

# The Stater

A Magazine for the Alumni and Friends of Southern Arkansas University





## Our Most Important Investment – People

Many years ago, a wise senior professor pulled me aside and said, “Remember, there are no programs, there’s only people!” His wisdom rings as true today as it did decades ago.

There are many components to SAU’s success, growth, and energy these days, but without a doubt, our people are the paramount reason. Our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends are so very dedicated to this institution and its mission. We experience that dedication each day because of our “culture of caring”.

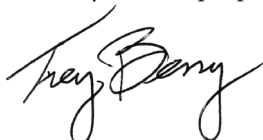
Each day, we see our faculty invest in our students not only to assure they are receiving a quality classroom environment, but they also invest their time in mentoring, advising and genuinely caring for their personal success. It is inspirational to watch the many SAU faculty who spend countless hours investing in present and future lives of our over 4,600 current students.

Each day, we are so privileged to watch our staff not only work long hours for this university, but also to create an atmosphere of innovation and energy. Hopefully, all of our students who walk this campus feel this positive vibe and are better for it.

Each day, our alumni and friends invest in SAU through their time, talents, prayers, and resources. This increasingly engaged group of people are truly helping us transform and secure this campus for the decades ahead. Through our Board of Trustees, the SAU Alumni Association Board of Directors, the SAU Foundation Board of Governors, The Mulerider Club Advisory Board, and through college and department advisory boards, more and more people are giving back to SAU. We are all the beneficiaries of their gracious generosity.

And finally – our students – the reason behind our work, love and loyalty. One student recently stopped me on the sidewalk and exclaimed, “I love this place! Everyone here cares about me and is making me a better person.” We count ourselves so fortunate to help our students by celebrating with them in their successes, supporting them in the struggles, and walking beside them in our shared educational journey.

Thank you, SAU people!



Trey Berry, Ph.D.  
President

## Upcoming Events

**July 26**

Rip Powell Golf Invitational

**July 30**

SAU Alumni Gathering  
Naturals Game

**August 2**

Summer Commencement

**August 6**

Mulerider Club Kickoff Dinner

**August 20**

Blue & Gold Day

**September 14**

Rankin College of Business  
Hall of Fame Awards

SAU vs. Okla. Baptist University  
Home Football Game

**September 21**

Family Day  
SAU vs. Harding University  
Home Football Game

**October 5**

SAU vs. Southwestern Okla. State Univ.  
Home Football Game

**October 18**

Sports Hall of Fame Dinner  
6:30 p.m.

**October 19**

Homecoming 2019  
SAU vs. Southeastern Okla. State Univ.  
Full schedule on page 28

**October 24**

Farmers Bank & Trust  
Distinguished Speaker Series

**October 31 - November 2**

SAU Rodeo

**November 2**

SAU vs. Ouachita Baptist University  
Murphy Classic

**November 16**

SAU vs. University of Arkansas at Monticello  
Home Football Game

**December 5**

Celebration of Lights

**December 13**

Fall Commencement



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## The Stater

Summer 2019

The Stater is published twice a year by the University Communications and Marketing office as a service to the alumni and friends of Southern Arkansas University.

**Submissions** Please send any story ideas and/or photographs to [stater@saumag.edu](mailto:stater@saumag.edu).

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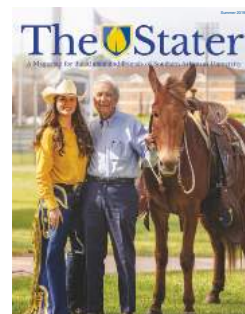
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Mulerider mascot Abbie Guin and Ron Harrell pose with Molly Ann.  
 Photo by Aaron Street



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# Yep, we've got that too!

Three new sporting teams have organized at Southern Arkansas University, bringing student engagement to a new level and allowing players to earn national recognition.





## Trap Shooting

The University has begun recruiting for a new trap shooting team following the successful additions of eSports and disc golf. The interest and anticipation already surrounding the trap shooting addition promises for an exciting fall 2019 kickoff.

The team will be open to any interested SAU students and will compete in the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Collegiate Clay Targeting Program. The sport has become increasingly popular among youth. High school trap shooters in the region have already expressed an interest in choosing SAU to continue to compete at the next level.

The first team meeting will be held in September, and practice and competition dates are yet to be determined. Students will be able to compete at the intramural level or the collegiate competition level. Students provide their own guns, which will be stored in a secure campus location with strict procedures to be followed for check-in and check-out. The University is providing all members of the competition team with a vest.

SAU is in the fundraising phase for a trap shooting range facility to be located on the University's Governor Ben T. Laney Farm. It will be the first facility of its kind in the state on a university campus south of Little Rock. The facility will feature a clubhouse with restrooms and storage, and three shooting ranges each consisting of five concrete lanes with high and low skeet houses. It will be home to both the University's trap shooting team and trap shooting teams from area high schools. It will also host community, regional and state-wide shooting competitions and practices.

## Disc Golf

The SAU Disc Golf Team gained widespread recognition this year at the National Collegiate Disc Golf Championships, held in March in Appling, Georgia. Madison Chitwood, a junior Nursing major from Van Buren, Arkansas, won the women's individual competition to become the first Collegiate Disc Golf National Champion in Arkansas history.

Chitwood also was a part of the SAU women's team that won the team national championship. Her teammates were Whitney Brown, a senior Exercise Science major from Alexander, Arkansas, and Dani Hunter, a junior Elementary Education major from Pattonville, Texas.

SAU's women's team is the only such collegiate team in Arkansas. "That's a big deal for our University," Chitwood said. "It will be great for us to say, if other colleges established women's teams, that we were the first national champions in the state."

The men's team performed well at Nationals also. In the championship flight, the men placed 24th out of 36 teams.

Much of the team's success this year can be owed to the fact that SAU has a quality 18-hole disc golf course. The SAU disc golf course is open to all students. Sarah Adcox, director of the Mulerider Activity Center, said disc golf is a great stress-reliever, providing students a means of getting out of their rooms and meeting other people.

## eSports

Another popular national trend that has found a home on the SAU campus is eSports. Combining the University's affordable tuition with its computer game and animation design programs, eSports has taken off and is attracting students interested in online competitive sports. In April, campus eSports teams participated in the first Mulerider Classic, a two-day event which allowed students to compete in "Super Smash Bros Ultimate," "Rainbow Six Siege," and "Magic: The Gathering."

The eSports program at SAU grew out of the Gaming Guild established in 2016. The Guild provides gamers with a community in which they can meet, hold events, and network.

