

Sawdust

SPRING 2017

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

A Healing Touch

Biology alumna's work supports cancer prevention, research and survivorship programs

The Story of My Life

Mass communication alumna discusses rapid rise as news anchor/journalist

Carving Out His Niche

Two-time alumnus is internationally known 'forester-artist'



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President's Letter

"... the changes we are experiencing at SFA involve both achievements to celebrate and challenges to meet head on. Be assured, we will continue to embrace both as we work to ensure SFA continues to be a source of pride for Lumberjacks across the state and beyond."



THE GREEK PHILOSOPHER

Heraclitus famously asserted that the only constant in life is change, and university life is no exception. As we welcome the change of seasons, SFA

is undergoing big and small changes that will impact the institution for years to come.

A few of these changes can be seen and heard around campus, but some significant changes are not obvious to the casual observer. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a few of both.

This semester, we are celebrating the restoration and expansion of the Griffith Fine Arts Building's historic bell tower. Thanks to the generosity of the Charles and Lois Marie Bright Foundation, 10 bells have been added to the original 15, creating a full two-octave carillon. Various melodies, including the SFA alma mater, can now be heard by those on campus and nearby, adding to the sense of pride and tradition felt by all Lumberjacks.

Across campus, construction of the Ed and Gwen Cole STEM Building is well underway. Earlier this year, the SFA Board of Regents voted to name the building's three-story glass atrium for Regent Barry Nelson, who passed away in November 2016. As chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, he was an integral part of the building's planning phase and was particularly committed to including the atrium, which will be the building's focal point. We deeply regret Regent Nelson will not be with us to celebrate the building's opening in fall 2018, but we are comforted by the fact that such a significant aspect of SFA's architecture will appropriately bear his name.

SFA faculty and staff members continue to work collaboratively with our alumni and other stakeholders across all areas of the university, embracing the changes necessary to fulfill

the overarching goal of our "SFA Envisioned" strategic plan — transformative experiences for SFA students. Numerous action teams are diligently working to ensure we deliver on that promise, as well as achieve the plan's supporting goals to attract and support high-quality faculty and staff members; foster academic and co-curricular innovation; redefine university culture; and increase connections both within and outside the university.

As we pursue these initiatives, we are aware of expected changes in state funding that will likely present new challenges. Glenn Hegar, Texas comptroller of public accounts, projects legislators will face a \$9 billion reduction in available revenue as they construct the budget for the next biennium. Higher education will likely absorb a significant portion of this reduction. Additionally, Gov. Greg Abbott has issued a hiring freeze that will continue through August for positions funded by state appropriations.

As you can see, the changes we are experiencing at SFA involve both achievements to celebrate and challenges to meet head on. Be assured, we will continue to embrace both as we work to ensure SFA continues to be a source of pride for Lumberjacks across the state and beyond.

I encourage you to visit SFA soon. Perhaps take in an exciting Lumberjack or Ladyjack athletic event or enjoy a leisurely stroll through the gardens, which put on their best show this time of year. You are always welcome at your alma mater, and that is one thing that will never change. ★

Axe 'em, Jacks!

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



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In This Issue



A MILESTONE OCCURRED during the December 2016 graduation ceremonies as three family members received their bachelor's degrees from SFA. Kelly Gomez graduated with a degree in international business, and her parents, Rafael and Adameliz Gomez, received their degrees in general business and interdisciplinary studies, respectively. Kelly's parents, who emigrated from Colombia, took online classes while working full time. "It doesn't matter how old you are or what you've done in your life. There is always a possibility of getting a degree and pursuing bigger things," Kelly said.

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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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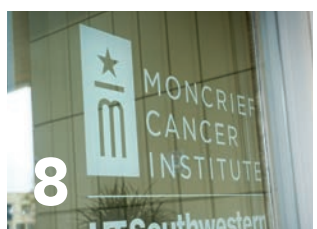
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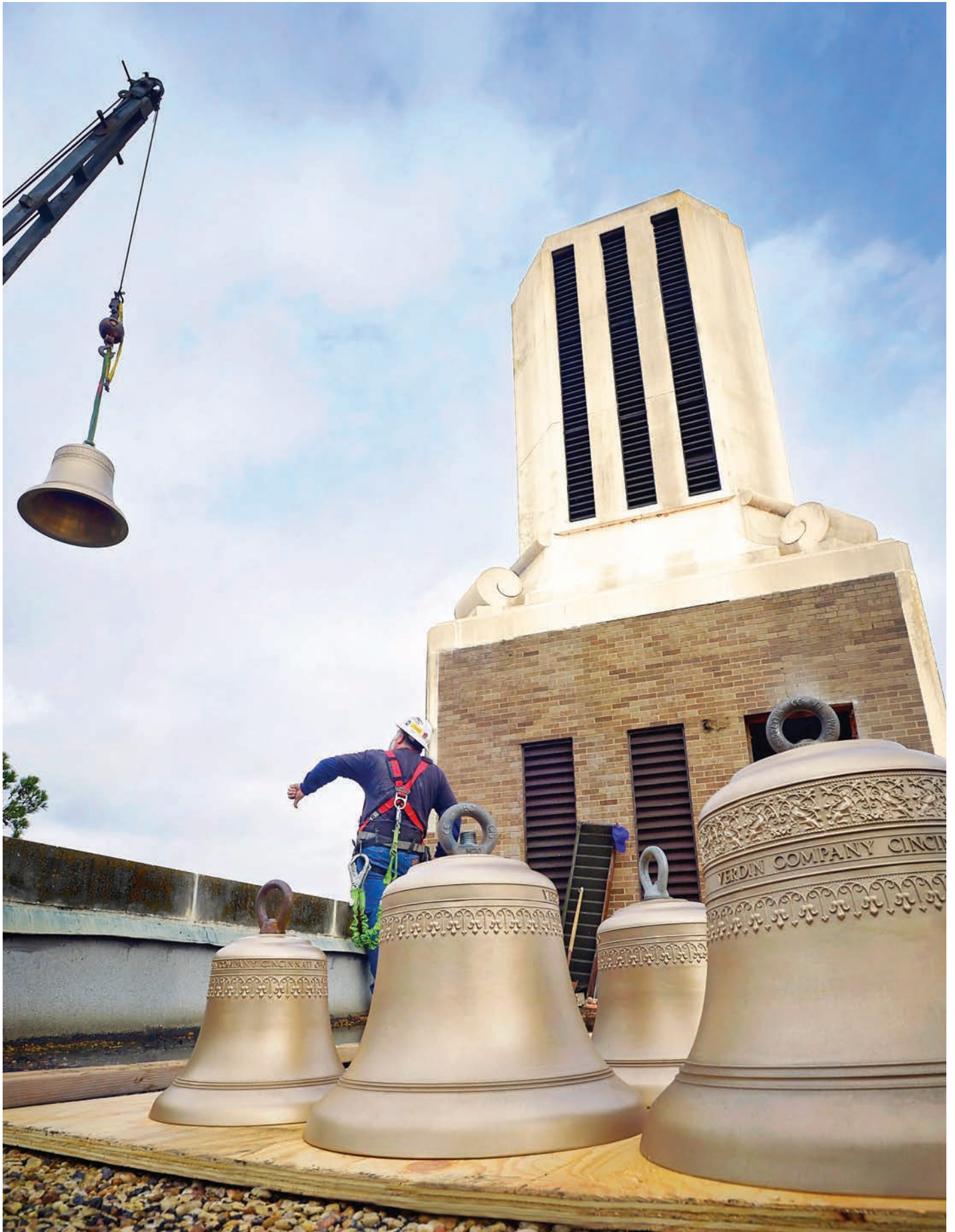
ON THE COVER:

Lori Drew '95

has cherished

her role assisting

and comforting cancer patients and their families since she began working at the Moncrief Cancer Institute in 2002. The Fort Worth facility opened in the 1950s and specializes in cancer prevention, research and survivorship.



Campanology

The art or practice
of bell-ringing



Bright Foundation's gift helps restore historic bell tower

A

UNIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT, a notable Lumberjack athletic win or a community-wide celebration can now be commemorated in a way for thousands to hear and enjoy.

A project to restore and expand the bell tower of the Griffith Fine Arts Building on the SFA campus has recently been completed through a campus-community partnership. With funding provided by the Charles and Lois Marie Bright Foundation, the newly restored bell tower rings in a new era of Lumberjack pride and spirit across campus and throughout the community.

"The Brights always had a deep love of Nacogdoches and East Texas," said Greg Williams, trustee for the Bright Foundation. "They would be very happy knowing that something old has been restored and improved for the entire community to enjoy."

Community enhancement through historical preservation is among the Bright Foundation's objectives. Williams explained the CLMBF board members agreed the bell tower project had "historical significance and community benefits that would impact the SFA campus and beyond — into the city of Nacogdoches."

Approved last summer by the SFA Board of Regents, the project added 10 new bells to the original 15 installed when the Griffith Fine Arts Building was constructed in 1959. The addition created a full two-octave chromatic carillon. The combined 25 cast-bronze bells can be played serially to produce a melody or sounded together to create harmony. Previously, the original 15 bells did not constitute any musical scale, which limited the types of melodies that could be played.

The Verdin Bell and Clock Company, the installers of the original bell tower in 1959, completed the project in two phases. In August 2016, the existing bells were dismantled from the frame and relocated to a temporary staging area in the tower. The original frame also was removed. In January, Verdin installed a new frame, delivered the 10 new bells, ranging from 84 to 977 pounds, and installed the entire 25 bells and new strikers on each. A.G. Perry and Son Cranes completed the tedious and skillful delivery of these items, from ground to rooftop to inside the bell tower.

The four legs of the new frame are more than 18 feet long, according to Steve Bacarisse, College of Fine Arts technical director. The crane suspended them at the roof doorway while the Verdin crew attached a chain hoist to guide them inside and into place. →

Story by Robbie Goodrich / Photography by Hardy Meredith



Verdin Bell and Clock Company bell installers Dave Larsen, left, and Steve Schoenig carefully move the first new bell into the Griffith Fine Arts Building tower. The original 1959-era bells rest in the foreground awaiting re-installation. All 25 bells, 15 original and 10 new, create a full two-octave chromatic carillon.

A new computer system that allows for chimes and programming of a wide variety of melodies also was installed to operate the bells. Among the songs that will be chimed daily will be the SFA alma mater, according to Dr. A.C. “Buddy” Himes, dean of the College of Fine Arts, who took a personal interest in programming the tune to be heard at noon each day.

“SFA’s new strategic plan recognizes SFA as an institution that is ‘strongly grounded in tradition,’” Himes said. “Everyone recognizes that a university campus with a bell tower that is heard chiming the hours throughout the day can help provide a strong sense of identity and tradition. The new bells tolling the SFA alma mater daily will tie the bell tower strongly to this sense of tradition.”

Himes also envisions integrating the bell tower into campus and community life. For example, during the holiday season, the bells could be programmed to play carols as a prelude for any number of events while people are on campus, such as during the holiday lighting ceremony, the SFA Gala, the Choral Masterworks concert or the University Series Christmas show.

“The same could be true for other events throughout the year that attract the community to campus,” Himes added, “such as the Archie McDonald Speaker Series, or when the campus hosts important guests. Moreover, the bell tower also could be the centerpiece for various types of outdoor ceremonial performances that could include ensembles from the School of Music or community, including dedications or patriotic and memorial ceremonies.”

