

The Stater

A Magazine for the Alumni and Friends of Southern Arkansas University



A New Direction for the SAU Alumni Association

Story on pages 4-5

Empowering our Alumni: New Directions and New Visions for the SAU Alumni Association

The Alumni Association has done incredible things for SAU over the past four years!

Through the strong leadership of the Alumni Association Board, the Association renovated the Alumni Center into a truly exceptional and functional venue available to our campus, community, state and region for hosting a variety of events. If you have not attended “Mulegating” recently, or would like to come by for a walk-through of the facility, I encourage you to do so.

Also, our strong undergraduate growth is directly related to the support and care of the Alumni Association. The Association helped us build two new residence halls, Columbia Hall and Magnolia Hall, and is now making possible the construction of a third – Arkansas Hall (opening August 2019). These structures have helped change the culture of our campus. This fall 1,955 students lived on campus. This is due, in large part, to these new facilities.

Over the past few months, several exciting things have occurred that are helping move the Alumni Association in new directions. Megan McCurdy '14 has taken the reins as our new Director of Alumni Relations. Megan brings a new vision and energy to the Association and she has already been working to blaze a new path that will empower the SAU alumni community. In addition, Haley Bell '13 joined the Alumni Relations staff and will facilitate alumni outreach and serve as coordinator of the Alumni Center. Kaitlyn Srebalus will continue to serve as administrative staff for Alumni Relations. In the coming months we will begin to see new connections develop through the efforts of these creative young leaders.

The Alumni Board is engaged at a new level as well! Board members Amy Freedman, Beth Galway, Bobby Thompson, Mike Waters, and Jamie Waller have been working with other members of the SAU community including Josh Kee, Katherine Berry, Macy Braswell, Megan McCurdy, Roger Giles, and Jerry Thomas (at-large member) to create a new engagement policy, by-laws, membership structure, and a memorandum of understanding for the future.

Indeed, the future success of SAU is directly tied to our alumni and friends. I encourage you to reach out to our Alumni Relations staff or members of the Alumni Board if you are interested in becoming more involved, in using the new Alumni Center, or in giving us advice and support as we move forward.

Thank you for your love and loyalty to SAU!



Trey Berry, Ph.D.
President

Events Calendar

March 1

COE Teacher Fair

March 14

Shreveport/Bossier City, LA Gathering

March 18-22

Spring Break

March 30

Making Magnolia Blossom Spring Big Splash

April 2

SAU Giving Day

April 10

SAU Career Fair

May 2

Distinguished Alumni Awards (see back cover for more info)

May 3

Spring Commencement

May 29

First Summer Session Begins

June 24-27

Mulerider Kids College

July 2

Second Summer Session Begins

July 8-10

Mulerider Teen College

August 2

Summer Commencement

October 19

Homecoming 2019



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Also, use this link to unsubscribe or manage additional preferences.



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The Stater

Winter 2019

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Submissions Please send any story ideas and/or photographs to stater@saumag.edu.

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Contributed Photos of Mulerider Alumni



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A new direction for the

SAU

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Exciting advancements are happening in the Southern Arkansas University Alumni Association, Inc. (SAUAA). Over the past year, the SAUAA Board of Directors collaborated with University leadership to develop and launch a new membership structure for the Alumni Association.

Why the change? One word: inclusivity. This new model provides free general membership for all SAU graduates and former students, with four additional enhanced levels for alumni and friends. This shift of direction away from membership dues towards an all-inclusive model will greatly broaden the scope of alumni engagement efforts.

“This new structure allows us to better fulfill our mission: to strengthen the connection with our alumni and friends, while providing them with meaningful engagement opportunities and continuing to keep them connected with the University,” said Bobby Thompson, Chair of the SAUAA Board of Directors.

The Alumni Association has also named a new Director of Alumni Relations, Megan (Maye) McCurdy, who is a 2014 and 2017 graduate of SAU’s Rankin College of Business. McCurdy shared, “It is such an exciting time to be a Mulerider. I look forward to being more involved with our current students, visiting with Mulerider alumni both near and far, enhancing alumni experiences on campus, taking SAU on the road through upcoming alumni events and working with the Alumni Association Board as we roll out our brand new membership structure.”

Memberships will be effective January 1 through December 31, and are determined by the previous calendar year’s giving or lifetime giving to any area(s) of the University. Membership levels are updated annually in January, but new members receive membership benefits at time of gift.

“We have a commitment at SAU to empower our alumni and engage more and more people who love this institution. We hope the new initiatives we are implementing will lead us in that direction. The SAU Alumni Association has done incredible work,” said SAU President Dr. Trey Berry.

For more information, visit www.saualumni.com, email saualumni@saumag.edu or call the Office of Alumni Relations at (870) 235-4079.

SAU Alumni Association Board of Directors

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- **Geurin Baker '10**
Collierville, Tenn.
- **Dwight Bowlin '74**
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- **James P. Brewer '80**
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- **Cory Davis '10**
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Magnolia, Ark.
- **Mark Williams '96**
Magnolia, Ark.

General Membership

SAU graduates and former students.

Benefits:

- Out-of-state tuition waived for the children of SAU alumni who live on campus
 - Invitations to regional networking and social events
 - Subscription to *The Stater*
 - Access to alumni directory information
 - Alumni travel opportunities
 - Utilization of career services and affinity programs
 - Southern Airways Express 20% discount
 - Access to Magale Library
-

Blue Membership

Includes SAU graduates and former students who annually contribute a minimum of \$100 or 10 hours of volunteer service.

Benefits:

All benefits available to General members, plus...

- Ability to nominate for alumni awards and SAU Alumni Association Board
 - Dependents eligible for Alumni Association Scholarship
 - Free food at Mulegating for all home football games
 - Alumni Center rental discount
 - SAU Bookstore discount
 - SAU Beyond the Campus discount
 - Recognition on the Alumni website and in *The Stater*
 - Alumni decal and membership card
-

Gold Membership

Includes SAU graduates and former students who annually contribute a minimum of \$600 to any area(s) of the University.

Benefits:

All benefits available to Blue members, plus...

- Magnolia Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn Express 15% discount
 - Access to the Mulerider Activity Center (one-day or weekend pass)
 - SAU Alumni Association gift
-

Forever Mulerider® Membership

Includes SAU graduates, former students, and friends who have contributed a minimum of \$10,000 in a lifetime. "Lifetime Members" of the SAU Alumni Association are now Forever Mulerider members.

Benefits:

All benefits available to Gold members, plus...

- Free one-day rental at the SAU Alumni Center
 - Forever Mulerider brick in Legacy Lane
 - Recognition in SAU Foundation Lifetime Giving Society
 - SAU Foundation gift
-

Affiliate Membership

Includes parents of present or former SAU students and any friends of SAU who annually contribute a minimum of \$100 to any area(s) of the University. Affiliate Members receive all benefits included in the appropriate membership level, except the ability to nominate.

www.SAUAlumni.com/Membership

Visit to find out more and enhance your membership.

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home Heima doma Domov
casa huis domū
Zuhause majas Главная hjem
מֵימָה

By: Dan Marsh,
Communications Assistant

SAU continues to grow its academic reputation on a global scale as this year the University is home to not only students from 73 of 75 counties in Arkansas, but also from 40 states and 41 countries around the world.

“Our increased international student population and geographic diversity make SAU a truly global campus,” SAU President Dr. Trey Berry said. “Our students, American and international, are receiving a greater perspective and understanding of rich cultures.”

SAU has long been known as a global campus, but has expanded its reach into several more countries. Nhut An Tran, a freshman computer science major, comes to SAU from Vietnam. He learned about SAU through a Facebook group that shared information about scholarship opportunities abroad. “Since my family can only afford so much on tuition, food and accommodations, SAU was the most viable option,” Tran said. He has joined SAU’s Math and Chess Clubs and enjoys the atmosphere of Magnolia.

Temitope Aramide Moshood, a freshman Biology/Pre-nursing major from Ikorodu, Nigeria, first heard about SAU from a family friend who graduated two years ago. The atmosphere of the University appeals to Moshood because she came here wanting a change in her environment. “I come from a large city, but it feels like home here,” she said. “It’s so quiet and I have more time to myself.” She appreciates having students from other countries and cultures at SAU. “In my residence hall, there are students from eight other countries, including England, Portugal and Brazil. We are all learning from each other,” she said.

Serena Gill, a Business Administration major from Wolverhampton, United Kingdom, is a member of the new women’s tennis team. A lifelong resident of the UK, Gill was approached by Coach Greg Owen about SAU tennis. She now calls SAU her home away from home. “It’s one big family. I couldn’t ask for better teammates or classmates.”

Part of the mission of SAU is to prepare students for the global job market. “Helping them build connections and friendships across the globe is a big part of accomplishing that mission,” Berry said.

SAU is making a more concerted effort to recruit students from around the world, both with traditional as well as unique and cutting-edge methods. Members of SAU’s International Office have made trips overseas, visiting high schools and making contacts in a dozen countries. They are also engaging in virtual recruiting fairs and are developing student exchange programs, particularly with England and Spain.