Sandra Martin, dean of housing, said SAU has answered the call for eSports. There are now eight game-specific teams under the umbrella of the Guild. Gamers at SAU participate in a variety of multiplayer games. They have access to 18 Alienware computers, 10 console stations (a mixture of Xbox, PS4 and Nintendo Switch), and four tabletop gaming stations. Gamers may utilize a small gaming lab in Honors South in the Gaming Living Learning Community. To keep up with eSports teams, follow them on Facebook at Mulerider eSports.





# . investing in people

Ron Harrell rides  
in for a visit.



Ron Harrell's Mulerider memories are neatly represented by a tool from his days as an Engineering student at Southern State College – a slide rule.

"This was the primary mathematical tool that we students used in the 1950s," Harrell said. "It is a valuable tool, and you were taught to take care of it. We sent men to the moon using calculations on a tool like this."

Having worked hard to save money for tuition and books at SSC, Harrell learned he would have to purchase a slide rule to attend classes in Engineering – a \$35 investment. "A young man standing in line with me for books changed his mind and offered to sell me his slide rule for half of what it cost. I learned how to use this slide rule right on this campus."

Memories flooded Harrell as he recently toured the campus of Southern Arkansas University – formerly SSC. Winner of the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award, Harrell was CEO and chairman of the board for Ryder Scott Company where he was employed from 1968-2006. Enrolling at SSC in 1952, he was recognized as the Outstanding Sophomore Engineering Student at SSC in the Spring of 1954 and was awarded a summer job with McAlester Fuel Company. This experience led to his enrolling at Louisiana Tech University to pursue a career in Petroleum Engineering. He graduated from Louisiana Tech University in 1957 with a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering magna cum laude and with departmental honors.

In September 2012, Harrell donated resources to purchase the new University mascot, Molly Ann, a registered gated mule. His involvement in purchasing Molly Ann brought him back to SAU and to a greater commitment to the University and in loving memory of his late bride of 55 years, Ann Furr Harrell, who ceased to be a student at SSC to help him seek his degree from Louisiana Tech.

"I came to know and respect many of the people here on campus and the work they do," Harrell said. "I have always invested in people, not just in bricks and mortar."

Harrell moved with his family to Magnolia from Junction City, Arkansas, when he finished the 10th grade. His skills in math and science caught his teachers' attention. He was encouraged to attend SSC. "It had a reputation for affordability, and I am proud that it continues to maintain that standard today."

Harrell remembered that when he first became a student at SSC, many of his fellow students were veterans of the Korean Conflict. "They were 22-23 years old, and here I am 17, and they were serious! These men would set the curve. They and many of my professors encouraged me to work hard."

As mentioned above, the late Ann Furr Harrell also inspired him to continue his education and follow his dreams. "She was willing to support me for two years as long as I agreed to take care of her for the rest of our marriage!" he said. "She was a wonderful

woman and she gave up a lot for me."

He and Ann had three children together and were blessed with nine grandchildren. In his family, he can see the results of a good education.

Annually, the SAU Foundation Scholarship Committee awards Ann Furr Harrell Females in Engineering Scholarships. The Ann Furr Harrell Courtyard at the SAU Alumni Center memorializes Mrs. Harrell.

"The people in my life have led me and encouraged me to become the best person I could be," Harrell said. "That started right here, at this campus."

Harrell now serves as chairman emeritus for Ryder Scott, but started his tenure as a reservoir engineer, working his way up the ranks managing engineering and geological studies. Pryor to Ryder Scott, Harrell was a district petroleum engineer for McAlester Fuel Co. in Magnolia and Laurel, Mississippi, and was an engineer for Ralph E. Davis Associates, Inc. in Shreveport, Louisiana.

He worked on onshore and offshore projects across the United States, Canada, South America, Australia, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, and provided expert testimony before the Federal Power Commission (FPC), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and for other state commissions and federal/district courts. He has delivered more than 100 presentations at national and international conferences.

Harrell has served on numerous boards and earned many professional recognitions. He was inducted into the Society of Petroleum Engineers Legion of Honor in 2007 and is a Distinguished Lecturer and recipient of numerous recognitions and awards, including the Distinguished Life Membership Award for Meritorious Service. He has also accomplished an impressive list of professional papers and publications.

Ron has now carried his philanthropy one step further by establishing the SAU Mulerider Endowment. The endowment creates perpetual resources to strengthen, support, and protect the University's time-honored mascot and the much-beloved mule on which the mascot rides. It finances the annual scholarship for the student chosen as the Mulerider and resources for the official Mulerider's apparel and custom chaps, and the well-being, protection, and care of the mule.

"It started with Molly Ann," he said of the Mulerider Endowment. "I got a phone call about a mule. The University was looking to replace the mule that the mascot rides and had found a particular mule that met their standards. I was asked if I would be in a position to contribute toward a fund that would help acquire the mule. It so happened the person making the selection was a former classmate of mine, so that fit together. I prayed about it, and decided that I could help along those lines."

Students are forever changed by their time as The Mulerider, and Harrell said he feels

fortunate that he and his family were privileged to be invited to give this extraordinary gift to SAU. The first mule, Maggie, was gifted in 1950 by the Magnolia Optimist Club. Adolphus, Maggie, and Molly B followed. It is anticipated that many former Muleriders and other alumni, as well as those who have enjoyed The Mulerider over the years, will want to contribute to the fund. Whether it is \$5 or \$500, donations help to secure this special SAU tradition for future generations of Muleriders.

For Harrell, such an investment can "pay better dividends than the stock market." He encourages anyone to consider investing in SAU. "There are so many ways to invest," he said. "I am blessed to be able to give back."

He hopes other alumni can look and see what they can do to give back. "I hope they will make the decision to invest wisely in students' lives," he said.



## History of the Mulerider®

Text excerpted from James F. Willis, *Southern Arkansas University: The Mulerider School's Centennial History, 1909-2009* (2009), pp. 13-17.

A few days following the final football game of TDAS' (Third District Agriculture School) 1912 season, Coach George Ruford Turrentine invited his players to dinner at his home located on the road to McNeil. There were only four automobiles in Columbia County in 1912 and no paved roads, and it was not unusual for young men in the rural South to ride mules. In the school's early years, football teams may have ridden mules occasionally to reach McNeil where they caught the Cotton Belt train to away games. Muddy roads in flooding weather conditions made travel difficult, even by wagon. Riding a mule was a more reliable means of transportation.

