

Sawdust

SPRING 2019

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

Lumberjack Legacy

Remembering
Dr. Baker Pattillo

Red, White and Purple

SFA's ROTC program
past, present, future





Hit the road, 'Jack! and bring your group with you.

For most Stephen F. Austin State University graduates, Nacogdoches is the place where memories were made and lifelong friendships were forged. In years since, it also has become an ideal place for hosting groups and events of all shapes and sizes. If you're looking for the perfect location for your group meeting, retreat or conference, we have a Nac for that. Learn about our wide range of unique venues and services at VisitNac.com/Meetings.



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President's Letter

"Planning has already begun for more than \$115 million in new construction projects to be completed as we approach the university's 100th anniversary in 2023."



Dear Lumberjacks,

AS YOU KNOW, the spring semester did not begin at all like we had hoped. One of our most beloved and respected alumni, Dr. Baker Pattillo, passed away just days before the start of the new year and his planned retirement after 52 years of SFA service, the past 12 as university president. Dr. Pattillo's loss continues to be deeply felt by everyone in the Lumberjack family, and his own family remains in our thoughts and prayers. As we move forward as a university, we are comforted by the understanding that Dr. Pattillo's extraordinary legacy will continue to benefit future Lumberjacks for many generations.

In January, the Board of Regents selected the higher education search firm R. William Funk & Associates to help find the best possible candidate to lead SFA during what is surely to be a period of historic growth and expansion. Planning has already begun for more than \$115 million in new construction projects to be completed as we approach the university's 100th anniversary in 2023. These progressive plans include a long-awaited fine arts expansion; a centralized welcome center and other renovations needed to provide a one-stop shop for student support services; a new first-year residence hall; a new or renovated dining hall; and a basketball performance center. Comprising one of the largest building initiatives in SFA history, these projects will better position the university to provide the transformational experiences we promise our students and will particularly enhance the experience of our first-year Lumberjacks.

The 86th legislative session also is well underway, and SFA's 2020-21 Legislative Appropriations Request includes \$2 million to fund a unique STEM/early childhood initiative. This would allow faculty members to develop best practices for the professional development of teachers and rich learning experiences for young children. These practices would be sustainable and replicable

across Texas. A tuition revenue bond capital request to construct a \$48 million Natural Resources Science and Innovations Laboratory also has been put forward. This multidisciplinary facility would replace several outdated buildings, increasing efficiencies and expanding teaching, research and outreach capabilities across all programs within the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, as well as military science.

Three areas within the McGee Business Building recently were named in honor of longtime SFA supporters Michael J. Hopkins '70 of Dallas, Walter E. "Loddie" Naymola '78 of Austin and Lou Ann Richardson '83 of Dallas. The Michael J. Hopkins Lobby, Walter E. Naymola Innovation Hub and Lou Ann Richardson Classroom were dedicated in January and have greatly enhanced the learning environment for our students in the Nelson Rusche College of Business. We are grateful for the generous support of these SFA alumni, and the dedications ensure those contributions will not be forgotten.

We also recently welcomed new head football coach Colby Carthel to campus, kicking off an exciting new era of Lumberjack football. His high energy, proven success at turning a football program around, and willingness to actively engage with internal and external stakeholders make him exactly the right coach for SFA at exactly the right time. We couldn't be more excited about what the future holds for SFA football with coach Carthel at the helm.

I'm sure you'll agree as alumni of this remarkable university we have a lot to be proud of and even more to look forward to. Thank you for your continued support as our university moves forward from a position of strength and stability. We hope to see you back on campus soon.

Axe 'em, Jacks!

Steve Westbrook '81 & '89
Interim President
Stephen F. Austin State University



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we engage our students
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**There is not one who lived his life for SFA and
Nacogdoches more than Dr. Pattillo.
He will be missed, but his contributions
will never be forgotten.**



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In This Issue

Features

- 4 LUMBERJACK LEGACY**
Remembering Dr. Baker Pattillo
- 10 'CADDO CONTEMPORARY: PRESENT AND RELEVANT'**
SFA and Caddo Mounds State Historic Site collaborate to showcase meaningful artwork
- 14 PROFESSION OF ARMS**
Col. Clarence Henderson reflects on his 28-year military career
- 18 RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE**
Cross-country student-athlete shares his miraculous story of survival
- 26 A RISING STAR**
Brigadier general directs U.S. Army Cyber School, builds career in military intelligence
- 30 HORSES AND HEALING**
Alumna serves on board for Sire Therapeutic Horsemanship
- 34 BRINGING THE DEAD TO LIFE**
Comic strips, skateboards and zombies, oh my!
- 44 RED, WHITE AND PURPLE**
SFA's ROTC program past, present, future

In Every Issue

VISTA VIEWPOINT	8	SCHOLARSHIPS	39
'JACK TALK	9	LIFE MEMBERS	39
ATHLETICS NEWS	22	ALUMNI CALENDAR	43
'JACKS OF ALL TRADES	23	CLASS NOTES	48
ADVISING 101	29	IN MEMORIAM	50
WORK SPACE	38		

Campus Life

ROTC Pictorial	24
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Alumni News

Alumni Association	41
President's Letter	
Mr. and Miss SFA	42



ON THE COVER:

For more than 50 years, Dr. Baker Pattillo '65 & '66 was a fixture on SFA's campus. In 2006, he was selected as SFA's eighth president — the first alumnus to serve in this capacity. Pattillo passed away Dec. 29. This issue of Sawdust pays tribute to his legacy.

Sawdust

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***RIGHT:** Dr. Baker Pattillo walks his beloved dachshund, Doches.*

***BELOW TOP:** The Board of Regents appoints Pattillo as SFA's eighth president.*

***BELOW BOTTOM:** Pattillo studies a campus map with SFA's fourth president, Dr. William R. Johnson, in 1987.*



Highlights of Dr. Baker Pattillo's Presidency

2007

Campus emergency alert system installed

Schlieff Tennis Complex opened, \$450,000

Student Recreation Center constructed, \$24 million

Lumberjack Village Parking Garage opened, \$3.2 million

2008

The Cole Art Center @ The Old Opera House opened

2009

Music Prep House opened

Early Childhood Research Center opened, \$30.8 million

- renamed for Dr. Janice A. Pattillo in 2011

Lumberjack Legacy

Remembering Dr. Baker Pattillo

STORY BY DR. SHIRLEY LUNA '85, '06 & '14



FOR 55 YEARS, SFA was a major part of the life of Dr. Baker Pattillo. It is where he began as a student, became an administrator and, beginning in 2006, led the institution as its eighth president. Pattillo, the first SFA alumnus to serve as the university's president, died Dec. 29.

Pattillo was born in Camden and attended high school in Arp, where he lettered in football three years, served his team as co-captain, and earned All-District and All-Area honors. He

served on the high school newspaper staff, and his classmates elected him "most likely to succeed."

Pattillo earned an associate degree from Tyler Junior College. He enrolled at SFA in 1963 and received a Bachelor of Science in English and history in 1965 and a master's degree in guidance and counseling in 1966 from the university. That same year, he married his high school sweetheart, Janice Anderson, and joined the university staff as assistant director of placement and student financial aid.

After earning a doctoral degree in educational administration from Texas A&M University in 1971, Pattillo continued to advance in his service to SFA. He was appointed dean of student services at age 30 and

vice president for university affairs at age 36 before being named to the university's top job in 2006.

The Pattillos' lives were centered around SFA. Janice received a master's degree from SFA, taught elementary education courses and established SFA's Early Childhood Laboratory, eventually serving as chair of the Department of Elementary Education. The couple was honored by the Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce as Citizens of the Year in 2011.

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

The ECRC is a part of the James I. Perkins College of Education. Perkins, who served on SFA's Board of Regents from 1969 until 1981, said Pattillo's love for SFA and his strong family upbringing made him one of the university's very best presidents.

"His leadership skills, ability to get along with people and financial acumen were all keys to his great success," Perkins said.

Pattillo served as chairman of the Southland Conference Board of Directors (President's Council) and as chair of the Southland Conference Advisory Council. He represented the Southland Conference in the Division I Presidential Advisory Group, providing input to the board and NCAA staff. He also represented the Southland Conference →

2010

DeWitt School of Nursing facility opened, \$13 million

New main entrance to university constructed

Chemistry Building renovated, \$7.35 million

- renamed for Robert and Kathy Lehmann in 2017

Lumberjack Landing residence hall and Wilson Parking Garage opened, \$35 million

2011

Cole Student Success Center opened

Radio/TV studios renovated, \$450,000

2012

Freshman admission standards increased

Jack Track shuttle bus system created

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison Room established in Steen Library

Phases one and two of energy efficiency completed

- resulted in 30-percent reduction in electricity consumption and 34-percent reduction in natural gas consumption

The Pattillos' daughter, Paige, an SFA alumna who graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 2004, served as feature twirler for both the SFA band and the Longhorn marching band and currently serves as assistant county attorney for Nacogdoches. She is married to Dr. Todd Brown, associate dean of the Nelson Rusche College of Business. Paige and Todd have a son, Jackson Baker Brown, who is a student at SFA's Charter School.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP: Early Childhood Research Center groundbreaking ceremony, 2008

OPPOSITE PAGE MIDDLE LEFT: Ribbon-cutting ceremony for the U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison Room in Steen Library, 2012

OPPOSITE PAGE MIDDLE RIGHT: Pattillo, left, received the 2017 Silver Bucket Award from the Texas Forest Country Partnership. Photo courtesy of Cara Campbell, The Lufkin Daily News

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM: The Pattillos with Peggy Wright, longtime university supporter and friend



as a member of the Football Championship Subdivision CEO Group, which provides oversight of FCS football.

Elected by the presidents of fellow Southland Conference universities to serve on the NCAA Division I Board of Directors, Pattillo was known as a strong advocate dedicated to ensuring the academic and athletic success of student-athletes.

"Dr. Pattillo had a tremendous love for his family and for SFA, and he was always the greatest supporter of the Lumberjack and Ladyjack sports teams," said Tom Burnett, Southland Conference commissioner. "For those of us fortunate to have worked with and for him, it is a great loss."

One of Pattillo's major goals was for SFA's enrollment to reach 13,000, and that goal was surpassed in August when the fall enrollment totaled 13,144. Under his leadership, the university had recently launched the silent phase of a \$100 million capital campaign to help position SFA for its next phase of institutional growth, and in the final Board

of Regents meeting Pattillo attended, regents approved four construction projects for up to \$125 million.

Pattillo's work often took him to Austin and Washington, D.C., to visit with lawmakers regarding issues of importance to the university. Ambassador Kay Bailey Hutchison, former U.S. senator now serving as permanent representative of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, called Pattillo "a wonderful leader who had dedicated his life to building SFA into the university it is today."

Funeral services held in the Baker Pattillo Student Center Jan. 4 were attended by more

than 1,000 mourners, including one standing more than 7 feet tall and weighing in excess of 330 pounds. Chief Caddo, one of the largest trophies in college football, has been featured at football games between SFA and Northwestern State University since 1961 and was delivered to campus by NSU administrators as a tribute to the president they called "a gentleman, a tremendous leader, a fierce competitor and a loyal friend." ★

Presidency highlights continued

2014

Brundrett Conservation Education Building opened, \$1 million

SFA begins offering engineering degree

2015

Phase three of energy efficiency completed

2016

New commons area opened in McGee Business Building

New building for printing services and Residence Life operations opened, \$3.5 million

2017

Baker Pattillo Student Center Twilight Ballroom renovated

2018

Cole STEM Building opened, \$46.4 million

Baker Pattillo Student Center Grand Ballroom and support areas renovated



Dr. Baker Pattillo Scholarship

A scholarship has been established in Pattillo's memory to ensure his student-focused legacy continues. Donations can be made online at sfasu.edu/pattillo or by sending a check made payable to the SFASU Foundation to:

SFA Office of Development
P.O. Box 6092 – SFA Station
Nacogdoches, TX 75962

Please write in memo: Dr. Baker Pattillo Scholarship.

To make a gift by phone or to discuss other ways to support this scholarship, call the Office of Development at (936) 468-5406.

Tributes to Pattillo on Social Media

"We extend our deepest sympathies to the SFA community regarding the passing of former SFA President Dr. Baker Pattillo."

Sam Houston State University Athletics

"We would like to offer our condolences to SFA tonight as we learned of the passing of former SFA President Dr. Baker Pattillo. Southland sports lost a great competitor and a fantastic human being."

Lamar University Athletics

"I join in expressing condolences to the family of SFA President Dr. Baker Pattillo. He loved his family and his university. I am privileged to have known him as a friend."

Greg Sankey, Southeastern Conference Commissioner

"Though he will no longer stand before crowds of students, faculty and university supporters with the rallying call of 'Axe 'em, Jacks!' Pattillo's dedication will guide SFA for years to come."

Josh Edwards, The Daily Sentinel News Editor

"Dr. Pattillo was the second person I met when I stepped on campus for Showcase Saturday. The many years I worked on campus not only as a student but also afterward afforded me the opportunity to be in his office countless times. He always had a welcoming vibe and cared deeply about SFA! He showed me what it was like to bleed purple."

Kory Blandford '10, SFA Alumnus

"Our condolences to the entire SFA community on the passing of former President Dr. Baker Pattillo. We're holding his family in our hearts."

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

"Thank you for your service, Dr. Baker Pattillo. May your legacy continue to live on in those you influenced and helped shape. #axeemjacks"

State Rep. Travis Clardy, District 11

"I was saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Baker Pattillo. I'm grateful for his many years of service to higher education in Texas and hope you'll join me in keeping his family in our thoughts and prayers."

State Rep. Chris D. Paddie, District 9

"I wore purple today in honor of my good friend and amazing leader Dr. Baker Pattillo, former president of SFA."

Carine Feyten, Texas Woman's University Chancellor and President

Vista Viewpoint / By Erma Nieto Brecht



ERMA NIETO BRECHT

Executive Director of Enrollment Management

SFA ACHIEVED A significant milestone in fall 2018 when enrollment reached 13,144. This achievement was not

reached by accident — rather, it was the result of strategic planning and intentional goal setting.

The university's current strategic plan, SFA Envisioned, is built upon a foundational goal of *Meaningful and Sustained Enrollment Growth*. Among the strategic plan's enrollment objectives is to reach 15,043 students by 2023.

What contributed to the current record enrollment, and what plans are in place to help attain the 2023 objective? There is no magical solution higher education institutions use to reach enrollment goals. SFA, like many other colleges and universities, experiences economic, social and cultural changes that challenge our enrollment. Therefore, it is important to identify both existing factors and characteristics that positively impact enrollment (and there are many) and experiment with and introduce new initiatives that can enhance enrollment in a meaningful and sustained manner.

The enrollment increase this past fall was impacted by an increase in dual credit and graduate student enrollment. SFA has made a commitment to serve as a dual credit provider to school districts in East Texas. This initiative allows us to take an active role as a public institution in helping the state prepare and develop a more educated population. A great benefit of expanding our dual credit program is that many of these students will become full-time Lumberjacks after they graduate from high school.