It is vital for the University to have a strong international presence. “It expands our American students’ education as well as our international students’ education to build relationships with people from various backgrounds, cultures and diversity,” Berry said.

SAU has historically had a high number of international students, though numbers have decreased over the past year, particularly among students from India. However, the University continues to enjoy a high rate of diversity. For the fall semester, SAU had more than 300 international students enrolled.



around campus

SAU was ablaze this fall semester with continued growth and exciting on- and off-campus events. Here, the Homecoming Bonfire sets the tone for a Mulerider Football victory.



Reagan Grubbs, Miss SAU, crowns the 2018 Homecoming Queen, Kiarra Evans.



The 2018 SAU Sports Hall of Fame Class inductees are, left to right: Dolores (Watson) Hensley '85, Sid Moore '74, Jenny (Meziere) Hathorn '01, Nik Lewis '03, John "Laddie Lawrence" '69, Danny Greenfield '63, Tim Evans '94, and Jordan Babineaux '04.



Greek Life members and SAU President's Ambassadors write "thank you" notes to donors while enjoying a Coke float.



The Alumni Center drive was aptly named Butler Circle in honor of the late David Butler, past chairman of the SAU Alumni Association, whose many contributions to the University included leadership in the construction of Magnolia and Columbia Halls. Pictured by the Butler Circle sign are Vicki Butler '78, '09, center, who served SAU as a staff member for more than 18 years, and her and David's daughters, Sydney, left, and Lesley '09.



Muleriders packed the park at the Arkansas Travelers game. SAU and SAU Tech joined in a sponsorship of Traveler games throughout the summer to engage alumni and prospective students from across central Arkansas.



Students perform a dance during the annual SAU International Students Association Dinner: Back left, Suprina Shrestha, Kathmandu, Nepal; front left, Bhumi Patel, Gujarat, India; back right, Subhashini Mediseti, Vizag, India; front right, Alexis Waldon, El Dorado, Arkansas.



Julia Laney Machen, Foundation Board of Governors and Mulerider Club Advisory Board member, is hugged by freshman Aurthur Jeffery of Cedar Hill, Texas, at the championship ring ceremony for SAU Men's Track and Field and Mulerider Baseball.



Panda Express at SAU's University Village Clubhouse opened for business on January 9, 2019, in conjunction with the first day of classes of the spring semester. The latest addition to campus dining was highly-anticipated because of the successful chain's quality and healthy food options at an affordable price. At the "soft opening," guests order entrees from the many options as new Panda employees prepare for the busy opening and semester ahead.



The fireworks display at the lighting of the Bell Tower is one of the many popular events at the annual Celebration of Lights.

RCB students earn priceless experience *Beyond the Campus*

By: Dan Marsh,
Communications Assistant

Three first-year SAU MBA students are co-managing SAU Beyond the Campus, a retail store in downtown Magnolia.

Beyond the Campus opened in August on Blue & Gold Day. It is dedicated to providing graduate students currently enrolled at the University the opportunity to sharpen their skills while earning their Master of Business Administration degree.

Ja'Corey Porchia, Jeremy Hunter and Macy Moseley form the first management team of the store. They each earned undergraduate degrees at SAU.

Porchia, an accounting major from Stephens, Arkansas, said he appreciates the opportunity to gain management experience. "I've been handling the deposits and the accounting and learning how to communicate with customers," he said.

Moseley, a marketing major from Fordyce, Arkansas, said she takes care of social media for the store. "I work with

people, take pictures, and make social media posts. I think about our market and how I can present the store in an appealing way. That's the side I really enjoy."

Hunter, a marketing and supply chain major from Pattonville, Texas, manages inventory. "I work with several different vendors and do all our buying. I'm learning a lot about how a business works, how things are ordered. I would one day like to open a business of my own."

The store also has six undergraduate employees from SAU. The three co-managers divided up their work duties among themselves based on their respective majors and interests, and each work 20 hours per week.

"We all have different strengths, and we work well together," Moseley said.

Hunter said he's heard "nothing but good things" from shoppers about the store.

"I think people like that we have set ourselves apart with our customized Magnolia themes and that we work with local vendors," Moseley said.

Porchia said his experience managing the store will serve as "a good stepping stone" to a larger career. "I think it makes us a bit more versatile," he said.

Moseley said the University has been

highly supportive of the store. "Dr. Berry is super-proud of it. He comes and visits often, checking everything out. He loves it."

The store is located at 113 N. Jefferson West Court Square. It is a 3,400-square-foot building that carries a variety of SAU products and apparel. The front half operates as a retail location, and the remaining space will open later as a community learning space.

Sheryl Edwards, assistant to the president, has been mentoring the three managers. "We have been overwhelmed by the support received from Mulerider fans," she said. "It is exciting to see all the logoed merchandise going out the door marketing SAU both near and far. Having a presence on the square has also been instrumental in acclimating current students to the Magnolia downtown area."

The building was generously donated by Bobbie Ruth Webb in July 2017. "We just can never thank Mrs. Webb enough for gifting the building to the University," Edwards said.



Photo by Aaron Wallis

Jeremy Hunter, from left, Macy Moseley and Ja'Corey Porchia are managing SAU's Beyond the Campus store on the Magnolia Square while getting valuable real-life experience.

visit us online at shop.saumag.edu

Enactus sells local art at Beyond the Campus

By: Dan Marsh,
Communications Assistant

SAU's Enactus organization has partnered with Magnolia Specialized Services (MSS) to help sell handcrafted ceramic magnolia blossoms in SAU's store on the downtown square.

Members of Enactus, an international, community service-based organization with a chapter in the David F. Rankin College of Business, market the blossoms created by art students at MSS. The crafts have a special display section at Beyond the Campus in downtown Magnolia. Students place orders periodically with MSS and visit the classroom to select inventory for the store. A marketing team creates flyers and online advertising to promote the ceramics. Clients receive a portion of the sales.

Lindsay Givens, instructor of management, sponsors Enactus at SAU. She said its members use entrepreneurial skills they learn in the classroom to improve lives in the community. Kaitlin Kitchens, a freshman business major from Dierks, Arkansas, is president of the SAU chapter of Enactus and a project leader for the partnership with MSS. "Our members have a head for business and a heart for the world," Kitchens said.

The art program at MSS began six years ago with a United Way grant to purchase



Photo by Dan Marsh

SAU Enactus students display some of the ceramics made by clients at Magnolia Specialized Services that will be sold at SAU Beyond the Campus. Pictured left to right are Curt Jennings, Morgan Jolly, Jacob Misenheimer, Kaitlin Kitchens, Micah Larey, and Charles Robinson.

a kiln and other ceramics equipment. "Art seems to be one of the ways in which our clients can feel a sense of accomplishment. They take a lot of pride in their finished projects, and enjoy showcasing them," Lisa VanDonsel, head of the art class at MSS.

Each artwork has an "about the artist" tag attached to it, providing biographical information about the individual artist. "That has gotten very positive feedback," VanDonsel said.

Kitchens agreed the tags are "a great way for the customer to connect with the artist, to learn about their hobbies and who they are as a person."

"The partnership gives them real life experience. Beyond the Campus is bringing a whole new set of eyes to our artwork. The students are learning about craftsmanship, deadlines, and the cause and effect between making a product and getting paid for it," VanDonsel said.

RCB students profit from new engagement opportunities

The Rankin College of Business has established an impressive collection of new student engagement initiatives that include several ways students can enrich their college career while preparing for their professional career.

"At the RCB we are building on the excellent education students receive in the classroom with programs that engage them with the community and the world," said Dr. Robin Sronce, RCB dean. "It is the support from our advisory councils and donors along with a committed faculty that make all these exciting things and more possible for our students."

The RCB Living and Learning

Community, established this past fall, gives business students the chance to live close to one another in University Hall. They enjoy campus activities together in their hall along with RCB faculty and staff as well as educational trips. On November 14, the RCBiz went to the Arkansas Capitol where students visited with Governor Asa Hutchinson and Senator Bruce Maloch, sat in on a budget hearing, and toured the Capitol and the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum.

More travel experiences are offered by the College's RCB On the Road program in which business students learn first-hand about career opportunities. Each of

the business academic programs hosts a travel experience at least once every two years to engage with business leaders and tour business operations. There is also a new funding opportunity, the Internship-Away Scholarship sponsored by the Business Advisory Council, to help students complete internship opportunities.

In October, RCB also hosted a series of workshops called "Backpack to Briefcase," which was aimed at giving students tools to land an internship or their first career position. Workshops topics included resume and cover letters, proper attire, interviewing skills, the job search, and social media presence.



Larry Dunn '07, '10 was one of the Ted Talk-style presenters at the first Minority Male Mentorship in Education conference at SAU.

SAU hosts young minority males to promote education careers

By: Dan Marsh,
Communications Assistant

In a collaborative effort, the first Minority Male Mentorship in Education (M3E) conference at SAU was held this fall to inform and promote education as a career pathway to minority males.