As the riders dismounted in his yard, Turrentine walked onto his porch and shouted a greeting, "My Mule Riders!" This was the first known occasion when the name Muleriders was used for the football team. Over time, it became more than the team's name. Among all the nation's institutions of higher education, the name has been uniquely associated with the school established in 1909. Over the next century, only TDAS and its three successor institutions—Magnolia A&M College, Southern State College, and Southern Arkansas University—embraced Muleriders as a symbol for athletic teams, mascots, students, and alumni.





Photo by Su-Ann Tan

Dr. Perry Grant, a 2011 alumnus of the College of Science and Engineering, speaks to physics students in Dr. Abdel Bachri's classroom. Grant now works at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico, using his expertise in space applications.



Photo by Su-Ann Tan

Look Up Day promoted pedestrian safety on the SAU campus. Cynthia Blake, a volunteer, handed out cards with pedestrian safety tips to those crossing SAU's roadways.



# around campus

Cait Light of Spring Hill, Arkansas, was crowned Miss Southern Arkansas University on March 2, 2019, and competed in the 2019 Miss Arkansas Pageant June 8-16 in Little Rock.





Photo by Andy Henderson

Southern Arkansas University's new Panda Express Chinese Kitchen hosted a Grand Opening on January 30, 2019. Panda is located in the clubhouse of the University Village apartment complex on the east end of campus.



Photo by Thomas Turner

International Student Association hosted Holi Fest (also known as the festival of colors) at the Global Center. This festival is celebrated by Indians and Nepalese all over the world.



Photo by Aaron Street



Photo by Su-Ann Tan

(Above) Students Kira Gibbs and Gagan Singh enjoyed a break from their studies and the company of a visitor from the local animal shelter at the annual Spring Fling hosted by Student Activities. (Left) Mulerider mascot, Abbie Guin appeared on Molly Ann at the announcement of a new partnership between SAU and National Park College. This partnership will provide the first opportunity for students to receive bachelor's degrees in Hot Springs.



Photo by Su-Ann Tan

Dr. Trey Berry, right, president of SAU, presented retiring Board of Trustees member Edgar O. Lee '85 with a plaque to commemorate Lee's years of service to the Board.



Photo by Su-Ann Tan

Gabrielle Gleason, from Hilo, Hawaii; Elisa Favela, from Oahu, Hawaii; and Ryah Kaniho, from Maui, Hawaii formed a fast friendship after discovering that they are all students at SAU. Gleason introduces Kaniho and Favela to her horse, Bobo, which she had sent to Arkansas from her home in Hawaii for rodeo competitions.





## College of Education



Vanda Terrell '84, Library Media and Information Specialist graduate program director, right, and Chelsey Turner, a Teacher Librarian in El Dorado, Arkansas, talked trends in library media.

- Vanda Terrell '84, Library Media and Information Specialist graduate program director, was featured on a recent episode of *The Promise Podcast*, produced by El Dorado School District. The episode, "Library Media Centers of Today," was hosted by Chelsey Turner '16, a teacher librarian at Washington Middle School in El Dorado and an SAU LMIS program alumna. Terrell discussed current trends in today's school library media centers including self-checkout systems, technology, makerspaces, and collaborative teaching with content area teachers. She also addressed the new ALA/AASL Standards which teacher librarians will be expected to begin implementing in the 2020-2021 school year. As a part of the podcast, Turner interviewed Chrystal Burkes '18, teacher librarian at Parkway Elementary School in Bryant and an SAU LMIS program alumna, who was also the speaker for the 2019 Graduate Commencement Ceremony at SAU. The podcast can be heard on *The Promise Podcast* channel on iTunes.
- The Health Kinesiology and Recreation Department recently had two Exercise Science majors accepted into Physical Therapy programs. Hannah Hanson '19, a senior from Texarkana, Texas, has been accepted into the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Harding University.

This spring Hanson recently completed an internship with DPT at the Sportsplex by Healthcare Express. Jamairous Newton '19, a senior from Many, Louisiana, has been accepted into the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Missouri State University. During his spring 2019 internship at Wentworth in Magnolia, Newton learned various things from PTA's, COTA's, OT's, and PT's. According to HKR department chair and internship supervisor Steven D. Dingman, "We cannot be more proud of these two students and the other fourteen Exercise Science interns we have out in the professional setting this semester. Several other spring interns are completing their prerequisites and will be applying to professional schools or beginning their professional careers very soon."

- Masters of Arts in Teaching candidates are making impacts at school districts across the region. Two examples are that of Travell Green and Jeffery Ladd '18. Green has developed a program to help elementary school boys in Hope, Arkansas, by hosting a Gentleman's Club at Clinton Primary. Ladd has developed a Project Based Learning (PBL) unit in which his students teach, make presentations using Google slides, and have developed Kahoot games that received positive feedback from his district. Ladd teaches at College Hill Elementary in Texarkana, Arkansas.

## College of Liberal and Performing Arts



Stephen Zorsch, Linda Bashinskaya, Alana Perez, Alan Garrett, and Dr. Helmut Langerbein, dean of the College of Liberal and Performing Arts, are pictured at the Applied Practical Skills Competition in Athens, Texas, on April 26, 2019.

- Two liberal arts majors – Linda Bashinskaya and Alana Perez – competed in the Applied Practical Skills Competition in Athens, Texas, on April 26. Bashinskaya is a Psychology major from Blue Ridge, Texas; Perez is a History major from Crosby, Texas. They were coached and mentored by two Magnolia businessmen and SAU alumni, Stephen Zorsch '00 (Farm Bureau) and Alan Garrett '08 (Peoples Bank). Although our students did not win, they represented SAU with dedication, professionalism, and expertise in what was definitely a worthwhile event which LPA expects to continue participation in next year along with Sam Houston State and Texas A & M Prairie View.



Dr. Ben Johnson and wife Sherrel at Dr. Johnson's encore presentation of his 2014 "Last Lecture."

- Dr. Ben Johnson was appointed to the rank of Distinguished Professor by the SAU Board of Trustees on March 5, 2019. Johnson, who delivered the inaugural installment of the Last Lecture series at SAU, was also invited to give an encore presentation of his 2014 "Last Lecture" on April 1, in which he reflected on his years of teaching and writing. He became the first endowed professor of history in the state of Arkansas in 2012 when he was named the John G. Ragsdale, Jr. and Dora J. Ragsdale Endowed Chair of Arkansas Studies and served as dean of Liberal and Performing Arts for three years and as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs for the 2015-2016 academic year. Johnson is retiring after teaching at SAU since 2001.
- This year's annual History Day contest, "Triumph and Tragedy in History," on February 8 welcomed 123 junior high and high school students. Students entered impressive projects



covering such diverse topics as the Boston Tea Party, Salem Witch Trials, The Battle of Britain, and the French Revolution. Of those, 13 were chosen to represent the region at the state-level History Day contest in Conway.