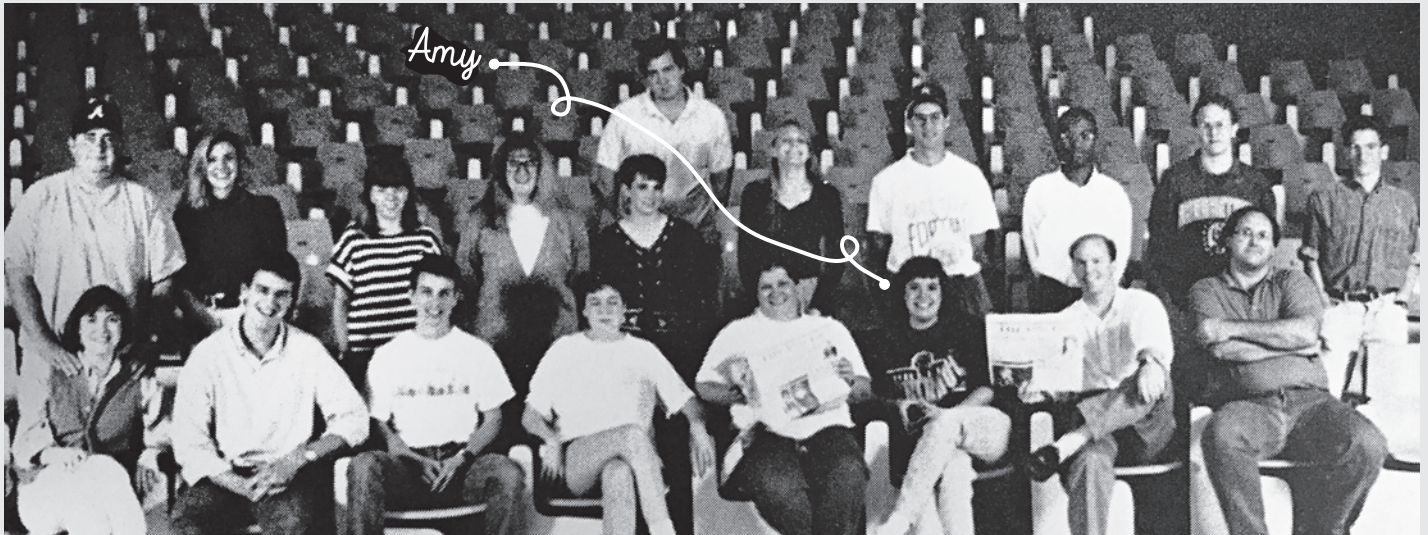
Himes said the Bright Foundation’s support of the bell tower’s restoration was critical to the project’s success.

“By working together, something of benefit for both SFA and the entire community has been produced,” he said. “Without this support, the bell tower would be continuing to deteriorate. I hope we can find other projects that may have the potential to further contribute to the Bright Foundation’s mission.” ★

Construction of the Griffith Fine Arts Building began in 1959 after Temple Associates of Diboll was awarded the construction contract for the \$1.5 million auditorium and Griffith Fine Arts Building (1960 photo).



Vista Viewpoint



THE PINE LOG STAFF PICTURED IN THE 1993 STONE FORT YEARBOOK / Amy (Walton) Roquemore served as editor-in-chief of *The Pine Log* during her senior year. She is pictured with fellow *Pine Log* staff members.

BY AMY ROQUEMORE '93 & '12

THE PINE LOG AND STONE FORT YEARBOOK

Director of Student Publications and Divisional Media



ONE OF THE first lessons aspiring journalists are taught is that we should avoid clichés in our writing. Later, we also learn that it is OK to break the rules when there is a really good reason to do so. I hope my old SFA journalism professors would agree this qualifies. You see, I have been trying to resist the urge to write that my professional life has “come full circle.” However, despite earnest effort, I can think of no better way to describe the past two years serving as advisor to *The Pine Log* student newspaper.

In the early 1990s, I wandered into the musty, windowless headquarters of *The Pine Log*, which was wedged in a corner of the basement of the student center back in those days. The visit came shortly after I had naively applied for a summer internship at the local paper where a well-meaning (but direct) publisher asked me the obvious question — “Why don’t you try writing for the student newspaper and then check back with me after you have some experience?”

I vividly recall nervously meeting with *The Pine Log*’s student editor-in-chief and trying to sound much more confident in my writing and copy editing abilities than I actually felt. Somehow, I convinced her to hire me. And I don’t think it’s an exaggeration to say the trajectory of my career was set that very day, although I surely didn’t realize it at the time. There is no question that the life-changing experience I gained and the lifelong relationships I forged as a student working at *The Pine Log* not only led to me getting that internship the very next summer but also to every career stepping stone that has followed.

For the past two years, I have had the privilege and joy to be back at *The Pine Log* working with SFA student journalists every day. It is a pleasure getting to know them as individuals, helping them reach their personal and professional goals and counseling them through the inevitable bumps in the road, to use another cliché. (I’m on a roll.)

The Pine Log is a learning environment. We welcome the involvement of students at all levels of their journalistic development, from the shy underclassman who hesitantly pokes his head in the door in search of real-world experience to the confident senior editor who is ready to graduate and take on greater challenges in the professional world. I understand and care about both extremes — and all Pine Loggers in between — because I have walked in all of their shoes. (There I go again.)

Witnessing this transformation and, hopefully, helping our students along their journey of personal and academic discovery has been the most rewarding work of my professional life.

One of my favorite traditions here at *The Pine Log* involves graduating staff members posting goodbye notes on a large white board we have mounted on the wall in the production room. The notes are as unique as the students who write them and range from tear jerking to hilarious, sometimes managing to pull off both at the same time. But one thing all these parting messages have in common is an affirmation that working for *The Pine Log* was one of the most challenging and transformative experiences of their lives so far.

I know exactly how they feel. Full circle, indeed. ★

A Biology alumna's work supports cancer prevention, research and survivorship programs

HEALING TOUCH

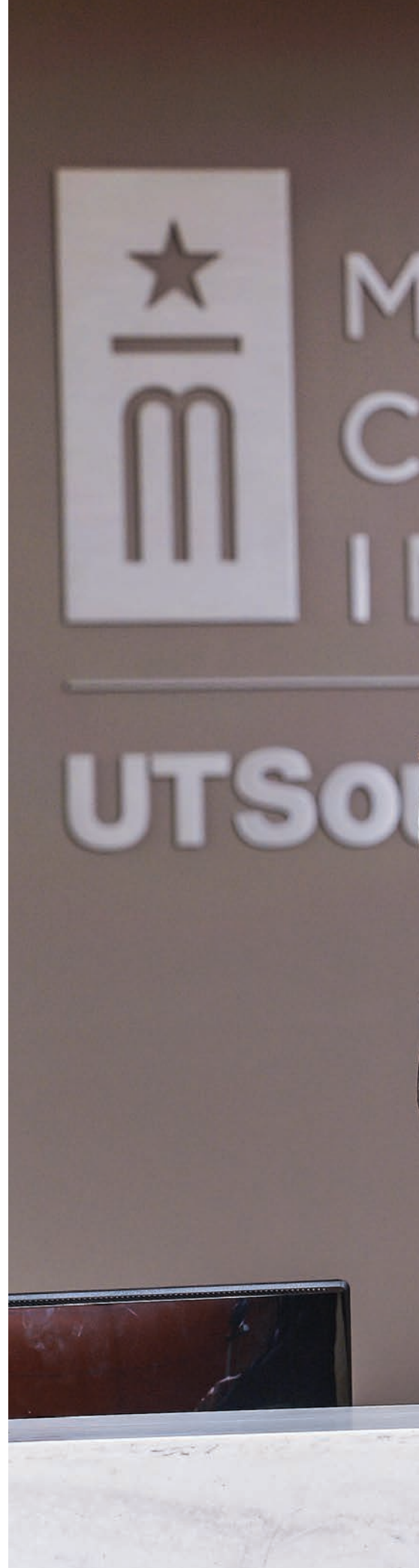
As quickly as the elevator's delicate ping caught her attention, Lori Drew '95 paused her tour of the Moncrief Cancer Institute to greet the older man as he emerged. Her reaction was swift, her movements fluid; it was easy to see the gesture was one she had performed dozens of times before.

Clearly on a mission, the man was determined to meet "the person who runs this place," he told her. Unsure of what to make of his visit, Drew continued to chat until a broader smile spread across her face. He urgently needed to meet the director, he explained, to say thank you for all of the amazing things the institute is doing to support cancer patients and their families.

Drew understood, she assured him. The man's enthusiasm echoed her own and is one of many reasons she has worked at Moncrief for the past 15 years.

"We have the same mission now as we did in 1958 — to help people, regardless of their ability to pay," Drew said. "This organization is a gift to the community. We are saving lives, and I get to see it every day. I couldn't ask for anything more rewarding. I tell people all the time this is my dream job." →

STORY BY CHRISTINE BROUSSARD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY HARDY MEREDITH



"WE ARE
SAVING
LIVES, AND I
GET TO SEE
IT EVERY
DAY."

- LORI DREW

ONCRIEF
ANCER
NSTITUTE
western





"I WAS OBSESSED"

Drew, a Fort Worth native, has been enamored with the rush of the emergency room and the thrill of saving lives since before she can remember.

"Ever since I was a small child, I was obsessed," she said. "My family would drive by a hospital or a medical equipment store, and I would want to stop and explore. Even growing up, I would ask my dad if we could go to the emergency room and watch doctors and nurses bring patients in on gurneys."

The lush piney woods of East Texas and smaller, more personal class sizes attracted Drew to study at SFA after her graduation from Paschal High School. While pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology, Drew worked in SFA's Department of Advancement as an assistant and in the Department of Admissions as a peer counselor for recruitment and retention. She also was a notetaker for students with disabilities.

"I was a shy person and somewhat of an introvert, and those positions helped get me out of my comfort zone and prepared me for the real world," Drew said. "The campus jobs gave me firsthand experience of how to deal effectively with the public. The positions also gave me the opportunity to make a difference and impact someone's life for the better. My years spent at SFA were the best of my life."

The personal and professional skills Drew learned in each of her roles at SFA — be it as a student, employee or member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority — translated to the professional world more than she could have imagined.

"My role at SFA would hopefully improve the students' quality of life in some form or fashion," Drew said. "Ironically, my role at Moncrief is very similar, focusing on saving lives by providing cancer prevention for the medically underserved and to improve the overall quality of life for cancer patients and survivors."

"THE EMOTIONAL IMPACT"

Moncrief Cancer Institute has been a pioneer in cancer treatment and care in Fort Worth since the 1950s when Texas oilman William A. Moncrief and his wife, Elizabeth, partnered with Dr. Thomas B. Bond, a Fort Worth radiologist who dreamed of creating a center that would

offer what was then the newest technology for treating cancer with radiation therapy.

Cancer treatment was a topic near the Moncriefs' hearts as their granddaughter, Monty Francine, had been diagnosed with leukemia. She died when she was 8 years old. Understanding the emotional impact cancer can have on patients and families, the Moncrief family has donated millions during the past several decades, most recently to construct a new cancer treatment center in the area.

Now, through an affiliation with UT Southwestern Medical Center's Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center and a mobile support clinic, the institute is able to bring services to residents of more than 30 Texas counties and continues to grow.

"The year I began working here, Moncrief was a radiation treatment center," said Drew, who currently serves as the institute's director of external relations. "We were acclaimed as a role model for community radiation centers nationwide, treated all patients regardless of their ability to pay, and served as a training facility for radiation therapists. But after almost 50 years, in 2006, we changed our direction from radiation treatment to a greater emphasis on cancer screenings and cancer survivor support services.