Joining forces to present the conference, held October 31, was the SAU College of Education, the SAU Educational Renewal Zone (ERZ) and the SAU STEM Center for K-12 Education. The program reached students in grades 11-12 from several school districts across the region.

Dr. Roger Guevara, ERZ director and assistant professor of educational leadership, called the conference a success and said there will likely be another one next year. "We need more diversity in our teacher candidates and are hoping to introduce more diversity into the teaching field in general. We received excellent

feedback from the students who attended. This was a great first step."

According to the Arkansas Department of Education, 38 percent of students in Arkansas public schools are minority males, while only 10 percent of certified teachers are minorities.

Eleven educators from around the state delivered TED Talk-style presentations to 50 African-American male students. The mentors included Tracy Forte, dean of students, Mineral Springs School District; Vincent Dawson, guidance counselor at El Dorado Public Schools; Larry Dunn, Magnolia Junior High and High School choir director; Donnell Ford, Magnolia Junior High coach and history teacher; Guevara; Fred Lilly II, Camden Fairview

..... Continued on the following page

Four COE alumni earn regional teacher honors

By: Dan Marsh,
Communications Assistant



Contributed Photo

Renee Bailey '80
Central Elementary School
Magnolia, Arkansas



Contributed Photo

Crystal Burkes '18
Davis Elementary School
Bryant, Arkansas



Contributed Photo

Juanita Harris '10
Union Elementary School
Texarkana, Arkansas



Contributed Photo

Rob Plant '18
Mineral Springs School District
Mineral Springs, Arkansas

Four alumni from SAU's College of Education were 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalists.

Renee Bailey, fourth grade math, science and social studies teacher at Central Elementary School in Magnolia; Juanita Harris, first grade teacher at Union Elementary School in Texarkana; Rob Plant, grades 4-12 computer science teacher in Mineral Springs; and Chrystal Burkes, a current student in the Library Media graduate program at SAU and a grade 3 literacy teacher in Bryant were recognized by Gov. Asa Hutchinson and Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key at a ceremony held on August 16 at the Governor's Mansion.

Bailey, Harris, Plant, and Burkes were among 14 teachers from across the state honored with the designation. "These 14 teachers have demonstrated excellence in the classroom, and I am pleased to recognize them as regional finalists," Key said. "They serve as role models for their peers, and I commend them all for their commitment to ensuring our students graduate ready for college,

career and community engagement."

SAU's Chair of Teacher Education Dr. Neelie Dobbins echoed Key's sentiments, "I am so proud of these SAU alumni. They graduated from SAU and continue to flourish in learning and love for teaching. Each of them has earned an amazing achievement being a 2019 Arkansas Teacher of the Year Regional Finalist, and I know their love for teaching truly is making a great impact on the lives of children in Arkansas schools."

Harris '10, '13, a Texarkana, Arkansas, native, has fond memories of her time at SAU "There were some late nights and early mornings, but I would not trade anything for my journey," she said. "I can honestly say that choosing SAU was one of the best decisions of my life. I met some of my best friends and made some of my favorite memories while on campus."

Each public school district in Arkansas may select one teacher as its District Teacher of the Year and nominate that teacher for the Arkansas Teacher of the Year.

Minority males continued

.....Continued from the previous page

Intermediate School at the Camden Fairview School District; Vincent Mills, Camden Fairview fourth grade STEM teacher; Rodney McCullum, ADE Educator Effectiveness & Licensure; Daryl Moore, Camden Fairview Technology Technician; Jeremy Owoh, ADE assistant commissioner of education effectiveness; and Jessie J. Walker, senior associate director, Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

In addition, mentors and their students participated in directed activities, including Round Robin activities provided by various departments at SAU.

Dr. Trey Berry, president of SAU, addressed the young men and mentors, praising the conference as a wonderful opportunity. Stacy Allen, math specialist at SAU, and Dr. Lisa Oden, assistant professor of education at SAU, were instrumental in coordinating the conference.



Photo by Dan Marsh

Dr. Roger Guevara, ERZ director, hopes to have another M3E conference at SAU next year.

Theatre Update:



Photo by Aaron Wallis

Cast members in *Next to Normal* sing "Light" at the conclusion of the rock musical this past fall.

"We've had a fantastic start to our 2018-2019 season. Audiences were blown away by the level of talent and professionalism in *Next to Normal*! With *Antigone* being double cast, it was fascinating to see two different casts work on the same material and deliver two very different interpretations of the same show. It was a great learning experience for students and the audience. We are in the process of making some updates to the Harton Stage, so keep an eye out for some exciting changes in the spring!"

-Brittany Bara

Director of Theatre and Assist. Prof. of Musical Theatre

Upcoming Shows:

Unexpected Tenderness

February 14 – 23

This poignant drama about a dysfunctional Jewish family in Massachusetts is structured as a memory play. Due to violence and language, we recommend that this show is for mature audiences.

Sister Act

April 11 – 20

Sister Act is the feel-good musical comedy smash based on the hit 1992 film that has audiences jumping to their feet! Featuring original music by acclaimed Alan Menken (*Newsies*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Little Shop of Horrors*), this uplifting musical was nominated for five Tony Awards, including Best Musical. This musical is family friendly and recommended for all ages.

Tickets can be purchased at the door, online at www.showtix4u.com, or by calling (870) 235-4255.

Aspiring SAU actress uses NYC workshop as a growing experience



"I learned to be more comfortable with myself and how to let go and not worry about who might be watching."

-Eboni Edwards

Eboni Edwards, a junior Performing Arts: Theatre and Musical Theatre double major, participated in Artists Striving to End Poverty (ASTEP), a week-long program held at the Juilliard School in New York City.

Edwards, of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, attended the program June 3-9.

She attended workshops, heard lectures from Juilliard professors, and attended *Carousel* on Broadway.

ASTEP uses art to transform lives by connecting underserved youth with visual and performing artists.

Edwards said the program introduced her to a wide variety of artists and encouraged her to think about her own artistic goals and what community she might like to reach through her work.

She wants to use her theatre training as a stepping stone to future work in television and film.

"I hoped to meet people and grow as a person and as an artist," Edwards said, "and I definitely accomplished that. I learned to be more comfortable with myself and how to let go and not worry about who might be watching."

She hopes to return to New York and will be applying for internships. "I am so happy I went," Edwards said. "I hope to go back next summer."



Photo by Aaron Wallis

First Financial Bank CEO Chris Hegi congratulates SAU on moving forward with the new poultry curriculum.

Poultry Groundbreaking Ceremony celebrates partnerships and education

By: Dan Marsh,
Communications Assistant

Emphasizing the importance of strong industry partnerships as well as the future of education in south Arkansas, the groundbreaking ceremony for the First Financial Bank Poultry Education Facility was held October 1, 2018.

Dr. Trey Berry, president of Southern Arkansas University, welcomed leaders of regional poultry industries as well as SAU alumni, Magnolia community leaders, and representatives of First Financial Bank of El Dorado, to the ceremony on the north side of the Agriculture Center.

First Financial Bank is one of the nation's largest poultry lenders and is proud to partner with SAU in

the revitalization of its poultry studies program. The curriculum will improve instruction in poultry in south Arkansas and create more job candidates for the field. The new complex, which consists of three phases, will allow students to observe and interact with different aspects of poultry production – from breeder to hatchery, from broiler to processing. It will contain a feed storage room and a classroom/laboratory.

Berry said the bank made known its interest in the program just as SAU was exploring bringing poultry back to its agriculture curriculum. "The timing was perfect," he said. "We hope to meet the employment needs of the industry in this region and across the state."

Pictured at the groundbreaking, from left, are Dr. Jeff Miller, SAU Department of Agriculture chair; Melissa Jerry '88, First Financial Bank CFO; Craig Mobley, First Financial Bank executive vice president; Chris Hegi, First Financial Bank CEO; David Nelson '97, SAU Board of Trustees vice chair; Dr. Trey Berry, SAU president; Lawrence Bearden '61, SAU Board of Trustees secretary; Edgar Lee '85, SAU Board of Trustees chair; Beth Weldon '83, First Financial Bank vice president of marketing; Bryan McDuffie, First Financial Bank vice president of agriculture lending; Dr. Bill Loe '51, former chair of the SAU Department of Agriculture; and Senator Bruce Maloch '80.



Science Open House



Photo by Dan Marsh

COSE Dean Dr. Abdel Bachri and assistant Virginia Talley conduct an enlightening physics demonstration.

Approximately 500 students from school districts in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas attended the annual Open House hosted by the College of Science and Engineering on October 26, 2018. Students in grades 10-12 had the opportunity to participate in hands-on classroom activities in biology, chemistry, physics, math, computer science, nursing, and engineering. They were also able to ask questions about SAU's science program during a panel discussion held in the Engineering Building. Dr. Abdel Bachri, dean of the College of Science and Engineering, said the purpose of the open house was to inspire younger generations to pursue STEM courses, which drive economic prosperity and a healthy society.



Photo by Dan Marsh

Visiting students were engaged in hands-on STEM activities.



Photo by Dan Marsh

The Engineering Building was brimming with young students from across the region.