## College of Science and Engineering

- Three Science faculty were recognized at the annual spring Faculty Awards Banquet: Dr. Md Karim (SAU Spirit & Diversity Award), Dr. Alice Fanning (Outstanding Service Award), and Dr. Gija Geme (Outstanding Research Award).
- Several students presented research at Hendrix College during the 103rd Annual Arkansas Academy of Science meeting. There were 162 total presentations (poster + oral) from every higher education institution in Arkansas. Dr. Abdel Bachri, dean, calls SAU's student achievements from the event incredible as four students mentored by SAU faculty brought home three first place awards for oral and poster research presentations. Student winners included Brett Baker (mentored by Dr. Rami Alroobi), Elizabeth Wess and Kara Burchfield (mentored by Dr. Antoinette Odendaal); and Daniel McKague (mentored by Dr. Mahbub Ahmed).
- Two Computer Science students earned awards in a statewide calculus competition: Austin Simms, second place, and Aziztutu Murugan, honorable mention.
- Dr. Antoinette Odendaal received a \$10,000 external grant from Arkansas Space Grant Consortium to study "Daphnia magna's response to an antioxidant-ultraviolet radiation environment."



Dr. Daniel McDermott and SAU student, Jeremy Brown, separating cells using flow cytometry.

- Dr. Daniel McDermott secured a \$38,000 instrumentation grant from INBRE/NIH. Thanks to him, the Department of Biology will be adding a Flow Cytometry Unit, an expensive yet standard piece of equipment that would have been difficult to obtain without the grant. This instrument will enable Biology to design more undergraduate research projects and give our students an opportunity to generate data, present or publish, and give them a competitive edge when they pursue further education.
- The Department of Agriculture hosted approximately 800 students on campus for the Southern District FFA Career Development on March 12.

## Rankin College of Business



Cory Childs '99, Senior Attorney and Assistant Corporate Secretary at USAA, shares his advice and experience with students during the Executive Network at SAU.

- The Executive Network brought 13 alumni to campus holding 24 sessions with more than 800 attendees. Executives shared their advice and experience with students throughout the sessions. Some of the talk titles included, "Skills for your early career," "Always be prepared to take advantage of good luck," "Corporate America - Every day is an interview," "Navigating your future through effective communication," and "Business Success - What's Love Got to do with it?"
- Through the RCB on the Road program, students and faculty visited Fort Smith, Arkansas, where they visited The Don McDonald Group, ArcBest, and First National Bank of Fort Smith. Business

Advisory Council members Don and Jennifer McDonald invited the students and faculty to their home for dinner and conversation.

- Three accounting students worked with the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. Participation required that students complete 40 hours of training and pass four exams. Students contributed 90 volunteer hours, resulting in 51 tax returns prepared. The total tax returns prepared by the Magnolia VITA office was 123.
- PBL continues its winning streak. The RCB PBL members competed in 40 events, winning 30 awards and enabling 16 students to compete at the national competition in San Antonio. The group is using crowdfunding to help support the trip.



Dr. Kenneth Green was named the 2019-2020 Honor Professor.

- Dr. Kenneth Green, holder of the Ronald T. LeMay Endowed Professorship was named the 2019-2020 Honor Professor, the highest accolade bestowed upon faculty at SAU. It recognizes faculty members who are excellent in the areas of teaching, research, and service.
- The Rankin College of Business (RCB) Advisory Council added three new members: Cory Childs '99, Mohammed Islam '95, and Holly Peritz '88. The Business Advisory Council meets twice a year and works to advise, aid, strengthen and support the educational purposes of the RCB. The Council supports the Business College Award banquet, offers internship support scholarships, hosts RCB students at their businesses, and is working to institute an RCB Hall of Fame beginning in the fall of 2019.





College of Education

## Educational Leadership Hall of Fame



Photo by Aaron Wallis

The 2019 Educational Leadership Hall of Fame inductees included, from left: Dr. Bobby Hart '08, superintendent of Hope Public School District in Hope, Arkansas; Opal Anderson '95, director of Federal Programs and Curriculum at Lafayette County Schools; Susan Nelson '93, '98, Horatio Elementary School principal in Horatio, Arkansas, and Jay Wylie '05, '06, Paul Pewitt High School principal in Omaha, Texas.

Four regional educators were inducted into the Third Annual Educational Leadership Hall of Fame at Southern Arkansas University on Tuesday, March 12, 2019.

The 2019 Educational Leadership Hall of Fame inductees included: Opal Anderson, director of Federal Programs and Curriculum at Lafayette County Schools; Dr. Bobby Hart, superintendent of Hope Public School District in Hope, Arkansas; Susan Nelson, Horatio Elementary School principal in Horatio, Arkansas, and Jay Wylie, Paul Pewitt High School principal in Omaha, Texas.

Also at the event, the Educational Leadership Excellence Award was given to Steve and Deborah Nipper of Magnolia, Arkansas. This award is given to an SAU faculty, staff or community member who has contributed to and supported educational leadership.

Beth Anne Rankin, associate director of development at SAU, welcomed the audience, and Dr. Ivy Pfeffer, deputy commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education, delivered the keynote address. Dr. Connie Wilson, assistant professor and director of the Educational Administration and Supervision Program at SAU, introduced the guests. Cait Light, 2019 Miss SAU, helped induct the educators along with Beth Anne Rankin and Dr. David Lanoue, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

On receiving the Leadership Excellence Award, Deborah Nipper, who taught for 37 years in the Magnolia schools, praised the tremendous work done by the College of Education at SAU. "Thank you for making a



Photo by Aaron Wallis

Dr. David Lanoue, provost and vice president for academic affairs at SAU, left, presented Steve and Deborah Nipper of Magnolia, Arkansas, with the Educational Leadership Excellence Award. Cait Light, 2019 Miss SAU, assisted with the honor.

difference in the lives of students every single day."

Steve Nipper, retired bank president and current member of the Magnolia City Council, also praised the COE, noting that plans to construct a new building for the College "fits in nicely" with the overall growth of the campus.

He reminded the audience that SAU is an "economic engine for Columbia County."





