 8," the exciting new spinoff of "Ocean's Eleven."

This past summer, he worked with Cate Blanchett in a new Richard Linklater film, marking his fourth film with the award-winning director.

As a working actor and a theatre teacher, Robichaux's talents are as obvious on the big screen as they are in the classroom. Just ask his fans; just ask his students.

"I am fortunate that I have always known this was what I was born to do and have always done it," he said. "Since I was 7 or 8, I have wanted to act. I am constantly grateful that I get to do my childhood dream as an adult. Acting has been a very good friend to me and has taken great care of me."

The recipient of the SFA School of Theatre's 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award believes "the acorn is an oak" and credits his professors and mentors at SFA for noticing that he was "an acorn who needed opportunities to grow into my potential."

"SFA prepared me for my career as a teacher and as a working actor," Robichaux said in an email interview from his San Diego home. "Not many programs do that. They tend to 'over specialize' too early, and then a young artist is put in a box. ➔"



Presenting the production of "Tales of the Lost Formicans," Richard Robichaux was one of six SFA students who participated in the City of Drama Festival in Manchester, England, in 1995. SFA representatives were (standing, from left) Dr. Clarence Bahs, theatre chair; Emily Kutz; Casie Waller; Derek Donovan; (seated, from left) Sharon Golinski; Gareth Price; and Robichaux. Photo courtesy of the 1995 Stone Fort yearbook



Playing the movie character Lloyd Hornbuckle, Richard Robichaux acted alongside Jack Black, Shirley MacLaine and Matthew McConaughey in the 2011 film "Bernie." Photo courtesy of Richard Robichaux



"At SFA, you are required to do everything — critical history and theory work, backstage management and design, as well as an enormous amount of performance opportunities on the Mainstage, Downstage, across campus and now across the country (internships) and even to London (Rose Bruford exchange program). The faculty is top notch, and all are committed to the success of each student long after graduation."

Robichaux came to Nacogdoches in the early 1990s from Channelview, an oil refinery suburb of Houston, to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts. He was part of the first group that Dr. Clarence W. Bahs, then chair of the SFA Department of Theatre, now professor emeritus, took to London for what Robichaux described as "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform and visit England as a student."

"For a student without a lot of money, education is often the only window to international travel," he said. "I have incredible memories from that trip, and it helped build my confidence as I left and went on to my internship."

To launch his career, he was "put on the right track" with an internship arranged by Bahs with Milwaukee Repertory Theatre where Robichaux lived and worked for a year.

"I met great working professionals," he said, "and it was there I realized I needed graduate school to get in the right doors in New York or LA. I still have contacts from that first internship right out of SFA."

Following graduate school at Rutgers University, Robichaux began auditioning in New York for theatre, and then film and television jobs started coming in. During his time in New York, he started teaching with Ellen Novak, a former casting director at ABC.

"She was teaching a course at Juilliard and asked me to help out," Robichaux said. "This was an incredible opportunity for me. After a few years of doing theatre all over the country, I decided to move to LA to focus on film and TV."

While in LA, Robichaux missed teaching, so he and his wife, actress Natalie Griffith Robichaux, opened their own acting studio for a select group of actors from television and film.

"My reputation as a teacher, who also worked in the industry at high levels, began to grow, and I was invited to be a guest instructor at some of the top training programs in the country," he said, most recently as head of acting at Pennsylvania State University. He continued to work in film and television while teaching.

Robichaux and his wife recently accepted positions at the University of California San Diego where the Master of Fine Arts acting program is consistently rated among the top three acting schools in the country, along with Yale and New York University.

"This was a huge opportunity for me to teach in an internationally ranked acting program and be only a few hours from

A few acting credits for Richard Robichaux:





LEFT: Richard Robichaux arrives at the world premiere of "The Devil and The Deep Blue Sea," later titled "The Book of Love," held at the BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center during the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival in New York City. Photo by Ron Adar / Shutterstock.com

RIGHT: Awaiting his turn in front of the camera, Robichaux relaxes behind the scenes on the movie set of "Ocean's 8," which premieres next summer. Photo courtesy of Richard Robichaux

LA," he said. "So we have moved back to California and should be here for a long, long while. I love teaching and will never stop. In my life, I have come to see that I am a teaching artist. That is where I am most fulfilled.

"I don't think you have to be an actor to be a good acting teacher," he added. "We see this in sports all the time. Often the best players don't make great coaches, and folks who didn't play in the big leagues make legendary coaches. For me though, the fact that I work at the highest levels of the industry informs everything I do in the classroom."

Robichaux has always enjoyed the support of a loving family throughout his life and career.

"My parents have always been supportive," he said. "They have been brave in their relentless optimism about my career in the arts. I am so grateful for the confidence they instilled in me. My wife also is a wonderful actor and an expert teacher. We have worked together many times and have taught together for years. I love teaching students, referencing her work in the classroom; we share the same vocabulary. At Penn State, she had a huge impact on the program there, and we are fortunate to work together again at UCSD."

Robichaux is looking forward to next summer's premiere of "Ocean's 8," which features a lengthy Who's Who cast, including Sandra Bullock,

Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Matt Damon, Dakota Fanning, Katie Holmes, Rihanna, Carl Reiner and others.

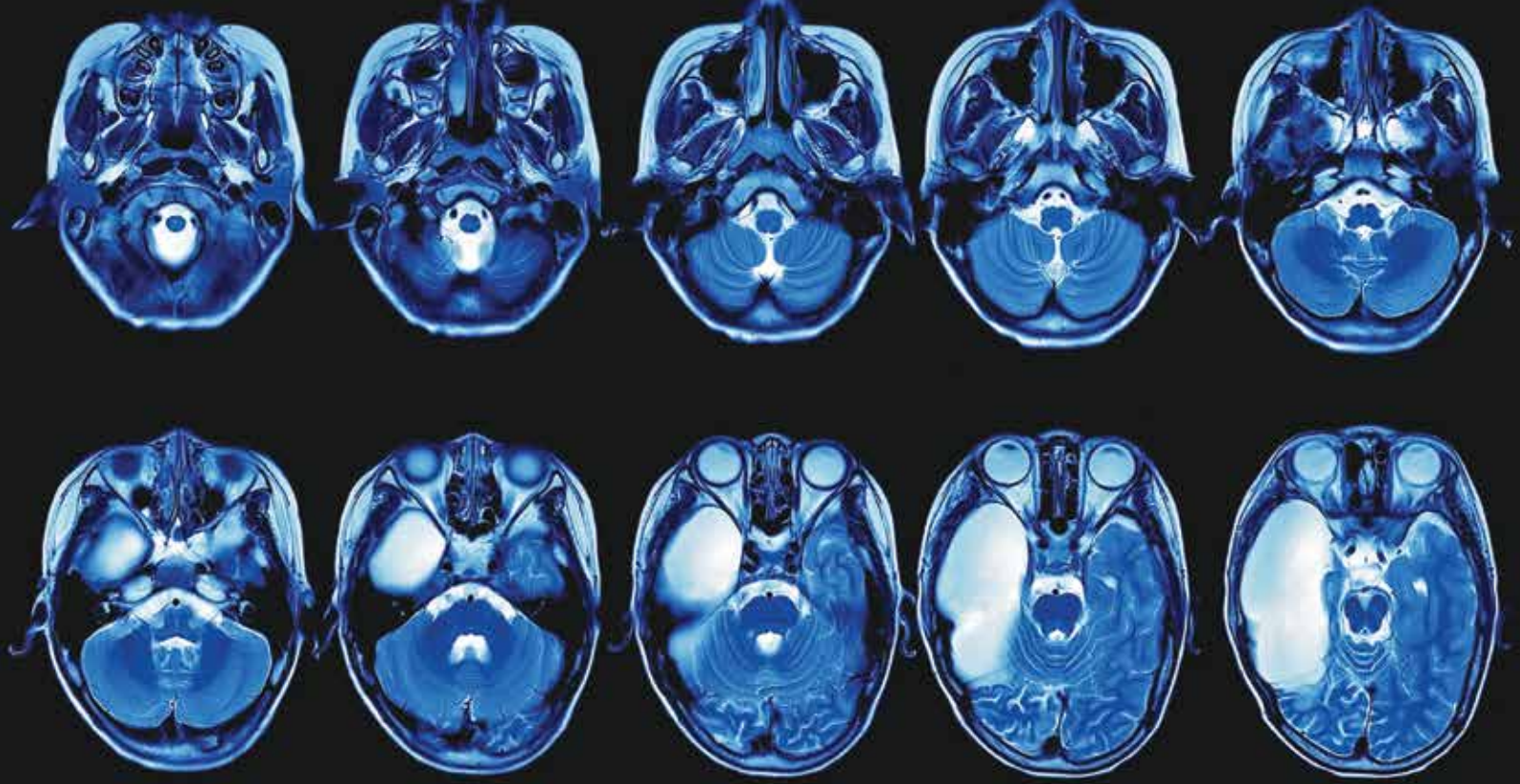
But perhaps his favorite film role is that of the mysterious Cajun, Pascal, in "The Book of Love," directed by Bill Purple and starring Jason Sudeikis, Maisie Williams and Jessica Biel.

"As a Robichaux, I spent lots of summers in Louisiana with my PawPaw," he said. "I got to create a whole new language of French, Cajun and English to play this role. We shot in New Orleans for a month, and I will never forget that experience. It is a beautiful movie. I believe my PawPaw was on set with me in spirit in ways I can never explain."

As someone who has always known he wanted to act, Robichaux offers the following advice to the budding young actors at SFA who are in the same place he was 20-plus years ago: "Take every opportunity that is given to you at SFA.