Funding fueling SAU Science excellence

By: Dan Marsh,
Communications Assistant

SAU's College of Science and Engineering has been the recipient of generous endowments, grants, and other contributions over the past year.

Albemarle and the Albemarle Foundation-Magnolia Council have recently committed \$100,000 to fund an endowment to benefit SAU's engineering program. Once fully funded, this endowment will provide annual resources for equipment and technology. These funds are crucial in moving the program forward to ensure that SAU Engineering has the very best resources to train students for today's ever-changing workplace. Albemarle's support provides the margin of excellence that makes all the difference to SAU faculty and students.

"Our partnerships with Albemarle are so important, not just for students, but for our entire region," Dr. Trey Berry, president of SAU, said. "We could not have strong programs in many areas of our campus without Albemarle's generous and gracious support."

Each semester, Albemarle engineers speak in SAU classrooms. Students are allowed to tour the plant, and internship and employment opportunities are also provided by Albemarle. The company

also sponsors senior design projects, has established an Albemarle Endowed Professorship and guides the Engineering program as a part of the Engineering Advisory Board.

"Albemarle is proud to continue its partnership with SAU and particularly the Department of Engineering," Jason Bevan, Magnolia plant manager, said. "Albemarle welcomes the opportunity to support the sustainability of this region's technical workforce and contribute to such a valuable asset of this community."

SAU Engineering also received two Aerojet Rocketdyne Foundation grants totaling \$15,000 in 2018. These grants will go toward the purchase of engineering equipment, including a six-axis robotic arm.

"Aerojet Rocketdyne has been a great partner," Bachri said. "They provide resources, internship opportunities for our students and recruit many of our Engineering graduates. We are very proud of our relationship with Aerojet Rocketdyne, and believe we are just at the beginning of a long-term collaboration. The Department of Engineering and Physics is eager to serve Aerojet and produce an able workforce for decades to come."

College of Science and Engineering Professors have also received research grants, including Dr. Md Karim, Dr.

Antoinette Odendaal and Dr. Mahbub Ahmed.

Dr. Md Karim, associate professor of Computer Science, received a \$15,000 Data Mining Grant from NASA through the Space Grant Consortium. The research methods to be developed through this grant could have great applications for understanding the massive volumes of extraterrestrial data during space exploration, or any other scenario where a large data set is available. Karim has also worked with students on a project for NASA finding patterns in obfuscated data.

Dr. Antoinette Odendaal, assistant professor of Biology and Chemistry, was awarded a grant and fellowship for research from Arkansas INBRE in the amount of \$8,000. Her research will assess the effect of commercial *Caralluma fimbriata* extract, a weight loss agent, on the freshwater microcrustacean *Daphnia magna*.

Dr. Mahbub Ahmed, associate professor of Engineering, received a grant from the Gene Haas Foundation in the amount of \$2,000 for 2018. The grant will be used to fund student groups participating in manufacturing-based research. "It will be highly beneficial for the participating students to gain experience that will enrich their resumes for future job search and placement as mechanical/manufacturing engineers," Ahmed said.



Celebrating PEOPLE

“Celebrating People” is a special section of *The Stater* that recognizes individuals or groups who epitomize SAU’s culture of caring.

New and expanding programs at SAU continue to welcome youth from across the region to experience a university campus; not just any university, but one that “feels like home” with caring faculty and staff and students who youth want to emulate.

The Mulerider Kids College (MKC) and Teen College (MTC) camps have each grown tremendously since they started in 2015 and 2017 to record numbers in 2018 of 404/330 at MKC’s morning and afternoon camps and 115 for MTC. Other summer camps have also expanded to include academic program specific offerings, such as engineering, game development and coding/ cybersecurity. Various athletic camps also host groups throughout the summer.

Mulerider Athletics also continues its efforts to impact youth during the fall and spring semesters. This fall, for example, they hosted a Harvest Fest at the Magnolia Boys and Girls Club and Meet the Muleriders: Basketball Fan Fest. Both of these events featured SAU student-athletes engaging and mentoring area youth in fun and interactive ways.

Other campus events, like theatre performances and the popular Celebration of Lights, engage and entertain children.





I  MKC because...
I get to interact with
people I don't
know!!





Contributed Photo

Don Unamba, former Mulerider All-American, has found his pro home in the CFL.

Jacob Pumphrey,
Director of Athletic Communications

“FEELS LIKE HOME.” Anyone familiar with Southern Arkansas University knows that statement has been adopted as the slogan of one of the state’s fastest growing universities. But for a former Mulerider Football standout, that phrase can be linked to the latest chapter of his professional football journey; a voyage that has taken Don Unamba north of the border to the Canadian Football League (CFL).

A native of Hurst, Texas, Unamba was a consensus All-American as well as a first-team All-GAC and All-Central Region performer in his final year playing for SAU in 2012. Unamba’s collegiate career saw the defensive back set the program’s career record for passes broken up (39) as well as the single-season record in the category (17), while also drawing the attention of pro scouts during his final year in Magnolia.

Unamba went undrafted in 2013 and spent time with the St. Louis Rams and Buffalo Bills before becoming a free agent in August of the same year.

Following stints in which he played in 29 combined games with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers (2014) and the Saskatchewan Roughriders (2015) of the CFL, Unamba came back to the states and enjoyed a successful season with the Salt Lake Screaming Eagles of the Indoor Football League (IFL) in 2017.

Later in 2017, the journeyman found himself in Canada once more and played in a combined 14 games with the Montreal Alouettes and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and recorded 49 defensive tackles, three interceptions and a forced fumble. That success in the final 11 games with Hamilton set Unamba up for even more success in 2018 and after taking an opportunity to fill a void for the Tiger-Cats at the SAM Linebacker position rather than his natural position at cornerback.

Following a 2018 campaign in which he registered career-highs with 59 defensive tackles, including 4.5 for loss, four sacks, and three forced fumbles, while also knocking down seven passes, recording one interception and a fumble recovery. Unamba was named a 2018 Canadian Football League East Division All-Star, a first for the former Mulerider.



Former Mulerider feeling at

HOME

in Canada



Softball Complex named in honor of Dr. Margaret Downing

Jacob Pumphrey,
Director of Athletic Communications



Photo by Aaron Wallis

Dr. Downing enjoyed visiting with her former student-athletes, including Cynthia King Yates '81.



Dr. Margaret Downing was honored in a special ceremony on October 20 following SAU Football's Homecoming win and preceding the handing out of championship rings to the Lady Mulerider Softball team.

Alumni, Mulerider Softball fans, and former players and friends of Downing packed the stands at Dawson Field inside the Mulerider Softball Complex and watched as SAU President Dr. Trey Berry revealed a sign donning the new name of the facility as Dawson Field at the Dr. Margaret Downing Softball Complex.

"I am not sure that there is a more fitting way to pay tribute to the success of women's athletics at Southern Arkansas University than by naming our softball complex after someone that has meant so much to women's athletics," noted Steve Browning, director of athletics.

The dedication of the Mulerider Softball Complex in honor of Dr. Downing comes after funds were raised by the Margaret Downing Society, which also enabled the infield playing surface at Dawson Field to be reconstructed with artificial turf from Geo-Surfaces.

Downing, a pioneer for the advancement of SAU women's athletics, spent 18-plus years as a coach of the then-Riderettes in basketball, golf, softball, swimming, volleyball and track and field. In a coaching career that began in 1965, Downing captured six conference championships and two conference co-championships in women's basketball in addition to a conference championship in volleyball in 1974.

In October of 2003, Downing became an inaugural member of the SAU Sports Hall of Fame. Sixteen years prior, Downing was inducted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Hall of Fame. For the past three years, the top female athlete at SAU has been awarded the Dr. Margaret Downing Female Athlete of the Year award.

In addition to this recognition, a scholarship endowment has been started honoring Dr. Downing and benefiting women's athletics. For more information, contact the Division of Advancement at (870) 235-4078.



Photo by Aaron Wallis

Former student-athletes of Dr. Downing from the late 1970s and early 1980s reminisce over photos, yearbooks and memorabilia. Pictured, from left, are Tina Cheatham '79, Karlene Coleman Hooker '78, Pat Clark Smith '79, Phyllis McCollum Harmon '79, Sandra Haley Taylor '79, and Sara Wooley '77.

Tennis Complex Dedication

Dan Marsh, SAU Communications and
Jacob Pumphrey, Director of Athletic Communications

Southern Arkansas University officially dedicated the campus' newest athletic facility – the Live Oak Tennis Courts and the Oliver M. Clegg Championship Court – on August 28 adjacent to and behind the W.T. Watson Center and the Aquatic Center.

A large crowd of SAU faculty and staff, tennis alumni and University supporters gathered for the unveiling, led by SAU President Dr. Trey Berry. The championship court was named in honor of Oliver M. Clegg, who received his degree from Magnolia A&M (now SAU) in 1938. His father was a Methodist minister, and although they moved every three or four years during his career, Magnolia and SAU were always home to Clegg. He was so honored to be recognized as an SAU Distinguished Alumnus in 1992. He learned to play tennis on a grass court at his uncle's house in Forest, Mississippi, and, for him, tennis became a lifelong passion.