*The Stater* hopes to continue to promote the efforts of faculty and staff who take time and effort to pursue their passions and share their knowledge by publishing their work. Following is a list of faculty members who have had works published in 2018-2019. To have your book publication included in this list, please send us the title of your book, date of publication, author information, a brief description, and where in what format the book may be purchased.

**Japhet N. Makia**, Department of English and Foreign Languages at SAU, and Elnor J. Makia co-authored the third edition of *Time Management Survival Planning Guide for Schools and Colleges* through Kendall Hunt Publishing Company (2018). The book helps students utilize their time wisely by focusing on classes, events, and career objectives.

**Dr. Shannin Schroeder**, associate professor of English at SAU, published *Rediscovering Magical Realism in the Americas* (2004) through Praeger Publishers. Available as a physical copy, the book explores magical realism as one of many common denominators in the literature of the Americas.

**Dr. Helmut Langerbein**, dean of the College of Liberal and Performing Arts at SAU, published *Hitler's Death Squads: The Logic of Mass Murder* (2004), through Texas A&M University Press. The book was translated into Polish and published by Replika Publishers, Poznan, Poland.

**Carolyn Vernon**, Department of English and Foreign Languages at SAU, published *Where Are My Playmates* (2018). The book attempts to help parents find a way to explain the complicated topic of death to their child should the occasion arise. It is available as a physical or e-book on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Books A Million.

**Lavana Kindle**, supplemental instruction coordinator, published *Tales of Bearhouse Creek and Other Stories*, through Chalfant Eckert Publishing. It is sold in physical copies.

**Dr. Ed Kardas**, distinguished professor of psychology, will publish

*Handbook of Cognitive Archaeology: Psychology in Pre-History* in 2019. Co-editors are Kardas, Tracy Henley and Matt Rossano.

**Dr. David Rankin**, SAU president emeritus and professor of accounting, finance and economics, published *What Every American Needs to Know About Economics: This Stuff Is Important*, through Xlibris. The book covers a wide range of economic theories and "reminds the reader of the magic of the market and the role it has played in producing the world's most powerful economy."

**Dr. Yonghu Dai**, professor of Spanish, published *The Selected Essays and Stories* by Pío Baroja through Lijiang Press, Guangxi Zhuang Minority Autonomous Region. The publication was made possible by an SAU Summer Research Grant Dr. Dai received. Dr. Juping Wang, associate professor of Spanish, served as the style editor.

**Raymond Adams**, assistant professor of social work, had accepted "The Reflexivity of Pain and Privilege: Auto-Ethnographic Collections of Mixed Identity," in *Will I Ever Be Enough? An African Louisiana Creole's Narrative on Race, Ethnicity, and Belonging*, through Brill Sense Publishers. Adams also had accepted "African Religions: Beliefs and Practices through History" in *Desmond Tutu* through ABC-CLIO, Inc.

**Mark Trout**, instructor of marketing at SAU, published *Hushpuppies are my Favorite Fish* (2018), through Raburn Publishing. The book is a collection of short, humorous stories about life as a single father.



# ***Cyber FastTrack***



## **SAU #1 in Arkansas, #2 in the Nation**

Students enrolled in Southern Arkansas University's computer science degree programs are showing off their talents through national and state competitions. Recent student success is reaffirming the quality of SAU's program, which offers students affordable degrees in career fields with near infinite opportunities.

SAU is currently ranked No. 1 in Arkansas and No. 2 in the U.S. in the national Cyber FastTrack competition. The SANS Institute, in collaboration with 25 state governors, launched the Cyber FastTrack competition to identify talent and promote success in cybersecurity.

More than 13,000 students began the competition. The first round consisted of solving a series of increasingly difficult cybersecurity challenges to test each competitor's expertise. When level 1 was completed, 2,400 students had displayed the skills required to compete in the quarterfinal round. Of the qualifying competitors, 67 students were from SAU.

The quarter-finalist will not only compete for recognition for themselves and their institutions but also for \$2.5 million in scholarships to go toward college tuition and other training opportunities in cybersecurity.

Dr. Abdel Bachri, Dean of the College of Science and Engineering at SAU, congratulated participating students. "This is an incredible result. Because of your 'natural aptitude,' we can all hold our heads very high," he said.

Along with this performance, SAU's graduate program is also performing exceptionally well. The Master of Science in Computer and Information Science – Cybersecurity and Privacy Option degree program was named the No. 1 most affordable cybersecurity graduate program in the U.S. by ValueColleges.com on their 25 Most Affordable Online Master's in CyberSecurity 2019 list.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mulespy Awards

Jacob Pumphrey

Director of Athletic Communications

For the third-consecutive year, the Southern Arkansas University Athletic Department along with Thumbprint Productions honored Mulerider student-athletes and their tremendous academic and athletic year with its installment of the Mulespy Awards on Monday, April 22, inside W.T. Watson Center.

Unlike in years past, the 2019 edition of SAU's version of the ESPY Awards began with live entertainment as current SAU student Delaney Fogle '21, opened the evening in grand fashion by singing Carrie Underwood's "The Champion" while action photos and videos of Muleriders over the past athletic year were synced to the music and displayed on three large screens surrounding the stage.

Twenty-four awards were presented to well-deserving student-athletes. Of the two dozen honors, 16 Outstanding Athlete/Student Awards were distributed to representatives of SAU's 14 sports as well as Athletic Training and Cheerleading. All 66 of the department's seniors were presented a framed logo patch on behalf of Mulerider Athletics.

A special keynote speaker delivered remarks. Leadership and Character Coach Mike Hansen challenged those in attendance to live beyond themselves. Over the past several years, Hansen has invested his time and shared his experiences with SAU's athletic administrative staff, coaches and student-athletes.

Remarks were also given by SAU Alumna and Murphy USA Director Total Rewards Magen Olive '03, on behalf of Murphy USA which has a long-standing relationship with the University. In recent years this connection has spread to Mulerider Athletics as Murphy USA has generously partnered on several facility enhancement projects at SAU.

Annual awards are bestowed to the SAU male and female student-athlete that best represents an overall balance of athletic performance and academic achievement and those awards bear the name "Murphy USA Male and Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year." The 2018-19 recipients of the prestigious academic honor were Carley Hale (Women's Cross Country) and Jordan White (Football).