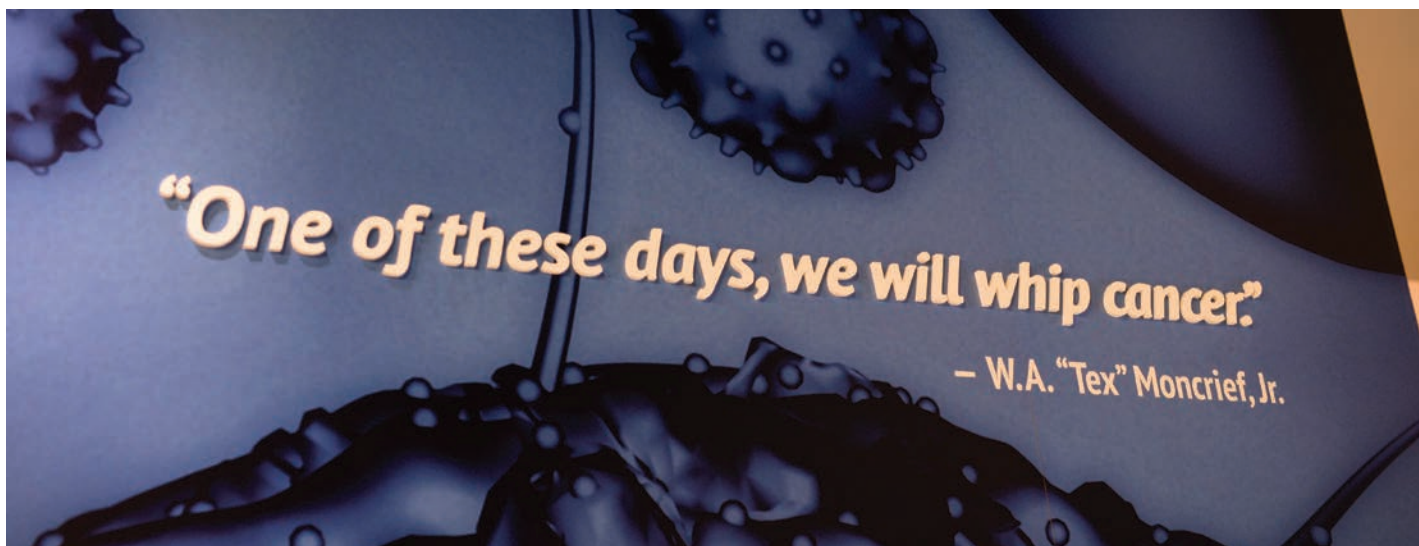
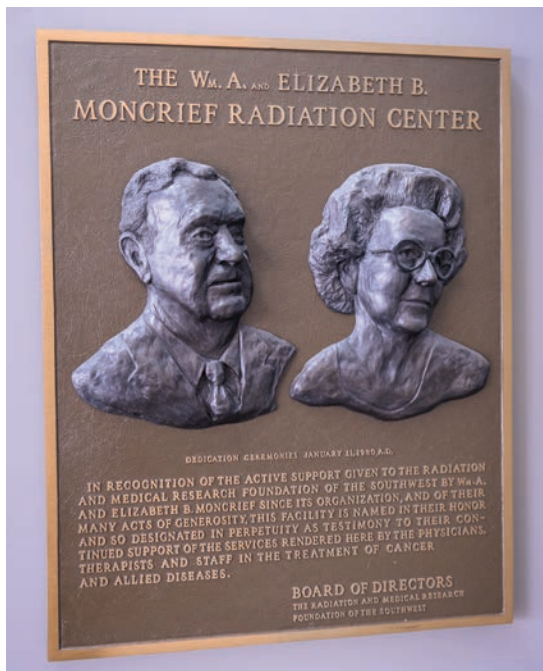
"We built a new 60,000-square-foot center in the heart of the Fort Worth medical district, complete with research, educational, nutritional, exercise and survivorship facilities. The new facility allowed us to expand our breast, cervical and colon cancer screening programs, among many other patient services."

Of equal importance to cancer prevention is the institute's insistence on creating a cheerful atmosphere. Elizabeth Moncrief first championed the idea in 1958 when she renovated the center to add brighter, more welcoming colors and placed flower bouquets in many rooms.

The results were palpable, even to Bond, the founding partner, who said, "You have no idea the emotional impact of a bowl of flowers."

Drew continues to oversee a breast and cervical cancer screening program and is responsible for community outreach, physician relations, marketing, advertising and communications. But job descriptions aside, her passion for the institute continues to flourish in every small interaction and every positive impact made among its patients. ★





Work Space / Inside Dr. Mary Catherine Breen's Office



DR. MARY CATHERINE BREEN '03 & '09

James I. Perkins
College of Education
Associate Professor of
Secondary Education



1. Two of Breen's favorite artworks — one, an original painting by Ashton Graves Sorrels, who graduated from Nacogdoches High School in 2007 — the final year Breen taught at NHS. The octopus reminds Breen that as a teacher, she needs many hands to complete her work. Sorrels, who was a student in Breen's English IV class, also gifted her the autographed Los Angeles-based street artist Morley print titled, *Let's Live This Fiction Forever*.
2. Breen uses tennis balls during the first day of class to help students play games and connect. She also uses them to demonstrate kinesthetic learning — sometimes gently tossing them among students as they answer questions or participate during in-class discussions.
3. Breen is a member of the East Texas Bombers, a women's flat-track roller derby league. Therefore, it seems appropriate that she avidly collects the roller-skating-themed *Monster High* roller derby dolls. Breen owns the complete collection with each housed in its original box.
4. A childhood friend of Breen's, Thomas Lund, who attended SFA from 1987-89, mailed this Whataburger order number tent to Breen. The number 42 is Breen's East Texas Bombers jersey

number and also references Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, in which 42 is the answer to the "Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe and Everything." Unfortunately, no one knows the question. Breen also said 42nd Street was her mom's subway stop when her mother worked in New York, so it has special significance.

5. Breen is a published author and researcher. The stack of books sitting on the table includes volumes, articles and/or chapters she has written while at SFA.
6. Toy characters from the movie *The Wizard of Oz* that were included in McDonald's Happy Meals rest on the table. Breen read L. Frank Baum's book, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, in Ms. Linda Burke's fifth-grade class at Mission Bend Elementary School. Burke's husband taught government and economics at Clements High School, where Breen's brother was a senior. The husband-and-wife teaching team thought it would be interesting to have their students read the same book. Breen said she learned so much from that experience and the different perspectives it provided through dinnertime conversations with her brother.
7. Breen often refers to the first few days of class as "Forced Awkwardness with

Strangers." According to Breen, these initial days are the most important, as students build their learning communities. Her classes utilize the *Hula Hoops* to interact and build their classroom relationship.

8. As an SFA alumna and professor, Breen said she enjoys reading *Sawdust* to keep abreast of the exciting things *Lumberjacks* are doing.
9. The phrase "Lumberjacks Make Great Skaters" decorates Breen's axe handle. She said she began roller derby skating several years ago to exemplify the two pieces of advice she gives her students: Learn something new every day, and do the thing that most scares you — that's where the magic happens.
10. The door jamb in Breen's office is framed with notes her students have written to her through the years. One of her favorites is a NHS student stick figure titled *José* next to his drawing of a tiny Grendel. Her class had just finished reading *Beowulf*, and José was making reference to his "beating" the book as *Beowulf* had beaten Grendel.
11. The back of her office door showcases some of Breen's personal mementos, including fliers from past roller derbies. ★

Athletics Highlights

INFINITI COACHES' CHARITY CHALLENGE

FOR THE THIRD time in as many years, SFA men's basketball was represented in the Infiniti Coaches' Charity Challenge. Head coach Kyle Keller was one of 48 NCAA Division I men's basketball coaches competing for the ultimate \$100,000 prize. Fueled entirely by fan voting, the competition will award the monetary prize to a charity of the winning coach's choosing.

Keller advanced to the third round, raising \$10,000 for his charity — the Nacogdoches Area United Way — by defeating coaches from other notable basketball programs, including Mike Krzyzewski from Duke University, John Calipari from the University of Kentucky and former SFA head coach Brad Underwood, who now leads the Oklahoma State University men's basketball program. Since 2015, the Nacogdoches Area United Way has received \$35,000 thanks to top-tier finishes by SFA coaches. Final voting and the announcement of the winning coach takes place in March. To view updates, visit www.espn.com/infiniti. ★



LADY JACK CROSS-COUNTRY CAPTURES SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE TITLE

THE SFA WOMEN'S cross-country team captured the 2016 Southland Conference title in October by beating Sam Houston State University. Taylor Anderson, Mary Luster and Samantha Ottman all finished in the top 10, earning All-Southland Conference honors, while Taryn Surratt was named the conference's Freshman of the Year, and head coach Cody Clark earned Coach of the Year honors. The Ladyjacks' victory was the 86th overall Southland Conference title for SFA, ranking second all-time in conference history. ★

DUNNIGAN, WALLS RECEIVE NATIONAL ACADEMIC ACCOLADES



TWO SFA STUDENT-ATHLETES were recognized with national academic accolades at the conclusion of their 2016 seasons.

Soccer's Brooke Dunnigan was named a National Soccer Coaches Association

of America Scholar All-American, becoming the second Ladyjack to earn the honor. It was the latest in a long line of accolades as Dunnigan also was a first-team All-Southland Conference selection and a first-team Academic All-Southland honoree.

Football's Marlon Walls also earned his share of academic honors, being named a first-team Academic All-American by the College Sports Information Directors of America, the first in Lumberjack football program history.

An engineering physics major with a 4.0 GPA, Walls also was named the Southland Conference's Student-Athlete of the Year for football as well as a Football Championship Subdivision Athletics Directors Association Academic All-Star, a finalist for the Football Championship Subdivision Doris Robinson Award and a nominee for the American Football Coaches Association Good Works team. ★

STORY BY KASI DICKERSON



PURPLE REIGN

Miss Rodeo America
shares
crowning moments

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HARDY MEREDITH



HER BOOTS WERE made for walking, and that's just what Lisa Lageschaar '14 will do. While reigning as the 2017 Miss Rodeo America, she will travel approximately 100,000 miles for more than 300 days.

"While Lisa's schedule is always changing, she will travel from coast to coast," said Rhianna Russell, office director for Miss Rodeo America. "Each year, unique opportunities are presented to Miss Rodeo America that range from walking the red carpet at the Academy of Country Music Awards to representing rodeo in the U.S. and abroad."

Lageschaar's role involves much more than signing autographs and posing for photos. The title of Miss Rodeo America carries with it a duty to serve as an ambassador to the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and represent the Western industry.

"Lisa truly wants to give back to the industry she is passionate about," Russell said. "Her humility gives her the ability to relate to everyone she meets, and her passion for agriculture and rodeo inspires." →



← Raised on a 600-acre dairy farm, Lageschaar has always been connected to agriculture. In December 2016, she was crowned Miss Rodeo America in Las Vegas.

↓ It's a tradition for the outgoing Miss Rodeo America to autograph the inside leg of the Miss Rodeo America chaps before passing them to the next queen. Lageschaar's signature will be the last, as the chaps are being retired.



A COWGIRL AT HEART

Raised on a 600-acre dairy farm, it's easy to see where Lageschaar's love for rodeo and Western culture was born.

"My parents moved to the United States from the Netherlands to be dairy farmers," Lageschaar said. "Ever since he was little, that's all my dad wanted to do. In the Netherlands, affording farmland is difficult, so he decided to make the move to America."

In 1990, her parents purchased a dairy farm and moved to Pickton, Texas. Growing up on the farm, Lageschaar developed a "can-do attitude" and strong work ethic. She did everything from milking and nursing sick cows to vaccinating cattle.