An additional strategy to increase enrollment is to expand the reach of our graduate programs through targeted recruitment initiatives.

Prospective graduate students may be unaware that SFA offers 40 master's programs — many online — and three doctoral degrees. Expanding awareness outside of SFA regarding these top-quality offerings will help encourage postgraduate enrollment. At the same time, we will steadfastly continue to recruit SFA graduates to stay and complete their graduate degrees.

In addition to dual credit and graduate enrollment initiatives, increasing partnerships with community colleges is key. Strategic planning is underway to continue to build these partnerships and impact transfer student success and SFA enrollment.

Establishing partnerships includes increasing service to prospective transfer students so their transition to a four-year institution is seamless. Community college partnerships also include specific academic pathways that involve collaboration between SFA and community college faculty members.

Recently, SFA formed a number of specific academic partnerships with area community colleges, which include offering programs in social work, sports business and interior design. These partnerships are critical in helping transfer students complete their bachelor's degree via a delivery format that meets their needs and helps them graduate in a timely fashion.

Additionally, we must not overlook traditional incoming freshmen and our current students. The recruitment and retention of these students is a top priority across campus. From offering quality academic programs with transformational learning experiences to providing academic support services and involving them in a variety of student life activities, these students chose SFA, and we must continue to keep them engaged.

Through strategically prioritizing and investing in recruitment and retention initiatives that lead to student success, SFA's enrollment will continue to thrive. ★

'JACK TALK

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Use #AxeEm or #SFAJackTalk on social media.



Future @SFASU grad!
#AxeEm

@LYNN77581 / TWITTER



Even though we live on opposite sides of the planet, it's like we just saw each other yesterday. Thanks for including me in your Cali adventure @zebine! I'm coming to you next! #lumberjacksinSF @sfa_alumni #AxeEm #texasforever

THENICOLENEWBY /
INSTAGRAM

It's **PURPLE POWER** on the playground at Harlean Beal Elementary School in Fort Worth. When her mom asked, "What did you learn at school today?" She answered, "I learned how to axe 'em." #SFAJackTalk #AxeEm

CAMILLIAC.ANDERSON /
INSTAGRAM



Saw Stephen F. Austin in San Antonio, so we had to stop for a pic, of course! @SFASU #AxeEm

@HEY_ITS_LILLYYY / TWITTER



Forty years ago on this date, I was initiated into Pi Kappa Alpha! It is a defining moment in my life. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for having me! @SFAPike @PiKappaAlpha @SFASU #AxeEm

@GMS1957GREGORY / TWITTER



Excited about her Lumberjack attire!
#FutureLumberjack @SFASU @sfa_alumni
#AxeEm

@TOMBERLAINS / INSTAGRAM

Excellent class size and open communication. Beautiful campus with activities for everyone. I enjoy the campus every time I'm in the area. My child is very independent and ready to take the next challenge life has to offer.

ERMA MARSHALL / FACEBOOK

We're excited to have signage in downtown Atlanta. Wishing John Franklin-Myers good luck in Super Bowl LIII! #GoRams #AxeEm

SFA FOOTBALL / FACEBOOK AND TWITTER





'Caddo Contemporary: Present and Relevant'

SFA and Caddo Mounds State Historic Site collaborate to showcase meaningful artwork

STORY BY ROBBIE GOODRICH '82 / PHOTOS BY HARDY MEREDITH '81

UNIQUE WORKS BY Caddo artists exhibited at SFA earlier this year still have historians and members of the art world talking. The exhibition was considered significant for several reasons.

It was the first to exclusively highlight the work of living Caddo artists, and it was the first time for contemporary Caddo art to be displayed in Nacogdoches, the home of the Caddo Nation for thousands of years before leaving its East Texas home and eventually being forced to relocate to Indian Territory in Oklahoma.

"Caddo Contemporary: Present and Relevant," which featured ceramics, paintings, beadwork, stonework and drawings, was a collaborative presentation of the SFA School of Art and Art Galleries and the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site in Alto.

This presentation of Caddo contemporary art in the artists' native homeland brought with it "tremendous meaning," according to John Handley, director of art galleries at SFA.

"It was an attempt to address and heal from past wrongs done to the Caddo people and to highlight the beauty of their work," Handley said. "Some work was directly based on ancient traditions, and other work spun off into new contemporary art forms. This exhibition showed that the Caddo people are alive and well — that they contribute to the continuation of their own history. It was a celebration in every way possible of their very existence as American artists, who also just happen to be Native Americans."

The Caddo Nation, previously known as the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, comprises descendants of Caddo tribes. Their ancestors, who historically inhabited much of what is now East Texas, Louisiana, and portions of Southern Arkansas and Oklahoma, were known for building huge earthwork mounds at sites in the territory.

In the early 19th century, the Caddo people left their East Texas home because of overcrowding by other tribes and Anglos. They relocated to a reservation along the Brazos River area in Texas; then the government moved them to Indian Territory in Oklahoma in 1859 as European-American settlement migration moved west. They refer to this time as their time of homelessness. Today, the federally recognized Caddo Nation's capital is in Binger, Oklahoma.

The idea behind this exhibition started several years ago after local art patrons began asking Handley if there were any plans for a Native American exhibition. He approached Rachel Galan, the educator/interpreter at the nearby CMSHS, about the possibility of an exhibition of Caddo art.

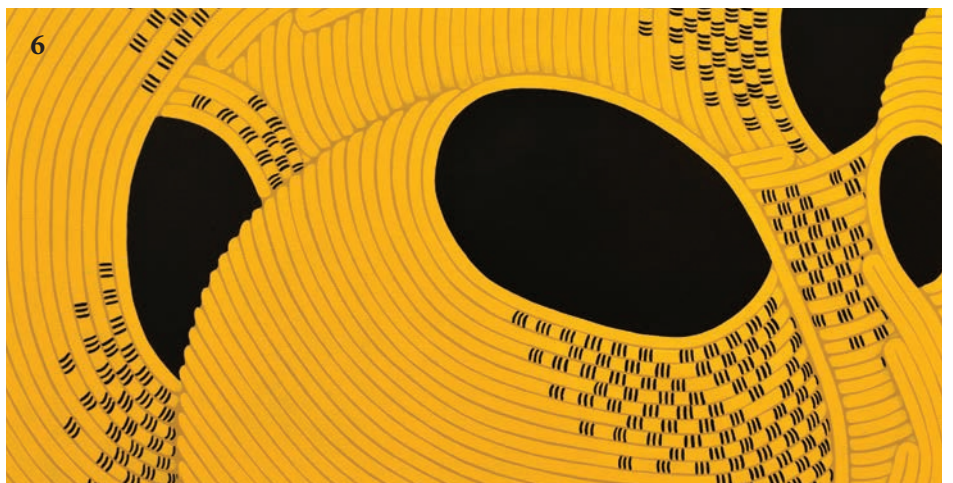
CMSHS is a prehistoric village and ceremonial center located on the original El Camino Real de los Tejas, along State Highway 21 west of Nacogdoches. According to information on the Texas Historical Association's website, visitors can walk a self-guided interpretive trail that features a grass house, an interpretive garden, Snake Woman's Garden, three earthen mounds and a borrow pit. ➔



1. "Reuniting Bonds" (2017) by Chase Kahwinhut Earles
2. Batah Kuhuh "Alligator Gar Effigy Bottle" (2018) by Chase Kahwinhut Earles and Wah-dut Ina Hateno "Red Earth Mother" (2017) by Chad Nish Earles
3. "Enoch Hoag - Chief of the Caddos" (2015) by Chad Nish Earles
4. Untitled by Thompson Williams
5. Collection includes Tah'-Nah-Ha "Buffalo Ceremonial Mace #2" and Du-Kish-Ts'-I II "Red-Tailed Hawk II Gorget #3" by Wayne Taysha Earles; "Peace Eagle" (2018), "Hasinai Princess" (2017), "Unending Twill Basket" (2016), "Buckskin Moccasins" and "Turtle Shell Purse" by Yonavea Hawkins



6. Wah-dut Ina "Earth Mother VI" (2017) by Chad Nish Earles
7. "Lost in Translation" by Thompson Williams
8. Collection includes P'-I-Ta-U-Ni-Wan'-Ha "To Have Power From Monolithic Axe #1" and Kee-wut-hi-u "Heaven, Home Above Pendant Necklace" by Wayne Taysha Earles; "Beading Loom" (2010) and Ghi-yo-tsi "Moccasins" (2015) by Yonavea Hawkins; "Nacogdoches Spirit" (2018) and "Natchitoches - Place of the Paw Paws" (2015) by Jeri Redcorn
9. "You Don't Look Native" (2018) by Raven Halfmoon





“... it shows our young Caddo members that we are trying to carve out a space for them to advance, to thrive in the arts and have a voice for our tribe.”

- Chase Kahwinhut Earles

An additional trail allows visitors to learn about the historic road and see a portion of the original El Camino Real de los Tejas. A visitor center and museum offers hands-on exhibits that highlight Caddo village life.

One of the more significant aspects of the CMSHS is that it is actual ancestral Caddo land. In recent years, the Caddo have partnered with CMSHS to help build a traditional Caddo house, give lectures and demonstrations on a variety of topics ranging from traditional stories to teaching about the Caddo in K-12 classrooms, and participating in festivals and other celebrations.

According to Galan, the CMSHS staff members often grapple with the challenges of attracting visitors to and engaging them in interaction with a historically significant space “that is no longer home to the people who made it so,” she said. Staff members attempt to meet that challenge through “collaboration, conversations and interpretation,” she said.

“Added to this challenge is preserving the historic landscape and archaeological resources of CMSHS, documenting and sharing the intangible cultural heritage of the Caddo, and engaging the Caddo people to help tell their story and honor their contributions to contemporary society,” Galan said. “This art exhibition is a wonderful example of this work, thanks in part to John and his willingness to embrace the importance of engaging Caddo artists in the development of this show.”

During his conversation with Galan, Handley said he started with the typical questions: What would an exhibition on the history of the Caddo Nation look like? What would be included?

“Rachel quickly pointed out to me that there was already a lot of scholarship on Caddo history, but little about the current Caddo Nation — especially living artists,” Handley said. “This conversation continued for some months until I put some dates on the calendar, and we were off and planning.”

Galan and staff members at CMSHS have made important connections in recent years in establishing relationships with Caddo people now living in Oklahoma.

“Building on these relationships, we contacted several artists and asked if we could visit them with an exhibition proposal we had in mind,” Handley said. “Once in Oklahoma, we met with artists Chase Earles, Yonavea Hawkins and Jeri Redcorn about the exhibition, which was warmly received.”

During the meeting, the artists asked who would select the pieces to be included in the exhibition. Handley told them each participating artist would select the work he or she wanted to show.

“That answer was exactly what they wanted to hear,” Handley said.

Additionally, the three artists were asked to compile a list of other working artists who, in their opinion, also took pride in representing the Caddo Nation. Based on that list, Chad Earles, Wayne Earles, Raven Halfmoon

From left, Caddo artists Chad Nish Earles, Wayne Taysha Earles, Chase Kahwinhut Earles, Yonavea Hawkins, Jeri Redcorn and Raven Halfmoon at the opening ceremony for the Caddo art exhibition at SFA's The Cole Art Center @ The Old Opera House



and Thompson Williams were later added to the exhibiting group.

Handley said he invited the artists to essentially curate their own show because he had slowly come to realize that there had always been a history of people who were eager to talk about the Caddo as if they were not in the room.

"Maybe no one had asked them to tell us about themselves directly through their art and presence," he said. "This became paramount for the vision of the show."

Chase described the exhibition as the epitome of his mission as a Caddo native artist.

"And that's to educate and inform the public of the unique, beautiful and often overlooked cultural identity of the Caddo people who are native to the Southeastern region," he said. "As it is one of the only exhibitions and public showings of contemporary Caddo artists, I definitely feel like it shows progress, not only in understanding of Southeastern Native American art, but also in acknowledgment of the native tribes' specific cultural identities, such as the Caddo, who are originally from these lands."

Chase said he hopes exhibitions like Caddo Contemporary will bring about an awareness to the public "and our own people" about Caddo prehistoric and historic art and culture.

"And that it shows our young Caddo members that we are trying to carve out a space for them to advance, to thrive in the arts and to have a voice for our tribe," he added.

In addition to the artwork on display, the collaboration featured storytelling sessions by Cricket Rhoads-Connywerdy, a member of the Caddo and Kiowa tribes of Oklahoma, who has been telling Kiowa and Caddo stories in Oklahoma, across the United States and internationally for more than two decades.

Also, the PBS film "Koo-Hoot Kiwat: The Caddo Grass House" was screened at Cole Art Center as part of the School of Art and Friends of the Visual Arts' Friday Film Series.

As a result of the SFA exhibition and other projects at Caddo Mounds, Chase will be welcomed to CMSHS in April as its inaugural resident artist, Galan said.

"This event will mark the first time in 800 years a Caddo person will live in his East Texas ancestral home," she said, referring to the Caddo Mound site. "In addition to creating works inspired by the site, Chase will be integral in helping to tell the stories of the place and share in the work of developing educational and interpretive materials and programs. He will mentor interns, engage with visitors and help us build a sustainable program to provide other Caddo residency opportunities."

CMSHS will host a Caddo Culture Day April 13, and Hawkins will teach a beadwork class April 14.

The exhibition was sponsored in part by William Arscott, The Flower Shop, Nacogdoches Junior Forum, Humanities Texas and Friends of the Visual Arts. ★



Caddo Mounds State Historic Site will host a Caddo Culture Day April 13, and Yonavea Hawkins will teach a beadwork class April 14.



TOP: From left, "A Storm is Coming" (2011) and "NAC Pride" (1980) by Yonavea Hawkins and Sahkoo "Sun" (2014) by Chad Nish Earles

BOTTOM LEFT: Art Professor Piero Fenci, left, and School of Art Director Chris Talbot, center, speak with Caddo artist Raven Halfmoon at the exhibition's opening ceremony.



BOTTOM RIGHT: Thompson Williams, Caddo artist, is pictured with one of his paintings. Photo courtesy of Thompson Williams

Profession of Arms

Col. Clarence Henderson reflects
on his 28-year military career

A 17.5-MILE MAZE of hallways and offices replace the rugged battlefield terrain Col. Clarence Henderson '89 & '91 has grown accustomed to during his 28 years of military service.

Dressed in battle fatigues, Henderson navigates the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, as a staff member assisting with the military budget for the Department of the Army Military Operations — Strategic Plans and Policy for War Plans. While his mission is now different, his goal remains the same — to defend the U.S. Constitution.

"I joined the Army because I needed money and expected adventure," Henderson said. "Upon accepting my

commission, I realized my oath was to the U.S. Constitution. It's important to understand the Constitution. We serve the people of the United States, and we answer to the civil authority of our elected leaders."