Hale, a sophomore Art & Design-Media/Marketing major with a 4.0 GPA from Panhandle, Texas, was an All-GAC Second Team performer on the course and received Google Cloud Academic All-District 7 First Team honors. A native of Benton, Louisiana, White was a vital part



Photo by Kaylie Stone

Ka'Ronce Higgins | Football (Auburn Smith Male Athlete of the Year), Jordan White | Football (Murphy USA Male Scholar Athlete of the Year), Carley Hale | Women's Cross Country (Murphy USA Female Scholar Athlete of the Year), Niyia Sims | Women's Cross Country (Female Comeback Player of the Year), Jalen Brooks | Men's Basketball (Male Newcomer of the Year), Sydney Wader | Softball (Female Newcomer of the Year), Elisa Favela | Softball (Dr. Margaret Downing Female Athlete of the Year) Not pictured: Stacy Lawrence | Football (Male Comeback Player of the Year)

of the Muleriders' special teams unit as the team's punter. White graduated in December of 2018 with a double-major GPA of 3.99 in Chemistry: Pre-Health Professional Biochemistry and Biology Pre-Health.

Other superlative awards included the Male/Female Newcomer of the Year and the Male/Female Comeback Player of the Year honors. Both awards were presented by members of SAU's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) which played a key role in the development of each honor prior to the inaugural Mulespy Awards Show in 2017.

True Freshman Jalen Brooks (Men's Basketball) of Shreveport, Louisiana, and transfer junior Sydney Wader (Softball) from Vilonia, Arkansas, claimed the respective Newcomer of the Year awards as both athletes made immediate impacts to their teams. Brooks was named the GAC's Newcomer of the Year, while Wader claimed the league's Pitcher of the Year distinction.

The Male/Female Comeback Player of the Year accolades were awarded to Stacy Lawrence (Football) and Niyia Sims (Women's Cross Country), respectively. Lawrence, a native of Irving, Texas, overcame a broken arm on the fourth play of the 2017 season to start all 12 games for the SAU defense in 2018. For Sims, a season-ending stress fracture in the fall of 2017 sidelined the transfer junior before her first year as a Mulerider even began. The Yuba City, California, native returned in 2018 and became a point-scoring finisher for SAU in the team's final three races of the season.

The Auburn Smith Male Athlete of the Year

and the Dr. Margaret Downing Female Athlete of the Year bear the name of two very notable SAU athletics figures, both of whom have been inducted into the SAU Sports Hall of Fame, leaving an indelible mark on Mulerider Athletics.

SAU Softball's Elisa Favela, a transfer junior from Ewa Beach, Hawaii, claimed the Dr. Margaret Downing Female Athlete of the Year honor after posting one of the best two-way seasons as a pitcher and hitter in program history, helping her claim All-GAC First-Team honors. Outgoing senior Ka'Ronce Higgins was unanimously named the Auburn Smith Male Athlete of the Year after the two-sport standout (football/men's track & field) was named an All-America performer on the gridiron as well as being named an all-region athlete, while qualifying for the 100- and 200-meter national championships on the track.

The night concluded with a staple of Mulerider Athletics' year-end show. The senior tribute video capped the evening as 22 seniors answered questions ranging from what they would miss most about being a student-athlete at SAU to what they would like to tell their teammates as they prepare to leave the program.

Asked what he would remember about SAU, outgoing Mulerider Baseball senior outfielder Dakota Wright acknowledged relationships. "I'll miss the genuine people I have met here in my two years," remarked the Fort Worth, Texas, native. "Everyone has been friendly and open with me and they accepted me for who I am. They really opened their doors to be good friends. That's what I'll always remember about SAU."





# 2018-2019 Men's and Women's Golf

Jacob Pumphrey  
Director of Athletic Communications

It was a historic 2018-19 season for the Southern Arkansas Men's Golf program. The Muleriders competed in NCAA postseason play for the first time ever as the team received the No. 3 seed in the 2019 NCAA Division II Central/Midwest Regional.

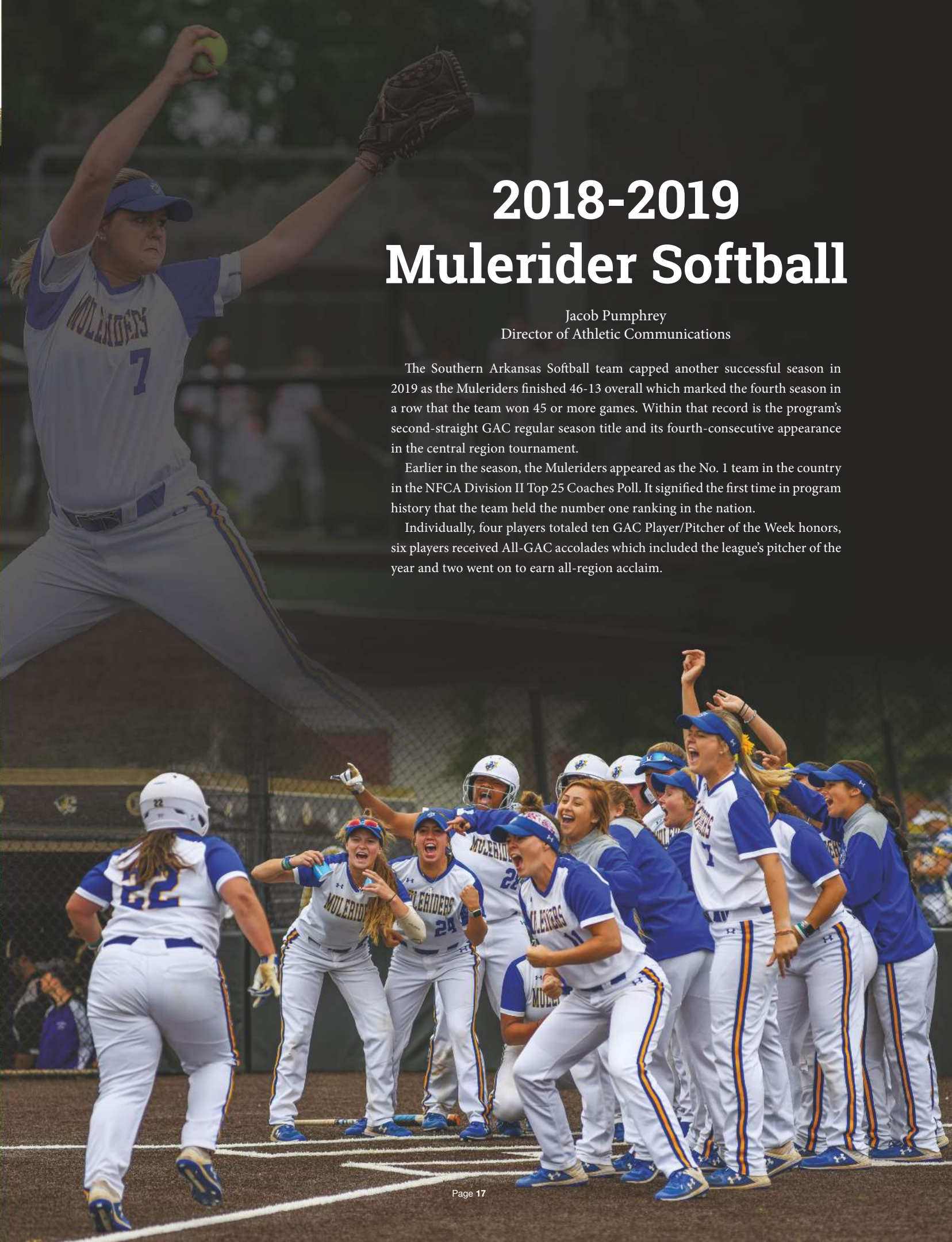
That opportunity came after an outstanding regular season that saw the squad set a program record for tournament wins with three (GAC Preview, Hurricane Invitational, and Arkansas Collegiate).