Every cowgirl needs a horse, and at 5 years old, Lageschaar got her first pony, Johnny. "I was bitten by the horse bug as a baby," Lageschaar said. "From the time I could talk to when I got my first horse, all I did was talk about horses."

With a passion for rodeo, Lageschaar's love for the sport grew during high school as she competed locally.

After obtaining a bachelor's degree in agricultural education, Lageschaar enrolled at SFA and received her master's degree in secondary education with an emphasis in agriculture.

"At SFA, Dr. [Kenneth] Austin was very influential and reminded me to stay open minded. In education, you have to be accepting of others. That's helped me as a teacher and as a rodeo ambassador," she said.

Austin, SFA associate professor of secondary education and educational leadership, remembers Lageschaar as taking pride in her work and pursuing excellence.

"Lisa had a marvelous impact on others because of her appreciation for the enriching value of learning in a diversified classroom," Austin said. "She truly embraced the notion that her education not only contributed to her personal growth and development, but also to our communities and culture at large."



↑ Before she competed for Miss Rodeo America, Lageschaar won her state title, Miss Rodeo Texas, which she accomplished in June 2016. Lageschaar's Texas-themed chaps showcase two of the state's best-known flowers — the yellow rose and bluebonnet.

"I TOLD MY STUDENTS TO WORK HARD, HAVE FAITH, TAKE RISKS AND GO AFTER SOMETHING IF THEY HAVE A DESIRE TO DO IT, SO I COULDN'T BACK DOWN." - LISA LAGESCHAAR



↑ As the 2017 Miss Rodeo America, Lageschaar received a custom-made belt buckle from Montana Silversmiths. She explained the buckle represents hard work, dedication and her advancement to the pinnacle of rodeo royalty.

← As the reigning Miss Rodeo America, Lageschaar will travel more than 100,000 miles promoting rodeo and Western culture. Boots to match every outfit are a necessity, and Lageschaar's vehicle is always loaded with several pairs donated by Justin Boots.

ROAD TO ROYALTY

In December 2016, something Lageschaar thought was impossible became a reality — she was crowned Miss Rodeo America in Las Vegas.

In order to win the national title, contestants must first win their state title. In 2014, Lageschaar was named Miss Rodeo Austin and then competed for Miss Rodeo Texas in 2015, but she was named runner up.

"I took the loss as a sign that it wasn't meant to be and decided I was done competing," Lageschaar said. After hanging up her hat, she began teaching agriculture at New Boston High School, a position she held for a year until her desire to compete was rekindled.

"It started weighing heavily on my heart to compete for Miss Rodeo Texas," Lageschaar said. "I thought it would go away."

However, her desire to compete didn't fade, and her students inspired her to try again.

"I told my students to work hard, have faith, take risks and go after something if they have a desire to do it, so I couldn't back down," Lageschaar said.

She finished her teaching contract in June 2016 and began preparing for the state pageant.

"I had peace in my decision. I believed if this didn't work, another

door would open," Lageschaar said. "Throughout my childhood, my parents taught me that if I wanted to do something, I would find a way."

The reward turned out to be worth the risk as Lageschaar won Miss Rodeo Texas in June 2016. Now, she could set her sights on Miss Rodeo America.

During the national pageant, judges score the state queens on their horsemanship skills, appearance and personality.

On coronation day, anticipation was high as Lageschaar was the final contestant named to the top 10. When her name was announced as Miss Rodeo America, she was overwhelmed. "It was an emotional moment," Lageschaar said.

Since her crowning, she has traveled the country making appearances at rodeos and events, interacting with fans, presenting the American flag, and working with media personnel to promote events and the industry.

"Serving as Miss Rodeo America is a way for me to give back to the industries that have given me so much," Lageschaar said. "It is my goal to pour love, inspiration and motivation into every person I meet and to help them develop a passion for the Western, rodeo and agriculture industries."

No matter where life takes her, Lageschaar will be ready to put her best foot forward — boots and all. ★

Faculty Advising



Tips to creating fabulous spaces

LEISHA BRIDWELL

James I. Perkins College of Education
Associate Professor of Human Sciences

MOST PEOPLE WANT a beautiful, inviting space in which to work or relax. Here are a few simple ideas to help turn your office or home into a comfortable, stylish retreat.

Accessorizing makes a huge impact. Begin by removing all accessories from the space. Choose the items that you want to use by paying attention to variety of color, texture, pattern and size. Remember, it is better to have a few larger items than too many smaller ones. Also, grouping items is important to successful accessorizing. A good rule is to use an odd number of items and place taller items in back. Use stands or books to create levels. This will make your collections more pleasing to the eye.

Adding books to the décor is both functional and aesthetically pleasing. Books can be beautiful on their own, and the books we love evoke a sense of calm in our spaces. Grouping books is essential in adding appeal. Avoid paperback books, and remove book jackets from hardback books. Books can be used in several ways: Group by spine color for a striking display; cover with paper (scrapbook paper, brown craft paper or white paper); turn books backward for a different look; or place on a coffee table to elevate smaller items.

Another way to add character is to **incorporate plants or flowers**. If you have a green thumb, use small houseplants. The plants you choose also can impact indoor air quality. Almost every supermarket has an area where you can purchase fresh flowers. Why not add flowers to your permanent shopping list? I know many people dislike artificial plants, but there are some very nice ones available. Just remember to select natural colors and use them sparsely.

Updating wall art can make any space look fabulous. This can be quite expensive, but there are affordable ways to achieve it. Purchase posters that can be cut down to fit frames you already have. It is simple to change a picture inside a frame yourself. If you have two small frames the same size, find a poster that has two areas that can be cut out to create a pair of pictures. These can be hung on top of each other, side-by-side or staggered. Refrain from using single pictures everywhere. It is important to vary the look.

Using rugs under furniture helps to ground the furniture and create conversation areas. Rugs also add acoustical qualities to rooms with hard-surface flooring as well as adding warmth, pattern and color. It is important that the rug's scale is appropriate for the space and items that will be positioned on it. If you already have busy patterns in your space, consider a rug without a pattern. If you only have solid fabrics in the space, then a patterned rug would add variety. You also could add patterned pillows to help break up solids.

Painting a room or one accent wall is an inexpensive approach that adds a dramatic effect to any space. When selecting the color, look at fabric patterns and/or art in the room to pull out an accent color that appeals to you. Most people want to select a paint color before planning how the space will look. Even when using neutrals, since some are cool and some are warm, it is best to select fabric choices before choosing paint.

The best piece of advice I can offer is to surround yourself with things you value and love. Keep your space decluttered so your mind and body can rest and recharge. ★

'JACK TALK



We are **FORTUNATE** to call this place home. #AxeEm

SFA ATHLETICS / FACEBOOK



When I get older, I just want to be the lady who dances at @SFA_MBB games. #AxeEm

ALYSSA FRANZ / TWITTER

Orange: A color I no longer purchase because #AxeEm.

V FOR GOODVIBES / TWITTER



Gotta have fun with it. #JFTX2017 #SFAU #blackhawks #usarmy #avgeeks #AxeEm

SARAH NICHOLS /
INSTAGRAM

'Jacks of All Trades / with Daniel Finch '14



DURING A HOT summer day in the heart of Austin, Daniel Finch '14 paces atop a massive hill of excavated earth, discussing project logistics with coworkers on his cellphone. To his right, the Capitol's dome peeks just above the city's skyline. After ending his cellphone conversation, Finch, who graduated from SFA with a Bachelor of Science in forestry, turns and apologizes for the interruption.

"This is about 90 percent of my day," he said, motioning to his cellphone with a laugh.

Considering the sheer size and number of projects that await him, it's not at all surprising that a visit to Finch's work site is punctuated with emails, texts and phone calls troubleshooting project logistics and outlining last-minute decisions.

When excavating and moving centuries-old trees weighing more than half-a-million pounds, there is no room for error.

While the rumble of heavy equipment in the middle of one of Texas' fastest-growing cities may not elicit images of the archetypal lumberjack, it does highlight a somewhat new career path for forestry graduates — one that encompasses far more than growing and harvesting trees — urban forestry.

A growing body of scholarly research indicates trees, especially in an urbanized environment, provide myriad environmental, economic and social benefits. Because of this, cities large and small are increasingly working to conserve and create green spaces.

URBAN LUMBERJACK: Forestry graduate relocates, nurtures trees

Story by
Sarah Fuller

Photography by
Hardy Meredith

The City of Austin, for example, maintains a tree protection ordinance that conserves tree species of varying sizes. In order to remove trees that fall under the "protected" or "heritage" tree categories, developers and homeowners must obtain approval from the city. Finch explained if the tree or trees are approved for removal, new trees must be planted to mitigate for the total square footage lost. He said in many cases, it often is simpler for the developer to relocate the tree or trees.

While trees can be moved to completely different locations across a city, Finch said the trees he moves are typically relocated on the same property.

"Depending on the size of the tree, as well as the location, it can take years of planning to move it to a different location," Finch said. "Just think, all of the power lines have to be re-routed, and there has to be a crew at every stoplight to direct traffic."

While working for Environmental Tree and Design on job sites in Austin, Finch often moves massive trees of varying species. He explained that by using hydraulic bags and beams placed underneath each tree's root ball, stress can be reduced on the root systems as compared to that incurred through the traditional use of cranes.

"When cranes pick up the tree it will convex the root ball, causing the roots to separate," Finch said. "However, through using hydraulic bags and beams, we can move the tree from point A to point B horizontally."

Pointing to one of the live oaks, he estimated it would take two hours to move the tree 60 feet.

It is a slow and arduous process, and even after a tree is transplanted, Finch's role is not finished. He continues to monitor each tree for months to help ensure its health.

"In general, we have a 95-percent survival and success rate with the trees we move," Finch said.

This success rate includes one of his favorite projects that took place in Michigan. He said a 400-year-old bur oak was wedged between two buildings. Initially, the move seemed like an impossible task. However, after much troubleshooting, Finch and the crew employed yet another innovative technique to transport the tree to its new location.

"We literally raised the tree 10 to 12 feet to move it across a plaza," he said. "Really, each project is fun. They're all different, and each comes with its own challenges and unique qualities." ★



BEHIND THE SCENES

Theatre alumna works as television property master

STORY BY ANDREW ORMSBY

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KASI DICKERSON

IT'S 10 A.M. ON TUESDAY AS CHELE WARE '83 BOARDS THE LONG ISLAND TRAIN THAT WILL TAKE HER INTO THE CITY. WARE'S DESTINATION IS ABC STUDIOS IN MANHATTAN WHERE SHE WORKS IN THE PROPS DEPARTMENT OF *THE CHEW*, A DAYTIME FUSION COOKING AND TALK SHOW.

Working behind the scenes, Ware is the person who ensures the show's most important component is on hand — the food. She'll start her workday consulting with the production, broadcast and design teams to compile the list of ingredients and then comb Manhattan and the outer boroughs to quickly acquire the items and return to the studio before the show starts.

Super Bowl party fare is today's show theme, and celebrity chef Mario Batali is scheduled to co-host. He'll be preparing pretzel-crusted shrimp with pickled-pepper relish. Like all good chefs, celebrity or otherwise, Batali wants to make the sauce from

scratch, so the ingredient list calls for fresh banana and Fresno peppers.

Banana peppers are a common grocery store item. However, the Fresno pepper, similar to a jalapeño, isn't as common.

Ware manages to locate a store in Manhattan that has Fresno peppers, but unfortunately, the list calls for a full pound, and the store doesn't have that many.