Working near the nation's capital and at the Department of Defense headquarters gives Henderson a different view of the military. "I like seeing the executive side," he said. "I think it's important to be effective in whatever you're doing. If I'm not learning then it's time to leave. I wanted to come here, learn new things and grow." ➔

STORY BY KASI DICKERSON '13 & '15
PHOTOS BY HARDY MEREDITH '81



Col. Clarence Henderson '89 & '91 is serving as a staff member assisting with the military budget for the Department of the Army Military Operations — Strategic Plans and Policy for War Plans in the Pentagon. On Sept. 11, 2001, immediately after watching the twin towers fall, Henderson volunteered to fight in Afghanistan. Behind him is the original flag first responders and volunteers displayed following the attack on the Pentagon.

IN THE PINES

The son of a Korean War veteran, Henderson never planned on joining the military. Instead, his interests in agriculture and track led him to SFA.

"I'll never forget my first day in class at SFA with Dr. Joseph Devine (professor emeritus of history). He lectured on the importance of history and its reflection on our lives," Henderson said. "Though I studied agriculture, from that passionate speech, I became a student of history for the rest of my life. The ability to reflect, meditate and pray about events we have experienced and studied is extremely important."

While an undergraduate, Henderson lived on the 13th floor of Garner Apartments, and he and his roommate often survived on day-old doughnuts purchased from Shipley's.

"We had the best view of campus. Everyone would come up to our room and listen to records," he said. "I still recall my roommate yelling out the window at me trying to see how far his voice would travel. I think our record was to Taco Bell on North Street."

As a student-athlete, Henderson ran the 800- and 1,500-meter dashes. In 1988, he was a member of the 4x800-meter relay team that set the school record. He also was a member of the 1988 All-Conference 2-mile relay championship team.

"I spent hours running with my teammates on every Nacogdoches back road. Everyone needs to belong to something, and for me, it was the track and cross-country teams," he said.

A SOLDIER'S START

After graduating with his bachelor's degree, Henderson planned to stay in Nacogdoches and pursue a master's degree in soil science. However, during the summer he attended basic training to earn some extra cash. Little did he know this summer job would change his life.

Upon his return to SFA to attend graduate school, Henderson also became an ROTC cadet. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant the day he received his master's degree. His goal was to serve in the National Guard, but as the only SFA cadet offered active duty, his plans changed.

"I loaded up my truck and drove to Fort Campbell, Kentucky," he said.

Henderson began his military career as a medical officer with the 101st Airborne Division. He later attended Airborne, Air Assault, Pathfinder, Jump Master and Ranger schools. At Air Assault School, he won the coveted 12-mile Road March Champion title while carrying a 30-pound rucksack. After attending Ranger School, he left the Medical Service Corps and transferred to the infantry, where he has served ever since.

According to Henderson, Ranger School is among the toughest schools, and it tests soldiers on their leadership abilities and knowledge of small-unit tactics. Henderson trained in the Georgia forests and Florida swamps, where he lived on two hours of sleep and one military field ration a day.

In 1999 and 2000, Henderson and his partner finished among the top 10 teams in the Best Ranger Competition, a grueling 60-hour event many soldiers don't complete. "We were each presented with a custom bayonet. I carried mine into combat in Afghanistan and Iraq," he said.

ON THE FRONT LINE

Walking through the Pentagon's E-wing, Henderson pauses where American Airlines Flight 77 crashed Sept. 11, 2001. An aerial view of the Pentagon's collapsed wall is on display in front of him, complete with photographs of those who helped save others inside. To the right, wooden plaques engraved with 184 nameplates serve as a visual reminder of those

"THAT DAY, I DROVE TO HEADQUARTERS IN AUSTIN AND TOLD THEM TO PUT ME IN THE FIGHT."

- Col. Clarence Henderson

TOP: Working near the nation's capital, Henderson is close to historical landmarks and memorials, such as the Korean War Memorial. When he was younger, Henderson never considered a career in the military despite his father being a Korean War veteran.

MIDDLE: While attending SFA, Henderson was a member of the 1988 All Conference 2-mile relay team and ran the 800- and 1,500-meter dashes.



While in Afghanistan, Henderson served as captain of the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. He was attached to a Special Forces A-Team to prevent enemy forces from infiltrating from Pakistan. While there, Henderson engaged in combat and was awarded the Bronze Star.



A photograph of the recovery efforts at the Pentagon following the 9/11 terrorist attack is displayed in front of an original piece of the Pentagon's wall that was damaged in 2001. Henderson's military experience has come full circle from serving in Afghanistan after 9/11 to now working at the Pentagon.

"HIS PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES AND SKILLS HAVE BEEN HONED THROUGH DECADES OF SERVICE TO OUR NATION."

**- Col. Scott MacLeod
about Henderson**

who lost their lives in the terrorist attack.

Henderson was working for the 36th Infantry Division of the Texas Army National Guard when he saw the twin towers collapse on TV. "That day, I drove to headquarters in Austin and told them to put me in the fight," he said.

After volunteering, he was sent to Fort Hood for overseas processing and departed to Afghanistan to serve with the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. His commanding officer was Col. Mark A. Milley, now a four-star general whom President Donald Trump selected in December to serve as the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Serving in a hostile area in Afghanistan along the Pakistan border, Henderson's goal was securing it and helping establish the Afghan National Army. He received a Combat Infantry Badge and Bronze Star for actively engaging and

destroying an enemy force in ground combat.

Col. Scott MacLeod, who now serves as Texas Military Department Liaison to Army Futures Command, which is aimed at modernizing the Army, was Henderson's commanding officer on a subsequent deployment in Iraq and has worked with him in various capacities for a decade.

"Clarence is a truly exceptional infantry officer whose experience and competencies place him in the top 1 percent of officers with whom I've served," MacLeod said. "His professional attributes and skills have been honed through decades of service to our nation. He is the type of leader who inspires confidence in his soldiers and is always entrusted with tough, tier-one assignments, often in dangerous places."

Henderson has been deployed around

the world in various units and roles, and his service includes commanding thousands of soldiers at the platoon, company, battalion and brigade levels.

"The hardest thing I've ever done is lead soldiers. I have been entrusted with the treasure of our country, which is the sons and daughters of parents who trust the Army will take care of them," Henderson said. "They volunteered to be a part of the profession of arms, and I must make sure they are properly trained for any situation they might encounter."

A FUTURE COMMAND

What started out as a way to make money and discover adventure has developed into a lifelong calling for Henderson. Whether he remains at the Pentagon or receives orders to once again lead troops into battle, he will be ready.

"Military service comes in many forms," Henderson said. "It may be supporting an effort by driving a truck, processing administrative orders in a combat zone or directly engaging the enemy. Wherever Army commanders determine I can do the most good and decide to send me, I'll be ready. My focus is on service and its transcending effect." ★



RUNNING FOR



CROSS-COUNTRY STUDENT-ATHLETE SHARES HIS MIRACULOUS STORY OF SURVIVAL

EIGHT YEARS AGO,
SFA student-athlete
Awet Beraki was
tossed from a truck and left
to die in the Sinai Peninsula
desert. Held captive for 11
months, he weighed just 40
pounds and lost the use of his
limbs after the shackles that
bound his wrists and ankles
rubbed through his skin and
into his bones. After enduring
daily torture and believing he
would die, Beraki heard voices
and approaching vehicles in the
distance and had hope. ➔

HIS LIFE

STORY BY DONNA PARISH '99 & '07
PHOTOS BY HARDY MEREDITH '81

"I GOT OUT OF THE TRUCK AND HAD A GUN POINTED AT MY HEAD, AND A MAN TOLD ME TO GET ON MY KNEES."

- AWET BERAKI

THE KIDNAPPING

In 2011, 13-year-old Beraki, the son of a corn and peanut farmer, and his 14-year-old cousin, Ahmed Dirar, were living in their home country of Eritrea in Africa. Beraki and Dirar decided to take a short walk to Eritrea's second-largest city, Keren, for a day trip to watch the bike races. While there, the pair was approached by a man who offered them work in his garden. The boys, eager for the extra money, agreed to accompany him.

They got in the man's car and drove to Sawa, a nearby village. The man told them to sit under a tree and wait. Later, another truck carrying two men arrived. The man who had originally dropped them off returned and told them to accompany these men because they would be able to pay the boys much more. The boys, still eager to impress their families with some extra money, got inside the truck.

While driving, the men told the boys how fortunate they were to avoid service in the Eritrean military. For decades, Eritreans have traveled into Sudan to escape conscription, risking imprisonment or execution if caught. However, those en route to Sudan often are kidnapped and held for ransom by Rashaida, a Bedouin Arab tribe known for trafficking humans in Northeast Africa.

The discussion eventually turned to a refugee camp in Khartoum, Sudan, where Beraki and Dirar's friends from their village of Bogu were now living. The men offered to stop there so the boys could see their friends, and the boys happily agreed.

On the way to Khartoum, the truck stopped in Kassala. The men told the boys someone parked nearby would take them the rest of the way.

"That's when things started to get crazy," Beraki said.

After traveling a short distance, the truck stopped outside a brown house. There, a gang of men was shouting in Arabic while brandishing automatic rifles and knives, and the boys began to shake.

"I got out of the truck and had a gun pointed at my head, and a man told me to get on my knees," Beraki said. The boys were told they were going to be taken to Israel, and the cost of their passage would be 120,000 nakfa (about \$8,000.)

"We have nothing," Beraki told one of the men. Another man stepped closer and pressed the barrel of his gun to Beraki's face. The man gave him the choice to go or not. "If I said no, I was going to die," Beraki said.

Another man, gesturing with a knife, walked over to another captive, a 36-year-old ex-military Eritrean who had been caught after crossing the border to escape military duty. The man asked him if he wanted to go to Israel. The captive answered, "No." As the young cousins watched, one of the men stepped up to the captive and bashed his skull with the butt of a rifle. Two more men beat him with their fists and guns. He collapsed in the dirt.

THE CAPTIVITY

The men locked the boys in a truck and drove them to a house about 30 minutes away. They dragged Beraki and his cousin inside, where they joined other Eritreans, most of them young, lying on blankets in a circle with their feet tied. With guns pointed at their backs, a man chained them together — 24 boys and three girls.

A week passed with the captives surviving off of rations of bread scraps and a little water until they were packed into the bed of another truck — layering several of the children on the bottom, covering them with a tarp and adding another layer, until all the captives were on board.

For a week, the truck drove through Sudan, only unloading the captives once to feed them. During that week, they drove more than 1,000 miles over difficult terrain.

"When we reached the final destination, we were unloaded," Beraki said. "The children on the bottom were dead — crushed to death. The men left their bodies in the desert sun."

After unloading, the captors asked the survivors to identify as either Christian or Muslim, and then separated them into two groups. "They shot the Christians in the head," Beraki said.

Looking around, he realized they were now at some type of auction. He had attended camel auctions before, and the bustle of the market was familiar to him, but this was different.

The captives were taken to a platform and auctioned. Someone bought Beraki, Dirar and 11 other boys as a group.

The buyer, whom the boys nicknamed Cena, and his men dragged them to a truck and drove through the desert, stopping at a strand of bleak houses. The group was led to a windowless room and chained to six other boys who had been there for six months.

Cena's intention was to hold them for ransom, forcing the boys to contact their families by cellphone while undergoing torture to convince them to pay. Each of the boys told Beraki their families had already paid \$25,000 for their freedom, but Cena wanted more.

Their families had no money left to send. Cena told Beraki and Dirar they would need to each pay \$33,000 for their freedom.

To prove he was serious, Cena took a bolt cutter and cut the chains of one of the captives, dragged him outside and killed him.

Beraki called his father to beg him to pay his ransom. To encourage his father to comply, Cena soaked Beraki's feet in freezing water and whipped the tops with a metal rod. As Beraki's family tried to raise the money, his torture continued. Cena hung him by his ankles from the ceiling for an hour each week. He was punched in the mouth, losing three of his teeth and fed little to nothing.

Months passed. Beraki watched the bellies of the women who had been raped by their captors swell. They beat the women and poured molten plastic on their backs. Beraki could no longer walk and was barely breathing.

Eventually, Beraki and Dirar's families were able to pay the ransom by taking out loans and selling everything they had, but Cena did not release them.

Beraki recalls Cena approaching him in the dark house with a cup in one hand and a gun in the other. He ordered him to stand against the wall. "If you move," Cena said, while balancing the cup on Beraki's head, "I'm going to shoot you in the forehead." Beraki shook with fear, and the cup fell to the floor. Cena put it back on Beraki's head, and stepped back, while raising his gun. Beraki shut his eyes, trembling. Cena shot the cup.

One night, the captors decided that Beraki, Dirar and some of the other captives were too thin and close to death. They were no longer of any value. So, they loaded them in a truck and

drove toward Israel, stopping near the border and dumping them in the desert.

THE RESCUE

Members of the Egyptian army patrol found the boys and took them to a hospital in Arish. Beraki stayed in the hospital for two months. While there, he met an Eritrean humanitarian worker the Eritreans called Doctor Alganesh. She helped Beraki and his cousin secure money, food, plane tickets and a car ride to Mai-Aini Refugee Camp in Ethiopia. Beraki also was finally able to contact his family and let them know he was alive.

Returning to Eritrea was too dangerous. Even though Beraki and his cousin did not flee the country, the Eritrean military likely would not believe them, and they risked

repercussions by returning. It was safer for them to travel to Ethiopia where they could try to come to America.

After the boys had spent a year and eight months at the refugee camp, officials were finally able to get them relocated to the United States. With an uncle living in Virginia, Beraki thought that was where he was headed, but instead, he was sent to Colorado Springs to live with a foster family and attend school for the first time.

The boys had to overcome many obstacles, including not speaking English and being enrolled as freshmen in high school. Eventually, Dirar was able to get housing assistance from a church organization and moved into an apartment. Beraki later joined him. ➔



STARTING TO RUN

While living with his foster family, Beraki was encouraged by his foster brother to play football for Palmer High School. "One day, the team ran the Manitou Incline, a trail that gains nearly 2,000 feet in under a mile," Beraki said. "Before the rest of the team reached the top, I had been there twice."

The football coach contacted the cross-country coach and told him about Beraki. That season, as a sophomore, Beraki played football and ran cross-country. By his junior year, he was running a 5K in 16 minutes, four seconds and was among the top 100 runners in the country in his age group.

Beraki trained with a group of Kenyan runners, where he met former SFA record-holding distance runner Charles Mathenge, who encouraged him to consider attending SFA. After discussions with the coaches and a visit to the campus, Beraki, who was being recruited by multiple colleges and universities, committed to run for the Lumberjacks.

Wrapping up his freshman year at SFA, Beraki placed fourth at the Arturo Barrios Invitational. As he continues to settle into his life in the United States, he says running has been a way to escape depression and stop thinking about all that has happened to him. "It makes me feel super free and happy," he said.

THE FUTURE

Although running is a main focus for Beraki, it is not the ultimate finish line. He is working toward a degree in English and hopes to serve as a translator for the same organization that helped him and Dirar secure housing and pay their expenses while living in Colorado Springs. He says this will enable him to stay in America and still help the Eritrean people, who are escaping human trafficking and coming to the United States.