He considered tennis to be a sport for life, with no boundaries of age or gender and was still playing singles and doubles well into his seventies. His granddaughter, Lilly Giles, a senior Agricultural Business major at SAU, learned to play tennis on the SAU tennis courts while attending a summer Community Education program sponsored by the University when she was eight years old. From that beginning, she went on to letter in tennis all four years while playing for Magnolia High School.

She recalled that discovering her grandfather's tennis rackets in a closet inspired her to play at an early age. "He had passed away before I was born," she said. "I never got to know him, but tennis was a way I could connect with him."

She said that she got very emotional when she learned of the court dedication in her grandfather's honor. "It means a lot to me, to know he played here, and now these courts are named for him. My dad's been here ever since I can remember – everyone in Overstreet remembers me doing cartwheels down the hall. It means a great deal to me."

First-year head coach Greg Owen summed up perfectly what the newly-dedicated courts mean to him and his programs. "We have athletes from all over the world; far away from their families. But when we practiced for the first time [on these courts], we all thought it felt like HOME SWEET HOME."

In their first year back on campus, the SAU Tennis teams are the most diverse of all 14 of Mulerider Athletics' programs. In fact, of the 18 student-athletes on both the men's and women's teams, only four originate from the United States, while the other 14 student-athletes represent a dozen countries (two from Brazil and Spain, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Thailand and Uzbekistan).

Revitalized in November of 2017, the programs' first semester of competition was a success. Both the SAU Men's and Women's Tennis teams competed at the Midwestern State Invitational and the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Central Region Tournament. They concluded their fall campaigns at the Great American Conference Individual Championships, where Lady Mulerider freshmen Simone Simas (Portugal) and Brenda Teixeira (Brazil) each claimed GAC Individual Flight Championships. Seven other SAU athletes advanced as far as the semifinals of their respective flights.



Photo by Aaron Wallis

The championship court at SAU's new tennis complex was named in memory of Oliver M. Clegg. Pictured are his daughter, Carolyn Clegg, and her husband and daughter, Roger and Lilly Giles.

"We have athletes from all over the world; far away from their families. But when we practiced for the first time [on these courts], we all thought it felt like **HOME SWEET HOME.**"

-Greg Owen
SAU Tennis Coach



Photo by Aaron Wallis

The men's and women's SAU Tennis teams are the most diverse of any SAU sport representing more than a dozen countries.



Three Reasons Why I Support SAU

Featuring Robert W. Henderson, M.D.

In 1965, I enrolled at what is now Southern Arkansas University. I studied pre-med and received a very fine education. There were seven of us who were accepted from SAU by the University of Arkansas College of Medicine in 1968. In those days, you could apply after three years of pre-med with 90 credit hours (including required courses in Biology and Chemistry). All seven of us graduated together in 1972 and have all enjoyed fulfilling careers in medicine. I went to Dallas for an internship and remained there. I retired in 2011 after 38 wonderful years.

So, Reason One for my support is that it is a way of paying back, with gratitude, for the great education I received that prepared me for medical school.

I share SAU news, publications, and stories with a good friend in Dallas who is a retired orthopedic surgeon. He attended Ivy League schools in the East, ending with a residency at Mt. Sinai in NYC. These schools have become terribly expensive, sometimes leaving a student with \$200,000 or more in debt for

a bachelor's degree. My friend has studied the SAU story and is amazed a person can get a high quality education at a public state school that is affordable. This is very important in an era of very expensive higher education. This is Reason Two for my support.

I recently completed the funding of a scholarship endowment at SAU. It is in honor of my mother, Daisy Gillaspie Uhrich; of my father, Judge R.W. Henderson; and my stepfather, Joel F. Gillaspie. Reason Three for supporting SAU is that it is a great way of honoring or memorializing a loved one or friend.

Without SAU, I rather doubt I would have made it to receive my M.D. degree. Thank you to all the great professors who gave so much time and effort to provide us with an incredible pre-med education.

Many are now deceased, including Miss Avalee Cox. She was a Biology professor who made such a difference. My group of seven collectively endowed a scholarship in her name that keeps on giving. This is a gift that never ends.



Endowments Established in 2018



York-Pruden Agriculture Scholarship Endowment – in honor of Jerry and Twyla York Pruden's parents, Fern and

Homer York and Jerri and Jim Pruden, Jr., and to benefit a student majoring in Agriculture with a financial need

The Red Ink Scholarship Endowment – established by Jerry and Twyla York Pruden to benefit a student majoring in English



Claudell Woods Scholarship Endowment – established by alumni and friends in memory of Claudell Woods to provide a scholarship

John C. and Dorothy Petty Henderson Endowment – established by Dorothy Henderson to benefit the College of Education

Chris & Becky Elcan Scholarship Endowment – established by W. Chris Elcan to provide a scholarship for a student majoring in Marketing

John and Beverly Carmichael Scholarship Endowment – established by John and Beverly Carmichael to fund scholarships based on need for students in the business or STEM fields



Susan S. Buckmaster Memorial Scholarship Endowment – established in honor of the memory of Susan S. Buckmaster, the late wife of Robert B. Buckmaster, Class of 1966, and to provide financial assistance to

deserving students

Bruce B. Bevens Business Scholarship Endowment – established by J.W. Rowe in memory of his business professor, Mr. Bruce B. Bevens, and to provide a scholarship to a Business student



Arthur G. and Helen Duke Mechanical Engineering Scholarship - established by Darrel and Diana Duke to provide scholarships

to Mechanical Engineering students

Robbins Music Scholarship – established by Dr. H. Dale and Gail Robbins to provide scholarships for choir or band students, with preference to graduates of Ashdown or Foreman high schools



Galway/Elliott Scholarship for Entrepreneurs – established by Dan and Beth Galway to provide financial aid to students pursuing a degree in Entrepreneurship or Entrepreneurial Finance

Leon Sharp Athletic Scholarship – established by James Moseley in honor of Coach Leon Sharp to provide athletic scholarships with priority given to graduates of Hardee High School in Wauchula, Florida



Norco Dean E.E. Graham Engineering Scholarship – established by Edna Norvell in honor of Dean E.E. Graham, and to provide scholarships for Engineering students

Patricia A. and John W. Dumas Business Scholarship Endowment – established by John W. Dumas in memory of his wife, Patti, to provide scholarships to Business students

Multigeneration Muleriders a testament to SAU 'home'

1. Marcus McDonald '81, center, with son, Tony McDonald '97, left, and grandson, Kobe. 2. Ronnie Ribble '58, right, with son, Barry Ribble '88, left, and grandson, Parker, center. 3. James W. Duke '74, left, with Lori Duke Arnette '97, center, and Shelby Arnette Burke, right. 4. Jim Andrews '86, third from left, with Sierra Hill, from left, Amanda Andrews, and James F. Andrews III.



By: Dan Marsh,
Communications Assistant

The greatest testament to our University feeling like home is when families pass down becoming a Mulerider over multiple generations.

We love sharing stories of Mulerider families and we invite you to share your family's story at www.SAUalumni.com/generations.

Four such multigenerational SAU Mulerider families include the Andrews, Duke, McDonald, and Ribble families.

The Andrews family has had three generations and a total of nine family members who have become Muleriders. The legacy began with Jim F. Andrews Sr., who finished at Southern State College in 1962. His son, Jim F. Andrews Jr., followed suit and earned his degree at SAU in 1986. He is a former member of the SAU Board of Governors and the SAU Alumni Association Board and is a current member of the Rankin College of Business Advisory Council. Jim, Jr.'s wife, Amanda Andrews, earned a degree from SAU in 2012. Their son, Jim F. Andrews III, is a current freshman, along with his stepsister, Sierra Hill. He also has had two uncles, Gary Andrews '69 and Jerry Moore, and an aunt, Debbie Andrews McCorkindale '75, who joined the family tradition. His sister, Wendy Andrews McFarland, also attended SAU.

The Duke family boasts four generations of SAU alumni. Lois Gunter Duke began the tradition at Magnolia A&M, graduating in 1936. Almost 40 years later, James W. Duke earned a bachelor of science degree from Southern State College. Lori Duke Arnette earned her AARN in 1997, then returned to complete her BSN in 2018. Shelby Arnette Burke cheered for both her mother's return to

SAU and Mulerider Athletics as an SAU cheerleader. Shelby was a theatre major, earning her bachelor of arts degree in 2017.

The McDonald family is proud to have three generations of Mulerider student-athletes. Marcus McDonald began the tradition by playing for the men's basketball team and earning his degree in 1981. His son, Tony McDonald, earned two degrees (2008 and 2010) and played football. Now Tony's son, Kobe McDonald, is a linebacker for the football team.