She later finds a 24-hour grocery that has the peppers in stock. She orders a pound and requests delivery. →



SFA TO L.A. TO N.Y.

Ware came to SFA to major in photojournalism, but she later changed her degree to theatre. Her fondest memories of the university involve working alongside her fellow theatre majors and professors on productions like *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She specifically recalls this production because of the closing night's ending.

"During the final scene, the actor portraying Jesus was scripted to ascend into the rafters as the lights dimmed," Ware said. "However, on the last night, the lights wouldn't dim. We unplugged the board, turned everything off, and the lights continued to stay on. This poor guy was stuck up in the air for like 10 minutes until the lights finally went out."

Ware said the students attributed this phenomenon to Chester, the ghost who is said to reside in Turner Auditorium.

After Ware graduated from SFA, she spent four years working in Texas at local and community theatres. In 1987, she moved to Los Angeles to look for work, but she didn't stay long.

"It didn't happen," Ware said. "Jobs are very tightly held out there. People who have jobs aren't giving them

up, and they're not looking to help you out. It's much harder to get into the business in L.A."

Ware moved back to Texas and later decided to take a trip to New York to investigate the job situation on the East Coast. During that one-week visit, she was offered three separate jobs. She returned to Texas, packed her bags and moved to New York, where she's lived ever since.

One of her first jobs was as a lighting intern at the 92nd Street Y, a nonprofit cultural and community center located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. There, she worked with Elizabeth Swados, who became famous during the late 1970s for writing, composing and directing the musical *Runaways*.

"The center had a theatre in the basement, and the first show I did was with Liz Swados and titled *Esther*. That was kind of a big deal," she said.

During her early years in New York, Ware did mostly freelance work as a stagehand. Her first long-term position was with Big Apple Lights, a theatrical lighting company in Manhattan.





HER BIG BREAK

In 1996, Ware joined the local stagehand union. The union, in addition to providing technicians for theatre, also served major television stations in New York City. It was through this association that Ware landed a stagehand position on the daytime soap opera *All My Children*.

Ware said the average soap opera crew records five or six episodes a week. The crew arrives each day about 7 a.m. to prepare for the day's shoot, which usually begins around 9 a.m.

Each evening, the crew breaks down the sets that won't be used the next day and builds new ones. On average, the crew works 12-hour days.

"The long hours create a sense of camaraderie among the crew," Ware said. "Working in television and theatre are similar. You become a family. You have to work together in very close proximity."

Ware worked on *All My Children* until production moved to California in 2001. After earning a Master of Arts in forensic psychology, she took a one-year hiatus from television for a position with the New York City court system.

Leaving the business wasn't easy, though, and Ware was drawn back to theatre and television. She served as the property master on the set of *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon* until 2016 and currently works on *The Chew* and *Saturday Night Live*.

While Ware generally procures food for *The Chew*, SNL provides a different weekly challenge — finding props to bring life to the sketches the SNL writers dream up. If the sketches will use previously purchased props, Ware is responsible, in part, for retrieving the props from the NBC warehouse in Brooklyn.

The writers' requests run the gamut from arcane to mundane. For instance, Ware recently visited every Bed Bath & Beyond in Manhattan to locate 12 towels needed for a sauna scene.

Ware also works on SNL's digital short crew, which is responsible for creating SNL segments like advertisement spoofs or other sketches aired during the live broadcast. A recent shoot found Ware and the crew at the Manhattan cruise terminal before sunrise to set up a shoot to spoof a public service announcement.

Though the bright lights of New York City are a long way from the purple lights of SFA and Nacogdoches, Ware said she still fondly remembers her time as a Lumberjack and being part of an intimate theatre group in which big dreams were encouraged and no stage was beyond reach.

"Show up early, work hard and get to know the people you're working with, even if it's only for a day or two," Ware said. "That's one thing I learned while at SFA, and it has stuck with me throughout my career." ★

HEART OF A CHAMPION



STUDENT-ATHLETE SHARES HIS STORY
OF TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH

Story submitted by SFA Athletics / Photography by Hardy Meredith





SOMEHOW CUTTING THROUGH the chatter of nearly 17,500 fans, head coach Brad Underwood's voice issued the command that CJ Williams had been waiting for with a mixture of agitation and excitement long before he and his teammates stepped onto the buses outside their hotel and endured a traffic-choked expedition to Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

"CJ! Go!" meant, for the second time in 48 hours, only the bench and 35 feet stood between Williams and center court. It separated him from what he and countless other student-athletes at NCAA Division I institutions envisioned when they put pen to paper and signed basketball letters of intent — getting to play meaningful minutes with a chance at history for them and their teammates in the NCAA tournament.

Without any trepidation, Williams charged off the bench and called for Clide Geffard to exit the game so Williams could take his place as forward. Entering the court, Williams glanced at the massive scoreboard and saw SFA was leading the University of Notre Dame by four points.

No longer suffering from the mysterious fatigue he felt during practice the previous day, Williams' focus shifted to the task at hand — advancing in the tournament. →



“My legs felt so heavy and tight. I was breathing hard. It hurt, and I kind of blacked out every once in a while. All through it, I was really just playing for my teammates, but I knew something was wrong.”

- CJ WILLIAMS



Fantasy scenarios like the one coming to fruition on March 20, 2016, were what Williams and his father, Coris Sr., had hoped for during multiple visits to SFA.

Fueled by a desire to win, Williams kept SFA near the top of his prospective school list during the recruiting process, but it was his father who made the final push.

Coris had a list, as well, with just one name on it.

Coris loved everything about the Lumberjack basketball program and Nacogdoches. The former Alcorn State University basketball player knew SFA was where his son belonged.

“My dad never finished college,” Williams said. “Neither did my mom, who also played basketball. Everybody in my family played basketball, so both of them knew how important it was to me to play. But more than anything, they wanted me to graduate.”

Checking into SFA’s second round of the NCAA tournament game against the Fighting Irish — classes, notes and assignments took a back seat.

With the ball in his hands and seven minutes remaining in the first half, Williams spied freshman forward TJ Holyfield without any white jerseys around him and shot a sharp pass to the Albuquerque, New Mexico, native, who connected on a mid-range jumper that pushed SFA’s lead to 27-23.

That’s when another wave of fatigue, accompanied this time by pain, hit Williams.

“My legs felt so heavy and tight,” recalled Williams. “I was breathing hard. It hurt, and I kind of blacked out every once in a while. All through it, I was really just playing for my teammates, but I knew something was wrong.”

Williams’ final shot attempt of his college basketball career came with 6:15 remaining in the first half. His layup was blocked, but the Jacks retained possession, and a timeout was called. Retreating to the bench with his teammates, Williams had helped the 14-seed maintain a 27-25 lead.

At halftime, the Jacks trailed by one and hustled to the locker room. Once inside, Williams frantically grabbed the nearest trash can and vomited into it.

“Something is really going on with my body,” he thought.

The next day, Williams was back in Nacogdoches. Less than 24 hours after SFA suffered a gut-wrenching one-point loss to Notre Dame on a tip-in with 1.5 seconds remaining, he and his teammates gathered in the locker room at Johnson Coliseum as Underwood told the team he’d been named the head men’s basketball coach at Oklahoma State University.

“We were all a little hurt when coach Underwood left, but that’s when I promised the guys that I was going to be here no matter what,” said Williams. His teammates reciprocated.

He didn’t know it at the time, but that camaraderie was going to carry Williams through the most difficult time of his life. →







Less than two weeks after the team members made their promise, Coris passed away. Through all the pain of his father's passing, Williams took comfort that he still had basketball.

Mere days after Coris' death, Kyle Keller accepted the position as SFA's head men's basketball coach. After Keller's introductory press conference, he immediately began evaluating his players.

When it came to Williams, Keller's assessment was frank.

"If CJ was going to play, he had to lose weight," said Keller. "During our one-on-one meeting, I told him he had to come back in a month 20 pounds lighter if he wanted to stay on the team."

Williams thought, "No problem." After all, he had dropped weight before.

Exactly one month later, Williams was 20 pounds leaner. Now that his body was in shape, the senior could focus on basketball and keeping SFA in the conversation as one of college basketball's best mid-major teams.

It was now summertime, and the team was set to undergo a battery of health-related tests, among them a cardiac screening.

Williams' results would have a life-changing impact.

Tests revealed that Williams had arrhythmia. This condition had most likely been the cause of Williams' fatigue, heavy legs and momentary blackouts in Brooklyn. Arrhythmia, also known as irregular heartbeat, often has no symptoms and is the result of roughly 80 percent of sudden cardiac deaths.

Many athletes have died from the condition, including professional basketball players Jason Collier, who played for the Atlanta Hawks; Len Bias, who was drafted by the Boston Celtics; and Conrad McRae, who played for the Washington Bullets.

The test results were shared with Keller, who broke the news to Williams that his collegiate basketball career had reached its endpoint.

"As I called him to my office, I knew there was no way I was going to hold it together," Keller said.

Keller asked Williams, "CJ, if you could trade your basketball career for that one weekend in Brooklyn with millions of people watching the team come within a second of reaching the Sweet 16, would you do it?"

As Williams replied he would, Keller told him that he had played his last game.

"We found an arrhythmia in your heart. You can't play anymore," Keller said. "Playing basketball could kill you."

Keller and a devastated Williams sat across from each other in Keller's office and cried. Both men knew that this news was possibly saving Williams life but also killing his dream.

"At the time, basketball was my life," Williams said. "It was all I knew and wanted. I was preparing for my senior year of college and had just returned from the NCAA tournament. I wanted to get us back as a team leader."

During the next few months, Williams had second thoughts about remaining on a team where he was not contributing as a player.

"I had my bags packed three times, and I was so close to going home," Williams said.

However, his mind kept recalling the promise he made to his teammates — the promise to stay with them no matter what.

"SFA made me stay," Williams said. "I didn't want to let down the university or my teammates. They're my brothers."

Through talks with his family and Keller and through prayer, Williams' connection with his teammates and coaches overshadowed any thoughts of leaving.

Though the healing process has been long and difficult, Williams' focus is now on doing what his mother and late father were not able to — graduate college.

Although he is unable to play, Williams is still an integral part of the team's operations. In his new role as a manager/student assistant coach, he is able to see the game from a different perspective and works with the team during practice.

Though much of what he loved has been taken from Williams, he has gained an appreciation for what remains and hopes to use those lessons and memories going forward to build a bright future.

Williams said from time to time, he pulls out his cellphone and listens to a voicemail his father once left him, "Stay strong and work hard." ★

From the Association

"I am humbled and honored to serve in this role and happy to have the opportunity. With the same pride that inspired me to volunteer years ago, I am highly motivated as I begin this two-year journey as president."



SEVERAL YEARS AGO,

I was asked to volunteer with the SFA Alumni Association. As a proud alumnus, I felt honored and decided to give it a try. Little did I know that it would eventually lead

to this moment, penning my first *Sawdust* letter as president of the SFA Alumni Association.

I am humbled and honored to serve in this role and happy to have the opportunity. With the same pride that inspired me to volunteer years ago, I am highly motivated as I begin this two-year journey as president. I have served on the SFA Alumni Association board for several years and worked with some amazing people.

My Lumberjack pride was born when I first stepped onto the beautiful campus as a high school senior touring what I had deemed to be one of my top three schools. I did not quite understand it at the time, but deep down, I knew there was something special about SFA and Nacogdoches. I did not officially make my decision that day, but I knew SFA was home.