Led by GAC Men's Golf Coach of the Year Ben Sanders, two first-team All-GAC performers and a GCAA Ping DII All-Central Region honoree, the Muleriders set team season program records in scoring average, national scoring rating, wins, par or better rounds, rounds played, finish percentage, and total birdies in addition to recording the best par-3, par-4, and par-5 team scoring averages in a single-season in program history.

The women's team, led by a pair of All-GAC Honorable Mention selections, greatly improved in year four under Sanders as they recorded a single-season program-best 82 birdies. Additionally, the squad finished the year on a high note as they defeated archrival Arkansas-Monticello in a Battle of the Timberlands duel.







# 2018-2019 Mulerider Softball

Jacob Pumphrey  
Director of Athletic Communications

The Southern Arkansas Softball team capped another successful season in 2019 as the Muleriders finished 46-13 overall which marked the fourth season in a row that the team won 45 or more games. Within that record is the program's second-straight GAC regular season title and its fourth-consecutive appearance in the central region tournament.

Earlier in the season, the Muleriders appeared as the No. 1 team in the country in the NFCA Division II Top 25 Coaches Poll. It signified the first time in program history that the team held the number one ranking in the nation.

Individually, four players totaled ten GAC Player/Pitcher of the Week honors, six players received All-GAC accolades which included the league's pitcher of the year and two went on to earn all-region acclaim.





# 2018-2019 Men's and Women's Tennis

Jacob Pumphrey  
Director of Athletic Communications

Competing for the first time as an NCAA program and for the first time collegiately on SAU's campus since 1992-93, the Men's team finished a remarkable campaign that saw the team capture the Great American Conference Regular Season Championship, while posting a 20-6 record overall. The program's inaugural NCAA run ended in Altamonte Springs, Florida, as one of the final 16 teams competing for the NCAA Division II National Championship.

In their first season of action since 2011-12, the Women's team boasted an impressive 25-5 record on their way to the GAC Regular Season Title and GAC Tournament Championship as well. Finalists in the Central Region Tournament, the Mulerider women earned the program's first-ever NCAA postseason victory and finished one win shy of punching their ticket to the NCAA DII National Championship.

Tabbed the GAC's Men's & Women's Tennis Coach of the Year, Greg Owen coached a combined eight All-GAC performers on both teams, including five first-team honorees and the league's Women's Freshman of the Year. Additionally, nine players received the GAC Player of the Week award and one went on to be named an All-Region performer.





# Why I support SAU: William “Bill” Shaw

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“...I am just an average guy and have been fortunate enough to have had a successful life in business.”

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Bill Shaw first stepped on the campus of Southern State College in May 1967 and has since become part of the “brotherhood and sisterhood” of donors paying it forward so that current and future generations can have a life-altering experience at Southern Arkansas University.

“It has been right at 50 years since I left SSC,” Shaw said. “Each time I’ve returned in recent years, my wife and I always receive such a friendly welcome. The campus is as beautiful as ever. Fond memories were the start of my passion.”

Shaw was on the verge of graduating from Paschal High School in Fort Worth, Texas, when he was offered a work study scholarship and the opportunity to join the SSC cross country and track team.

“I rode the bus to Magnolia and was picked up by Pat Weaver,” he said. “I loved the campus immediately with its beautiful surroundings.”

Shaw met the members of the 4X100 relay team who were still on campus and waiting to go to the NAIA National Track & Field Meet. “The guys were so welcoming that I knew SSC was the place for me,” he said.

Coach Rip Powell was “an outstanding influence” on Shaw. “He was a great mentor and father figure. He was stern when I needed it and supportive when I was down.”

Shaw’s friendships with Ron Wilson, who is a physician in Waco, Texas, and Willis Beene, who is now a retired dentist in Magnolia, helped him form good study habits as part of a biology study group.

The opportunity to attend SSC was a valuable economic benefit to Shaw’s family. “As the oldest of five, the work study program was a blessing,” Shaw said. “My parents were hard-working people and I knew with two other brothers ready for college that it would have put a tremendous strain on them.”

For several years, SAU ceased its track and field program, and during its absence, the track facility fell into disrepair. “When the announcement came that the program was being brought back to life, I learned about the efforts to raise money to renovate the track facility,” Shaw said.

He was excited to learn about the Purchase a Lane opportunity. “My wife knew the importance of both track and Coach Powell to me, and we decided we could afford the investment,” he said. “That is how I first became a donor.”

Since then, Shaw has had the honor and privilege of getting to know some of the SAU Advancement team and administration members. “Getting to know Dr. Trey Berry (president of SAU) and Dr. Katherine Berry has also been very rewarding,” Shaw said. “I’ve also enjoyed meeting with Dr. David Rankin on several occasions.”

In recent years, Shaw has become more involved as a donor. “From my standpoint, I am just an average guy and have been fortunate enough to have had a successful life in business.” Even though there are many outstanding organizations that warrant support, Shaw said. “My wife and I have been fortunate to be able to give back to SAU because of all that I was given a half-century ago. We like to think of it as paying it forward.”

He encourages students to dream big dreams and then use their higher education to make their dreams come true. Life experiences can also help shape a person’s path. “Many of us start on one path and end up on another,” he said. He urges students to “take it all in” and use that experience to find success in life.