"In 1954, I was offered a football scholarship at Southern State College. I was not very familiar with SSC but learned quickly it was the right place for me," said Ronnie Ribble, who earned his degree from Southern State in 1958. He is a former member of the SAU Board of Trustees, Foundation Board of Governors, and the Alumni Association Board and is currently on the RCB Business Advisory Council. His sons, Alan and Barry Ribble, also attended SAU. Alan '81 currently serves on the SAU Foundation Board of Governors and he received the Distinguished Young Alumni Award in 1998. Barry earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1998. Kerry Lynch Ribble, Alan's wife, earned her bachelor's degree in 1982 and returned to earn a second degree, Elementary Counseling and Development, in 2004. Kelly Moore Ribble, Barry's wife, earned her Bachelor of Arts in English degree in 1991. Parker Ribble, Barry and Kelly's son, became a third-generation Mulerider in 2017 and is currently on the Mulerider Baseball team. "SAU has been good for the Ribble family and we highly recommend it to anyone looking for a great education," Ronnie Ribble said.

1960-1969

David Alpe '62 was selected as a member of the 2019 Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame class. The banquet is set for March 29 at the Statehouse Convention Center. Alpe coached at Malvern for 36 years, winning 16 conference championships and the 1993 state championship before becoming athletic director. He was an outstanding athlete, scoring 39 touchdowns for Lake Village High School, and was a three-time All-AIC running back at SAU. He was inducted into the Mulerider Athletics Hall of Fame in 2013.

Dr. Rodney Griffin '66 was recently honored by Wentworth Place in Magnolia with a new cottage that was built for patients who need rehab before returning home. The house is named and dedicated to Dr. Rodney Griffin for his many years of service as medical director.

1970-1979

Mary Nell Jameson '70 was the recipient of South Arkansas Women's Network (SAWN) Lifetime Achievement Award. This program, sponsored each year by SAWN, honors women who have achieved a major career advancement or recognition in their professions within the preceding two calendar years.

Cliff Bullock '75 retired from Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield in December of 2016. He and his wife now reside in Kilgore, Texas.

Derrill Smith '75, '86 was inducted into the Arkansas High School Athletic Administrator Association Hall of Fame in 2018. He has been a teacher, coach, and athletic administrator for 42 years. He has worked for school districts at Crossett, Arkansas; Center, Texas; and El Dorado, Arkansas. He also served as dean of students in El Dorado, and currently teaches at the Alternative Learning School.

Marvin Lindsey '77 was inducted into the Arkansas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2018. He has worked for the Magnolia School District for 41 years. During that time, he coached football, basketball, track, and golf. For the last 18 years, he has been the athletic director for the district. As athletic director, he was named the 5A Athletic Director of the Year and received the Arkansas Activities Association Citation Award for contributions to high school activity programs. Also during his tenure as the athletic director, Magnolia School District has won 15 state titles and 4 state runner-up titles.

Ed Choate '77, president and CEO of Delta Dental of Arkansas, was recently included in the Arkansas Business Publishing Group – Arkansas 250.

Jerry Cox '74, founder and president of Family Council, was recently included

in the Arkansas Business Publishing Group – Arkansas 250.

Joyce Elliott '73, Arkansas senator and chair of the Education Committee for the Southern Legislative Conference, was recently included in the Arkansas Business Publishing Group – Arkansas 250.

1980-1989



Bobby Thompson '86 started a new position as sales and marketing manager at Southern Aluminum in Magnolia. Thompson also serves as chair on the SAU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Kathy Beaver Anderson '80, a registered nurse in the DFW metroplex for more than 36 years, is celebrating her 10 year anniversary at Family Allergy and Asthma Care as an immunotherapy team leader.

Leslie Putman '82 has published several religious articles in "Seek the Old Paths." She also earned a degree by correspondence from Sunset Bible Institute in Bible & Christian Ministry in 2004. She has completed graduate work in education at Henderson State University and has worked at El Dorado Public School, West Side Christian School, and Norphlet and Junction City public schools. She is an active supporter of Ally Cat Allies and Children's Home Inc. She is also a volunteer for the senatorial campaigns of Tina Smith, Jackie Rosen, and Maggie Hassan.

Donna Schobey '86 has been hired as the lab director at Magnolia Regional Medical Center. She brings more than 20 years of experience to the position.

Debbie Arnold '85 was promoted to senior vice president/marketing at Peoples Bank of Magnolia. She brings more than 32 years of banking experience to the position.



Jim Andrews, Jr. '87 was recently hired as the newest counsel for PPGMR Law. He will serve out of the firm's El Dorado office. He has also started a

new position as the deputy director and general counsel for the state Department of Arkansas Heritage. He has an extensive background in general business spanning four decades in a variety of functions and positions for companies ranging from start-ups to Fortune 500. Most recently, Andrews concluded a 17-year legal career at Deltic Timber Corporation, serving the last seven of those years as vice president, general counsel, and secretary. Andrews was also part of the corporate management team that oversaw the billion-dollar merger of Deltic Timber Corporation with Potlatch Corporation to form PotlatchDeltic Corporation in 2018. Also in 2018, Andrews was appointed by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson to serve a four-year term as a commissioner on the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. He currently serves as a member of the advisory council to the SAU Rankin College of Business and a member of the Society for Corporate Governance. His past community service includes board service to the DeSoto Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the SAU Foundation and SAU Alumni Association. He lives in El Dorado with his wife and four children.



Glenda Kirkpatrick '83, chair of the Magnolia Regional Medical Center (MRMC) Foundation, was recently featured in the Board Member Spotlight.

Bruce Maloch '80 was honored as a "Friend of 4-H" at Arkansas 4-H's biggest night of the year – the Awards of Excellence Banquet. "Each year, we recognize those who truly give of themselves to this youth development program," said Martha Ray Sartor, extension's associate director – 4-H and Youth Development and Family and Consumer Science. Maloch was active in 4-H and served as state president and national officer of the FFA. "Friends of 4-H" recognizes individuals who have been devoted to the youth development program. During his tenure, he's been recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Arkansas Realtors Association, Person of the Year by the Arkansas Municipal League, and was named one of the top 10 legislators by *Talk Business* magazine. The senator and his wife live on a farm south of Magnolia where they raise registered Brangus cattle and enjoy spending time with their three children and five grandchildren, all of which have taken part in 4-H livestock projects.

Allard Baird '86 has accepted a job with the New York Mets as the vice president of Player Development and

Scouting. Before this new role, Baird was the vice president and director of Professional Scouting for the 2018 World Series Champions, the Boston Red Sox.

1990-1999

Sharon Gathright '90 was promoted to senior vice president at Peoples Bank of Magnolia.

Todd Smith '92 was appointed to the Arkansas State Banking Board by Governor Asa Hutchinson.



Jeff Hanson '95, '10, a Columbia County Farm Bureau insurance agent, was recognized for excelling in overall insurance sales, production, and service to Farm Bureau members at the statewide Farm Bureau Insurance Agents Meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock. Jeff was presented with the million dollar ring for producing more than \$5 million in paid life insurance volume and \$30,000 in paid life premiums.

Kyle Slayton '96, head baseball coach at Nashville High School, was named ABCA/Rawlings National High School Coach of the Year. He was also named Regional Coach of the Year for the second year in a row.

Mindy West '96, EVP, CFO and treasurer of Murphy USA, was recently included in the Arkansas Business Publishing Group – Arkansas 250.



Audra Bryant '99 released her second poetry book, *Sentiments of a Southern Lady*, in May 2018. Through this book, she celebrates her southern upbringing. After graduation, Bryant relocated to Detroit, Michigan, and worked in the Child Welfare System. She hopes to release several new projects in 2019, including a play.

2000-2009

Kelli Dochery '00, counselor at Hurricane Creek Elementary School in Bryant, was recognized by the Arkansas School Counselor Association as Southwest Region Elementary School

Counselor of the Year and Arkansas' Overall Counselor of the Year. This is the highest award given by the Arkansas School Counselor Association.



Morgan Jerry '03 was selected for the *Four States Living Magazine 2018* "Fabulous 40 & Under." She, her twin sister and her brother formed Big 5 Investments, LLC (a play on words for their family of five and the Big 5 Game in Africa). Their business provides income tax preparation, business services (from payroll and quarterly reports to full bookkeeping services), and business consulting and advisory services. Even though working with family is sometimes hard and stressful, she said she is so proud that she gets to work in this Christian family business.

Cyndy Rider '06 recently received the Star of Life Award for her service as a LifeNet Paramedic. Selected by her peers at LifeNet and honored by the American Ambulance Association, Rider was one of only 100 EMS professionals from across the nation to receive the award this year. Rider has worked in EMS since 2013 and became a paramedic at LifeNet a few years later.

Brandon Foshee '06, founder, president, and CEO of Faussee Innovations has won a one-year, \$225,000 Small Business Innovation Research Award to develop and test RoboHear, a new and affordable haptic technology for bringing speech understanding to the deaf.



Demarcus Green '08, '11 was selected for the *Four States Living* magazine 2018 "Fabulous 40 & Under." A graduate of Leadership Texarkana, he has helped establish a plan for community excellence by engaging in strategic planning efforts between multiple sectors of the community. As an educator, he has coordinated and hosted a community 5K for the last two years, entitled "Hunger's No Game," to help combat hunger in the Texarkana community. Registration for the event is the donation of 10 non-perishable canned food items, and the event has averaged more than 10,000 food items each year benefitting the Harvest Regional Food Bank and the Randy Sams' Outreach Shelter.