In the years that followed, I enjoyed many great experiences while learning some valuable lessons both inside and outside SFA's lecture halls. Just a couple of semesters in, I literally leaped (from the steps of the Austin Building) into Greek life where I met lifelong friends. One semester later, I exchanged glances with a girl in line at a popular hangout and later met that girl, whom I would eventually marry. From that point on, it was a balance of fun times with friends and many hours spent at Steen Library assigning group project responsibilities. My Lumberjack pride was growing.

After graduation, April and I decided our next chapter involved a move to Dallas. We loved our time in the big city and connected with many SFA alums on a regular basis. However, we eventually moved back to my wife's hometown, Nacogdoches.

It was in Nacogdoches, the hub of Lumberjack pride, that I truly realized what it meant to bleed purple. Whether it was volunteering with organizations supporting the city of Nacogdoches or representing SFA, my Lumberjack pride expanded. It probably won't surprise you to learn that our Lumberjack pride rubbed off on our children, as well. Cari, 13, and Brandon, 11, are big SFA supporters and have dreams of one day attending the university.

When we moved to Bossier City, Louisiana, for a job opportunity, I have to say that part of me felt very misplaced. It was a great move for the family, but it is hard to leave a place that is overflowing with Lumberjack pride to move to a place where they wear a different shade of purple. However, it has been a pleasant surprise to discover so many spirited SFA alumni in the area. I have learned to appreciate the perspective of alumni in regions not densely populated by SFA graduates, and I have discovered Lumberjack pride is everywhere.

I hope you enjoyed reading a little about my Lumberjack pride and me. I hope to have a conversation with you someday to learn about yours! It is an exciting time to be a Lumberjack, and I cannot wait to share more with you in the next issue. ★

Axe 'em, Jacks!

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

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THE Story of My Life

{ Mass communication alumna discusses
rapid rise as news anchor/journalist }

Story by Donna Parish / Photography by Hardy Meredith



E

RIKA BAZALDUA '14 has spent much of her life involved in radio/TV. At the age of 11, she began her career in mass communication serving as a “kidcaster” for Radio Disney – a

position she held until her graduation from Mansfield Legacy High School.

Today, Bazaldua is a main anchor on KLTV's *Good Morning East Texas*, which airs weekdays from 4:30 to 7 a.m. At the age of 24, she has quickly climbed the news anchor/producer ladder with hopes of one day sitting at the anchor desk of a national news network.

During high school, Bazaldua was diagnosed with a kidney disease and missed about 100 days of her sophomore year. “During treatment, I became close with my doctors and nurses,” Bazaldua said. “So, when I was deciding on a college major, I initially wanted to become a nurse to help kids like me because I knew I could provide them with the same compassion I received.”

Bazaldua came to SFA with her sights set on a nursing degree. Although program acceptance is highly competitive, she got in and remained in the program until what she calls a “massive light bulb moment” during the summer of her sophomore year.

“I made the decision to change directions, roll up my sleeves and chase my dream of becoming a journalist. I changed my major to mass communication,” she said.

Already a seasoned communicator, Bazaldua leveraged that talent and joined the Jack Walkers, a group of SFA student tour guides. As a guide, she led prospective Lumberjacks and their parents around campus detailing the university's many amenities and sharing her own stories of her time at SFA, including her younger sister, Julia, joining her as a Lumberjack.

“My position as a Jack Walker played a pivotal role in my success as a young reporter,” Bazaldua said. “Jack Walkers are the first faces prospects see, and I held that role very close to my heart because I knew what incredible opportunities SFA provided me and my sister.” →

“The most important thing I can do as a journalist is to remind people that I am not a robot. Journalists are people first. And at the end of the day, our hearts break when theirs do.”

Erika Bazaldua

As she progressed through SFA's mass communication program, Bazaldua stood out to faculty members, including Dr. Al Greule, associate professor of mass communication.

“Erika took advantage of every opportunity to participate in broadcasting on air and behind the scenes,” Greule said. “The most impressive thing about her was that she had her own blog. It wasn't your average college-student-talking-about-herself blog that exists everywhere; instead, it had real journalistic content with real interviews.”

One of those interviews was with actress Dawn Wells, who played Mary Ann on the popular 1960s TV sitcom *Gilligan's Island*.

“Clearly, Erika raised the bar for herself and excelled,” Greule said. “She was always alert and eager — the hallmarks of a good journalist.”

As she prepared for graduation, Bazaldua applied for hundreds of media-related positions. She was determined to cast a big net and land a job, and she was willing to go anywhere — applying for positions as far away as Alaska.

It turns out, she wouldn't have to travel far because local ABC affiliate KTRE contacted her a week before graduation and offered her a job as a multimedia reporter.

“I remember pulling into the SFA parking lot to take a final exam and crying my eyes out as I got the news. My dream was coming true,” she said.

After working at KTRE for about two months, she had the opportunity to join KLTN in Tyler to anchor regional newscasts. However, it wasn't long until she was promoted to the *Good Morning East Texas Weekend* anchor position.

“I produced and anchored that show for almost a year,” Bazaldua said. “Then, another amazing position opened as a main anchor on the *Good Morning East Texas* weekday newscast.”

In her current role, Bazaldua reports to work at midnight and reviews news stories while writing and producing a portion of the newscast. After a quick trip to hair and makeup, it's time to go on air.

“It's a fast-paced show, and many times, we don't have long to review our scripts,” Bazaldua said. “Breaking news often happens, and we are required to be on our toes and ready for anything.”

Bazaldua said she still gets nervous before she goes on air, especially when she has important

news to deliver like election results and severe weather events.

“I have to put my nervousness aside and remember that I have a responsibility to deliver fair and accurate information to the people,” Bazaldua said. “I take that responsibility seriously. News reporting has the potential to affect and change lives, and I do my best to ensure I am prepared.”

However, sometimes emotions are hard to hold back. Especially when reporting on a story that involves death.

“Often, we speak to family members who just minutes or hours earlier lost a loved one. That is tough for them and for us,” Bazaldua said. “The most important thing I can do as a journalist is to remind people that I am not a robot. Journalists are people first. And at the end of the day, our hearts break when theirs do.”

Pat Stacey '85, KLTN/KTRE vice president and general manager, said Bazaldua's ability to bond with the audience adds to her on-air appeal. “Erika is a rare personality who is focused on learning everything new about her job,” Stacey said. “She is curious and has an approachable spirit that enables her to relate to the viewing audience, which is so important in today's media world where the norm is delivering content rather than truly connecting with the audience.”

Although she has already achieved many of her short-term career goals, Bazaldua said she would one day love to be a war correspondent in areas of conflict, like Syria. “There are so many untold stories there from people all over the world who are trying to stop terrorism,” Bazaldua said. “I know it sounds a bit crazy, and my parents would probably have a heart attack, but if I ever got the opportunity, I would jump on it.”

Five years from now, Bazaldua said she expects news will continue to transition into digital platforms, as the younger generation watches less and less network television. However, she said she is ready for whatever challenges that brings her way.

“As a journalist, my responsibility is to act as a mirror for the people — to tell their stories and have their voices heard through whatever method allows them to receive accurate, important and honest information.” ★



MR & MISS SFA



Zachary McSwain
Stan McKewen Mr. SFA
Award recipient



Morgan Pulliam
Arnodean Covin Miss
SFA Award recipient

SFA Alumni Association names Mr. and Miss SFA

THE STEPHEN F. Austin State University Alumni Association announced Zachary McSwain of Spring and Morgan Pulliam of Dallas have been selected as recipients of the 2017 Mr. and Miss SFA Awards.

The Mr. SFA Award was established in honor of the late Stan McKewen, a 1934 SFA graduate. The Arnodean Covin Miss SFA Award honors the late alumna who was named Miss SFA in 1940, 1941 and 1942.

A 2013 graduate of Klein Collins High School, McSwain, who received the Stan McKewen Mr. SFA Award, is a senior history major and the son of Randall and Susette McSwain.

"Zach has demonstrated exceptional leadership in his contributions to the university, its students and our community," Lacey Folsom, associate director of student engagement at SFA, said. "He truly exemplifies the Lumberjack spirit, tirelessly giving his time and energy to show others the value of an SFA education. He is an excellent role model for all students."

McSwain serves as secretary of the SFA Traditions Council, co-founder and former president of the SFA League of Legends Club, and member of the History Club. He

also has made the College of Liberal and Applied Arts Dean's List.

Additionally, McSwain has volunteered with The Big Event and works as a student technician for SFA's Technical Support Center.

"SFA has shown me more than just the college experience. I discovered this university is rich in culture and tradition. Through all these things, I have become more than a student. I have become a true Lumberjack," McSwain said.

Pulliam, recipient of the Arnodean Covin Miss SFA Award, is a 2013 graduate of Newman Smith High School. She is a senior psychology major and the daughter of Joy Pulliam. She also is a first-generation college student.

"Without SFA, I do not know where I would be," Pulliam said. "I have met so many people and made so many connections, which wouldn't have happened without my campus involvement. SFA is in my heart and soul. I eat, sleep and bleed purple."

Pulliam is active in many community and SFA-related clubs, organizations and associations, including serving as student director of the Purple Haze Association,

student instructor for SFA 101 and Jack Camp counselor.

She has served as president and vice president of New Opportunities for Romanian Orphan Children. She also has served as an SFA Orientation leader and volunteered with the Nacogdoches Animal Shelter, The Big Event and SFA's food pantry.

"Morgan is welcoming, approachable, personable, a leader and a true SFA Lumberjack," said Dr. Hollie G. Smith, assistant dean of student affairs for programs at SFA. "The list of organizations she is involved in as a member and/or leader is something to admire. She takes on each new task with a lens of going above and beyond."

SFA's Alumni Association awards the Mr. and Miss SFA titles annually to exemplary students who well represent and promote the university. Recipients are selected based on their scholarship, participation and leadership in academic and co-curricular activities and citizenship, service and loyalty to the university. A committee of faculty and staff members, community leaders, and alumni makes the selections. ★

Cruz visits with SFA administrators and supporters

U.S. SEN. TED Cruz was in Nacogdoches recently and visited with SFA administrators and supporters at the Juanita Curry Boynton House. After a welcome from SFA President Dr. Baker Pattillo, pictured at right, Cruz discussed a variety of topics, including the effects of the nationalized student loan program and immigration reform on higher education. Cruz also heard reports from deans and representatives of each of SFA's six colleges.



Call for nominations:

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AWARDS

The SFA Alumni Association is seeking Alumni Award nominations by **May 18, 2017**, of 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.

For nomination forms, visit SFAAlumni.com/awards or email Heather Hawkins at hawkinshd@sfasu.edu.

Alumni Calendar /

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

APRIL

7

**SFA Alumni Night:
Kansas City Royals vs. Houston Astros**
7:10 p.m.
Minute Maid Park / Houston

8

**Sigma Tau Gamma - Gamma Pi Alumni
Golf Tournament**
Woodland Hills Golf Club
Nacogdoches

11

**SFA Wind Ensemble Concert
at the Eisemann Center**
7 p.m. (subject to change)
Richardson

13-16

Easter Break

21

SFA Varsity Club Golf Tournament
Piney Woods Country Club
Nacogdoches

22

**Robert D. Dickerson
Memorial Golf Tournament**
Nacogdoches

24

**Archie McDonald Speaker Series
featuring Douglas Brinkley – American
Historian, Best-Selling Author and CNN
Presidential Historian**
7:30 p.m.
SFA's campus
Baker Pattillo Student Center
Grand Ballroom
Nacogdoches

MAY

2

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

5

Big Dip Ring Ceremonies
Baker Pattillo Student Center
Grand Ballroom
Nacogdoches

13

Commencement Ceremonies
Johnson Coliseum

JUNE

3

**SFA Alumni Night:
Houston Astros vs. Texas Rangers**
6:15 p.m.
Globe Life Park / Arlington

5

**SFA Lumberjack Professional Network
Happy Hour – Houston Area**
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Area: Kingwood
Location: TBA
Stay tuned to sfaalumni.com and social
media for updates.