While watching Beraki interact with his teammates on the track at Homer Bryce Stadium, it's hard to believe, or understand, all that he's been through. His gentle voice and kind personality might be two attributes that helped him survive. Many in his position would have given up. But it's clear that Beraki is a survivor. Even more than that, he is an inspiration. ★



Athletics News

CARTHEL NAMED HEAD FOOTBALL COACH



COLBY CARTHEL HAS been appointed SFA's 20th head football coach. Carthel, a proven winner and national champion, led Texas A&M University-Commerce to the pinnacle of NCAA Division II football in 2017. That season, the team captured the program's first NCAA Division II national championship. With four coach of the year awards, Carthel's 35 total wins during the past three seasons is almost unprecedented in college football. Of the 27 scholarship programs in Texas, only Carthel-led A&M Commerce and three other programs have had three-straight 10-win seasons in the past 10 years. ★

HUMPHREYS NAMED COACH OF THE YEAR

LEADING THE LADYJACK volleyball team to the 2018 NCAA Volleyball Tournament this past fall, 31-year head coach Debbie Humphreys received the 2018 Katrinka Jo Crawford Southland Conference Coach of the Year Award. It was Humphreys' seventh coach of the year recognition by the league.



FROM LEFT: Alisa Blair, assistant volleyball coach; Humphreys; Jenny McGhee, Southland Conference senior associate commissioner for external operations; Adler Augustin, assistant volleyball coach

the Year Award. It was Humphreys' seventh coach of the year recognition by the league.

The Ladyjack volleyball team closed out one of the best seasons in program history. Though they fell 3-0 in the opening round, the Ladyjacks put together a campaign for the ages. SFA headed into the tournament sporting a nation-leading and program record 29-match winning streak. In all, SFA established new program records for wins (32), consecutive wins and winning percentage (.914) during its magical season. ★

'Jacks of All Trades / With Maj. Erin Braswell '05



Photo courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army



Braswell and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joe Geib in the UH-60M Simulator / Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

LUMBERJACKS MAKE GREAT AVIATION OFFICERS

Story by Joanna Armstrong '17

MAJ. ERIN BRASWELL '05 can trace the beginning of her journey to a career in the Army back to a single, pivotal day.

Now serving as an aviation officer at Wheeler Army Airfield in Honolulu, Hawaii, she was then pursuing a bachelor's degree in health science and playing softball at SFA. When the events of 9/11 unfolded, Braswell knew she wanted to change her life's direction and find a way to serve others.

"I remember going to softball practice that day and the coach telling us that this was a life-changing moment for everyone in our country," she said.

For Braswell, it was the moment that set her on the path to military service.

Deciding to leave softball after the season, she met Maj. James Attaway, now a professor and chair of SFA's Department of Military Science, when he worked as a divemaster in a scuba diving class in which she was enrolled. Speaking to Braswell about the benefits of SFA's ROTC program, Attaway convinced her to try it out and see if it could be a fit for her.

"Immediately after meeting Erin, I knew she was destined for great things," Attaway said.

While she didn't initially know if she wanted to pursue a military career, SFA's ROTC program provided her with a place to learn before making a commitment to the Army. Through the program, she learned land navigation, orienteering, squad tactics and leadership skills, among other problem-solving techniques, Braswell said.

"The things we were able to do in the woods of East Texas due to the location of SFA helped build a solid base for me," she added. "At SFA, I was able to achieve all these basic skills you really need to have to be successful in the Army. I credit the ROTC with so much of what I have been able to accomplish and the base-level knowledge it gave me."

Additionally, Braswell recognizes the role Attaway played in guiding her toward her career.

"There's this running joke in the Army that you should thank your recruiter, so I tell anyone who will listen that I'm in the Army today because of James Attaway," she said.

Before advancing to her current role as an executive officer with the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, Braswell served as an air ambulance helicopter pilot and an air assault helicopter pilot, running resupply and troop transport missions. She has garnered more than 13 years of flight experience. Working toward a promotion to lieutenant colonel, Braswell has worked tirelessly to serve as the brigade executive officer because of the positive impact she could have on subordinate battalions.

"I just thought, 'Let's go all in. I want a job where I can make the most impact.' And for me, that is being the brigade executive officer," she said.

In her current role, Braswell leads a staff of approximately 110 people, providing guidance and setting daily priorities. This role allows her to play an integral part in the growth and professional development of some of the Army's future leaders.

"It is incredibly humbling to lead so many people and be able to affect their professional development," Braswell said. "My goal is to make sure they're not as good as me, but that they're better."

It's this desire to make a difference that has motivated Braswell to remain beyond her initial commitment and make military service her career.

"I've stayed in the Army because I've had great leaders who showed me what it means to serve others," she said. "To me, it's important to leave the Army better than you found it." ★



1st Lt. Kile G. West

Nanette West, Kile's mother, is recognized.

ROTC



50 YEARS AT SFA

MEMBERS PAST AND present of SFA's ROTC program and members of their families came to campus Feb. 22 and 23 to celebrate the program's 50th anniversary.

During the celebration, attendees took part in a Sportsman Social held at Meadow Ridge Archery and Gun in Nacogdoches. Saturday's events kicked off with the 1st Lt. Kile G. West Memorial 5K Challenge and 1K Fun Run, followed by a demonstration at the program's obstacle course, named in West's honor.

West, who graduated from SFA in 2005, attended the field artillery officer basic course and was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood. West and four of his men were killed in action on May 28, 2007,

in Abu Sayda, Iraq, while en route to rescue the crew of a downed U.S. aircraft. West was the first officer commissioned at SFA to be killed in action. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with Valor and the Purple Heart. West's mother, Nanette West, was recognized during a luncheon held in Shelton Gym.

During the luncheon Maj. James Attaway, professor and chair of military science, recognized the many alumni and cadets who have impacted the program during the past five decades. The weekend's events closed with the ROTC program being recognized during halftime of the Lumberjack basketball game on Saturday. ★



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In memory all Austin Raiders
past and present

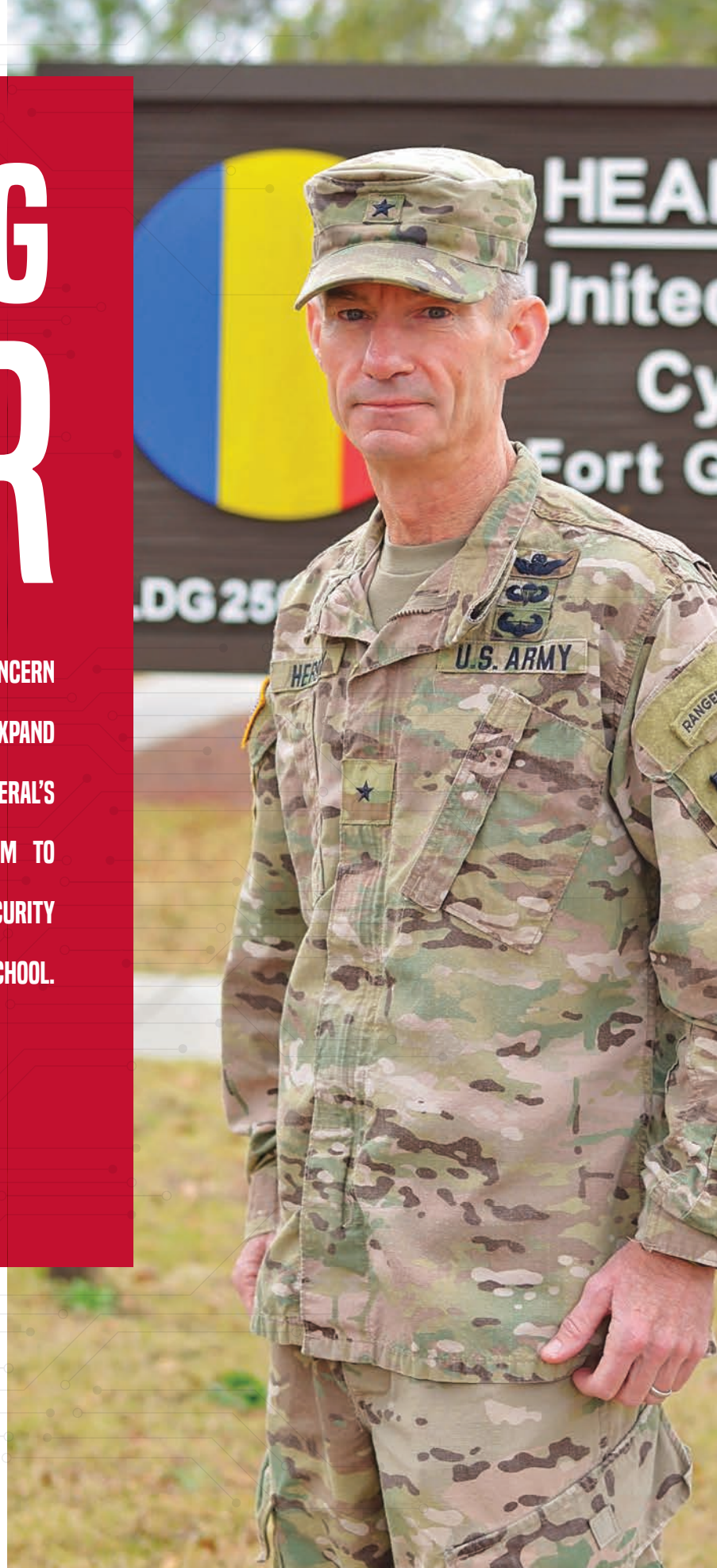


A RISING STAR

AS CYBERSECURITY BECOMES A GROWING CONCERN IN THE UNITED STATES AND CYBERATTACKS EXPAND BEYOND BORDERS, THIS BRIGADIER GENERAL'S MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CAREER LEADS HIM TO DIRECT THE NEXT GENERATION OF CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONALS AT THE U.S. ARMY CYBER SCHOOL.

STORY BY
CHRISTINE BROUSSARD '10

PHOTOS BY
ROBIN JOHNSON '99





WITH WALLS COVERED in framed distinctions and bookshelves filled with mementos from the past 30 years, Brig. Gen. Neil Hersey's office is like a 3D, freestanding, four-walled scrapbook of his decades-long military career.

Two years ago, the 1986 SFA graduate was appointed commandant of the U.S. Army's Cyber School, located in Fort Gordon, Georgia. But a quick scan of his modest office tells at least a surface-level story of the journey that led him to such a prestigious position.

"I did not join and go through the [SFA ROTC] program with the intent of staying in the military for 30 years and eventually becoming a general officer, and I would say that is a typical story," Hersey said with a slight grin.

A sea of Army and Joint Commander coins for excellence lay beneath a thick layer of glass that covers a round table. "My plan was to get experience and then move over to law enforcement. But what I found was the mission, the people and the opportunities have continued to keep me in."

Hersey came to SFA interested in law enforcement and with the long-term goal of attending a federal or state law enforcement academy. He did not pursue ROTC at the start, but one elective course pointed him in that direction.

"One of the electives I took was marksmanship, and when I was in that class, they told me there were scholarships available for ROTC, so I started asking questions," Hersey said. "I realized ROTC suited the kind of person I am. It was well aligned with

my long-term goals."

Hersey received a Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice from SFA with a minor in military science. He earned his commission, went into the military intelligence field and kick started a career that would, at key moments, build upon his past experiences and draw him further into a career in which he is very passionate.

"The Army is a people business, and I've met some of the best people in the world. One percent of our population raises their hand to serve, so I thank them as often as I can," he said, adding that it's surreal to think how far he's come. "About the time I was selected for lieutenant colonel, I had to finally admit to myself that I was a career guy. To think about where I am now — I have to pinch myself. It's very humbling." ➔



A photo in Brig. Gen. Neil Hersey's office shows Hersey, right, receiving a commander's coin for competing in the 1989 Army Ten-Miler from then-Brig. Gen. William M. Matz Jr., who was later promoted to major general. Hersey was six weeks out of Ranger School when he competed in the race.



The U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon hosted a change-of-responsibility ceremony for the U.S. Army Cyber School, where Col. Kenneth Rector (left) passed his commandant responsibilities to Brig. Gen. Neil Hersey (right), the first general officer commandant for the school. Photo by Wilson A. Rivera, Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office



Brig. Gen. Neil Hersey administers the oath of office to 1st Lt. James Gusman (far left) and 1st Lt. Timothy Hennessy during the Cyber Direct Commissioning Ceremony at Fort Benning's Taylor Field in May 2018. Photo by Markeith Horace, U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence Public Affairs Office



JUST STARTING OUT

Membership in the armed forces has led Hersey to cities all around the world. But an expeditionary lifestyle was not foreign to him. Hersey's father worked for the Army and Air Force Exchange and, at a very young age, Hersey had already logged multiple moves, at least one overseas, before his family settled in Southwest Dallas.

After graduating from Duncanville High School, enrolling at SFA was an easy choice.

"SFA was seen as one of the best in the state school system," Hersey said. "Then I visited the campus and just thought it was a spectacularly beautiful area in which to live. The size of the school was perfect for me at the time, too.

"Like many, I didn't really know what I wanted to study when I went into college," he added. "I was interested in law enforcement when I started, and SFA had a very good criminal justice program and liberal arts school. Those are other things that drew me to the university."

While at SFA, Hersey was a member of the fraternity Delta Tau Delta and Alpha Phi Sigma, the national criminal justice honor society. After joining ROTC, he also became a member of the SFA chapter of Scabbard and Blade, a college military honor society.

Upon graduation, Hersey was commissioned into Army military intelligence, which luckily was one of his top five branch choices.

'HEALTHY TO NEVER FEEL COMFORTABLE'

Hersey's first duty assignment was with the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Ord, California. Then, in August 1991, he was board selected for rotary-wing flight training and moved to Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Duties within the military intelligence sector run the gamut, but essentially, "you're taking information and synthesizing it," Hersey explained.

"Within a formation, you have a commander who runs the organization, and he or she is given a mission. The first thing the commander has to do is understand the terrain, understand the operating environment and understand the conditions needed to be able to fight. As an intelligence officer in the military, you are the person who

educates and prepares the commander to complete the mission.”

The weight of such an important responsibility, Hersey said, really only helped him to hone his intelligence skill set.

“One of the great things about the Army is that as soon as you get good or comfortable at something, they’ll throw you new challenges to up your game,” he added. “So, it’s a continual process of leader development and improving your abilities. I think it’s healthy to never completely feel comfortable with what you’re doing.”

In April 1994, Hersey was reassigned to 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (Aerial Exploitation) in Wiesbaden, Germany, before serving a second overseas tour at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. He held several positions at both. In 1999, Hersey was selected to serve as a troop commander and squadron executive officer before being reassigned in 2004 as a special programs officer for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

“Then I went back to Germany, back to the same unit I was a captain in ... and I commanded that battalion,” Hersey said. “Actually, as a lieutenant colonel, I flew the same aircraft that I had flown as a captain. It was fantastic. Then I took that organization and deployed it to Afghanistan.”