"Your professors are all talented and serious teaching artists," he said. "Make work habits now that will serve you after graduation. If you make no deposits, you should not expect to make any withdrawals. This business requires a lot of time investment," he added. "Put in the time, and one day, you may find that you have worked your way into the work of your dreams. I don't say 'good luck' to students, though they will need a little. I say 'good work to you.' They'll need more of that." ★

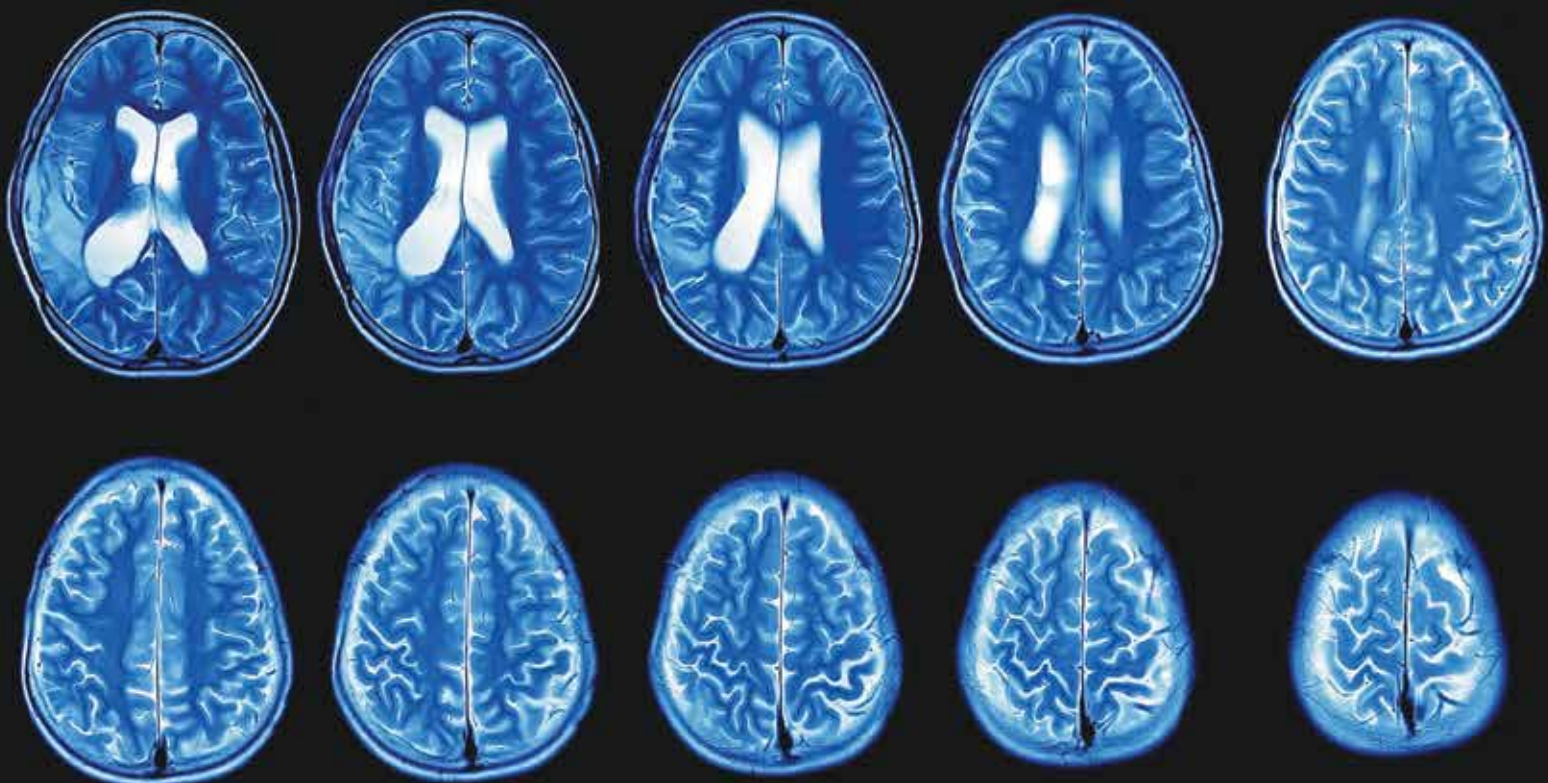




PRECISE PROFESSION

Biology graduate completing neurosurgery residency

Story by Donna Parish





AFTER 25 YEARS attending school, Michael Prim '09 only has about five more to go, and he wouldn't have it any other way.

Prim, in his second year of residency at Saint Louis University Hospital, has taken on one of the more difficult surgical specialties that requires the longest residency among medical school graduates — neurosurgery.

The idiom “It’s not brain surgery” typically compares a simple task to one that is much more complex. The implication is that those who perform brain surgery are among the most skilled professionals in the world. The vast years of required education and training result in only about 0.6 percent of practicing physicians specializing in neurosurgery.

Prim began his journey to a career in health care in 2005; however, his initial interest was dentistry. “During my senior year of high school, an orthodontist came to speak to our class on Career Day,” Prim said. “I thought it sounded like a pretty good gig, so I entered SFA as a pre-dental student majoring in biology.”

Prim, who grew up in Crawford, Texas, found his way to SFA through his stepfather, Charlie Buenger '73, a practicing attorney in Waco, Texas. “I applied to several Texas universities and was accepted to both the



University of Texas and Texas Christian University. While I enjoyed what those schools had to offer, they just didn't feel like my kind of crowd,” Prim said. “When I toured SFA, I loved everything about it.”

Prim enrolled at SFA and was on his way to becoming a dentist, or so he thought. But something got between him and his career aspiration — his biology courses.

Although Prim had been a straight-A student in high school, his grades in botany and zoology at SFA were Bs. “Those classes just didn't hold my interest,” Prim said.

He also was taking courses in psychology, which Prim said he enjoyed and found challenging. “My psychology courses were really interesting to me,” Prim said. “So one-and-a-half semesters into my biology major, I approached my advisor, Dr. Kevin Langford, and I told him I wanted to switch majors to psych.”

Langford, SFA associate professor of biology and director of pre-professional programs, recalls the day Prim visited him about changing majors.

“Mike was active in the Lumberjack Marching Band and came in to see me one day after practice,” Langford said. “The biology classes Mike was enrolled in were more focused on plants and animals. Those courses involve a great deal of memorization. It was evident they weren't challenging to him.” ➔

"I saw Mike working with his hands and
thought he possessed the **RAW TALENT** to
make a **GREAT SURGEON**."

DR. KEVIN LANGFORD

SFA ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY AND
DIRECTOR OF PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS



Langford convinced Prim to stick with biology and take a much more difficult class, comparative anatomy.

"Turns out, I loved that course," Prim said. "I enjoyed the difficulty of it. I loved being in the lab and dissecting the specimens. I loved seeing how evolution crafted the different species and how biology worked via the old adage, 'structure is function.'"

Early in the semester, Langford got a first glimpse of the skills that would ultimately lead Prim to his professional calling during the dissection of a shark.

"Sharks can be difficult to dissect," Langford said. "Their skeleton is mainly composed of cartilage instead of bone, which heightens the difficulty level of the dissection."

The procedure involves removing three loops of tissue embedded in the cartilage that are the diameter of a small strand of spaghetti. "In all my years of teaching, I've never witnessed a student remove it intact," Langford said.

During this particular lab exercise, Langford watched Prim meticulously maneuver around the delicate tissue and come closer than any student ever has to achieving the almost-impossible task.

"I saw Mike working with his hands and thought he possessed the raw talent to make a great surgeon," Langford said. "As the semester progressed, Mike was among the best students I've ever taught. He was always the last one to leave lab, full of questions, and he genuinely seemed to welcome every challenge."

Prim said after taking a human physiology course during the summer and learning more about how the body worked and how nerves transmit information, he was hooked and knew he wanted to pursue a medical career.

After his graduation from SFA, Prim received his master's degree in medical science and attended medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. His initial plan was to become a family practice physician and return to his small-town roots to open a practice. However, after he started clinical rotations, he changed his mind.

"There was a month in medical school where we viewed specialty surgeries," Prim said. "One option was brain

surgery, so I signed up for neurosurgery. I had a great time on that rotation, so when it was time to select a specialty for residency, I realized the rotation I had the most fun on was, in fact, neurosurgery."

Prim was matched with Saint Louis University Hospital. His daily routine begins at 4:30 a.m. when he wakes. He arrives at the hospital by 5:30 and starts visiting patients. He said members of the neurosurgery team meet up and "run the list," which he said translates to discussing each neurosurgery patient who is currently undergoing in-house treatment.

By 7:30 a.m., Prim said he's off to the operating room or clinic, where he'll spend several hours. About 6 p.m., the team "runs the list" again to discuss patient treatment once more and any new developments that have occurred during the day. If he's not on call, he arrives home about 7 p.m. On-call residents remain at the hospital overnight covering two hospitals — one adult and one pediatric.

"Things can get very busy when you're by yourself and covering two hospitals," Prim said. "We have a chief resident whom we call throughout the night for questions or if someone needs to go to the operating room. There also is an attending physician on call whom we contact to ensure that he or she agrees with our treatment plan."

When he's on call, Prim's shift runs 24-plus-four hours, which means he works 24 hours and then remains at the hospital four additional hours to complete paperwork and ensure transition of care for the next shift.

When asked where he expects his career to be in five years, Prim said he will still be in school.

"Training as a neurosurgeon takes so long because it is incremental," Prim said. "Being in the operating room and having to be so precise with decisions and movements is invigorating. It's really amazing. We put people to sleep, open their skulls and manipulate the brain by removing tumors, blood clots or even brain tissue. Then, we close up, and the patients wake up without any deficits. It really blows me away." ★

"Training as a **NEUROSURGEON** takes so long because it is incremental. Being in the operating room and having to be so **PRECISE** with decisions and movements is **INVIGORATING**. It's really **AMAZING**."

MICHAEL PRIM

'JACK TALK

Facebook - SFASU
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Use #AxeEm or #SFAJackTalk on social media.



Game time! #AxeEm Let's go Rangers! With Brandon Beavers, John Danger Tadlock, Jonathan Aviles and Adrian Gutierrez at Globe Life Park in Arlington.

DWIGHT WATSON / FACEBOOK

How much does this 6-year-old @SFA_MBB fan love @TeeJay_22? Enough to fill this out before compliance officials (dad) shut it down.

"I don't know when you know you've arrived in your career, but when I got home tonight from work, my 6 year old had left a note for me to mail. She had found a fundraiser envelope in the latest Sawdust magazine and filled out her info. Apparently she wanted to **HONOR HER FAVORITE PLAYER** with a monetary gift. There were four quarters stuffed in the pouch side."

THE SAWMILL / TWITTER AND ONLINE FORUMS

I would like to give a gift to honor: T.J. Holyfield
How did you become acquainted with your honoree? He is so shilled!
I've seen him on the field and in person to present to my honoree.
Your Email: Hi, You're cool! @
YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION:
I am: [] Mr. [] Mrs. [] Ms. [] Dr. [] SFA Class year: junior
First Name: Kishia
Last Name: Middlebrook
Address: [REDACTED]
City: SAN ANTONIO, TX 75961
Phone: [] Cell [] Home [] Work []
Email: []
Payment Method: [] Cash [] Check [] Credit Card []
Total Gift Amount: \$5
Payment Method: [] Cash [] Check [] Credit Card []
Name on Card: []
Card Number: []
Exp. Date: []
Signature: []
Way only donors print in class envelope



ALWAYS SHOWING THAT **LUMBERJACK PRIDE!**

#harrypotterworld #orlando
#lumberjackpride #axeemjacks
#sfasu #sfatravelingjack
#mypatronusisalumberjack

BROKERGIRL / INSTAGRAM

"SFA is one of the best-kept secrets in higher education. The campus is the **most beautiful** I've seen, and the quality of **education is excellent.**"

ALLEN CAVE
FACEBOOK FIVE-STAR REVIEW

"Becoming a Lumberjack was the **best decision of my life.** SFA offers a quality education, networking opportunities and is a great place to participate in service learning."