6

**SFA Lumberjack Professional Network
Breakfast – Houston**
7 to 8 a.m.
Maggiano's Little Italy – Galleria
Speaker: Bob Slovak, Eyewitness Sports
Reporter and Anchor, ABC13

12

**SFA Lumberjack Professional Network
Happy Hour – Dallas Area**
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Area: Southlake
Location: TBA
Stay tuned to sfaalumni.com and social
media for updates.

13

**SFA Lumberjack Professional Network
Breakfast – Dallas**
7 to 8 a.m.
Maggiano's Little Italy – NorthPark Center
Speakers: Dr. Kimberly Childs, dean of the
College of Sciences and Mathematics, and
Dr. Tim Bisping, dean of the Rusche
College of Business

15

Lumberjack Social – Austin Area
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Punch Bowl Social
11310 Domain Drive, Austin

19

**SFA Lumberjack Professional Network
Happy Hour – Houston Area**
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Area: Cypress
Location: TBA
Stay tuned to sfaalumni.com and social
media for updates.

20

**SFA Lumberjack Professional Network
Breakfast – The Woodlands**
7 to 8 a.m.
Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar
– The Woodlands
Speakers: Dr. Kimberly Childs, dean of the
College of Sciences and Mathematics, and
Dr. Tim Bisping, dean of the Rusche
College of Business

24

**Fifth Annual Worsham
Bass Tournament**
Tournament begins at safelight
(shotgun start)
Lake Sam Rayburn at Jackson Hill Marina

AUGUST

3

SFA Sportsman Banquet
6 to 10 p.m.
Meadow Ridge Archery and Gun
Nacogdoches

SEPTEMBER

8

SFA Alumni Awards Ceremony
The Fredonia Hotel
Nacogdoches

26

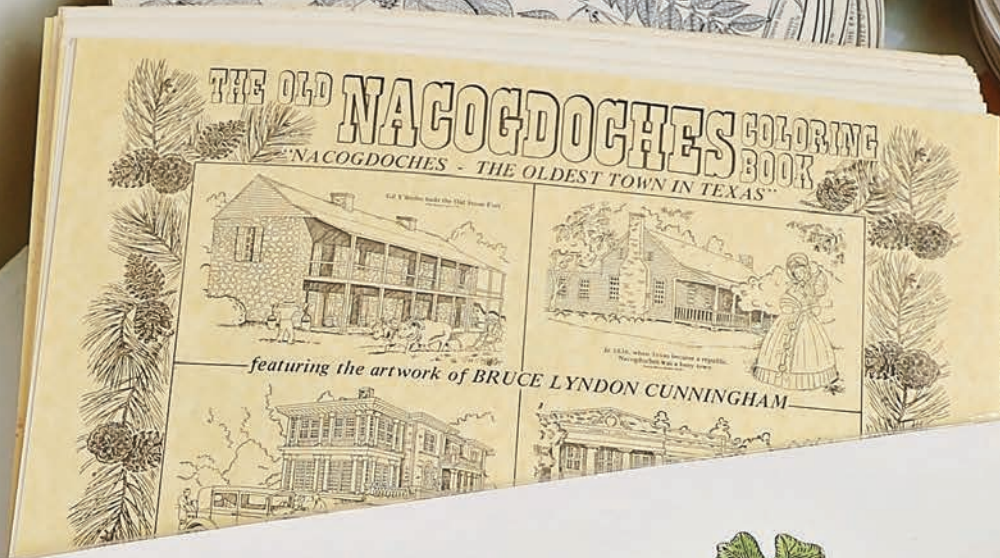
National Lumberjack Appreciation Day

CARVING OUT HIS NICHE

Two-time alumnus is internationally
known 'forester-artist'



Story by Stephanie Ballard / Photography by Hardy Meredith



Old North Church - 1838

Bryce Lyndon Cunningham

www.forester-artist.com





WHEN YOU THINK of forestry and art, you may not immediately make a connection between the two. However, Bruce Lyndon Cunningham '72 & '76, known as the “forester-artist,” made that connection more than 40 years ago and is helping others to do the same through his unique and intricate forestry artwork.

Cunningham's detailed works include watercolor illustrations, woodcarvings, frames and notecards. Internationally known for his work, you'll find his illustrations in textbooks and housed in the galleries of private and corporate collectors worldwide.

Born in San Angelo, Cunningham came to Nacogdoches in 1970 to study forestry at SFA after completing two years at Central Texas College in Killeen.

Today, his two-story home in Texas' oldest town doubles as his studio and workshop, where the entryway showcases myriad examples of his talent, including more than 30 framed illustrations, various woodcarvings and notable awards. His workshop, a large open room located at the back of the home, warehouses several types of wooden planks and tables supporting sawdust and tools.

“I enjoy going back there and getting smothered in my artwork,” Cunningham said. “Whatever I can see with my eyes and hold in my hands, I can create.”

EARLY LIFE

The journey to Cunningham's niche expertise and unique career began at an early age when he was introduced to many of the world's most recognizable works of art.

“My father died when I was only 2 and a half,” Cunningham said. “Later, my mother married my stepfather, who was in the U.S. Army. Because of his military career, we got to see the world.”

While his stepfather was stationed overseas, the family spent the majority of the late 1950s



and early 1960s in Europe. While residing in Germany, they frequently traveled to nearby cities such as Rome and Amsterdam, exposing Cunningham to world-renowned masterworks of art at a very young age.

“Mom said, ‘On Sundays, we're going to go places,’” Cunningham said. “We saw Rembrandt's *Night Watch* in person. I saw the Sistine Chapel at age 6. It stuck with me.”

He also vividly recalls his awe at the intricate woodcarvings on buildings in Oberammergau, Germany.

“There I was — 7 years old. I remember seeing those carvings and thinking, ‘I'm going to do that.’”

Cunningham credits his stepfather, Command Sgt. Maj. Herman E. Shugart, with providing much of his professional and personal motivation. Shugart was the recipient of eight Purple Hearts, one Bronze and one Silver Star, which were pinned on him by Gen. George S. Patton Jr. for his service during World War II.

“My stepfather wanted me to do good things,” Cunningham said. “I remember him saying, ‘You are smart, you are intelligent, and you can get out there and do things yourself.’ He's the reason I've been able to do my work.”

SFA CONNECTION

Cunningham recalls his interests in forestry and art first combining when he was required to draw many species of pine cones while enrolled in a dendrology forestry class at SFA under the instruction of Dr. Harry Wiant.

Later in Dr. Thomas McGrath's forestry pathology class, he was required to complete more drawings.

“I already knew I had a natural talent for drawing, but my professors at SFA helped reinforce that.”

After indulging his artistic talent and graduating from SFA with two degrees, a Bachelor of Science in forestry and a Master of Arts in art, Cunningham remained in Nacogdoches and worked at Moore Business Forms for 11 years — 10 of those years as an artist. He retired from the company in 1984 to pursue his interest in art full time.

“I gained a lot of knowledge about the printing industry in that position, and that was a good thing,” he said.

PRESIDENTIAL TIES

When asked about his most famous works of art, Cunningham recalls two paintings that were commissioned for U.S. presidents.

The first painting is of the historic Wye Oak Tree, the largest white oak found in Wye Mills, Maryland, which he painted in 1990 as a commissioned piece for the Society of American Foresters' national convention. The painting was presented to then-President George H. W. Bush, who gave it back to the society, and it now hangs in the Gifford Pinchot Building in Bethesda, Maryland, at Bush's request.

Cunningham's second White House connection occurred in 2005 when he was commissioned by the U.S. Forest Service to commemorate its 100th anniversary by creating a pen-and-ink watercolor displayed in a hand-carved chestnut frame to be presented as a gift to then-President George W. Bush on Arbor Day. As part of the ceremony, a chestnut tree was planted on the White House grounds by Bush.





Cunningham is especially proud of the signed thank you letter he received from Bush afterward. The letter was printed on official White House stationery.

Many of Cunningham's other works of art have been recognized with honors and awards, including *Gymnosperms of the United States and Canada*, a book illustrated, published and designed by Cunningham with text written by Dr. Elray S. Nixon. The book won the Donovan Stewart Correll Memorial Award presented by the Native Plant Society of Texas in 2015.

This first-of-its-kind field manual includes 115 full-color illustrations of plant species. The book also was nominated for the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries' annual award for outstanding literature in botany and horticulture in 2012.

Other works in which Cunningham takes pride are nine silkscreen paintings that were recently showcased in the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches, as well as three original framed paintings currently displayed in the Old University Building in Nacogdoches. The paintings were donated to the city's historic building after being purchased by Ed and the late Gwen Cole, who have made generous donations to SFA and Nacogdoches.

THE FUTURE

Although he still spends a majority of his time creating with his dogs and cats nearby,



Cunningham said he also enjoys volunteering as a chaplain for two Nacogdoches-area nursing facilities where he leads Sunday worship services and Bible study. He also periodically sells his artwork at the Nacogdoches Farmers Market. Every year, he attends Society of American Foresters national conventions.

As far as future plans are concerned, nothing is set in stone. "The sky is the limit for future

goals," Cunningham said with a smile. "You're never too old to learn new things. Maybe I'll do some more paintings for presidents."

While Cunningham is known to many as a legend in his field, he doesn't look at it that way.

"What I have is a God-given talent, and I give God all the glory."

View more of Cunningham's work at www.forester-artist.com. ★

Class Notes

ELWYN J. BONE

Elwyn J. Bone '57 & '63 of Kilgore was recently honored for a second time at Kilgore College when a new lab opened its doors to students within a center named after her.

The Elwyn J. Bone Learning Center, which is housed on the second floor of the Randolph C. Watson Library on the Kilgore College campus, opened in 1996. The new lab, which opened in November, will benefit students by providing study resources.

Bone began her tenure at Kilgore College in 1966 as an English and speech teacher before her promotion to director of the communications division in 1970. She later served as an academic dean at the college. She received the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation Professor of the Year Award in 1989.



1960s



Polly '67 and Grover Belcher '69 of Deer Park recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Polly retired after 30 years of teaching. Grover retired after

44 years as a teacher, coach and administrator. They celebrated their golden anniversary by taking their family members, including nine grandchildren, on a Disney cruise.

1970s



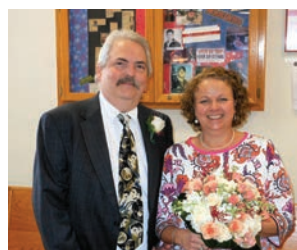
Ann Connor '73 of Palestine announced her candidacy for Palestine City Council District 6. Connor has lived in Palestine for 12 years. She graduated with honors from SFA as the highest-ranking senior in her graduating class.

Robin Dawley '77 of Nacogdoches was elected Nacogdoches County Precinct 3 commissioner.

1980s



Robert "Rusty" Brockman '83 of New Braunfels is chair of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority Board of Directors.



James L. Stotts III '84 & '88 and Susan Radven Ross '85 & '92 of Magnolia were married Dec. 19.



Lance Hunter '87 of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, received the Best of Show Award in the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society's 70th annual International

Exhibition, Aqueous Open 2016. Hunter is a professor of art at Northeastern State University.

Cynthia Lemke '87 of Keller is a journalism teacher and student newspaper advisor at Keller High School in Keller ISD.