Linda Shelley '08 started a new position as special education teacher at Pea Ridge School District. She is also a behavior tech at Thrive Autism Solutions.

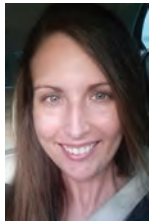
Britney Snell '08, '10 was recently promoted to vice president of finance for SHARE Foundation in El Dorado, Arkansas.

Nathan Bullock '09 started a new position as quality assurance analyst at Alcon Laboratories. He resides in Fort Worth, Texas.



Jessica Haynes George '09, '11, director of Student Services and Placement at Louisiana Tech University's College of Business, has been named the Vantage Health Plan 2018 Visionary Educator of the Year. The peer-nominated honor is awarded to outstanding faculty and staff members who have shown a strong commitment to the field of education through hard work and dedication to the field.

2010-2018



Amanda Baxter '10, '15 was recently promoted to property accounting supervisor at Murphy Oil in El Dorado.

Jordan Craig '10 recently started a new position as manager of Government and Industry Affairs at American Forest & Paper Association.



Brandon Hughey '10 was selected as the new band director at Camden Fairview. Before accepting this position, Brandon served as the head band director at the historic Jack Robey

Jr. High School in Pine Bluff where he led the program to three consecutive Toyota Battle of the Band titles. Hughey also went on to finish a master's degree in Instrumental Music Education.



Leslie Sharp '10 was promoted to assistant vice president/lending. She is a loan officer at the Peoples Bank Lakewood Banking Center and has nine years of banking experience.

Jessica Fulenwider '11 started a new position as the fourth grade reading teacher at Dr. Linda Henrie Elementary School in Mesquite, Texas.

Tyler McDonald '11 and Randi McDonald earned the top Young Farmers & Ranchers Award at Arkansas Farm Bureau's Officers & Leaders Conference in July 2018. They have four broiler houses, raise and sell pecans, run a custom hay operation along with a Bermuda sprig operation, and raise cattle on their own and in partnership with Tyler's father.



Kayce Duncan '12 graduated with honors from Northeastern State University with a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. She started a new position as PRN occupational therapist at CHRISTUS Health in Longview, Texas.

Cody Duncan '12 was recently promoted to corporate account manager at Priefert in Mount Pleasant, Texas.



Trent Earley '12, former Mulerider football player, is now the assistant D-line (defensive analyst) coach at the University of South Florida.



Dr. Chase Helm '12 recently graduated from St. George University with a Doctor of Medicine degree and has begun his family medicine residency at UAMS in Texarkana, Arkansas.

Ledly Jennings '12 graduated from the University of Arkansas Little Rock with a Master of Business Administration. He then graduated from William H. Bowen School of Law with a Juris Doctorate. Recently, Jennings started a new job at Stephens Inc. as compliance counsel.

Phillip K. Schelb '12 has graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. He has accepted a job for VCA Gaide Animal Hospital in Jackson, Michigan.



Dr. Corey Hayes '12 was selected as one of 46 healthcare students in the country to participate in the Paul Ambrose Scholars Program. The program is planned and implemented by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research, the professional organization for the academic public health community dedicated to prevention research and professional education. It introduces health professions students to influential public health professionals and prepares them to be leaders in addressing public health challenges. Additionally, Hayes, Pharm.D., M.P.H., has joined the Department of Psychiatry as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Health Services Research. Hayes manages the Psychiatric Research Institute-based AR-IMPACT program, a free weekly interactive continuing education tele-video program to help Arkansas clinicians with opioid-sparing, evidence-based management for their patients with chronic pain. Hayes was previously a postdoctoral fellow in PRI's T32 Addiction Research Training Program.



Mia White '12 was a recipient of the El Dorado teacher Excellence Award.

.....Continued on page 28

Class News Cont.

She was also named the Elementary Educator of the Year. She is a teacher at Yocum Math and Science Academy.

Peyton Franks '13 started a new position as a sales specialist at Porter's Industrial in Bossier City, Louisiana.

Madelyn Jones '14 has joined the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville's Career Development Center's Career Counseling team and the Office of Academic Student Initiatives and Services as a new College of Education and Health Professions career counselor.

Joseph Gorman '14 has accepted a position as the juvenile jail administrator at the Jack Jones Juvenile Detention Center in Jefferson County.

Lucas Talley '14, '15 recently graduated the Arkansas State Police Trooper School for 2018. At the Arkansas State Police Training Academy in Little Rock, he accumulated more than 1,000 hours of classroom and practical training over a period of 21 weeks. He will be assigned to Troop F of the Highway Patrol Division in Lafayette County.

Amy Davis '15 works at Evers, Cox & Gober, P.L.L.C., in El Dorado as a CPA.



Hinton Foster '15, '16 was a recipient of the El Dorado Teacher Excellence Award. He was also named the High School Educator of the Year. Hinton is a teacher at El Dorado High School.

Alan Tyson '15 started a new position as category advisor at Shell.



Keith Kelley '16 recently started a new position as the director of athletic communication for the Hendrix Warriors.

James R. Reed '16 recently graduated the Arkansas State Police Trooper School for 2018. At the Arkansas State Police Training Academy in Little Rock, he accumulated more than 1,000 hours

of classroom and practical training over a period of 21 weeks. He will be assigned to Troop F of the Highway Patrol Division in Bradley County.



Jeff Teague '16 started a new position as customer service representative for The Move Crew LLC in the Minneapolis area.

Tyler Gentry '17 recently graduated the Arkansas State Police Trooper School for 2018. At the Arkansas State Police Training Academy in Little Rock, he accumulated more than 1,000 hours of classroom and practical training over a period of 21 weeks. He will be assigned to Troop F of the Highway Patrol Division in Drew County.



Allison Hughes '17 started a new position as a special education teacher at Pea Ridge Primary in Pea Ridge, Arkansas.

Randee Jo Langley '17, Miss SAU 2014, started a new job as RiverMarket coordinator in Monroe, Louisiana.

Jacob Slaton '17 recently accepted the position of biological science technician with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) under the Wildlife Services division.



Taylor Ward '17 passed the Arkansas Social Work Board master's level exam and is now a Licensed Master Social Worker.

Ashton Vann Dixon '18 was recognized as the CASA Volunteer of the Month in July 2018. She joined 13th South CASA right after she turned 21 with the desire to get more involved in the community and volunteer her time.



Matthew Pierce '18 started a new position as production specialist at Southern Marketing Affiliates in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Former Student

Cedric Thornton announced his retirement from the NFL after six seasons.

Little Muleriders®

Dr. Abdel and Mariam Bachri announce the birth of their daughter, Bayan Bachri, born on May 29, 2018. She weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz.



David Bell '14 and Haley Jones Bell '13 announce the birth of their son, Jack Lawrence Bell, born on August 28, 2018. He weighed 9 lbs. 3 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.



Blake and Shelbi Boeckman '14 announce the birth of their son, Stetson Rhett Boeckman, born on May 23, 2018.



Brady Capshaw '14 and Janae Mosbey-Capshaw '16 announce the birth of their daughter, Emerson Laine Capshaw, born on June 27, 2018. She weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 19.75 inches long.

Clay and Mia Cheatham '11 announce the birth of their son, Asher Saul Cheatham, born on May 20, 2018. He weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz.



Cody and Christie Cox '12 announce the birth of their son, Dyson Dennis Cox, born on September 26, 2018. He weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.



Jack '09 and Audra DeLaney Crowley '10 announce the birth of their daughter, Emma Adele Crowley, born on April 5, 2018. She weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.



Tad '16 and Britney '16 Davis announce the birth of their son, Eli Alexander Davis, born on May 21, 2018. He weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz. and was 22 inches long.

Tyler and Jessica Dixon '14 announce the birth of their daughter, Shea Phillip Dixon, born on August 11, 2018. She weighed 8 lbs. and was 20.5 inches long.

Derek and Elcy Easter '10 announce the birth of their son, Gabriel Easter, born on March 12, 2018. He weighed 3 lbs. 15 oz. and was 16 inches long.



Andrew and Megan Bollier Eden '10 announce the birth of their daughter, Caroline Lena Eden, born on March 4, 2017.



Connect with other Muleriders®

Please send any "Class News," "Weddings," "Anniversaries," "Little Muleriders," or "In Memory Of..." items to stater@saumag.edu, use the form at www.saustater.com/alumni-class-update/, or use the attached envelope.

Jesse '15 and Kelsey Elam '14 announce the birth of their daughter, EmmaSue Marie Elam, born on July 11, 2018. She weighed 7 lbs. 9.8 oz. and was 21.5 inches long.



Josh Elmore and Jamie Sanders-Elmore '10 announce the birth of their daughter, Lynnleigh Parker Elmore, born on May 31, 2018. She weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Jeffrey and Whitney Gass '05 announce the birth of their daughter, Addalyn Elaine Gass, born on June 29, 2017. She weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. and was 20.5 inches long.