KAYLEE CARSON
FACEBOOK FIVE-STAR REVIEW

"I could not have had a better and more fun college experience than my time at SFA. That is why I lived there for 15 years after graduating. **Great city and people.**"

TERRY HUCKABY
FACEBOOK FIVE-STAR REVIEW



I continue to fall in love with science and medicine every day. I cannot wait to see what my future holds. Now, back to studying for the MCAT! #premedlife #sanantonio #sfasu #futuresurgeon #surgery #axeem #mcats

CTOVAR_45 / INSTAGRAM

I started training my first new hire today, and she went to SFA! #alumnisticktogether #axeem

CASSIE ELLIS / FACEBOOK

Athletics Highlights / Year in Review

WEB: SFAJACKS.COM f SFA ATHLETICS @SFA_ATHLETICS SFA_ATHLETICS

CHAMPIONS TIMES TWO

SFA ADDED A pair of championships to its total in 2016-17. The women's cross-country team took home the Southland Conference championship trophy last fall followed by the women's outdoor track and field team. With the two championships, SFA upped its total to 87 SLC titles, ranking second all-time. ★



ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

FOR THE THIRD-STRAIGHT season, bowling represented SFA at the NCAA Championships, held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The Ladyjacks finished seventh nationally, placing third at the Southland Bowling Championships. Junior Stephanie Schwartz (left) was named a first-team All-American for the third-straight year with senior Paige Kraushaar earning honorable mention All-American honors. ★



SPRING SUCCESS



SFA HAD ANOTHER impressive spring season in 2017, including men's golf finishing second at the SLC Championships for its best finish since 1999. On the diamond, baseball made national waves with a 6-2 upset at fourth-ranked Texas Christian University in April, leading up to pitcher Will Vest '17 being selected in the 12th round by the Detroit Tigers, the highest-drafted pitcher in program history. ★



THREE YEARS RUNNING

FOR THE THIRD-STRAIGHT year, SFA Athletics clinched the SLC's Commissioner's Cup. The cup is annually awarded to the university compiling the highest combined total of men's and women's all-sports points among the 13 schools that compete in the SLC. For 2016-17, SFA bested its competitors with a combined men's and women's score of 125. ★

ACADEMIC CHAMPS

TWENTY SFA STUDENT-ATHLETES were named Academic All-SLC selections with 198 being named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll. Two student-athletes received national recognition for their work in the classroom as soccer's Brooke Dunnigan was tabbed a National Soccer Coaches Association of America Scholar All-American, and football's Marlon Walls was named a College Sports Information Directors of America first-team Academic All-American. ★

BEST OF THE BEST

SFA PRODUCED TWO of the SLC's best in 2016-17 as men's cross-country's Charles Mathenge and women's basketball's Taylor Ross were tabbed Player of the Year in their respective sports. In total, SFA produced 11 major SLC award winners during the year, including a pair of Coaches of the Year in Cody Clark (cross-country) and Phil Olson (track and field). ★



LASTING IMPRESSIONS

SFA students spend summer at Dinosaur Valley State Park



More than 100 million years ago, dinosaurs roamed the edge of an ancient ocean shoreline, leaving their indelible marks on what is now Dinosaur Valley State Park in Glen Rose, Texas. Venturing away from the fossilized tracks speckling the modern-day Paluxy River and into the park's campground, patrons encounter yet another eye-catching, albeit more contemporary, curiosity that Asa and Jillian Vermeulen and their four daughters call home – Moe the bus. ➔

Story by Sarah Fuller / Photography by Hardy Meredith





“One thing I’m
loving about
this summer is
not having the
internet and
having the time
to be together
as a family to
play games, read
books and
just relax.”

JILLIAN VERMEULEN

“We’ve grown accustomed to people stopping in the middle of the road to stare,” said Jillian, a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Science in sociology in SFA’s Department of Anthropology, Geography and Sociology.

In truth, it is hard not to stare. Parked alongside larger, traditional recreational vehicles adorned in muted colors of gray, the Vermeulens’ green 1990 International school bus, equipped with a custom-made wooden door, sparks curiosity and adds an element of individuality not often seen among traditional RVs.

This summer served as the family’s inaugural venture into what is popularly known as tiny-house living. The tiny house movement is led in large part by millennials seeking to simplify material possessions, gain financial independence and, in the case of the Vermeulens, ensure mobility following graduation.

“We look at it as a gateway to be able to go anywhere after graduation and not feel confined by where we’re going to live,” Jillian said. “If Asa gets a job in another state, we won’t have to struggle to find a living space.”

For now, the family of six calls Dinosaur Valley State Park home, as Asa completes a summer internship for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Jillian performs special projects for the park to fulfill her degree program’s required field work hours.



The park holds special significance for both Asa and Jillian, who camped there as children with their families. Walking along the river’s rocky shore, Asa recalls that his father has a photo (left) of him sitting in one of the dinosaur tracks that he now shares with other families through interpretive programming.

Jillian said that despite the vocational detours Asa has taken during the past decade, time outdoors and sharing nature with others has always been a priority.

“When I met Asa, he told me he wanted to be a park ranger when he grew up,” Jillian said with a smile.

The couple, both Nacogdoches natives, met on the high school swim team and bonded over their mutual love of nature. Asa said during their courtship, they set a goal of camping at least once a month.

In 2008, Jillian became pregnant with their first daughter, Marley. Asa explained that although he was pursuing a degree at SFA, his family took precedence.

“That was during the recession, so my priority was finding a full-time job and obtaining insurance,” he said.

Following a meeting with an Army recruiter, Asa enlisted and was stationed in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. In 2011, he was deployed to Afghanistan’s Ghazni Province.

Asa said the region, which lies along the important Kabul-Kandahar Highway linking the country's two largest cities, was engaged in combat. As a combat engineer, he regularly conducted route clearance in which he searched for improvised explosive devices placed along roads.

"I was in two improvised explosive device detonations, but I drove the biggest, most armored trucks the Army had," he said. "I was fine both times, but our company often got hit."

Jillian said following Asa's return to the U.S., the family began downsizing their possessions to ease the burden of moving from Missouri to Texas.

Following Asa's completion of firefighting academy training, the family, which had expanded to include two more daughters, Vivienne and Cypress, moved to Elkhart, Texas, where Asa pursued the emergency medical technician certification necessary to join the local fire department.

During this time, however, the family encountered an unforeseen obstacle: Their daughter, Cypress, contracted meningoencephalitis, a life-threatening inflammation of the brain and spinal cord, and she was hospitalized for 10 days in Dallas.

"I missed a lot of classes and had to drop out of the EMT program, which meant that when it was time for the fire department to call and hire me, I didn't have the required certification," Asa said.

Jillian explained those long days and nights spent at the hospital with their child led to many earnest conversations regarding the family's future, as well as their individual career paths.

"For some reason, those 10 days together in the hospital totally changed where we wanted to go," Jillian said.

Following Cypress' recovery, the family moved back to Nacogdoches, and Asa re-enrolled at SFA. Like many young families, Asa and Jillian managed their household finances frugally and actively looked for ways to maximize their resources.

"I remember reading a blog about someone who lived in an RV with her family to save money and get out of debt, and I thought 'we can do that,'" Jillian said.

The couple said they kept this option in the back of their minds until 2015 when they decided to sell one of their vehicles in order to move forward with their plan. After a thorough internet search, they found a decommissioned bus once used by a school's marching band.

During the next two years, the family worked together to transform the blank canvas into a home equipped with a fully functioning kitchen, couch, composting toilet, shower and bunk beds for the family.

"One thing I'm loving about this summer is not having the internet and having the time to be together as a family to play games, read books and just relax," Jillian said.

Despite the comfort of the bus' air conditioning, as well as the plethora of books and board games, visitors to the Vermeulens' home are unlikely to find their daughters inside for prolonged periods of time. In an era replete with research indicating children across the country are spending far less time outdoors than previous generations, the image of four young girls riding bicycles, playing in mud puddles and laughing while making imaginative proclamations around a campfire is a welcome sight.

As Asa delivers an interpretive presentation to park guests on the banks of the river he once roamed as a child, his family members look on, ready to be carried to their next outdoor adventure in Moe the bus. ★

ABOUT THE PARK: Dinosaur Valley State Park is located in Somervell County near Glen Rose, Texas. Covering more than 1,500 acres and designated a National Natural Landmark in 1969, the park offers a place to view fossilized dinosaur tracks.

Two main types of dinosaurs left the fossilized tracks in the Paluxy River. Many are three-toed, sharp-clawed tracks made by two-legged, meat-eating dinosaurs called theropods. *Acrocanthosaurus*, a 20-30-foot-long carnosaur, likely made most of these prints. Other tracks are even larger and made by huge, four-legged, long-necked, plant-eating dinosaurs known as sauropods.





BEHIND THE BADGE

RYAN HOLT '95 SERVES
AS WACO CHIEF OF POLICE

STORY BY DONNA PARISH / PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBIN JOHNSON

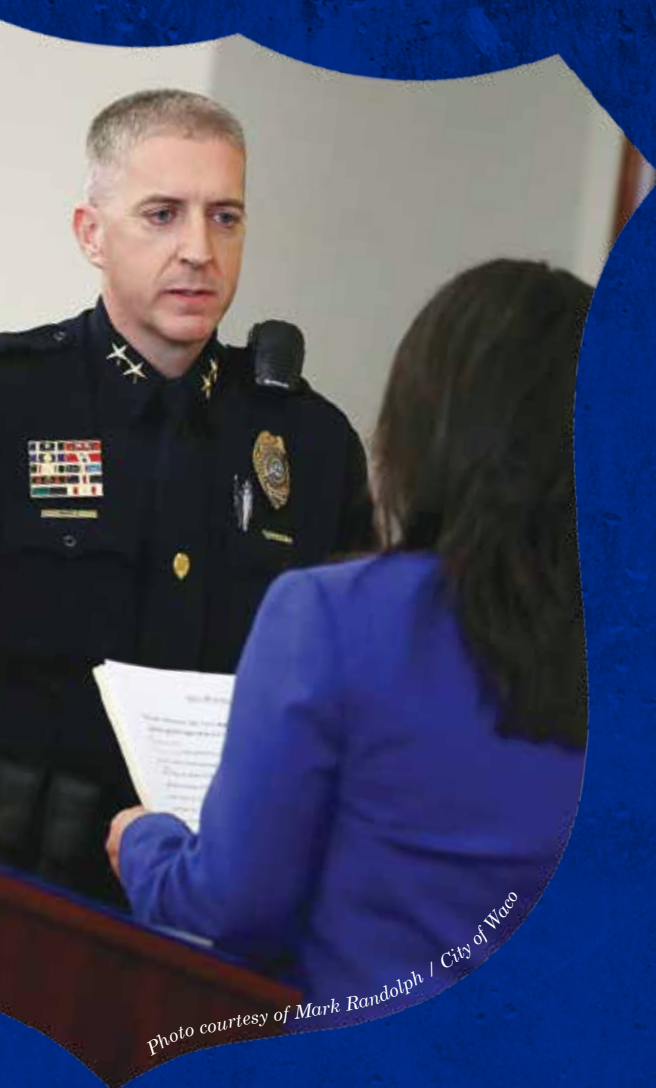


Photo courtesy of Mark Randolph / City of Waco

"I HAVE PERSONALLY WITNESSED OFFICERS RUN TOWARD GUNFIRE DISREGARDING THEIR OWN SAFETY ... I HAVE SEEN THESE OFFICERS EXTEND COMPASSION TO THE VICTIMIZED, AND I HAVE SEEN THEM DO THE DIFFICULT THINGS WITH HONOR AND INTEGRITY - THE THINGS THAT SOCIETY CALLS ON POLICE TO DO WHEN NO ONE ELSE IS UP TO THE TASK."