1990s



Dr. Stu Musick '90 of Navasota was named the superintendent of schools for Navasota ISD.

Lawrence "Trey" Homan '91 & '95 of San Antonio is the executive director of Professional Photographers of San Antonio, president of the Texas Professional Photographers Association and president of charities for the Professional Photographers of America. During his time at SFA, he was a member of Phi Mu Alpha and served as chapter president in 1990. He began working in photography in 1998 with his wife, Elizabeth.

Class Notes



Kurt Bouillion '92 of Houston earned his juris doctorate from South Texas College of Law Houston.



Clarinetist Master Sgt. Vicki Gotcher '93 of Virginia performed during the inauguration of President Donald Trump as a member of the "President's Own" United States Marine Band.

Dana Parr '96 of Longview has been selected by the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas to serve on its Agency Managers Advisory Council.

The Rev. Deborah Daniels Calhoun '97 of Indianapolis was honored in November as Indiana's outstanding biology teacher during the National Association of Biology Teacher's Professional Conference held in Denver, Colorado.



Randy Bass '99 of Huntsville and **Patricia Brown-Vidito '01** of Houston were promoted to sergeant at the Lone Star College Police Department in January.

2000s



Jesse Wright '00 of Port Arthur became editor of The Port Arthur News with more than 17 years of journalistic and newspaper experience.



Derek '01 and **Holli Snyder '06** of Nacogdoches added to their Lumberjack family Aug. 16 with the birth of Arden Elizabeth.

Life Members

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

- 8153. David A. Lowery '91, Cushing
- 8154. Sonia M. Lowery '94, Cushing
- 8155. Dr. Jeff McDonald '93, Nacogdoches
- 8156. Lenae McDonald '93, Nacogdoches
- 8157. Olivia A. Kling '06 & '11, Nacogdoches
- 8158. Dr. Jonathan D. Polk '98, Nacogdoches
- 8159. Anna P. Polk, Friend, Nacogdoches
- 8160. Kenneth J. Rocha '13, San Marcos
- 8161. Sara L. Rocha '10, San Marcos
- 8162. Karen J. Shirk '90, Douglass
- 8163. Brittanie E. Rakestraw '15, Nacogdoches
- 8164. Demetress C. Harrell '90 & '97, Lufkin
- 8165. Taylor J. Kovar '09, Lufkin
- 8166. Craig A. Parr '96, Longview
- 8167. Dana L. Parr '96, Longview
- 8168. Amy Murphy Ulloa '15, McKinney
- 8169. Joseph D. Aldape '16, Galveston
- 8170. Andrew S. Klingsick '11, Buda
- 8171. Jessica T. Klingsick '14, Buda
- 8172. Marty J. Murr '94, San Augustine
- 8173. Lori J. Murr '92, San Augustine
- 8174. Laura A. Morton '08 & '11, Nacogdoches
- 8175. Aaron M. Thomas '14 & '16, Austin
- 8176. Addie Jane Thomas '16, Austin
- 8177. Ashlie N. Clark '16, Pasadena, Texas
- 8178. Natalee J. Kelaher '96, Houston
- 8179. Sean E. Bradley '00, Denver, Colorado
- 8180. Chelsea E. Pitts '15, Pearland
- 8181. Ryan E. Brown-Moreno '16, Nacogdoches
- 8182. Troy D. Johnson '16, Sachse
- 8183. Jenna T. Johnson '16, Sachse
- 8184. Morgan L. Pulliam, '17, Miss SFA, Dallas
- 8185. Zachary K. McSwain '17, Mr. SFA, Spring

Class Notes



Carrie Luce '02 of Grapeland was named Teacher of the Week on Nov. 6. She has been with Grapeland ISD for 14 years.

2010s

Michael Haven '11 & '16 and **Ellen Denney '11** of Nacogdoches announce the Oct. 30 birth of Willa Rose. Michael is the first director of the newest state historic site, Mission Dolores State Historic Site, in San Augustine.

Daniel Zevin Spears '11 of Washington, D.C., received his certified meeting planner designation — a nationally recognized designation representing several years of dedication to the meeting planning industry.

Ashlee Brewster '13 of Waco was named the 2016-17 Outstanding Teacher of the Year at Mountainview Elementary School.



Chris '05 and **Rachel Arnold '07** of Leander announce the Dec. 27 birth of Riley Welles.



Brian Cavett '09 of Lavon earned the designation of Fellow in the Society of Actuaries.



Heather McPherson '14, far right, of Whitney was one of four individuals recognized by Project Aspire — a foundation that seeks to give back to Colorado women in higher education — during the organization's scholarship dinner. McPherson is a graduate student in Denver working toward a master's degree in cybersecurity.

Christopher Puariea '09 of Houston and **Stephanie Gilbreath '12** of Boerne were married in February.

Share your Lumberjack story!

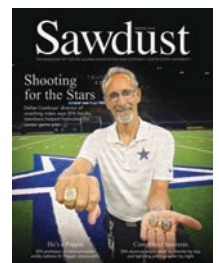
Visit sfasu.edu/sawdust to send your class notes and wedding or birth announcements to the Alumni Association.



Tell us what you think.

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

sfasu.edu/sawdust/survey



In Memoriam

ROBERT 'BOB' ALLEN



Robert "Bob" Allen of Houston, a 1971 graduate of SFA, passed away Oct. 20. Allen worked for 38 years at KTRK Channel 13 in Houston as a sports

anchor and director. He also worked for KHOU Channel 11 for two years, serving as sports director.

Allen was the nightly pipeline to the Oilers, Astros, Rockets and other professional, college, and high school teams for hundreds of thousands of viewers on Houston's most-watched newscasts.

He covered the glory days of the Houston Oilers when Earl Campbell was a player. He was on the air to detail the games and highlights of the Houston Astros during Nolan Ryan's era and the Houston Rockets' two championships.

While chronicling some of the most memorable moments in Houston sports history, he also became a friend and benefactor to dozens of young people through his work with the Sunshine Kids and Special Olympics, organizations that help people confronting challenges.

JACKIE NELSON CANNON



Jackie Nelson Cannon of Troup passed away Oct. 16. Cannon received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from SFA in 1960 and 1964, respectively. He

played football for the Lumberjacks for four years.

After graduation, Cannon coached at Shelbyville High School and retired in 2002 as a public school administrator. He served on the SFA Alumni Association board of directors, serving as board president from 1996-2000, and he was honored with the SFA Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2004.

DR. JARRELL CRAVEN GROUT



Dr. Jarrell Craven Grout, former SFA professor, passed away Nov. 12. Grout moved to Nacogdoches in 1972 and served as chair of the Department

of Computer Science for seven years. He remained a professor of computer science until his retirement in 2003.

While an SFA faculty member, Grout authored two college textbooks and numerous scholarly articles. In 2000, he received the College of Business Service Award.

A.L. MANGHAM



Nacogdoches businessman and SFA scholarship donor A.L. Mangham passed away Nov. 22. Mangham was born in Nacogdoches County

Dec. 17, 1922, and grew up in Appleby. He served in the Navy and Marines both in enlisted and officer positions. After 24 years in the military, he retired and pursued civic opportunities in banking and numerous leadership positions, which included serving as Nacogdoches mayor and on the SFASU Foundation board of trustees.

DR. C. RICHARD VOIGTEL



Dr. C. Richard Voigtel, a 1953 and 1958 graduate of SFA and former faculty and staff member, passed away Oct. 10. Voigtel had a long career in the

field of education, including teaching in elementary and high schools and high school counseling. From 1965-96, he served SFA in the areas of admissions, placement and financial aid, grants

and research, the Alumni Association, development, affirmative action, and disability services. He moved into the academic area where he taught in the Department of Counseling and Special Educational Programs, becoming department chair in 1988. He retired as professor emeritus of human services.

Voigtel was active on many boards, including the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau, Samaritan Counseling Center and Nacogdoches ISD.

DR. LEON YOUNG



Dr. Leon Young, who served SFA for more than 40 years with the distinction of a leader and educator, passed away Dec.

2. Young, also known as "Dr. Red Dirt" or "Chief" to his family and friends, came to Nacogdoches in 1975 and began teaching soil science and agronomy courses and supervising the Soil Testing Lab at SFA.

During the next 41 years, Young taught more than 2,500 agriculture students in his soil science course. He also served as director of the SFA Soil, Plant and Water Analysis Laboratory from 1984-97 and chair of the Department of Agriculture.

Young assisted in the development of SFA Gardens and, as a professor, directed thesis research and writing for more than 30 master's degree students. He was awarded the title Regents Professor in 2008 and named the Nacogdoches County Agriculture Educator of the Year in 2012.

In Memoriam

Jean M. Adams '74 of Dallas, Nov. 17

William Arrington '80 of Conroe, Oct. 26

Patricia A. Berry '85 & '91 of Lufkin, Jan. 13

Mark E. Billings '84 & '92 of Leesville, Louisiana, Dec. 4

Tom Bond '73 of San Marcos, Nov. 12

Robert Bowling '07 of Shreveport, Louisiana, Jan. 10

Malinda G. Burke '76 of League City, Dec. 24

Clyde Cozart '57 of Houston, Aug. 20

James O. Eddington '59 of Lufkin, Oct. 17

Molly Francis Foster '94 of Athens, March 29, 2016

Wilma Watkins Fuller '39 of Fort Worth, July 15

Ronnie J. Henderson Jr. '95 of Sunnyvale, Nov. 26

Jill A. Hill '87 of Fort Worth, Dec. 23

Russell T. Hughes '07 of Temple, Nov. 5

John E. Hurley Jr. '73 of Marshall, Nov. 23

Bryan S. Jared '71 of Rusk, Nov. 30

Mary L. King of Nacogdoches, retired SFA employee, Dec. 31

Billie N. Koonce '60 & '80 of Etoile, Nov. 13

Gary L. Langford of Nacogdoches, former staff member, Dec. 15

Dr. Ernest B. Ledger '70 of Nacogdoches, professor emeritus of geology, Feb. 3, 2016

Lance W. Lowery '68 of Etoile, Nov. 22

Glenn C. Mangham '48 of Orange, Nov. 20

James A. McLeod '97 of Lufkin, Jan. 26

Eva B. Medlin '75 of Lufkin, Nov. 30

Melvin B. Montgomery '71 of Huntsville, Nov. 18

Dr. Herbert Claude "Butch" Munden '73 of Austin, Oct. 24

Auderle Simons Parkerson '58 & '62 of Nacogdoches, Dec. 6

Joseph J. Peppard Sr. '61 of Huntington, Dec. 20

Mark Anthony Porter of Nacogdoches, former staff member, Nov. 30

Navoleine R. Roddy '62 of Troup, Oct. 15

Dewey H. Rogers '67 of Collierville, Tennessee, Oct. 5

Timothy J. Romero '91 of Euless, Dec. 5

Madeleine Snider of Wells, former staff member, Dec. 2

Christopher J. Snyder '99 & '05 of Nacogdoches, Jan. 14

Richard E. Spruill '65 of Marshall, Jan. 24

Patsy Ruth Stanley '50 of Alto, Oct. 15

Duane G. Stephens '58 of Tyler, Oct. 26

Danny R. Teague '65 of Athens, Oct. 10

Loweda G. Tunnell '46 of Richardson, Jan. 12

Joan Wageman '70 & '74 of Winfield, Kansas, May 29

Edward M. Welch '53 of Lufkin, Oct. 17

Christine D. Wilson '90 & '92 of Nacogdoches, Dec. 19



SFA student

Taylor N. Luther-Swiney of Orange, Dec. 4

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