Fast-forwarding through a few other reassignments that took him through Fort Hood, among other locations, Hersey took responsibility Aug. 4, 2017, as the commandant of the U.S. Army Cyber School at Fort Gordon, Georgia. The school had opened exactly three years prior.

THE WORLD OF CYBERSECURITY

The move to cyberspace was a natural fit for Hersey’s talent and experiences. With technology being one of the fastest-evolving industries, staying at the forefront of cybersecurity requires talent in exactly what military intelligence offers — the quick and succinct synthesis of massive amounts of information.

“When the information superhighway was created, it was all built to make information sharing convenient and to create connections,” Hersey said. “As that grew, it became a very easy way for people to be able to do bad things with relatively limited resources. The

proliferation of smart devices just creates what we call more attack surface. As that grows, that requirement to be able to defend those will continue to grow.”

With partnerships forming between Augusta University and other Georgia and local entities, the military and commercial sectors are increasingly sharing their information to approach cybersecurity from a more holistic vantage point.

“[Cyber]attacks all fall to one central problem and that is information gathering,” said Dr. Christopher Ivancic, assistant professor and creator of SFA’s new graduate cybersecurity program. “Our online presence has never been so ubiquitous and will continue to grow. Private and government jobs need people who understand cybersecurity and the potential threats we have to deal with.”

Just like SFA’s cybersecurity graduate program, the Army Cyber School builds curriculum based on the National Security Agency’s recommendations. In fact, one of the NSA’s four cryptologic centers is located at Fort Gordon.

“We have a kind of ecosystem in the Augusta area that is very much plugged into what is going on at Fort Gordon,” Hersey said. “The three-star headquarters of Army Cyber Command is moving here in 2020, and we’ll probably have about 70 percent of the Army’s cyber operational force here at Fort Gordon, so there’s a lot of growth.”

Propped up on the windowsill in the corner of Hersey’s office is an insignia of a shield with an upright sword in the middle and the wording “Defend. Attack. Exploit.” cupping the bottom.

The saying is the heart of the Army’s cyber corps and is a constant reminder to Cyber School students of their ultimate mission.

“One of the unique things about the cyberspace branch is that it’s a maneuver force,” Hersey said. “Our network itself is a weapon system and should be looked at that way. You have to defend your weapon system, and you also have to be able to use your weapon system.”

Staying ahead of the rapid growth of technology and cyber threats can be “daunting to think about,” Hersey added, “which is why we create a very challenging curriculum because that is what graduates are going to see when they join an operational force. We think we do a pretty good job at preparing them to do that.” ★

Advising 101

SFA’s Veterans Resource Center offers guidance for veterans and their families

BY JOHN FONTENOT

Coordinator, Veterans Resource Center



MILITARY SERVICE

MEMBERS often experience a variety of tough battles in the line of duty. They also may encounter many challenges after returning home — some of these challenges can feel

even tougher to endure. Returning to the classroom in pursuit of a college degree can fall into this category.

SFA’s Veterans Resource Center was created to help students overcome this challenge. Opening its doors in 2012, the VRC provides veterans, their dependents and ROTC members with the resources to help them complete their college degree.

As the center’s coordinator, I help students manage the day-to-day stressors associated with the transition to college life, and I can truly say that my current role is just as important as the role I served in the U.S. Army with the 3rd Ranger Battalion.

Since coming to SFA in 2008, I’ve earned two degrees, assisted with the development of the center and also recently became a licensed professional counselor. My goal has always been to build a solid framework and philosophy that supports a service-oriented veterans center at SFA. I’m proud our university is a veteran-inclusive institution that proudly serves those who served their country.

In addition to providing a space where students can study and enjoy social experiences with like-minded individuals, the VRC offers free printing and testing materials, a complimentary coffee and refreshment bar, access to résumé creation materials, and advisement from the university’s career services staff members. Most importantly, we provide an open door where students can walk in at any time and receive help.

If you know a veteran or a veteran’s dependent who is interested in pursuing a college degree, please help me spread the word about the variety of resources available at the VRC. Let these prospective SFA students know we care about their success and understand the difficulties they may face with the college transition. We will see them through every step of the journey during their college career — all the way to the other side of the graduation stage. ★

Horses and Healing

Alumna serves on board for Sire Therapeutic Horsemanship

STORY BY KASI DICKERSON '13 & '15

PHOTOS BY HARDY MEREDITH '81

GRIPPING THE LEAD rope, K Leonard '80 steadies Gertie, a sandy-colored pony that loves apples and flaunts a multicolored mane, as 20-year-old Lauren Igler settles into the saddle to begin her lesson.

Since 2016, Leonard has served as a board member for Sire Therapeutic Horsemanship, a nonprofit organization that provides horse therapy for adults and children with special needs.

"Being able to play a role in educating people about our results and helping provide the funds to build facilities and offer riders scholarships is something I'm very passionate about," Leonard said. "It gives me joy to give back in a very meaningful way."

With three locations in the greater Houston area, Sire is one of the largest organizations of its kind, serving almost 300 riders a week ranging in age from 3 to 83, who have been diagnosed with a variety of conditions, including cerebral palsy, autism and Down syndrome.

"Each rider is treated as an individual. When the riders come into the program, our instructors and site managers discuss their diagnosis. They complete an evaluation to better understand their goals and what

they want to work on to improve the quality of their lives," Leonard said.

Situated in the middle of a subdivision, Sire's location in Spring is a 37-acre property with an arena and sensory course for therapy. Other locations include a site in Hockley and a program based at the Richmond State Supported Living Center in Richmond. Sire is recognized by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International as a Premier Accredited Center, and all of its instructors are PATH certified.

"Sire started with horse lovers who knew the healing power of these animals," said Joe Wappelhorst, Sire executive director. "Our mission is to help people with special needs meet their life goals through partnership with horses."

Sire's history spans three decades, and Leonard has been with the organization since its beginning when founder Cindy Lindh boarded her horses in Nacogdoches.

"I was a college student and didn't have my horses in Nacogdoches, so instead of being homesick, I was horse sick. I had the opportunity to work with Cindy doing arena work. She was just getting the program started," Leonard said. ➔



Gertie and K Leonard '80



TOP LEFT: Since she was a child, K Leonard '80 has loved horses, often showing Appaloosas and competing in equestrian events. Now a board member for Sire, Leonard works with horses like Gertie (pictured) when helping riders during their lessons.

TOP RIGHT: Inside the Sire arena in Spring, Lauren Igler works on her balance during a lesson with Shayna Bolton, site manager, and Leonard.

MIDDLE: After completing her lesson, Igler celebrates with Bolton and Leonard. At the Spring location, Sire has several areas where riders can work on accomplishing their goals.

BOTTOM: Leonard leads Gertie to the stalls after a riding lesson. A key component of horse therapy is teaching riders the importance of horse grooming and tacking, which is equipping horses with accessories, like saddles and bridles.



“When you can give someone the gift of communication, mobility, socialization and self-esteem, it’s truly amazing.”

- K Leonard

A COUNTRY GIRL

While Leonard grew up near the Galleria in Houston, she’s a self-proclaimed country girl. “I have loved horses for as long as I can remember,” she said. “When I was in elementary school, my dad purchased a small farm, and I got my first pony, Blaze, and it sort of mushroomed from there.”

Throughout junior high and high school, Leonard showed Appaloosas and competed in equestrian events. She continued to compete at the world and national levels throughout her adult life, earning multiple year-end high-point awards in dressage, halter, and various Western and English performance events. Her love of all things country sparked her interest in attending SFA. In fact, she remembers driving by the university on her way to her grandparents’ house and being drawn to the landscape.

Leonard entered college with the goal of becoming a writer for a horse magazine and decided to major in agriculture and minor in journalism. She said she discovered more opportunities in journalism and flipped her major. Leonard served as a sports writer for The Pine Log, covering the women’s track team. She also worked as the Friday edition editor when the paper was produced twice a week. During her time at SFA and on The Pine

Log staff, Leonard interviewed and wrote articles about ABC news reporter Sam Donaldson, comedian Bob Hope and Olympic athlete Wilma Rudolph.

Dr. Francine Hoffman, former SFA journalism professor, had a major influence on Leonard’s life. “She called me into her office one day and said there was an internship opportunity at Conoco in the public relations department,” Leonard said. “With that introduction from Dr. Hoffman, Conoco sent me an application. I spent a summer there and was hooked on working in the energy industry and corporate communications.”

CORPORATE CAREER

Leonard’s internship with Conoco blossomed into a 36-year career in corporate communications within the energy sector. “It was an introduction into corporate America that never really entered my mind before,” Leonard said. “I had the opportunity to work on projects all over the world, and I tie these opportunities back to the mentor relationship I had with Dr. Hoffman.”

After graduating from SFA, Leonard began working for Union Texas Petroleum in Houston as the editor of the company’s employee publication. She later transitioned to a position with Columbia Gulf Transmission, a natural gas pipeline company, where she worked for more than 20 years managing all aspects of corporate communications, internal and external relations, charitable programs and service projects.

She later opened her own communications firm before working for Anadarko Petroleum and then as director of communications at Calpine, an electric power producer. Leonard finished her career as the public relations manager for Enron Oil and Gas Resources, one of the biggest independent oil and gas companies in the U.S.

As she began thinking about retirement, Leonard brainstormed ways to marry her corporate communications experience with her passion for horses.

“I fondly recalled volunteering with Sire in 1980 when it was still in Nacogdoches, and I stayed involved with the organization during the years. I thought the organization was one where I could give back,” she said. “I talked with administrators and told them if there is an opening on the board to please keep me in mind.” It wasn’t long before Sire connected with Leonard.

SERVICE WITH SIRE

When talking with Leonard, it’s easy to see she is passionate about Sire. “K has used her influence in the community to shine a light on Sire. She’s not shy about talking to anybody about it,” Wappelhorst said. “It’s been fabulous to have her in that role. She knows the program, knows what we need and is able to communicate that to the public. She has had a huge impact.”

Since becoming a board member, Leonard has helped garner more recognition for the organization and has chaired Saddle Up for Sire, an event that combines online fundraising with a trail ride to connect the equestrian community with Sire and its riders.

“This organization is so important to me because you really see the changes that it makes in people’s lives,” Leonard said. “The neat thing is the value of the horse partner. The tactile sensations of touching their soft, warm coats and feeling the motion when riding are incomparable from a therapeutic standpoint. It’s something that simply can’t be duplicated in a traditional clinical setting.”

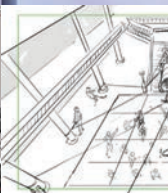
Leonard shared stories of Sire riders whose lives have been changed since entering the program, including people who were once nonverbal now speaking their first words. Others have regained their ability to walk following strokes or other debilitating illnesses. “When you can give someone the gift of communication, mobility, socialization and self-esteem, it’s truly amazing,” she said.

While Leonard’s board responsibilities keep her on the road and phone most of the time, she said she tries to visit the sites as often as she can.

“Sire matches an important need in our community,” she said. “When I see the smiles on the faces of our riders, that’s better than any paycheck I could ever earn.” ★



**THE WALKING DEAD
SEASON 9 - EPISODE 1
STORYBOARDS: MARK SIMON
DIRECTOR: GREG NICOTERO**



BRINGING ^{THE} DEAD ^{TO} LIFE

COMIC STRIPS, SKATEBOARDS AND ZOMBIES, OH MY!

STORY BY CHRISTINE BROUSSARD '10 / PHOTOS BY ROBIN JOHNSON '99

PICK A RANDOM CAREER OUT OF A HAT, AND THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE MARK SIMON '86 HAS WORKED IT.

At 12 years old, Simon designed skateboards for Schwinn Bicycles. By 14, he was a crew supervisor for his father's Houston-based custom home building company. The flyers and signs Simon created there sparked attention from other businesses, so in high school, he formed his own company, Nomis Creations ("It's just Simon spelled backward. Highly creative, right?" he laughed) and started designing for other Houston businesses.

He's a go-getter and, more than that, really doesn't like the word no.

"I've always started at the top," Simon said, standing in his Atlanta basement surrounded by shelves of books he's written and posters of TV show storyboards he's designed. "For the most part, it's worked out well because I always go to the person who can say yes instead of the five people before him who could say no."

Trying to tell Simon's story is like attempting to catch the Tasmanian Devil midwhirl and force him to give up his secrets. He's a machine, the Energizer bunny, or like a commercial where the car whips full-speed through the mountains, which is actually a type of commercial he's designed.

Living life full-tilt has worked out well for Simon. It got him a job working for Nickelodeon in the network's earliest years and for acclaimed director Steven Spielberg in the 1990s. Most recently, Simon worked as lead storyboard artist for AMC's "The Walking Dead" television series.

But we'll start his story toward the beginning — as a high school senior drawn to SFA by a faculty member whose influence never left him.

INNOVATING AND CREATING

Art ties all of Simon's professional pursuits together.

"It's always been art, design and wanting to tell stories," Simon said. "I was doing cartoons in high school, and I sold a few editorials. When I got to SFA, I wanted to do strips and editorials, so my first semester, I became The Pine Log's cartoonist."

Simon didn't just want to be an artist. He also wanted to know how to market his own work and understand the business side of selling his creations.

"My best friend was going to SFA. I also ended up going to an SFA theatre camp the summer after my junior year and getting a theatre scholarship," he said. "When I toured the school and saw what [William] Arscott was doing, I was blown away."

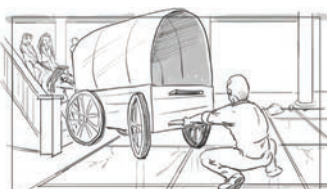
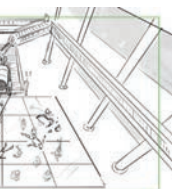
Arscott, a professor of art and SFA's longest-tenured faculty member, came to SFA in fall 1963 and developed the cinematography program.

"Arscott had a computer-controlled animation stand, but no one knew how to use it for animation," Simon added. "No one knew animation, so I'm self-taught. When I first met him, he was building a crane that he mounted in his pickup truck. I knew I wanted to be around a guy who was innovative, creative and working with students, so I joined the program."

It's obvious that when Simon decides to do something, he's all in. In fact, being all in is more of a starting point for him.

For example, when The Pine Log didn't publish some of his editorial ➔

◀ Mark Simon has won more than 200 awards for his work in the film animation, construction and storyboarding industries, including a Prime Time Engineering Emmy Award in 2012 as part of the Toon Boom team for its creation of the Storyboard Pro software. Simon was inducted into the Digital Animation & Visual Effects School Hall of Fame in 2013.





LEFT: While at SFA, Mark Simon began his own newspaper, the Belligerent Beacon, that focused on “attitude and art.”

BOTTOM: Simon’s first professional animation job was animating Tinkerbell for the Disney Cruise Line. He displays it on the first animation stand he built while in high school.