RYAN HOLT, WACO CHIEF OF POLICE

AS ALL SFA alumni can attest, their time spent at the university prepared them in myriad ways for their careers. When Ryan Holt '95 stepped onto SFA's campus in 1993, he had little idea just how much those moments, semesters and years as an SFA student would impact his occupation.

Holt transferred to SFA during his sophomore year. A Bryan, Texas, native, Holt was destined to begin his higher education in College Station. He enrolled there as a business major but later decided to change it to criminal justice and move away from the crowded classrooms.

After visiting the three Texas schools with the top criminal justice programs in the state, Holt enrolled at SFA. That decision set his career path in motion.

Today, Holt serves as the Waco chief of police and oversees 346 employees — 247 of them sworn police officers. He is responsible for an annual departmental budget of \$36 million. As Texas' 25th largest city, Waco has a population of approximately 135,000.

Area attractions such as the Dr Pepper Museum, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, and the Texas Sports Hall of Fame drew approximately 658,000 visitors to the city in 2015. Holt said with the popularity of the television show "Fixer Upper" and the opening of Magnolia Market at the Silos, Waco hosted 2.1 million visitors in 2016. The "Fixer Upper effect," as Holt calls it, should continue to drastically impact tourist numbers.

As Holt began his classes at SFA, he said he immediately noticed the difference in the way classes were taught and the number of students in them. "My previous university was very large, and the class experience always felt very impersonal," Holt said. "I immediately felt

at home at SFA. The classes were small enough that the professors knew the students and were interested in their success."

Holt points to former professors of criminal justice Drs. John Harlan and Patrick Mueller as two of his favorite SFA mentors. "They both put effort into ensuring students absorbed the concepts rather than just running through the academic motions of instructing class," Holt said. "Serving as an adjunct criminal justice instructor, I have tried to emulate their teaching style."

Additionally, he credits Pat Spence, the former director of student publications at SFA, with leaving a lasting impression on him. With a minor in mass communication, Holt served as a photographer and sports editor for SFA's student newspaper, The Pine Log. He also was the editor of the Stone Fort yearbook. In these roles, he spent many hours working alongside Spence and student-journalists to produce the publications.

"Pat corralled a bunch of students into producing a weekly student newspaper and annual yearbook," Holt said. "Pat was subtle in her methods, but she always got her point across. She instilled a work ethic and team spirit that made for life lessons. I would later have the good fortune of working around very good leaders in law enforcement, but Pat was one of the first people I ever dealt with in a managerial position who was a true leader."

Holt joined the Waco Police Department in 1996. Starting as a patrol officer and serving in every division of the department, he has worked as a crisis and hostage negotiator, public information officer, SWAT supervisor and special deputy for the Lone Star Fugitive Task Force. He was promoted to assistant chief of police in 2008 and was named chief of police in December 2016 after a nationwide search yielded a field of 83 applicants. ➔

Throughout his career, lessons learned at SFA have served Holt well and helped lead him to success at law enforcement-related settings like the FBI National Academy, the Senior Management Institute for Police at Boston University and the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas, as well as providing the necessary foundation to acquire a master's degree.

His SFA education also has been the backbone of his work with the Waco Police Department. In summer 2003, Holt was assigned to supervise the department's unit that housed public information. In June 2003, Baylor University basketball player Patrick Dennehy was reported missing.

"Overnight, satellite trucks and reporters descended on Waco to report on the story," Holt said. "As time passed, it became a homicide case. I served as spokesperson for the department and held a number of press conferences, which were covered by news outlets from around the world. My background working on The Pine Log played a role in my ability to serve as a public information officer in that high-profile case."

Additionally, Holt had the responsibility of helping ensure the safety of the president of the United States. After George W. Bush was elected president in 2001, Bush would frequently fly to Texas and host dignitaries at his ranch in Crawford, Texas — just outside of Waco. As a helicopter pilot and SWAT supervisor during that time, Holt had a number of experiences related to visiting presidents, kings, queens, princes, prime ministers and other heads of state.

"When the president would fly into Central Texas, Air Force One landed at Texas State Technical Institute Airport in Waco," Holt said. "President Bush would then use Marine One to fly to the ranch, or he would utilize a motorcade. A presidential motorcade is a significant undertaking involving lots of moving parts. During his eight years in the White House, the Waco Police Department was the primary agency that assisted the Secret Service with his protection. All told, we helped provide more than 400 high-security movements for the president and visiting dignitaries."

Holt said his favorite part of the job as police chief is working alongside fellow police officers, who go to work prepared to pay the ultimate sacrifice for the community.

"I have personally witnessed officers run toward gunfire disregarding their own safety," Holt said. "I have seen them take money from their own pockets to ensure families and children don't go hungry or without presents on Christmas Day. I have seen them arrange birthday parties for children in the community who would otherwise go without. I have seen these officers extend compassion to the victimized, and I have seen them do the difficult things with honor and integrity — the things that society calls on police to do when no one else is up to the task."

Holt said his least favorite aspect of the job is the way it changes those who choose to serve.

"Unfortunately, our staff sees most people at their absolute worst," Holt said. "The things that you see, hear, smell and feel in this profession inevitably change a person over time. That stress, coupled with the false narrative in the mainstream media about police officers as a profession, makes our work more difficult than it has to be."

Though many police departments in larger cities have experienced heightened scrutiny in the past few years, Holt said that his department's relationship with the community remains supportive.

"We have been blessed that we enjoy tremendous community support," Holt said. "Much of my daily interaction is with community and city leadership to help ensure that the department is serving the needs of the city and that we are being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us."

Although Waco has seen remarkable residential and economic growth, Holt said the city has experienced a 10-year reduction in crime rates — a trend he hopes to see continue.

"This is the community where I have chosen to raise my family," Holt said. "This is my community, too, and I want it to be the best for all citizens." ★



Work Space / Inside T.J. Maple's Office



T.J. MAPLE '08

Student Affairs

*Spirit Coordinator and
Head Dance Coach*



1. A collection of lanyards from Maple's 20 years of involvement with dance and cheer hang on the corner of the bookcase. The lanyards serve as mementos of the many places Maple has judged, competed and presented.
2. Maple's grandmother was an avid supporter of the SFA spirit teams. After her passing in 2014, the dance team choreographed a jazz routine using these magnolia blossoms, her favorite flower. Each petal displays a name or word representing someone held close to a team member's heart. The routine was performed at the 2015 nationals and placed third.
3. Three 2017 national championship trophies in team performance dance, all-girl cheer and pom dance rest on the bookcase. SFA's spirit program has won an astounding 28 national championships since 1993. The more than two-dozen trophies are housed in the spirit office and throughout campus.
4. The bundle of spirit sticks dates back to the 1980s when the SFA spirit program first began attending camps as a part of the process to earn a bid to compete nationally.
5. Each year, a new group of rookies arrives on campus for practice. The rookie class creates axe handles to represent the meaning of the letters PMFL. The meaning of the letters isn't revealed until after the rookies have completed their first year. So when creating the axe handles, the rookie class interprets what the meaning of the letters might be. These interpretations provide Maple with insight about each new member.
6. Maple receives a scrapbook each year as a gift from the dance team before national competition. Each team member creates a page in the scrapbook, which is filled with pictures, notes, poems, etc. Maple said he often looks through the books, which remind him of each student's accomplishments and growth while at SFA.
7. In 2007, Maple's students gifted him with the naming of a star. They named the star PMFL to signify the special bond between Maple and his students. The stuffed dragon was part of the gift and reminds Maple that his teams' legacy shines no matter where they are because they will forever be tied together.
8. A display case sits on the corner of Maple's desk and houses the national championship rings won by the SFA spirit program under his tutelage and by other dance teams he has choreographed. Maple has contributed to SFA's national titles in 2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016 (two titles) and 2017 (three titles).
9. The rhinestone apple was a dance prop used in 2013 by the SFA pom squad when its members performed a routine at nationals. The routine, "Snow White and the Huntsman," placed second in team performance.
10. A trunk decorated by the 2016 dance team sits on Maple's desk. The trunk is adorned with items the dancers clipped from magazines to represent something they were letting go. The "Letting Go" routine included relinquishing societal and personal labels. At the routine's start, a balloon floated from the open chest and was passed among the dancers as a symbolic representation of the labels. The balloon was popped at the end of the routine and the lid closed, symbolizing letting go and finding peace.
11. A Dr. Baker Pattillo bobblehead stands near the edge of the desk and reminds Maple and office visitors of the support the SFA spirit program receives from SFA's president.
12. During spring break, the spirit teams remain in Nacogdoches to practice. During this time, the dance team rolls out and tapes down special flooring for their practices. At week's end, the tape used to secure the flooring is rolled into a ball, and each season's team members sign their ball. The tape ball represents the blood, sweat and tears the team sacrificed throughout the week.
13. In 2016, Maple began his second year helping coach the SFA cheer teams. The letters LCLM have special significance to cheer team members and alumni, symbolizing strength and the bond they share. Although Maple won't divulge the meaning of the letters, he said for him, they represent something much bigger than him. ★



LEADING LUMBERJACK

Alumnus represents SFA in the Texas House of Representatives

Story by Christine Broussard ★ Photography by Hardy Meredith





Jason Isaac '96 and his wife, Carrie '97, are conspicuously charming while seated in Jason's Texas State Capitol office as they discuss the path that brought him to the Texas House of Representatives.

Seated in front of a wall covered in family portraits, Carrie's floor-length blue gown and Jason's stark black tuxedo, worn in anticipation of a formal gathering that evening, belie the couple's down-to-earth disposition.

Then the pattern on Jason's sock peeks out near his ankle, and you can't help but grin at the patchwork of axes that pay homage to the couple's alma mater.

"Getting involved in organizations at SFA and accepting leadership roles there has helped tremendously here in the Capitol," Jason said. "I encourage people to talk to me. I do try to spend

a lot of time talking with people about why I've made certain decisions or done certain things, and you can do all that by being civil."

It's these traits — openness and civility — that led Jason to accomplish a feat few politicians have achieved — election to office following their very first campaign.