Lane '16 and Lorah Jean Gay '17 announce the birth of their daughter, Liberty Sloane Gay, born on May 17, 2018. She weighed 8 lbs. and was 20 inches long.



Chase '13 and Sarah (Gatliff) Hardy '11 announce the birth of their son, Theo James Hardy, born on March 13, 2018.



Parker McCrary '17 and Aston Herring '16 announce the birth of their daughter, Myla June McCrary, born on August 27, 2018. She weighed 9 lbs. 7 oz. and was 20 inches long.

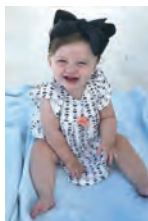


Josh '10 and Kelsi Hunter Jones '13 announce the birth of their son, Jameson Jones, born on February 28, 2018.



Chris and Chelsea Lash '12 announce the birth of their daughter, Leila Lash, born on January 6, 2018.

Christopher and Brandy Martisek '14 announce the birth of their daughter, Melrose Kathryn Martisek, born on July 11, 2018. She weighed 7 lbs. 10.2 oz. and was 20 inches long.



Matt and Victoria (Sewell) Mitchell '12 announce the birth of their daughter, Paxton Kate Mitchell, born on November 13, 2017. She weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. and was 21 inches long.



David and Alison Nguyen '13 announce the birth of their son, Rowan Dinh Nguyen, born on May 8, 2018. He weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. and was 18.5 inches long.



Derek '10 and Sarah Roscoe '11, '15 announce the birth of their son, Miles Allen Roscoe, born on January 31, 2018.



Stoney Rhodes '14 and Allison Silen '16 announce the birth of their son, River Rhodes, born on December 27, 2017.



Matthew and Brittany Watson Speake '12 announce the birth of their daughter, Kendall Brooke Speake, born on June 29, 2018. She weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 19 inches long.



Kyle and Carly McCluskey Wise '13 announce the birth of their son, Robert Vance (Van) Wise, born on February 19, 2017. He weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz.

Weddings



Ashley (Walthall) '14 and David Allday were married on June 2, 2018.



Kathryn (Sandry) '15, '17 and Landon Bettis '12 were married on September 8, 2018. Both work at Aerojet Rocketdyne in Camden. Landon received his Masters of Science from the U of A and is now a senior manufacturing engineer. Kathryn received her Masters of Business Administration from SAU and is a program manager.



Tennille (Hampton) '14, '16 and Sammie Brown were married July 7, 2018.

Megan (Klippert) '17 and Robert Bruce were married on May 27, 2018.

Amanda (Misenheimer) '15 and Chandler Butler were married on May 26, 2018.



Lakeon (Thurman) '13, '15 and Kelly Wayne Conley '12 were married on June 9, 2018.



Sara (Goodson) '16 and Jason Dahl '13, '16 were married on June 2, 2018.



Abbie and Morgan Gwin '15 were married on June 2, 2018.

Sophia (McKinney) '18 and Lucas Head '17 were married on May 18, 2018.



Melanie (Clark) and Clint Lively '13 were married on June 9, 2018.

.....Continued on page 34

Weddings Cont.



Mary-Christa (Rogers) '13, '17 and Taylor McLelland were married on June 9, 2018.



Jamie (Bryant) '12 and Jordan Temple were married on April 14, 2018.



Lexie (Smith) and Keeton Tennison were married May 20, 2018.



Rachel (Fairris) '14 and Justin Thompson were married on June 23, 2018.

In Memory of

1930-1939

Alton A. Beck '39,
October 27, 2017

1940-1949

Lee Kendall '40,
March 2, 2018
Reba Todd '42,
November 14, 2018
Mira D. Barber '43,
April 28, 2018
Caroline Lester '43,
June 26, 2018
Laura Hunter '44,
September 9, 2018

Robert W. Crank '47,
January 17, 2018
Ted G. Ward '47,
August 28, 2018
Sybil J. Cole '48,
September 23, 2018

1950-1959

Mary Frank-Phillips '52,
October 24, 2018
Charles T. Adams '52,
July 14, 2018
Ben Dumas '54,
July 24, 2017
Robert R. Bechtelheimer '54,
June 2, 2018
Betty A. Corley '54,
July 14, 2018
Billie Owen '55,
July 23, 2018
Deleath H. Ludwig '55,
November 10, 2018
Lauren Louie Wreyford '55,
May 12, 2018
James L. Jamison '56,
October 30, 2017
Mary E. Culp '56,
June 16, 2018
Billy C. Fairchild '56,
June 29, 2018
Thomas R. McKinnon '56,
August 10, 2018
LaVona F. Purcell '56,
June 21, 2018
Jerry Rainwater '57,
July 5, 2018
Norris L. Fox '58,
July 15, 2018
Anita J. Fuller '58,
September 9, 2017
Maureen W. Nipper '58,
September 20, 2017

1960-1969

Charles A. Aldridge '60,
November 19, 2018
Robert C. Brown '60,
July 8, 2018
Janet Louise Harter Dedeaux '60,
April 18, 2018
James H. Parrish '60,
April 25, 2018
Charles A. Parsons '60,
October 12, 2017

Gloria J. Dumas '61,
September 15, 2018
Kenneth W. Burke '62,
August 2, 2018
Jimmie Eubanks '62,
June 18, 2018
Becky Mullins '62,
May 8, 2018
Larry M. Garner '63,
April 8, 2018
James D. McMahan '63,
September 16, 2017
John Joseph Vansickle '63,
October 18, 2018
Claude Hannon Wilson Jr. '63,
July 16, 2018
Raymond T. Woodard '63,
October 9, 2017
Ted M. Snodgrass '64,
August 4, 2018
Dr. Jake Looney '66,
October 22, 2018
Yvonne Murry '66,
October 20, 2017

1970-1979

Arlis Daniel Dean '70,
October 26, 2018
Mary Heard '70,
November 18, 2018
Earnest Pickings '70,
June 11, 2018
Ronald K. Pipkin '70,
June 17, 2018
Larry M. Rowland '70,
July 27, 2018
Nancy P. Vanlandingham '70,
December 10, 2017
Mary A. Whitlow '70,
October 13, 2018
Eugene Lewis '72,
May 18, 2018
Danny H. Moore '72,
January 16, 2018
Jordan D. Watson '72,
August 12, 2018
Kathryn Pipkin Boys '73,
August 14, 2016
Thomas E. McLellan '73,
August 30, 2017
John D. Boreing '74,
June 19, 2018
Thomas L. Haynie '74,
June 23, 2018

Harry Lynn Dumas '74,
December 2, 2017
Jo Ann Bridges '76,
November 4, 2018
Charles P. Cross '76,
August 25, 2018
Scott D. Hardin '76,
July 19, 2018
Mary J. Gates '77,
November 5, 2018
Darrell Seward '77,
November 27, 2018
April Merkle '78,
December 9, 2017

1980-1989

Rhonda L. Reeves '80,
May 14, 2018
Kenneth Wayne Waller '80,
October 24, 2018
George L. Ingram '81,
August 24, 2018
Frank S. Burton '82,
June 8, 2018
Jan M. Carithers '87,
December 22, 2017
Rebecca R. Hatfield '87,
November 14, 2017

1990-1999

Carolyn L. Hall '94,
January 16, 2018
Patricia A. Dumas '96,
June 26, 2018
Allen E. Lachut '97,
October 22, 2018
Howard L. Bennett '99,
June 14, 2018

2000-2009

Thomas A. Whitworth '03,
October 8, 2018
Frank E. Humphreys '03,
October 24, 2018
Marla R. Yarbrough '04,
October 9, 2017

Friends

Gene Wilson Kelsay,
May 25, 2018
E.D. Marshall,
February 14, 2018
Wendell Stroman,
October 22, 2018



Summer Camps

at SAU

- Game Development Camp
- Mulerider Kids College
- Mulerider Teen College
 - Baseball Camp(s)
 - Basketball Camp(s)
 - Football Camp(s)
 - Softball Camp(s)
- Track and Field Camp(s)
- Volleyball Camp(s)

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www.SAUmag.edu/Summer-Camps





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May 2, 2019, at 6 p.m.
Reynolds Center, Grand Hall

**Distinguished
Young Alumni**

**Distinguished
Alumni**

**Distinguished
Golden Riders**

**Lifetime
Achievement Award**



**Julie Kay
Barber, M.Ed/
ECSE/CAS
2009**



**Dennis
Joseph
2003**



**Debbie
Arnold
1985**



**Dr. J.
David Ashby
1977**



**Roderic (Rod)
Duckworth
1987**



**Daniel G.
Kyle, PhD
1959**



**Robert W.
Henderson,
MD
1968**



**Edgar
O. Lee
1985**



**Dr. Tom Brian
1969
& Sharon L.
Brian
1968**

**For ticket information, visit www.sualumni.com/alumnidinner
or call the Alumni Office at (870) 235-4079.**

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Thanks!