RIGHT: Simon has literally written the book on storyboarding. A bookshelf in his basement contains various instructional books he has written and published.



cartoons concerning race relations in East Texas, he didn’t just quit the paper. He started his own competing newspaper; aptly named it the Belligerent Beacon; stole about half of The Pine Log’s advertisers, he claims; and expanded the paper to three other Texas universities.

Simon double majored in art and general business and graduated from SFA with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. To this day, he says Arscott continues to have the most lasting effect on him as an artist.

“Mark was a great student,” Arscott said. “He was an achiever, and I’m not surprised he is very successful.”

VENTURING OUT

Los Angeles was Simon’s first post-university destination. He moved there with Arscott’s son, Bill, to pursue professional film animation.

“I took a test in film animation and failed because I’m self-taught,” Simon explained. “The artwork was fine, but I didn’t understand the industry standards ... so I figured with my construction and design experience, I could design and build sets.”

One of L.A.’s largest set building companies

hired Simon. Then, about four months later, he learned a movie at Roger Corman’s studio needed a construction coordinator. Corman is an American director widely known as the “King of B-Movies.”

“I got the job and, two weeks later, I became the art director,” he said. “The production designer didn’t know how to run a crew, so he drew pretty pictures, and I did everything else. One day, he said, ‘Well, you’re really acting as art director,’ so they gave me that credit, and that launched my career.”

STORYBOARDING

Simon became a construction coordinator and storyboard artist for “1st & Ten: The Championship,” an HBO sitcom. The show was one of Simon’s introductions to storyboarding, and he realized the trade was the perfect intersection between the things he loved most — drawing in black and white (he’s partially colorblind) and telling stories.

He brought his portfolio to Storyboards Inc., an industry leader in advertising and film visuals, only to be told he wasn’t ready, given notes and sent away. But Simon kept returning

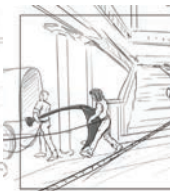
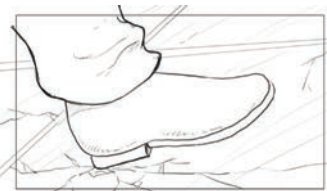
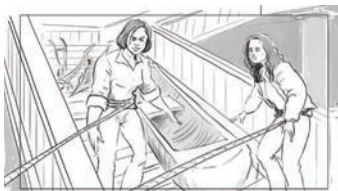
to receive more notes until the company said he was ready and asked him to storyboard a Honda commercial.

“If an opportunity shows up, I jump on it,” Simon said. “I have no problem speaking my mind or telling someone, ‘I think I should be doing that.’”

While working at HBO, Simon met his wife, Jeanne, who was the art department coordinator for the network. After the deadly 1989 San Francisco earthquake, the Simons left for Orlando, one of the new boomtowns for TV and film.

“I started doing commercials, and my wife got a job as a production manager at Nickelodeon before it opened,” Simon said. “In her interview, she mentioned my background, and they said they were in desperate need of art directors. I interviewed the next day, started the week after her and was the second designer at Nickelodeon when they opened the new studios in 1990.”

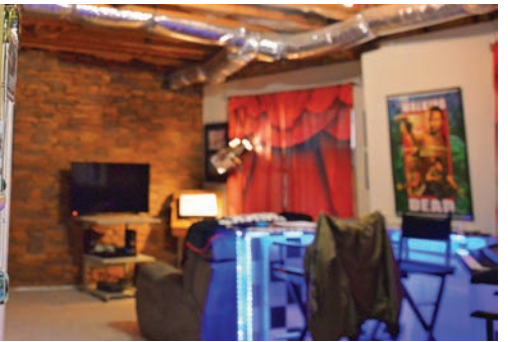
As if Simon’s life wasn’t already a string of relentless successes, he got wind of a rumor that a Steven Spielberg show was coming to town, had one person introduce him to the next





LEFT AND BOTTOM: Mark Simon designed and renovated his home studio basement to include projected zombies clawing at a door and a secret room hidden behind a faux-brick wall, among dozens of other discrete alcoves playing host to trinkets and memorabilia of shows he's worked on.

TOP: Animation and storyboarding technology has drastically evolved since Simon began in the industry. Now, he draws directly on a Cintiq graphics tablet that connects to the Toon Boom storyboarding software he uses.



until, in about 15 minutes, he was hired. He storyboarded 21 episodes of the Spielberg show “seaQuest 2032.”

Tallying up his work in film, commercials and TV, Simon is nearing 5,000 productions. His most recent project also is one of his most exciting — in the midst of moving to the Atlanta area last year, Simon landed a deal storyboarding the ninth season of AMC’s “The Walking Dead.”

‘THE WALKING DEAD’

Upon opening the basement door of the Simons’ suburban Atlanta home, a life-size cardboard cutout of Negan, one of the villains in “The Walking Dead,” greets you. As you turn and begin to descend, you find a narrow ledge running the length of the staircase is home to dozens of trinkets representing shows Simon played a part in creating.

At the bottom, it’s hard to know where to look first. Most eyes might drift left, where a sliding door backlit by a projector appears to show zombies struggling to claw their way out of a room. In one corner to the right is another life-size cardboard cutout, this one of beloved

character Daryl Dixon of “The Walking Dead.” Past it, the room opens to a desk covered in monitors and storyboarding gadgets.

Having circled the basement, perused the bookshelves and studied the comic strips hanging from the walls, one might think the tour is over until Simon pushes a section of the faux-brick wall to reveal a secret door.

Simon and his wife were in the process of moving to their home in Atlanta when he reached out to a friend and one of two directors of photography for “The Walking Dead.”

“I’m a huge fan of the show,” he said. “Spielberg was my first dream job, and this is my second.”

Simon’s responsibilities on the live-action show are to storyboard stunts and special effects. Given that there’s typically a different director on every episode, his storyboards help pictorialize the director’s vision for the cast and crew to reference during filming.

“If you and I read a script, we’re seeing totally different things in our head,” Simon explained. “Only the director’s vision matters. So I have to get into the director’s head, figure out what he or she wants the shots to look like and draw

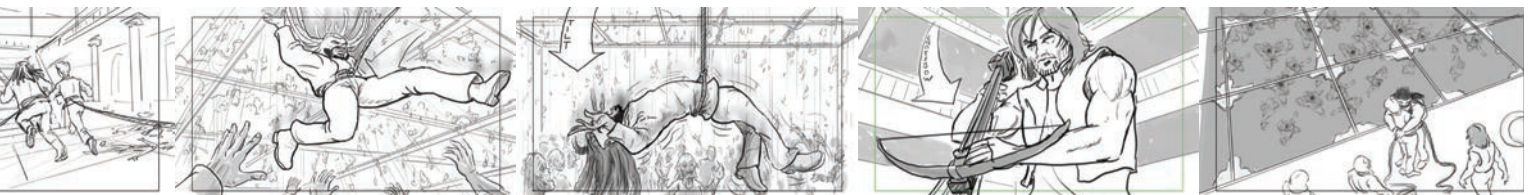
them ... so the 200 to 500 people on the crew work toward one vision.”

Not surprisingly, Simon’s work has exceeded expectations.

“I was packing up my house in Orlando, so I storyboarded the first episode with executive director Greg Nicotero long distance,” Simon said. “His assistant told me that Greg hates working with story artists. They never get what he wants. But after we collaborated, Greg went to the executives and said, ‘Hire this guy on this whole season. This is the only storyboard artist I want to work with.’”

Simon literally wrote the book on storyboarding. He has published 10 instructional textbooks, but his best-sellers are a series of facial expression books he compiled as visual references for artists. In his spare time (not that he has much), Simon lectures at conferences and universities and produces instructional videos for aspiring artists.

“I just make the time,” he laughed. “I love it all. It is easy when you have fun. So, I just make it all work out.” ★



Work Space / Inside Sonnie Mosier's Office



SONNIE MOSIER '06
Administrative
Assistant
Military Science

1. Jeffie Brewer, SFA assistant professor of art, created this painting of Mosier's two dogs, Josie and Toby. Originally displayed in Mosier's daughter's bedroom when she was a baby, Mosier said the whimsical artwork now brightens her office and brings her joy.
2. Mosier's mother-in-law gifted her a painted and decorated SFA goblet, which Mosier refers to as "the chalice." The SFA fight song is painted on the inside of the vessel along with Mosier's name. It is among her favorite pieces of SFA memorabilia.
3. Another painting given to Mosier by artist/educator Brewer sits on the credenza. It is another favorite art piece because it is playful, colorful and, best of all, silly.
4. Mosier received this medal for completing the East Texas Half Marathon Nov. 16, 2014.
5. The large stuffed giraffe was a Christmas gift to Mosier's daughter, Olivia, when she was a toddler from her paternal grandmother. The family named the giraffe "Accessory Giraffe" because it made the perfect depository for clothing, jewelry, backpacks and other items. The giraffe now proudly wears the purple and white and acts as a conversation piece in Mosier's office.
6. A gift from her husband, Kreg, the boxed X-Men comic book character, Dazzler, sits atop Mosier's desk. According to Marvel Comics, Dazzler is a mutant with the ability to convert sound vibrations into light and energy beams. She was originally commissioned as a disco singer and wore a disco ball necklace and snap-on roller skates, which appealed to the skater in Mosier when she was a child.
7. Mosier has twice been the recipient of the Public Service Commendation Medal — the fourth-highest public service decoration the U.S. Department of the Army bestows upon civilians. This framed certificate, which recognizes Mosier's "service and achievements that significantly contributed to the accomplishment of the mission of an Army activity, command or staff agency," is proudly displayed in her office.
8. A ceramic cellphone holder rests near Mosier's computer. Mosier recently painted this piece at the new Piece Makers Studio in Nacogdoches. According to Mosier, painting ceramics is her new hobby.
9. Mosier's daughter often takes her lunch to school. Mosier said she likes to include a handwritten note to help brighten her daughter's day. Some of her daughter's favorite notes depict her as a superhero or cartoon character she's into at the moment. This framed collage holds several of these notes.
10. The hand-carved wooden frog makes a croaking sound when it is stroked on its back with the stick that accompanies it. Mosier said the frog is a symbol of good luck and fortune and was given to her by a friend when her daughter was born.
11. The helmet is a memento from Mosier's days competing for the Nacogdoches Roller Derby League. Mosier said the team's name was the Iron Maidens, and she was called Seoul Crusher. Roller Derby is the first team sport Mosier played. Today, she still remains close with many of her derby sisters and counts the experience among the best of her life. ★

Scholarships

Kalkomey Scholarship

Kurt '77 & '79 and Cindy '76 & '79 both graduated from SFA with bachelor's and master's degrees. As students, they were inspired by the positive influence they received from two outstanding faculty members, Dr. Jack McCullough, biology, and Dr. Jasper Adams, mathematics.

The Kalkomeys are grateful for their mentors' guidance and chose to pay it forward by establishing this endowment, which covers education costs



for a student pursuing a degree in the College of Sciences and Mathematics. ★

Carolyn and Richard T. Skurla Scholarship

The Skurlas established this scholarship to allow Master of Fine Arts students preparing to present their final thesis exhibition to do so without the burden of costs.

Richard, a 2011 SFA graduate, said he owes this idea to a fellow SFA alumnus, Michael Tubbs, who received a great deal of support from his classmates and was able to execute an impressive exhibition that awed the viewer. Richard and Carolyn believe it is important for students to have available resources to attain similar levels of professionalism in their thesis exhibitions.



The Skurlas started the scholarship by contributing \$300 a month, and students are immediately able to use some of the funds. This allows the scholarship to gradually grow over time and benefit students now. ★

Ways to Support SFA

Make a gift today and have an immediate impact on SFA students and programs. Your gift helps create educational opportunities for current and future Lumberjacks and can support academic and athletic programs, research initiatives, and scholarships in perpetuity.

If you are interested in creating a scholarship, call the Stephen F. Austin State University Foundation or the SFA Office of Development at (936) 468-5406, or send an email to givetosfa@sfasu.edu. Staff members will be glad to discuss the ways you can make a positive impact on SFA students.

Visit our website at sfasu.edu/give.

George H.W. Bush Internship

WHILE A SEMESTER working in Austin or Washington, D.C., may provide invaluable experience and connections, the costs of moving and housing often is beyond the resources of many SFA students. This internship honors the public service of former President George H.W. Bush by helping SFA students begin their careers in public service.

It provides financial assistance for students participating in a public service internship while attending SFA. Students must:

- be enrolled as a full-time SFA student
- have completed a minimum of 60 hours of studies
- maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- be interested in working primarily in public service or journalism and
- not currently be employed in a public sector organization or nonprofit organization.

Preference is given to student(s) pursuing internships in Austin or Washington, D.C., and to student(s) pursuing a degree in political science, public administration or journalism.

Potential donors should contact Dr. Ken Collier, Department of Government professor, at (936) 468-1208 or kcollier@sfasu.edu for more information about the internship, or April Smith, associate director of the Office of Development, at (936) 468-2278 for details on how to contribute. ★

Life Members

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

- 8291. Dr. Lisa H. McLane '05 & '06, Vernon, Connecticut
- 8293. Lydia M. Croupe '03, Dallas
- 8294. Paislea M. Stolarski '07, Tomball
- 8295. Matthew B. West '94, Houston
- 8296. Allison A. West, Friend, Houston
- 8297. Retired Lt. Col. Russell L. Hooper '85, DeSoto
- 8298. Tristan J. Adams '07, Nacogdoches
- 8299. Crystal T. Adams '10, Nacogdoches
- 8300. Taylor D. Potter '18, Bells
- 8301. Christopher F. Bentley Jr. '18, Nacogdoches
- 8302. Candra D. Huckaby '14 & '18, Nacogdoches
- 8304. Jessica K. Richardson '17, Nacogdoches
- 8305. Kelly B. Scott '97 & '99, Nacogdoches
- 8306. Sharron K. Scott '92 & '99, Nacogdoches



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From the Association

"If you know an alum who has made a mark in his or her profession, shows amazing Lumberjack spirit or has done something exceptional for society, please take a moment to contact the alumni association or visit its website and complete the nomination form."



AS MANY LUMBERJACKS have been remembering and celebrating the life of former SFA President Dr. Baker Pattillo, I have been reflecting upon his impact regarding my own life.

I recall 40 years ago, when I was a student and Dr. Pattillo was dean of student services, having a late-night meeting in the student government office with several friends, including Doug Duke. That night, Doug made a prophetic statement: "Just wait and see. One day, Dr. Pattillo will be SFA's president."

As a head resident and housing employee, I had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Pattillo — when his secretary would let me. He always listened, offered good advice and shared words of encouragement.

Through the years, including during my tenure on the alumni association's board, Dr. Pattillo loved and supported the alumni association. Not only did he endorse our class ring program, but he also agreed to take part in every Big Dip ring ceremony by shaking the hand of every person who took the plunge into the purple goo, and he also shared with attendees what his SFA ring meant to him.

Each year on a specific Saturday morning, he would wake early to come and spend time with alumni who were celebrating their 50th graduation anniversary during the Golden Jacks Breakfast.