"Having that patience and willingness to listen is something I learned in the classroom," Jason said. "Dr. Tim Clipson [professor emeritus of business communication and legal studies] taught us the importance of communication, and the most important aspect of communication is listening."

LIFE AT SFA

Jason was born in Spring, Texas — just a stone's throw away from Humble where Carrie was ➔

raised. The couple didn't meet, however, until both signed up for a history summer course at SFA with varying levels of enthusiasm.

"I saved the subjects I didn't like for the summer, which is why I took history," Carrie laughed. "I didn't like history."

Both Jason and Carrie were involved in student clubs and organizations throughout their time at SFA. Carrie was on the water ski team and was vice president and treasurer of the Phi Upsilon Omicron National Honor Society in Family and Consumer Sciences, president and treasurer of the American Society of Interior Design Chapter, and a member of the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society.

Jason started SFA's intercollegiate club lacrosse team, which continues to this day. He also helped launch a chapter of the Zeta Beta Tau fraternity in 1991. In his various roles with the organization, Jason employed the many marks of a good politician that would inevitably lead him into government.

"I was president of the fraternity my last year, and as you know fraternities have loud fundraisers from time to time," Jason said. "We would do fundraisers for the women's shelter and the East Texas Boy's Ranch, and since those events could get loud, I asked members to walk around and talk to the neighbors to let them know we would be doing this loud event. We would even offer to buy them dinner at a restaurant and would assure them that we were going to pick up any trash."

LIFE AS A REPRESENTATIVE

The trucking industry served as the main catalyst for Jason's entry into the political realm.

"When I graduated college, I was actually living in Dallas and got a job with a company based out of Washington, D.C., that sold mobile communications technology to the trucking industry," Jason explained. "Because of that job, I got involved with a trucking association here in Texas."

In 2005, he continued, the Texas Legislature had changed the taxing structure the state puts on businesses. Trucking businesses, Jason

discovered, were not buying as many GPS and radio technologies because of increased taxes, meaning a downturn in Jason's business. So in 2007, he decided to attend Trucking Day at the Capitol.

"I started to realize there were people in this pink dome in the middle of Austin who were making decisions that were impacting my life and my ability to provide for my family, so I came up here, and I met with people," he said. "That's what my mom taught me: If you don't like something, get involved and change it."

Eventually, Jason and his family moved from the Dallas area to Dripping Springs, a quickly growing township just west of Austin. Pursuit of office wasn't on Jason's mind until someone he met while coaching lacrosse encouraged him to run for the House seat.

"He told me, 'You're not going to win. The person you're going to run against is very well-funded and will beat you handily, but it might set you up for something in the future,'" Jason said. "And we saw him again the night of the election watch party, and he said, 'I had no idea you were going to work that hard.'"

For 10 months and three days, Jason and Carrie spent all but two of those days walking door to door throughout Texas' House District 45 introducing themselves to potential constituents.

"Those days, we literally left the house at 8 a.m. and didn't get back until maybe midnight," Carrie said. "We worked really hard. Our goal was to meet as many people as we could, and that's what we did."

Jason was elected in 2010 by a margin of 8 percentage points. He has since been re-elected three times and, looking back, understands that it was a unique achievement.

"It was an amazing night. I'll never forget the energy of that night," Carrie said.

"It wasn't supposed to happen," Jason added with a slight grin on his face. "Now we understand a little bit more that was kind of a big deal."

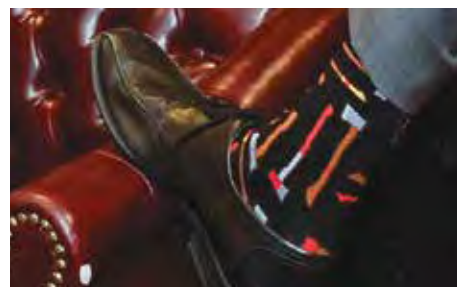
Peering around Jason's Capitol office, it's easy to see that the SFA business and marketing graduate has settled nicely into his role as a politician. He keeps himself surrounded by pictures of family and Texas-themed trinkets as reminders of what led him to work in the big pink dome in the middle of Austin. ★



LEFT: Members of SFA's 2016-17 Student Government Association visited with Rep. Jason Isaac of Dripping Springs at the Texas Capitol in February for Nacogdoches-SFA Days. Isaac is the only Lumberjack currently serving in the Texas House of Representatives. Pictured (from left, back row) are Martin Diaz-Margoliner, Jordan Young, Jeffery Agouna, SFA Assistant Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Adam Peck, 2016-17 SFA Student Regent Chad Huckaby, (middle row) Jayla Harris, Alexia Garcia, Candra Huckaby, (front row) Marcella Cook, 2016-17 SGA President Jessica Taylor and Isaac.



TOP RIGHT: Isaac began SFA's intercollegiate club lacrosse team, which continues to this day.



BOTTOM RIGHT: A pair of socks patterned in axes is one of Isaac's favorite ways to keep a piece of his alma mater with him wherever he goes, including the winding hallways of the Capitol Building and onto the floor of the Texas House of Representatives.

From the Association

“As the current president of the Alumni Association, it is my hope and mission to help orchestrate opportunities for as many alums as possible to have similar moments and stories.”



ONE OF THE great things I have enjoyed during my service to the SFA Alumni Association is the regular interaction with SFA enthusiasts at events, on social media and through conducting Alumni Association

business. It is fun to see Lumberjack pride at peak levels for many alumni and to feed off of their Lumberjack pride. It can be invigorating and contagious!

In June, I got a surge of Lumberjack pride at SFA Night during the Texas Rangers vs. Houston Astros game. As part of the experience, the first 1,000 ticket holders received a purple Texas Rangers hat with the SFA logo on the side. The hats are pretty awesome, but the best part of that experience was connecting with hundreds of alums in the ballpark. I found myself trying to talk to everyone in a purple hat, but it was a little overwhelming because there were purple hats everywhere!

Because I was there with my family, I quickly realized I would have to settle for very quick interactions with just a few of the seemingly endless flow of alumni. Whether it was a quick “Axe ‘em” in passing or a slightly longer conversation, I connected with numerous alumni of all ages. It was an awesome experience that I highly recommend.

That same weekend at a random restaurant in the Dallas area, I met an alumnus and his son, who will be an incoming freshman at SFA this fall. It was fun to relate and talk about the good old days and to connect with a future Lumberjack. The coolest thing about that moment was I found myself surrounded by multiple generations of Lumberjacks.

As you can imagine, I have years of similar stories of encounters with Lumberjacks that resulted in a boost of Lumberjack pride for all involved, and some great connections were made. As the current president of the Alumni Association, it is my hope and mission to help orchestrate opportunities for as many alums as possible to have similar moments and stories.

That said, I would like to take the opportunity to recommend that you take a few minutes to look into the many opportunities to connect with other SFA alumni at an alumni event near you or on social media. You can find events in



this issue of Sawdust, in your email, on social media or on the Alumni Association's website. Whether you have a favorite social media platform, or you like to use them all, chances are, we have a way for you to connect and participate. If you need help connecting, please reach out to me, any of our board members or the alumni office. ★

Axe ‘em, Jacks!

David Madrid '02 – Bossier City, Louisiana
President, SFA Alumni Association

SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

David Madrid '02, Bossier City, Louisiana
president

Bob Francis '78, Bullard
president-elect

Karen Gantt '95, McKinney
past president

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

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Tony Both '98, Katy

Larry Brooks '01, Houston
Reuben Brown '07, Grand Prairie
Jeremy Cleverly '98, Mansfield
Robin Dawley '77, Nacogdoches

Brian Dawson '03, Conroe
Doris Havard, Nacogdoches

Ron Hunt '91 & '94, McKinney
Bruce Mayberry II '08, Arlington

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Erika Tolar '02, Spring

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Mark Layton '74, Dallas
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Karen Gantt '95, McKinney
Curtis Sparks '85, Tyler

ALUMNI 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 & '16
accountant



UNMASQUE YOUR SPIRIT DURING HOMECOMING WEEKEND

Visit sfaalumni.com/homecoming for the most updated list of events.

HOMECOMING ONLINE AUCTION

Begins: 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12 / Ends: 9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22

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

FRIDAY, OCT. 20

SFA HOMECOMING GOLF TOURNAMENT

Cost: \$150 individual; \$600 team

Registration: 9:30 a.m. / Begins: 11 a.m.

Piney Woods Country Club, 3001 U.S. Highway 59

Four-player scramble. Players may enter as a single or recruit their own team. Entry fee includes tournament play, golf cart, refreshments, boxed 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.

SFA ALUMNI FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

4 to 5 p.m. / The Fredonia Hotel, 200 N. Fredonia St.

SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING

5 to 5:30 p.m. / The Fredonia Hotel, 200 N. Fredonia St.

"BACK IN NAC" SOCIAL

5:30 to 8 p.m. / Nine Flags Bar, The Fredonia Hotel, 200 N. Fredonia St.

To kick off the weekend, join the SFA Alumni Nacogdoches Chapter for the happiest of all happy hours at the "Back in Nac" Social. Enjoy purple beer (for purchase), awesome appetizer specials, live music,

a photo booth and more! Be sure to go by after the bonfire festivities for late-night specials, too!

HOMECOMING JACK TRACK BUS SHUTTLE

7 to 10:30 p.m.

Free shuttle service between the bonfire, coliseum and The Fredonia Hotel.

JACK MADNESS

7 p.m. / Johnson Coliseum / SFA Campus / Free admission

Cheer on your SFA Lumberjack and Ladyjack basketball teams! Tons of prizes will be given away, and a dunk contest will add to the excitement.

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, OCT. 21

HOMECOMING FLAP "JACK" BREAKFAST

8 to 10 a.m. / The Fredonia Hotel, 200 N. Fredonia St.

Enjoy breakfast like a Lumberjack with flap "jacks." Decorate your meal with purple goodies, grab a Lumberjack coloring sheet, take photos with the SFA Lumberjack, Ladyjack and spirit teams (8 to 9 a.m.), enjoy the Bloody Mary and mimosa bar, and listen to live music. The event is free for Alumni Association life members and one guest and Homecoming 5K participants. Other guests will be charged a nominal fee.

EIGHTH ANNUAL LUMBERJACK HOMECOMING 5K

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

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

Race Start: Downtown Nacogdoches

Start your day with a run around the SFA campus and beautiful Nacogdoches. All participants will receive a free flap "jack" breakfast at The Fredonia Hotel, and the first 100 participants are guaranteed a T-shirt. Prizes will be awarded to best overall male and female times and 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 "UNMASQUE YOUR SPIRIT/SFA HOMECOMING."

ALUMNI CORNER

Noon at the corner of Raguet and Hayter streets

Join the SFA Alumni Association for delicious Cajun-themed tailgate food, the Suddenlink "Bundle U" viewing lounge, giveaways, photo booth, games and live music. Free Homecoming T-shirts for the first 100 guests.

Alumni Corner is FREE for Alumni Association members; \$15 for non-members; *\$5 for children ages 6-10 (with adult); and FREE for children 5 and younger (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, Kona premium tropical shaved ice, balloon animals, Lumberjack and Mardi Gras crafts, games and giveaways. The event is FREE and fun for children of all ages. The first 100 children receive a FREE "Future Alumni" T-shirt.

DUCK DASH

1 p.m. at the Ag Pond

Watch rubber ducks race to win cool prizes and raise money for the Alumni Association. 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.

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

3 p.m. at Homer Bryce Stadium

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

SUNDAY, OCT. 22

SECOND STORY TOURS

1 to 4 p.m. / Downtown Nacogdoches

Enjoy a tour through some of the beautiful lofts and buildings while experiencing the breathtaking architecture and history downtown has to offer. Downtown stores will be open to shop for unique Nacogdoches finds. Tickets are \$25 per person.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

Alumni Corner Tailgate: 3 p.m.

SFA vs. Southern Utah University: 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 16

Alumni Corner Tailgate: 3 p.m.

SFA vs. University of the Incarnate Word: 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30

PARENTS DAY

Alumni Corner Tailgate: 3 p.m.

SFA vs. McNeese State University: 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 21

HOMECOMING

Alumni Corner Tailgate: Noon

SFA vs. Houston Baptist University: 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 11

Alumni Corner Tailgate: Noon

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

LOOK FOR THE ALUMNI CORNER TENT AT THESE AWAY GAMES!

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

Alumni Corner Tailgate: 3 p.m.

SFA vs. Southern Methodist University: 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 7

BATTLE OF THE PINEY WOODS

Alumni Corner: 9 a.m.

SFA vs. Sam Houston State University: 1 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.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 1966.



JAMES DICKERSON '68



STEVE MCCARTY '65 & '70



DR. W.V. "MIKE" ROBERTSON '51
AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award was established in 1989.



JULIE WOODS '99

LUMBERJACK PRIDE

The Lumberjack Pride Award was established in 2015.



SYDNI MITCHELL '10 & '12

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

The Distinguished Professor Award was established in 1966.



DR. MICHAEL TKACIK

AWARDS CEREMONY / FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

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

THE FREDONIA HOTEL

TICKETS: (936) 468-3407 OR SOWELLJM1@SFASU.EDU
LIMITED SEATING

Alumni Calendar /

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

SEPTEMBER

1

Lumberjack Pre-Game Party

6 to 7:30 p.m.
El Fenix Mexican Restaurant
1601 McKinney Ave. / Dallas

2

SFA Football vs. Southern Methodist University Tailgate

3 p.m. / Dallas

SFA Football vs. SMU

6 p.m. / Dallas

8

Alumni Association Board Meeting

Tracie D. Pearman Alumni Center
300 Vista Drive / Nacogdoches

Alumni Awards

Reception: 6 p.m.
Dinner: 6:45 p.m.
The Fredonia Hotel, 200 N. Fredonia St.
Nacogdoches

9

Alumni Corner Tailgate

3 p.m. / Corner of Raguet and Hayter streets
Nacogdoches

SFA Football vs. Southern Utah University

6 p.m. / Homer Bryce Stadium
Nacogdoches

16

The Lumberjack Marching Band and Twirl-O-Jacks Reunion

Nacogdoches

Alumni Corner Tailgate

3 p.m. / Corner of Raguet and Hayter streets
Nacogdoches

SFA Football vs. University of the Incarnate Word

6 p.m.
Homer Bryce Stadium / Nacogdoches

Lettermen's Day/Jacks of Honor Induction

Football Halftime Show
Homer Bryce Stadium / Nacogdoches

26

National Lumberjack Appreciation Day

30

Alumni Corner Tailgate

3 p.m. / Corner of Raguet and Hayter streets
Nacogdoches

SFA Football vs. McNeese State University (Parents Day)

6 p.m.
Homer Bryce Stadium / Nacogdoches

OCTOBER

2-5

SFA Ring Week

Tracie D. Pearman Alumni Center
300 Vista Drive / Nacogdoches

7

Battle of the Piney Woods Tailgate

9 a.m. / NRG Stadium / Houston

Battle of the Piney Woods

SFA Football vs. Sam Houston State University

1 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.

12-22

Homecoming Online Auction

Begins: 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12
Ends: 9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 22
Visit biddingforgood.com/sfahomecoming to bid on your favorite items and help raise money for SFA scholarships!

16-22

SFA Homecoming Storefront Decorating Competition in Nacogdoches

Judging: Oct. 16-22

18

Fall Tuition Raffle Drawing

20-22

HOMECOMING WEEKEND

See Pages 36-37 for more information.

NOVEMBER

10

Alumni Association Board Meeting

Tracie D. Pearman Alumni Center
300 Vista Drive / Nacogdoches

11

Golden Jacks 50-Year Anniversary

SFA Campus / Nacogdoches

Alumni Corner Tailgate

Noon / Corner of Raguet and Hayter streets
Nacogdoches

SFA Football vs. Nicholls State University

3 p.m.
Homer Bryce Stadium / Nacogdoches

DECEMBER

1

Big Dip Ring Ceremony

The Fredonia Hotel
200 N. Fredonia St. / Nacogdoches

9:30 a.m. – James I. Perkins College of Education, 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

5

Senior Send Off

5:30 to 7 p.m.
Location TBA
Nacogdoches

9

SFA Gala

Baker Pattillo Student Center
Grand Ballroom / Nacogdoches

Scholarships and Life Members

Marie Mansi Packard Scholarship

MARIE MANSI PACKARD was born in Galveston, Texas, Aug. 19, 1926. She embodied the true spirit of an American. Her father was an Italian immigrant who came to this country through Ellis Island. Her mother was born in Galveston, but she was sent back to Italy as a young girl to be raised by family members after her mother died. The family lived through the Great Depression and worked hard at making a good life.

Packard joined the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps June 1, 1945, and although she attended nursing school but a short time, she always talked about how much she loved it. She left school when she met and married Bernard J. Packard Sr., and the couple later had

five children. Packard was a deeply religious woman and daily recited the rosary. Always full of energy, she focused her life on faith, family and friends.

Packard's daughter, Mildred Rose Russell Muckleroy, said her mother would be proud to know she is helping someone else achieve his or her dream of becoming a nurse. The Marie Mansi



Packard Scholarship is lovingly established in her memory by Muckleroy; Thomas Reeves Russell, Packard's grandson; and Laura Frances Russell, Packard's granddaughter. ★

Scholarships Help Make Dreams Come True

HOW TO ENDOW A SCHOLARSHIP:

A minimum of \$20,000 is required to endow a scholarship and may be accomplished during a 10-year period. Scholarships are endowed by cash, gifts, corporate matching gifts, gifts of stock, bonds, life insurance, memorial contributions and wills.

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- ① Make the decision to help.** Future SFA alumni need your financial assistance. Plan your contribution.
- ② Name your scholarship.** You may name your scholarship after yourself or in memory or in honor of someone.
- ③ Determine eligibility criteria.** You may include college major or GPA or restrict the scholarship to certain types of recipients.
- ④ Complete an endowment packet.** You may download and submit documents online at sfaalumni.com or request documents via U.S. mail.

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

Phone: (936) 468-3407 / Toll Free: (800) 765-1534

Email: alumni@sfasu.edu / Website: sfaalumni.com

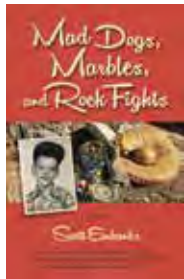
Life Members

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

- 8186. Victoria E. Matthews '15, Atascocita
- 8187. Ryan A. Fisk '16, Mount Vernon
- 8188. Dr. Ted L. Mitchell '83, Lubbock
- 8189. Marcus Adrian Gutierrez '16, Mansfield
- 8190. Richard A. "Bud" DeWitt '07, Nacogdoches
- 8191. Lorna J. Ellis '82, Kingsland
- 8192. Steven K. Hutchinson '84, Huntington Beach, California
- 8193. Dr. Derek C. Powers '95, Nacogdoches
- 8194. Suzanne K. Powers '95 & '97, Nacogdoches
- 8195. Amber L. Smith '05, Nacogdoches
- 8196. Kayla N. Myers '16, Palestine
- 8197. Scott Douglass Davis '17, Nacogdoches
- 8198. Patrick W. Ledet '17, Nacogdoches
- 8200. Marissa A. McLeane '17, Cleveland, Texas
- 8201. Kelsey E. Matter '17, Nacogdoches
- 8202. Kristan R. Smith '10 & '13, Nacogdoches
- 8203. Hailey M. Hunt '17, Plano
- 8204. Taryn M. Smith '15, Plano
- 8205. Anthony K. Key '12, Nacogdoches
- 8206. Michelle N. Key '05, Nacogdoches
- 8207. Michael Scott Davis '03, Lufkin
- 8208. Karen S. Lostracco '00, Nacogdoches
- 8209. Daniel D. Usher '12 & '16, Lufkin
- 8210. Kathleen M. Usher '12, Lufkin
- 8211. Robert Ian McDonald '09, Chireno
- 8212. Ian S. Campbell '17, Kingwood

Class Notes

1960s



← **Scott Eubanks '68** of Scottsdale, Arizona, wrote a book titled "Mad Dogs, Marbles and Rock Fights" about his days growing up in Marshall.

Glenda Barron '69 of Bullard was one of nine individuals inducted as members of the Class of 2017 on the Bullard ISD Wall of Honor.

John M. Vaught '69 of Denver was selected as president-elect of the Colorado Bar Association.

1970s

Former Nueces County Commissioner and former City Councilman **Joe McComb '70** of Corpus Christi was elected mayor of Corpus Christi.



← Five SFA alumni took a Caribbean cruise earlier this year, including **Dr. Dave Hylink '71 & '72**, **Steff Hylink '72**, both of Rapid City, South Dakota; **Steve Casey '73** and his wife, Janet, of Houston; and **Bill Murphy '73** and **Dr. Marla Murphy '73** of Plano.

Bill Owens '73 of Denver was one of five former Colorado governors to speak at a Governor's Forum hosted by the Denver office of the international law firm Greenberg Traurig regarding their perspective on issues impacting Colorado.



← **Deborah Keys '75** of Rowlett published a book titled "Why Do You Think I Call You Mama?" Her book gives an honest and sometimes humorous account of her time as a caregiver to her mother, who suffered from dementia.

Texas Monthly recognized **Phyllis Martin '75** of Houston, a financial advisor for MassMutual Greater Houston, as a five-star wealth manager in 2015 and 2016. Forbes' special issue, Forbes 2016

Investment Guide, also recognized Martin as one of eight wealth managers in the country based on certain benchmarks that identify high quality in the industry.



← **Jim Phaup '75 & '78** of Sunnyvale was named CEO of Sanden International USA. He also began his ninth term as Sunnyvale mayor in May.