Additionally, he served as an ambassador and promoted the university during other alumni-related events, including presenting the axes and plaques to honored recipients during the association's Alumni Awards dinner, riding in the Homecoming Parade and crowning the king and queen during halftime, and traveling miles to attend regional alumni events.

Through his leadership, the university reached many milestones, including the recent record-breaking 13,144 fall enrollment and celebrating the university's 95th anniversary in September. His vision was integral in completing myriad construction projects, including the fall opening of the state-of-the-art Cole STEM Building.

Fifty-two years is an amazing span of time to remain employed at one institution and stay energized and focused, but his love for SFA kept him motivated. He was never satisfied with the way things were. Instead, Dr. Pattillo was always looking for the next challenge and target. There is much to be learned from the legacy of Baker Pattillo. He has left us a high bar to clear.

As we remember him and his many contributions to SFA, we also must look toward the future and how to best rally our more than 100,000 living alumni and strategize regarding how to assist in planning the university's 100th anniversary.

This is an exciting time to be a part of what's happening at SFA. We make it easy to be part of the action. It doesn't matter where you live — we need ambassadors to help spread SFA spirit and join the alumni association leadership team. If you're interested, reach out to alumni association staff members for more information. Also, be sure to view the alumni calendar, located in each issue of Sawdust, which details events in your area. We look forward to seeing you at the next one near you.

Additionally, I would like to share that it's time to start soliciting nominations and selecting the recipients of our annual Alumni Awards. If you know an alum who has made a mark in his or her profession, shows amazing Lumberjack spirit or has done something exceptional for society, please take a moment to contact the alumni association or visit its website and complete the nomination form.

One final request, the alumni association has embarked on a project to survey alumni concerning how we can best reach, connect and provide great service and experiences. Please take a few moments to review and respond to the survey, which will be sent via email. Thank you for all you do in helping SFA be the best it can be. ★

Axe 'em, Jacks!

Bob Francis '78 – Bullard
President, SFA Alumni Association

SFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Bob Francis '78, Bullard
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James Drennan '73, Pittsburg

Mark Friedman '91, Allen

Sam Khoury '97, Longview

Steve McCarty '65 & '70, Alto

Jaclyn Partin '08 & '14, Nacogdoches

Alex Ranc '11 & '13, Nacogdoches

Ted Smith '07, Nacogdoches

Erika Tolar '02, Spring

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executive director of alumni relations

Amber Lindsay
assistant to the executive director

Heather Hawkins '00
associate director of alumni relations

Samantha Mora '08
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Alicia Roland Chatman '16
gifts and records coordinator

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

Derek Snyder '01
coordinator of communications
and sponsorships

Anne Scamardo
accounting assistant

Bob Sitton '60
director emeritus

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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.

MR & MISS SFA



Jacob Spies
Stan McKewen Mr. SFA
Award recipient



Kristine Cross
Arnodean Covin Miss SFA
Award recipient

Mr. and Miss SFA named

THE SFA OFFICE of Student Affairs Programs and the alumni association announced that Jacob Spies of Douglass and Kristine Cross of Houston have been selected as recipients of the 2019 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 2016 graduate of Douglass High School, Spies, who received the Stan McKewen Mr. SFA Award, is a senior accounting major and the son of Mark and Stephanie Spies.

"Jacob has a passion for working with and serving others, often challenging them to be the best they can be," said Saville Harris, assistant director of student engagement at SFA. "He is a dedicated leader, and as a result, I have yet to see him get discouraged or give up, even when the end result is not what he anticipated."

Spies serves as an officer for Beta Alpha Psi, the accounting honor society in the Schief School of Accountancy. He previously served as president of his fraternity, Alpha

Gamma Rho, and he served two summers as a counselor for the university's extended orientation program, Jack Camp.

Additionally, Spies has volunteered with MLK Day of Service and the Big Event, and he helps with many of his fraternity's community activities, including highway cleanup, volunteering at the animal shelter and the Christ Episcopal School's annual pumpkin patch in Nacogdoches.

"Growing up locally, I always knew I was going to attend and graduate from SFA," Spies said. "Because of this university, I have met so many great people, and I would not be the person I am without SFA."

Cross, recipient of the Arnodean Covin Miss SFA Award, is a 2015 graduate of Elkins High School. She is a senior food, nutrition and dietetics major and the daughter of Leslie W. Cross Jr.

"I want to demonstrate the principle of unity to SFA faculty, staff, students and the Nacogdoches community," Cross said.

Cross serves as an Orientation student coordinator. For two years, she has served as vice president of the Student United Way, as well as an event planning committee

chair for the NAACP student organization.

Additionally, she has served as both a student director and counselor for Jack Camp. Through Student United Way, she has volunteered at Solid Foundation and local nursing homes, and she is an active member and event coordinator for the SFA Office of Multicultural Affairs.

"Kristine has such a strong sense of integrity and pride for SFA — she infuses these qualities into all organizations in which she is involved," said Veronica Beavers, OMA director. "Her vibrant personality and humor can brighten up a room. She is the perfect ambassador for the university."

SFA's Office of Student Affairs Programs and the alumni association award 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 service and loyalty to the university. A committee of faculty and staff, community leaders and alumni makes the selections. ★

Alumni Calendar /

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

APRIL

27

**Alumni Member Day at SFA Baseball
SFA vs. Northwestern State University**

1 p.m. Ladyjacks
2 p.m. Lumberjacks
Jaycees Field
Nacogdoches

MAY

3-5

Tau Kappa Epsilon Alumni Reunion
Nacogdoches

5

**Lumberjack Marching Band and
Twirl-O-Jacks Alumni Spring Meeting**

2 p.m.
Concert in the Park held on campus
along Vista Drive
Spring meeting will take place in the band hall
immediately following the concert
Nacogdoches

7

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

**SFA Baseball vs. Dallas Baptist University
Pregame Party**

Game: 6:30 p.m.
Details: TBA
Dallas

10

East Texas SFA Exes Golf Tournament
Longview

Big Dip Ring Ceremony

Baker Pattillo Student Center, Grand Ballroom
9 a.m. - College of Education
1 p.m. - College of Fine Arts, College of Liberal
and Applied Arts, and College of Forestry and
Agriculture
4 p.m. - College of Business and College of
Sciences and Mathematics

18

SFA Commencement Ceremonies

Johnson Coliseum
Nacogdoches

23-26

Southland Conference Baseball Tournament

Constellation Field
Sugar Land

31

**Sigma Tau Gamma 50-Year Anniversary of
Gamma Pi Chapter Weekend Celebration and
Golf Tournament**

Nacogdoches

JUNE

1-2

**Sigma Tau Gamma 50-Year Anniversary of
Gamma Pi Chapter Weekend Celebration and
Golf Tournament continued**

Nacogdoches

7

Alumni Association Board Meeting

10:30 a.m.
Pearman Alumni Center
300 Vista Drive
Nacogdoches

8

**SFA University Night @ Texas Rangers
Oakland A's vs. Texas Rangers**

8:05 p.m.
Globe Life Park
Arlington

12-14

**Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors
Association Summer Conference**

Austin Renaissance Hotel
Alumni Reception
Details: TBA
Austin

29

**SFA University Night @ Houston Astros
Seattle Mariners vs. Houston Astros**

7:15 p.m.
Minute Maid Park
Houston

JULY

21-23

**Texas High School Coaches Association
Convention and Coaching School**

George R. Brown Convention Center
Alumni reception
Details: TBA
Houston

25-27

**Southwest Athletic Trainers'
Association Symposium**

Alumni Network event
Details: TBA
Arlington

30

SFA Ag Teacher Alumni Dinner

In association with the 2019 Vocational
Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas
Professional Development Conference
Details: TBA

AUGUST

17

SFA Commencement Ceremonies

William R. Johnson Coliseum
Nacogdoches

31

SFA Football vs. Baylor University

McLane Stadium
Time: TBA
Waco

Many memories were made during the 50th anniversary celebration of SFA's ROTC program in February. From left, Col. Phil Calahan joins his brother, Lt. Col. John Calahan. John is holding a picture of their late father, Lt. Col. James "Jim" Calahan, who started SFA's ROTC program in 1968. Maj. James Attaway, the military science program's current professor and department chair, also is pictured. Photo by Hardy Meredith '81



RED, WHITE AND PURPLE

SFA's ROTC program
past, present, future

STORY BY EMILY BROWN '17

I**N 1968, U.S.** Army Lt. Col. James "Jim" Calahan came to SFA to serve as professor of military science and launch the school's ROTC program. Fifty years later, U.S. Army Maj. James Attaway, who was a member of the program from 2001 to 2004, has come back to campus to lead it. The half-a-century timespan has helped produce many top military leaders, including three generals. It also has served as an anchor point for cadets, past and present, to connect with their brothers and sisters in arms.

THE BEGINNING

Dr. Ralph Steen, who served as SFA's president from 1958 to 1976, wanted to start a collegiate officer training program. He believed that publicly funded colleges had an obligation to produce graduates capable of filling military leadership roles, and the types of courses designed for this purpose would attract a higher percentage of quality students.

Steen applied to the government to start the program, and Jim, a combat arms officer in the Regular Army, who led troops in combat in Korea and Vietnam, was assigned to establish it.

Less than enthused about this new mission, Jim said, "I do not like college students. I have a low regard for ROTC programs, and East Texas appears rather akin to a third-world country." But, Steen was unfazed.

According to Jim, Steen said, "Colonel, it won't work. I've read your file, and you're the one I want." Jim arrived on campus in February 1968, bringing his wife, Martha, and two sons, Phil, 7, and John, 16 months, with him.

"Initially, dad had much to manage on the administration side of launching an ROTC program during wartime," said John Calahan, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel who now serves as the director of institutional effectiveness at SFA. "Dad delivered recruiting talks to fraternities and student clubs and accompanied admissions staffers to college day events across Texas to recruit cadets. He also began to prepare the curriculum and lay out areas in which to train on campus."

By June 1968, the program enrolled 35 sophomores, who were all sent to Fort Benning, Georgia, for six weeks of intensive training. Upon returning, those who made the cut worked toward becoming commissioned officers.

The cadets studied myriad subjects, including principles of leadership, small-unit infantry tactics, military law, map reading and land navigation. They also participated in drills and weekend exercises. ➔

"Lt. Col. Calahan was my military science professor when I joined the SFA ROTC in 1970," said David C. Treadaway. "It was a love/hate relationship. Looking back, I wished my son would have had a mentor in his life such as I had in the lieutenant colonel. No one had a greater impact on me during my college years than him. He was a friend and a role model for all of us in the program."

Although Jim passed away in 2005, his legacy lives on not only in his sons, but also in the program itself.

SHARING MEMORIES

"Dad became a father figure to many of the cadets," said Phil Calahan '82, a retired U.S. Army colonel. "Every few years, up until he passed away, about 20 or 30 ROTC graduates would show up at our house at random times or all together. Dad enjoyed those cadets and liked being around them, and the feeling was mutual. When he passed away, guys came from all over the country to attend the funeral and pay their respects."

Phil was a member of SFA ROTC from 1978 to 1982. He credits older cadets he met through his dad and former ROTC instructors for his successful military career. After his SFA graduation, Phil was among a group of military officers chosen to form the 3rd Ranger Battalion at Fort Benning. He later served in the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Fort Lewis, Washington. Thirteen of his 30 years of service were spent in special operations.

After he had served in the Army for almost two decades, Phil was selected to attend the Army War College, which is a graduate school for very successful lieutenant colonels and colonels. Admittance is by invitation only, and invitees must have served in the armed forces a minimum of 18 to 20 years. Annually, only approximately 380 military officers are invited to attend.

"I was able to do all these things because of the training I received at SFA," Phil said. "The people I was exposed to as a young boy helped me make the ranks. My foundation began there."

Phil now lives in Belton and works at Fort Hood as a Department of the Army civilian.

For John, who began working at SFA in 2013, the Calahan thread of military continuity is still tangible on campus. "When I walk past my dad's former office or see my brother's picture displayed in the Military Science Building, I still feel their presence here," John said.

John received a Regular Army commission as an infantry officer and served 21 years on active duty with numerous deployments in Iraq, Korea, Bosnia, Alaska and the United Kingdom. He commanded the 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, from 2008 to 2010, where he led the training of thousands of soldiers prior to their deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Throughout their military careers, the Calahan brothers have connected with dozens of Lumberjack Battalion alumni who fondly remember their father, and both recall times in their military careers when they served alongside SFA ROTC alumni.

"I had the privilege of being stationed with men I've looked up to my entire life," John said. "I was with my brother in Iraq, Lt. Col. Ken Osmond '73 in Korea, Col. Marshall Reed '73 and Lt. Col. Herb Flora '71 at Fort Benning, and Col. Craig Morton '74 at Fort Polk, Louisiana."

During its five decades, the SFA ROTC program has commissioned more than 600 cadets who have held ranks across the spectrum. However, not all cadets enter the military.

"It really doesn't matter what career path they choose in life," John said. "ROTC helps them be a better citizen and leader."



TOP: John Calahan visits his dad's office in 1969 and plays in the ROTC supply room.

MIDDLE: Col. Phil Calahan receives a name plate for his desk as a going away gift from his platoon.

BOTTOM: Lt. Col. James "Jim" Calahan is pictured with his wife, Martha, and sons, Col. Phil Calahan and Lt. Col. John Calahan, on May 7, 1998, at the SFA ROTC's 30th Anniversary Ball. During the event, the dedication of the Lt. Col. and Mrs. James E. Calahan SFA Military Science Scholarship took place.



Members of SFA ROTC's Austin Raiders during 1969-70 participate in various activities.

The Austin Raiders were a voluntary group of cadets who thought they may want to join the Army as a professional career. They were issued additional field gear and met with the military science department's instructors one evening per week and one weekend per month for field instruction in scouting, land navigation, patrolling and other activities.

Additionally, they were issued special black berets with an emblem comprising a black lightning bolt centered in a bright yellow diamond. The emblem's meaning was conveyed during their initiation into the group.

ATTAWAY JOINS THE RANKS

For the first time in the program's history, SFA ROTC is now under the leadership of a former member. In May 2018, Maj. James Attaway '04 assumed responsibility as chair and professor of military science.

Attaway, who had left active duty as a U.S. Army paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, enrolled at SFA and was attracted to the ROTC program after a friend suggested he take a military science elective course. He said his interest in that course eventually hooked him, and he joined the program in fall 2001.

"After getting to know the military science professors, it felt like a close-knit team and environment. It was something I wanted to be a part of," Attaway said. "I immediately fell in love with the program and felt connected."

Attaway fondly recalls cadets and faculty members, like then University Police Department Detective Richard Shelton, who also was a master sergeant. "He was an exemplary non-commissioned officer who led from the front in everything he did," Attaway said.

Two weeks into joining the program, Attaway stood with other cadets and instructors in a classroom as they watched the twin towers fall Sept. 11, 2001. Since he had just recently left active duty, he was seriously thinking of leaving SFA and joining the fight against terrorism until his dad visited campus to talk him out of it.