Dr. Ross Tomlin '75 & '80 of Tillamook, Oregon, was chosen as Tillamook Bay Community College's new president.

Paul Beran '78 & '80 of Fort Smith, Arkansas, is chancellor of the University of Arkansas-Fort Smith and recently oversaw the development of the university's 2017-22 Strategic Plan.

Thomas Brown '78 of Kilgore was awarded the Blue Ribbon Medal of Excellence for Student Success by Kilgore College.

Charles Castle '79 of Colorado Springs will have his book, "Inspiration for the Heart," published by SFA University Press.

Dr. Sherilyn Emberton '79 & '81 of Huntington, Indiana, was selected as the 2017 Panola College Alumna of the Year.

1980s

Doice Grant '82 of Longview was inducted into the SFA Band Directors' Hall of Fame.

Brian K. McCabe '82 of Tyler was appointed senior executive vice president and chief operating officer of Southside Bancshares Inc.

E. Paul Cauley Jr. '83 of Dallas joined Drinker Biddle and Reath as a partner in February.

James M. Jones '83 of Southlake joined WellMed Medical Management as associate growth officer for North Texas.

Kathy Morgan '83 & '88 of Austin was the community professional winner of the Austin Child Guidance Center's fifth annual Phyllis Richards Austin Icon for Children Award.

Dr. Philip T. Reynolds '83 opened San Augustine Smiles in December 2015.

Sarah Ward '83 of Tyler retired from Whitehouse High School after teaching Spanish and French there for 20 years.

Jeff Pownall '85 of Lufkin was named interim managing editor of The Lufkin News.

Pat Stacey '85 of Tyler, vice president and general manager of KLTV-TV and KTRE-TV, was guest speaker for the Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce's 2017 annual membership banquet.

Marc Jernigan '86 of Orange Park, Florida, was elected president of the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors in January.

Cyndi Lemke '87 of Keller is an English and journalism instructor at Keller High School and advisor to the student-run newspaper. She also coaches UIL journalism events.

Deidre L. Shearer '89 of Houston was appointed vice president and corporate secretary of Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation.

1990s



← Cherokee County **Judge Chris Davis '91 & '01** of Alto was one of three people appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to the Texas County and District Retirement System Board of Trustees.

Class Notes

Kevin Atkinson '92 of Denton is the new head football coach and athletic coordinator at Marcus High School in Lewisville.

Scott Callaway '92 of Bullard was named athletic director and head football coach at Bullard High School.

Michael B. Croswell Jr. '94 of Irving, the chief financial officer of Zion Oil & Gas, was appointed to the company's board of directors.

David Lynch '94 of Longview was named principal of Spring Hill Junior High.

Michael Smith '94 of Decorah, Iowa, conducted the Trombone Choir and Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble during a performance by Luther College's brass ensembles in April. Smith is associate professor of music at Luther College.

Donny Webb '94 & '99 of Lufkin was named Hudson ISD superintendent.

Kayla Cagan '95 of Los Angeles had her book "Piper Perish" published by Chronicle Books.

Mario Canizares '95 of Denton was named assistant city manager for the City of Denton.



Rebecca Daniels '95 of Sanbornton, New Hampshire, is now an innkeeper at The Lake House, a bed and breakfast on Lake Winnisquam.

← **David Bradley Cates '96** and Leigh Ann Woitena, both of Santa Fe, Texas, were married in September.

Troy L. Carson '97 of Houston was named chief financial officer for Hoover Ferguson Group.

Shane Rohrbach '97 of Flint, Texas, presented at the Better Business Bureau Serving Central East Texas' March Lunch.Learn.Lead. workshop. Rohrbach is a certified public accountant with Gollob Morgan Peddy.

Jeffrey Baggett '98 of Corsicana was named environmental compliance officer with Texas Environmental Training and Compliance.

Dr. Robert Long III '98 of Tomball, principal at Delores E. Thompson Elementary School in Spring ISD, was appointed by Gov. Greg Abbott to serve on the Texas School Safety Center Board.

J.P. Richardson '98 of Gladewater was named Tatum ISD superintendent.



Sereniah Breland '99 of Alvin was elected director-at-large to the Texas City Management Association Board of Directors.

← **Kinnie '99** and **Jason Reina '03 & '17** of Nacogdoches announced the April birth of Evan Michael.

2000s

Mandy Sargent '00 of Austin was named principal of Rooster Springs Elementary School in Dripping Springs ISD.

D. Robert Holcomb '01 of Wylie joined 7-Eleven Inc., headquartered in Irving, as digital legal attorney.

Dr. Donny Lee '02 was named Oakwood ISD superintendent.

Brooke Lipsey '02 of Carthage was appointed to the Panola College Board of Trustees. She is an auditor for Panola County.

David Madrid '02 of Bossier City, Louisiana, was recently honored by Jack's Compliance Master Group as the 2016 Member of the Year for his contributions to the group.

Brett A. Richardson '02 of San Antonio was selected as a semi-finalist and received honorable mention in the college/university wind ensemble conducting category of the 2016 American Prize Competition.

Bullard ISD named **Season Caughlin '03** as the district's first girls' soccer coach for the 2017-18 year.

Tim King '05 of Crockett was named park superintendent for Fairfield Lake State Park.



Greenville ISD Board of Trustees named **Dr. Demetrus Liggins '05** of Duncanville as superintendent.

← **Candice '05** and Cory Rivenburgh of Attleboro, Massachusetts, announced the December birth of Cooper Jay.

BRITTANY BOCCHER

'05 of Little Rock, Arkansas, was named the 2017 Armed Forces Insurance Military Spouse of the Year presented by Military Spouse magazine. Boccher has been a military spouse for 11 years, and she is a tireless advocate, volunteer and mentor for military families. Mother of a 2-year-old son with Down syndrome and a 4-year-old daughter, Boccher is the founder and director of the Down Syndrome Advancement Coalition's "Tank Filled Life" project, partnering with organizations across Arkansas to educate the community about Down syndrome and advocate for those with family members who have special needs. She also is the owner of Brittany Boccher Photography and co-owner of Mason Chix apparel. Both companies directly support the advancement of Down syndrome treatment, research and neurodevelopmental therapies, as well as other military spouse entrepreneurs.



Class Notes

➔ **DeAndre '05** and **Andrea Smith '05** of Houston announced the February birth of Cameron DeAndre Smith.



← **Lucie '06** and **Adam Blye '07** of Cedar Park announced the October birth of their second son, Knox Hunter Blye.



Two SFA alumnae were named principals at Forney ISD schools. **Jenny Harstrom '11** of Gun Barrel City was hired as principal of Lewis Elementary School, and **Leslie Rader '13** was hired as principal at Crosby Elementary School.

Alex Ranc '11 & '13 of Lufkin joined the Angelina College faculty as a full-time speech instructor.



← **Emma Gorman '12** of McKinney and Justin Gautreaux of Lafayette, Louisiana, were married in November in Plano.

Rebecca Newman '12 of San Antonio received her Certified Tourism Executive Certification at the Texas Travel and Tourism College Conference.



← **Curtis '06** and **Kim Cole '06** announced the March birth of their second son, Carson.

Benjamin Hairgrove '06 & '14 of Fort Worth was named principal of Mandela International Magnet School.

Amber Burda '09 of Santa Fe, Texas, was named executive director of sponsorships, business and corporate development at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Helene Cortinas '09 was named assistant principal of Bullard Middle School.



← **Olivia Ross '09** of Houston was named senior communications specialist for CenterPoint Energy in Houston.

➔ **Veronica Weaver '09 & '11** and **Johnnie Beavers '16**, both of Nacogdoches, were married in April.



Errol Reid '12 of Killeen was hired as a logistics business improvement specialist for Tesoro Corporation.

Tameika Sanchez '12 of Arlington was named Dallas Mavericks Classroom Champions' Teacher of the Year.



← **Casey '14** and **Morgann Hawkins '14** of Dallas announced the March birth of Avery Laine.

Allena Perry '15 of Italy, Texas, traveled to Guatemala on a mission trip with Story International. She spent several months teaching orphans English, art and Bible classes.

George Lane '16 of Washington, D.C., is assistant director of external relations at the Federalist Society for the Law and Public Policy.

Laura Maher '16 of Cleveland, Ohio, was featured in the February publication of Interiors + Sources magazine.

Ally Gallier '17 of Nacogdoches completed an internship with Henry & Peters and was hired as a staff associate in the Tyler office in June.

2010s

Ben Bagley '10 of Kilgore was named senior pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

The Plainview ISD Board of Trustees named **Robin Salazar '10** as the new director for accountability and assessment.

Share your Lumberjack story!

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sfasu.edu/sawdust/survey



In Memoriam

DR. STANLEY GERALD ALEXANDER



Dr. Stanley Gerald Alexander, professor of English, passed away March 29. Alexander joined SFA's faculty in

1968 and taught at the university until his retirement. Alexander enjoyed folk music, played the guitar and formed the East Texas String Ensemble with other music-loving SFA faculty members. He was active in Nacogdoches politics, and he loved spending time with his family.

JUDITH LYNN BISS



Lecturer of Business Communication Judith Lynn Biss passed away June 24. Biss began teaching at SFA in 1999.

She volunteered her time as host for the SFA International Friendship Program and was a past recipient of the Marlin C. Young Outstanding Teacher Award. Biss was a member of Grace Bible Church, Beta Gamma Sigma, Association for Business Communication, and Texas Business and Technology Educators Association.

ROY M. BLAKE SR.



Roy M. Blake Sr. of Nacogdoches passed away March 4. Blake received his bachelor's degree from SFA in 1950 and later established

Roy Blake Insurance. Blake began a distinguished career in public service in 1951, as he completed his brother's term as district clerk. He served on the Nacogdoches City

Commission for three terms beginning in 1965, and he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1972 where he served until 1977. In 1978, Blake was elected to the Texas Senate, serving until 1989. While a member of the Senate, he served as chairman of the Senate Administration Committee and as a member on numerous other committees. Blake's civic service included president of the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce, Piney Woods Country Club, Booster Club and Region 16 Texas Municipal League. He served as director of Fredonia State Bank, and he was a member of the SFASU Foundation and Rotary Club. Blake served on SFA's Board of Regents from 1989-94.

ELTON LANNIE CHANEY



Elton Lannie Chaney, assistant professor of mathematics at SFA for 38 years, passed away May 21. Chaney received his

bachelor's and master's degrees from SFA in 1957 and 1963, respectively. He taught high school in Arp, Buna and Tyler before moving his family back to Nacogdoches to teach. In 1973, SFA President Ralph W. Steen appointed Chaney to serve as a faculty representative to the Lone Star Conference Athletic Council. He remained in that position for eight years, serving two as president.