"I remember my dad saying, 'I know what you're considering. Don't do it. You need to finish college first,'" Attaway said. "He told me if I was going to fight, I needed to do it as an officer."

So, Attaway stayed in college and upon his graduation had the opportunity to serve in several locations, including Afghanistan, Iraq and Korea, as well as Alabama, Florida and Kentucky.

He served in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a CH-47D Chinook Flight platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division. His latest deployment was to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where he served as an aviation liaison officer to 14 U.S. Army special forces teams and one SEAL platoon.

Like Jim, Attaway feels the pressure to make the ROTC program the "best it can be" by pushing it forward. "My goal is to keep growing the program and increase our exposure," he said.

50 YEARS STRONG

What started as one man's mission in 1968 has developed into a top-notch ROTC program that now enrolls approximately 100 cadets — nearly 25 percent of them female. The program celebrated its 50th anniversary in February with more than 100 former members visiting campus for festivities that included social activities and a luncheon. The events provided a forum for past and current members to connect and share a bond.

Both Phil and John were there, as was Attaway. Jim was there, too, in the stories and remembrances shared by those who fondly remember SFA's first professor of military science. ★



Class Notes

1960s



Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval recognized **ROBERT ALAN CASHELL '63** in April 2018 with a proclamation for his unwavering dedication to the people of Nevada. Cashell began his public service as a member of the University of Nevada System Board of Regents. He was later elected the 28th lieutenant governor

of Nevada, where he served from 1983 to 1987 under Gov. Richard Bryan. In 2002, Cashell was elected mayor of Reno, a position he held for 12 years. Cashell is the owner of Cashell Enterprises and has been a respected member of the community for more than 50 years.



← **Kevin Cooper '90** of Austin was named assistant chief of governmental relations for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Catharine Darst-Knight '92 of Allen is the sales director for Athens Administrators, a company that provides workers' compensation claim management services



← **Jason Downing '92** of Dallas became the first U.S. vice chairman of Deloitte. He has been with the firm for 26 years.

David Oldani '92 of Plano joined the management team of Ryan, an award-winning global tax services and software provider, as senior vice president.

Jennifer Conner '93 of Temple was named principal of Charter Oak Elementary. She served in the same role at Miller Heights Elementary since 2011.



← **Vercie McMullen '93** of Pollok was named executive director of the Lufkin Education Foundation. Its mission is to provide opportunities for excellence in education, promote innovation in teaching and partner with the community to enhance the quality of education for all students within the Lufkin Independent School District.



← **Terri Jo Box '94** of Nashville was named a distinguished alumna by the Nacogdoches High School Alumni Association. Box is a singer-songwriter who wrote for Merf Music Group for seven years and currently writes for her own publishing company.

John Wink '95 of Longview was named superintendent of Carthage Independent School District. He previously served as superintendent of Blue Ridge ISD.

Dr. Angela Pool-Funai '96 of Enoch, Utah, published her first book, "Ethics in Fiscal Administration: An Introduction." Pool-Funai is director of Southern Utah University's Master of Public Administration program.

1980s

Suzii Paynter '80 of Austin was named co-director of Pastors for Texas Children, a nonprofit organization that exists to provide care and support for public education and other child advocacy issues.

Rick Wright '84 retired from the City of Lake Jackson Police Department after more than 31 years of service.



← **William S. Anderson '86** of Houston was elected to serve a three-year term on the management committee at Bracewell, an international law firm. Anderson is a partner in Bracewell's Houston office and is co-chair of the firm's corporate and securities department and head of its financial institutions practice.

Chris Mueller '88 of Hermantown, Minnesota, was named vice president for college advancement at the College of St. Scholastica.

1990s

Joe Cauthen '90 was hired as the new defensive coordinator at the University of Houston. Cauthen served the past five years as defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Arkansas State University.

2000s

Scott Haygood '00 of Longview was promoted to senior vice president and senior lender for BancorpSouth.

Class Notes

Tobi Duckworth '01 of Springdale, Arkansas, was named president and CEO of Ana-Lab Corp., the 15th-largest environmental testing laboratory in the nation.

Rachel Hunt '01 of Lufkin was named president-elect of the Texas College Reading and Learning Association.



Jay Miller '01 of Gilmer was elected Upshur County commissioner.

← **Dr. Cynthia Ball '03** joined UT Health East Texas Physicians North Campus in Tyler. She is a board-certified occupational medicine physician.

A recent campus addition brings SFA pride to a new level. **CHRISTINA HERRERA '08, '11 & '14**, SFA's coordinator of transportation and special services, and **CHRIS DEMPSEY '14**, SFA arborist, created this SFA carving located in front of the Rusk Building.

Herrera designed the carving, and Dempsey handled the heavy lifting by cutting the design out with a chainsaw. The new piece is sure to make a great backdrop for photos.



Isaac York '05 of Franklin, Tennessee, presented a program during a meeting of the Visually Impaired Support Group of Cumberland County in November. York is the Tennessee VISG coordinator for the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System.

Lacey Russell '07 & '16 started her own flower-growing business, Alice Creek Flowers, after purchasing and moving to a small plot in Whitehouse with her family. Russell supplies flowers to Tyler and Whitehouse florists.

2010s

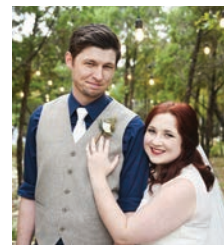


← **Matthew Collins '13 & '15** was promoted to commercial lender for BancorpSouth in Longview.

Jed Crisp '14 of Marshall created the program Tuning Texas, a platform for singer-songwriters from

across the state and country to be spotlighted.

→ **Hannah Johnson '15** of Itasca and **Brandon Luther '18** of Kaufman married in November in Washington.



Share your Lumberjack story!

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

sfasu.edu/sawdust

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.

sfasu.edu/sawdust/survey

In Memoriam

SGT. PATRICK RICHARD BURKE



Sgt. Patrick Richard Burke passed away Oct. 13. Between his time in high school and college, Burke joined the U.S. Marine Corps and fought with the 2/9 Marine Corps "Hell in a Helmet" in 1966 and the 1/9 Bravo Company Marine Unit

"The Walking Dead" in 1967. He was awarded three Purple Hearts, the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with one star, Vietnam Campaign Medal with device and the M-14 Rifle Sharpshooter Badge.

He graduated from SFA in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in forestry and received his master's degree in forestry in 1974. Throughout his life he was an active military veteran, counseling any vet who needed help. He assisted in the creation of an ROTC program at Jack C. Hays High School and served as an advocate for post-traumatic stress disorder awareness and assistance.

DR. ROBERT PATRICK CARROLL JR.

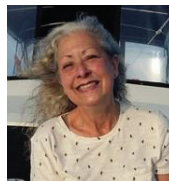


SFA friend and donor Dr. Robert Patrick Carroll Jr. passed away Dec. 24. Carroll graduated from the University of Virginia Medical School in 1966 and served a rotating internship at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, followed by

two years' service in the U.S. Army, including a tour in Vietnam. In 1972, he and his family moved to Nacogdoches, where he began work in the Student Health Center on campus. In 1976, Carroll opened his own practice, working there until he retired in 2006 after a 40-year career as a family practice physician. Carroll was an avid sports fan, and he especially enjoyed watching Ladyjack basketball.

Carroll had a servant's heart and served in numerous leadership roles for the Nacogdoches County Medical Society, the American Medical Association and the National Alzheimer's Association Board.

DIANA KAY CUSTER



Former SFA employee Diana Kay Custer passed away Oct. 27. Custer was a dedicated SFA employee for 27 years. During her tenure, she served as an administrative assistant for student affairs, the Student Government Association

and spirit teams. She was awarded the Dean's Excellence Award, two service awards from the SGA and honorary membership in Omicron Delta Kappa, a national leadership honor society. Students and staff members enjoyed her positive energy and exceptional work ethic.

DR. THOMAS DANIEL FRANKS



Former Dean, Associate Dean and Chair of the Department of Education Dr. Thomas Daniel Franks passed away Dec. 31. Franks graduated from Timpson High School in 1948 and from Stephen F. Austin State College in 1951. After

receiving his master's and doctoral degrees, he taught at the university level, eventually returning to SFA to teach.

Franks became chair of the Department of Elementary Education in 1966 and associate dean in 1984. He was named dean in 1992. Franks was the recipient of both the Distinguished Professor Award and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the SFA Alumni Association. He served on the Nacogdoches ISD School Board and was a member of the Noon Lions Club.

In Memoriam

GORDON R. LEWIS



Scholarship donor and former SFASU Foundation board member Gordon R. Lewis passed away Nov. 16. A certified public accountant, Lewis enjoyed a long career in the banking industry. In 1989, his family moved to Nacogdoches, where he served as president and CEO of Fredonia State Bank until 2007. He and his family then moved to Mississippi, where he served as vice chairman for BancorpSouth in Tupelo. After his retirement in 2014, he and his wife returned to Nacogdoches.

Lewis served on numerous community boards throughout his career, including the Nacogdoches Economic Development Corporation, Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce, SFASU Foundation and BancorpSouth Advisory Board.

PATRICIA R. MAST



Longtime SFA supporter, community volunteer and philanthropist Pat Mast passed away Oct. 21.

Mast was born in Corpus Christi, but she spent most of her life in Nacogdoches with her husband, the late Adlai Travis Mast Jr. While living in Nacogdoches, she served for seven years as a trustee of the Nacogdoches Independent School District, and she was the first woman elected to the Nacogdoches District Hospital Board, where she served 14 years. Mast also was a member of the Nacogdoches Landmark Commission, Nacogdoches County Historical Foundation, the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau, Heritage Club, Cum Concilio Club, Daughters of the American Revolution and Magna Charta Dames.

In 1997, SFA's College of Fine Arts recognized her as the East Texas Cultural Leader of the Year. The Nacogdoches County Chamber of Commerce honored her in 2004 with the Athena Leadership Award, which recognizes a man or woman who has actively assisted women in their achievement of professional excellence and leadership skills.

As a passionate supporter of SFA, Mast and her husband created several scholarships and founded the SFA Mast Arboretum, the first arboretum at a university in Texas.

MAJ. BRANDON HAWN MCELROY



Maj. Brandon Hawn McElroy passed away Sept. 18. After graduating from SFA in 2004 with a master's degree in history, McElroy was commissioned in the U.S. Army and served two tours in Iraq and one in Kuwait. He was awarded numerous military honors, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with campaign star and Army Service Ribbon.

The Athens High School graduate was an avid outdoorsman who loved to travel. He was a naturally gifted artist and had a great appreciation for museums, historical monuments and locations.

ELIZABETH GOODWIN REESE



Alumna, scholarship donor and former alumni association and alumni foundation board member Elizabeth Goodwin Reese passed away Dec. 14.

Reese received her bachelor's degree in education from SFA in 1962. She and her husband, George, whom she met while attending SFA, made their home in Houston. Reese served as a coach, teacher and administrator for the Houston Independent School District for many years, retiring in 1994.

She served two terms as a member of the SFA Alumni Association Board and one term on the SFA Alumni Foundation Board.

In Memoriam

Sherry K. Arthur '79 of Longview, Nov. 12

Margaret L. Bahou '90 of Nacogdoches, Oct. 5

Gwen B. Beall of Nacogdoches, former SFA employee, Nov. 10

Louise S. Burrous '71 of Lufkin, Nov. 19

Tony M. Cammack '75 of Longview, Sept. 20

Alan Cassel '83 of Lewisville, Nov. 29

Velma B. Cotton '71 of Lufkin, Nov. 26

Anthony Bradley Cruz '82 of Flint, Dec. 15

The Rev. Fred W. Dallas '75 of Kingwood, Oct. 10

Barbara S. Dickerson '62 of Kilgore, Oct. 16

The Hon. Charles C. Dickerson '68 of Carthage, Sept. 29

Dr. Joseph V. Domino '70 of Corpus Christi, Oct. 16

Robbie L. Driver '57 of Corrigan, Dec. 24

Barbara K. Elliott '74 of Lufkin, Sept. 10

The Rev. Buford W. Finley '54 of Dallas, Sept. 11

Norma A. Flournoy '59 of Nacogdoches, Dec. 27

Douglas P. Fortenberry '75 of Mabank, Nov. 24

Mary M. Fry '50 of Burnet, Sept. 25

Rocky L. Fugate '75 of Flint, Sept. 14

Roger L. Gaeckler '73 of Bay City, Oct. 30

Ralph Egan Gillham '56 & '58 of Tyler, Feb. 2, 2018

Albert A. Gilson '78 & '80 of Henderson, Dec. 12

Eugene P. Graves '69 of Humble, Nov. 14

Owen S. Hamrick '65 of Arp, Nov. 30

Col. Timothy John Hoiden '92 of Dupont, Washington, Nov. 10

Millicent A. Irish '56 & '74 of Lufkin, Nov. 18

Barbara A. Johnson '67 & '86 of Grapeland, Oct. 18

Kenneth R. Johnson '71 of Lufkin, Oct. 15

Burley D. Lamb '60 & '67 of Center, Nov. 12

Laura E. Lewis '80 of Carthage, Nov. 8

Murphy W. Martin '92 of Woodville, Oct. 26

June McAdams '70 of Lufkin, Oct. 16

Dan W. McCrary '68 of Tomball, Nov. 26

Mildred B. McCrary '59 of Carthage, Nov. 23

Kenneth W. McHaney '61 of Nacogdoches, Dec. 24

Virginia Ezell Norris '60 & '64 of Crockett, Oct. 19

William H. Odom Jr. '52 & '60 of Henderson, Oct. 19

Allie L. Oliver '75 of Flint, Dec. 14

Charles C. Pate '50 of Houston, Sept. 2

Charles M. Perkins '50 & '55 of Timpson, Oct. 31

Sue D. Perkins '80 of Lufkin, Oct. 18

Mitchell G. Posel Jr. '00 of Plano, Nov. 16

Ernest W. Rutland Jr. '50 of Sugar Land, Dec. 18

Kara B. Sitton '59 of Alto, July 24

Brent M. Slaton '00 of Lufkin, Oct. 16

Jeannine G. St. Peter '51 of Beaumont, Dec. 12

David F. Taylor '86 of Longview, Nov. 20

Floyd Tillis Jr. '75 of Nacogdoches, Oct. 26

Shanna L. Tipton '96 of Kingwood, Oct. 12

Bobbie H. Todd '57 of Henderson, Dec. 28

Melba L. Toigo '81 of Lufkin, Jan. 2

Troy R. Toon '68 of Henderson, Nov. 18

The Hon. Manuel Trigo Jr. '70 of McAllen, Oct. 1

Weldon Preston Triplett '63 of Tyler, Aug. 22

Delina M. Volkerding '90 of Tomball, Dec. 9

Rheanna C. Watson '01 of Carrollton, Aug. 30

Michael H. Weersing '80 of Round Rock, Jan. 5

Renee B. Wilson '86 & '93 of Nacogdoches, Nov. 30

D'Ann B. Wiseman '82 of Fort Worth, Sept. 20



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