A. WAYNE CORLEY



A. Wayne Corley, a 1963 SFA accounting graduate, passed away Jan. 31. Corley graduated from Garrison High School and went

on to play football at SFA on scholarship. After graduation, he worked for Price Waterhouse in Houston. He later moved to Lufkin and began a 35-year career at Axley & Rode where he worked as a CPA and served as a partner of the firm. After retirement, he served as executive director of the T.L.L. Temple Foundation and on the foundation's investment committee. Additionally, Corley served as a board member for Hospice in the Pines. He was a big supporter of SFA, Hospice in the Pines, Ellen Trout Zoo, Boy Scouts and Angelina College, among others. He was a member of First Christian Church of Lufkin.

JACK H. AND JO BETH DICKERSON



Jack H. and Jo Beth Dickerson, friends of SFA, passed

away May 14 and March 24, respectively. The Dickersons were the parents of Robert D. Dickerson, a 1991 SFA graduate who died of cancer in 1994. The annual Robert D. Dickerson Memorial Golf Tournament held in Nacogdoches benefits the Robert D. Dickerson Memorial Sigma Phi Epsilon Housing Fund and adds to the Robert D. Dickerson Memorial Scholarship. The Dickersons resided in Quitman.

DR. KIRBY L. DUNCAN



Dr. Kirby L. Duncan, former SFA professor of English, passed away March 5 at his Nacogdoches home. A member of SFA's faculty for 40 years,

In Memoriam

Duncan served as chair of the English department and as a lower-division coordinator. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved to hunt and fish. He also was a prolific gardener. Although he had many interests, his greatest love was teaching. Duncan was a principled man who understood that his greatest work in life was spent in service to others.

CARL "HENRY" B. DUNN



Lecturer of Business Communication and Legal Studies Carl "Henry" B. Dunn '04 passed away April 22. Dunn was born in

Bryan, Texas, and later lived in Tennessee. He moved back to Texas with his wife and children in 2002, taking up residence in Nacogdoches. Dunn completed his Master of Business Administration at SFA and remained at the university teaching in the College of Business. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and the outdoors.

SPIKE DYKES



Lumberjack letter winner Spike Dykes '59, who played center for the SFA Lumberjacks from 1956-58, passed away April 10.

Dykes later became a legendary football coach throughout Texas at both the high school and collegiate levels. He was named head coach of the Texas Tech Red Raiders in 1986, and he led the team to an 82-67-1 record during his tenure in Lubbock. He was the three-time Southwest Conference Coach of the Year and was named the Big 12 Coach of the Year in 1996.

DR. CAROLYN B. MITCHELL



Former SFA Professor Dr. Carolyn B. Mitchell passed away May 21 in Nacogdoches. Mitchell came to SFA to teach

kinesiology in 1976 and retired in 2002. During her tenure at SFA, she had many articles published. Mitchell received the National Women's Business and Professional Association Woman of the Year Award and the City of Nacogdoches Woman of the Year Award. She was named Director of the Year for the Nacogdoches Treatment Center, served as a board member for the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce and received many additional professional and civic awards.

CHARLES RAYMOND "RAY" MIZE



Charles Raymond "Ray" Mize '50 passed away March 13. A lifelong resident of Nacogdoches, Ray and his wife, Gayla,

had great influence on the city, establishing many beautiful gardens. After Gayla's death in 2009, Ray worked to establish the Gayla Mize Garden in her honor. Agriculture was of great importance to Ray, and he spent much of his life involved in cattle ranching. He generously hosted numerous FFA field days, and for almost 40 years, he served on the Soil and Water Conservation Board. He was an original member of the Lake Naconiche Board. In 2001, Ray was presented with the Pete Smith Agricultural Pioneer Award. He was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Nacogdoches and enjoyed membership in the Rotary Club of Nacogdoches.

DR. JOSEPH G. ORMSBY



Former Professor of Management Dr. Joseph G. Ormsby passed away April 13 in North Carolina. Ormsby was born in

Nashville, Tennessee, and spent his life in pursuit of education. He served in the Army as a member of the Chemical Corps and later attended the University of Arkansas where he earned his doctoral degree in management. He enjoyed golf, carpentry and fishing.

MARY "DOROTHY" WISELY



Mary "Dorothy" Wisely '40 of Indianapolis, Indiana, passed away March 5. She was the only child of Ruby May and Byron H. Mize.

The Mizes established Mize Department Store, a downtown landmark that served Nacogdoches for decades. Dorothy married Harold Wisely, the son of J.H. and Allie Wisely. The first SFA residence hall was named in honor of Dorothy's father-in-law. After earning a doctoral degree at Northwestern University in Chicago, Harold became the first industrial psychologist at Eli Lilly. Dorothy endowed the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden on the SFA campus in memory of her mother and the Wisely Honors Scholarship to encourage student achievement. Dorothy enjoyed tending her own garden and traveling the world. She excelled in ballroom dancing, beginning with lessons in her 50s and going on to win more than a dozen competitions. She was an active volunteer and benefactor and a loving daughter, wife, mother and grandmother. Her generosity and spirit touched all who knew her.

In Memoriam

Deedy Adams '70 & '83 of Kilgore, April 3
Nelda R. Allen '75 of Kilgore, Jan. 28
Auvie A. Bailey '56 of Midland, Feb. 14
Pamela Hitt Bailey '85 of Center, Feb. 15
Dr. Roger M. Baker '61 of Alto, June 15
Beth Banks '72 of Rusk, March 26
Gwen T. Barron '62 of Carthage, March 22
Randell A. Beavers '72 & '74 of Houston, May 4
Stanley P. Benckenstein II '73 of Lufkin, May 14
Leon R. Bernsen Jr. '72 of Corpus Christi, Feb. 6
George W. Blankenship Jr. '59 of Austin, March 9
Harold F. Bogan of Nacogdoches, donor and friend of SFA, May 13
Eleanor V. Fisk Boldt '61 of Lake Charles, Louisiana, April 24
Mickey K. Box '98 & '04 of Nacogdoches, Jan. 31
Charles A. Boyd '93 & '95 of Nacogdoches, June 15
Jean C. Brannon '71 of Tyler, Feb. 3.
Joyce F. Brooks '50 & '68 of Tenaha, June 7
Elbert H. Bush Jr. '53 of Lufkin, March 27
Sharon S. Carney '73 of San Marcos, California, Jan. 30
Sam Thomas Cimino '03 of Shreveport, Louisiana, June 5
Nancy M. Collier '67 of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Feb. 10
Colleen M. Currier '74 of North Plainfield, New Jersey, March 24
Sandra G. Curry '79 of Lufkin, Jan. 29
Bill Denman '55 & '56 of Lake Jackson, Texas, April 7
William F. Desoi '77 of Auburn, Maine, March 26
Carol A. Dohanich '80 of Nacogdoches, May 3
Lt. Chris Fitzgerald '99 of Lufkin, March 20
Linda D. Flowers '99 & '01 of Lufkin, Feb. 19
Virginia D. Fodge '76 of Woodstock, Georgia, May 21
James Hugh "Jimmy" Glass '57 of Jacksonville, Texas, March 2
Vera W. Gords '72 of San Antonio, May 18
Mary M. Griffin '62 of Lufkin, Feb. 8
Stephen H. Groth '69 of Katy, Feb. 15
Dwayne D. Hallman '84 of Nacogdoches, Feb. 2
Melva Diana Haney '76 of Nacogdoches, March 23
Dow C. Harleston '64 of Tyler, June 2
Glenese Hensarling '84 of San Augustine, March 4
Deborah A. Hernandez '93 of Crockett, April 11
Michael W. Herring '68 & '70 of Midland, June 20
Frances Josephine "Jo" Highfield '38 of Deer Park, June 22, 2016
Willa D. Hinton '66 of Henderson, March 26
Kresta L. Hollers '00 of Lufkin, Feb. 25
Damon R. Hollingsworth '47 of Marble Falls, Feb. 20, 2016
Weldon Dana "Danny" Hoya '71 of Rockwall, May 10
Shirley J. Hughes of Nacogdoches, donor and friend of SFA, May 28

Benjamin M. Johnson '94 of Carrollton, March 21
Deanna King Johnson '76 of Cedar Hill, Nov. 8
Nelderine T. Johnson '80 of Longview, Feb. 1
Norma A. King '75 of Marshall, May 25
Kitty Morris Kyle '69 of Houston, Feb. 20
Mickey D. Lewis '70 & '74 of Malakoff, March 26
Robert Kyle Lumpkin '81 of Austin, March 11
Lonnie Wayne Mahone '62 & '65 of Texarkana, Feb. 26
Robert B. McDonald III '74 of Aransas Pass, May 29
Shelley J. McKay '76 of Bastrop, Jan. 27
Douglas McLaren '61 of Natchitoches, Louisiana, April 20
John W. McWhorter '93 of Henderson, March 1
Dr. Louis E. Neff '53 of Nacogdoches, March 28
Dr. Robert N. Nelson '56 of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Oct. 9
W.A. Parker '53 & '61 of Linden, Feb. 21
Jimye A. Pipes '41 & '52 of Maydelle, Feb. 6
Betty B. Plyler '54 of Tyler, May 27
Mary Powell '53 & '75 of Carthage, March 19
Wallace C. Read '49 & '52 of Henderson, Jan. 16
Mabel I. Rector '58 & '64 of Nacogdoches, March 6
Doyline Rhodes '72 & '77 of Kilgore, June 5
Gary R. Roberts '96 of Georgetown, March 5
Dr. Jane E. Salbador '52 of Mount Vernon, Washington, May 20
Bennie J. Siegh '89 of Longview, Feb. 28
Scottie L. Skinner (Brief) '75 of Lewisville, March 19
David Sloan '68 & '75 of Belton, April 23
Phillip S. Speer '78 of Mena, Arkansas, May 14
Jimmy Leslie Steele '91 of Athens, Texas, Nov. 13
David P. Stoffels '78 of Gainesville, Texas, June 2
Betty K. Stone of Nacogdoches, former staff member, Feb. 7
Sarah A. Summers '41 of Rusk, May 25
Marilyn P. Sutton '73 of Livingston, March 12
Fredna J. Swan '66 of Alpine, Wyoming, Feb. 3
Mark R. Taylor '80 of Austin, Feb. 28
Lawasa O. Thomas '47 of Lufkin, March 22
Ladye Caroline Thompson '66 of Nacogdoches, April 7
Gerald Edward Thornton Sr. '52 of Jacksonville, Texas, Nov. 28
Steve E. Tolbert '70 of Henderson, Feb. 1
T. Tucker Weems '59 of Lufkin, Feb. 25
Dr. Wendell C. Wellman '06 of Natchitoches, Louisiana, Jan. 31
Thomas E. Wheatley III '70 of Houston, May 12
Earlon Williams '51 of Lufkin, April 3
Phillip L. Wood '75 of Dallas, May 14
Tommy D. Worley '68 & '72 of Athens, Texas, Jan. 24
Carla C. Ziots '87 of Allen, Feb. 8

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