He and his wife, Margaret, have three sons, two of whom are attorneys and one who is a Physician Assistant in orthopedics. “We are very proud of their success.”

Shaw graduated from Texas A&M University in 1971 with a degree in Wildlife Science emphasizing fisheries. He met his future wife there in 1972. Deciding that fisheries was more of “an avocation than a career,” Shaw went to work for Margaret’s dad’s business, which manufactured and distributed parts for light-duty trucks and trailers.

“My first job with the business was outside sales and later I took over the task of plant manager in our manufacturing area,” Shaw said. “Later I became the general manager and was also in charge of new product development. In 1999, my wife and I purchased the business. Margaret was active in accounts payable, payroll, and handled our group insurance.”

They sold the business in February 2019 after more than 47 years.



**William “Bill” Shaw**

# SAU's Harton Theatre receives \$140,000 from Sturgis Trust

Southern Arkansas University has been named the recipient of a generous gift from The Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable and Educational Trust. The gift will make a tremendous impact on the Department of Performing Arts and Mass Communication as well as SAU's Harton Theatre.

The University has received \$140,000 to be used to make upgrades to the theatre. Dr. Lisa Speer, trustee, said the theatre upgrades are in line with Sturgis' mission to support innovation and creativity in education.

"The Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable Trust continues to change so many lives at SAU!" said Dr. Trey Berry, SAU president. "Over the past few years we have seen a direct correlation between our students' success in several areas and the generous gifts made by the Trust. First in our Department of Nursing, and now for SAU Theatre, this unique partnership is transforming our campus and students for generations to come."

"The arts and humanities sometimes struggle to find funding," said Speer. "When SAU approached us with this proposal, it really caught our attention. A project such as this truly fits with our mission to improve quality of life."

Upgrades to lighting and sound systems will be among the improvements to the theatre, Speer said.

"We are so thankful for the generous grant from the Sturgis Trust," said Brittany Bara, director of theatre at SAU. "We have already been able to add some brand new, much needed, lighting equipment to our inventory and plans are underway to begin a facelift project to our main rehearsal space. This grant will help bring our facilities in Harton up to date and ensure we keep providing high-quality entertainment to the community as well as education in our classrooms and through practical learning during our productions."

The Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable and Educational Trust previously provided a \$40,000 gift to renovate the lecture hall at the Wharton Nursing Building. The Sturgis Auditorium is used for the instruction of hundreds of nursing majors throughout each semester.



Photo by Dan Marsh

Dr. Lisa Speer, trustee for the Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable and Educational Trust, visits SAU's Harton Theatre in February.

Roy Sturgis, a native of Kingsland, Arkansas, died in 1976, and under the terms of his will some of his fortune went to a trust to be set up in Malvern, Arkansas. When Christine Sturgis died in 1981, shortly after the Sturgis trust officially began operating, she willed her controlling interests to the Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable Trust, based in Dallas. They were interested in educational opportunities for youth, health and social services programs, medical research, and the arts. They succeeded in the timber, lumber and sawmill industries in Arkansas, among other prosperous enterprises.

Speer said gifts to colleges and universities are important to the Sturgis Trust, and that both Roy and Christine Sturgis were supportive of any effort to improve education and economic development in south Arkansas. The Sturgis Trust now operates in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.



SAU students performing *Sister Act* during Spring 2019





# LET'S MAKE *History* NOW

You have worked hard and understand the value of a great education. Protect your resources while investing in future generations of SAU students. By making an IRA Rollover Contribution, you can save money and give to your alma mater!

If you own a traditional IRA and are 70½ or older, you can provide support to SAU through an IRA charitable rollover gift.

#### **Your contribution will:**

- **Enable you to avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to support SAU**
- **Meet some or all of your required minimum distribution for the year**
- **Effectively reduce your taxable income**

Your support provides the margin of excellence that makes all the difference to our faculty and students.



**Foundation**  
SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY

*Leave your legacy today!*

For more information on contributing to SAU, please contact us at (870) 235-5210 or [jrkee@saumag.edu](mailto:jrkee@saumag.edu).

\*The charitable IRA rollover gift option is only allowed for gifts to a public charity like SAU and must be transferred directly from the IRA to the SAU Foundation. Check with your financial advisor for details.



# A world of thanks

## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Honor Societies Dinner

On March 30, 2019, Southern Arkansas University Foundation celebrated the extraordinary support of their most generous donors at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Honor Societies Dinner. The evening's theme was A World of Thanks. The former students and friends that attended are committed to ensuring the continued success of our University through generosity.



Photo by Aaron Wallis

The value of endowments to a University cannot be overemphasized. Pictured in front of the Endowment Honor Wall are individuals representing endowments funded to award level in 2018.



Photo by Su-Ann Tan

Drs. Trey and Katherine Berry greet guests, Andy and Melanie Allen



Photo by Su-Ann Tan

Richard '58 and Janie Longing, 2018 members of the President's Club

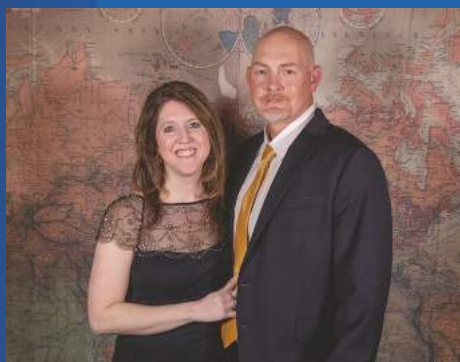


Photo by Aaron Wallis

Joey and Amanda '05 Newton, 2018 inductees of the Tower Society



Photo by Aaron Wallis

Rosie Matlock-Muldrew '85 and Candice Randall, 2018 inductees of the Stater Society

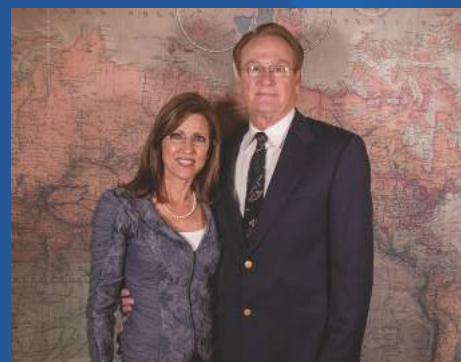


Photo by Aaron Wallis

Gary '70 and Kristi Sewell, 2018 inductees of the Golden Circle Society



# The Legacy of Louis BLANCHARD



Photo by Aaron Wallis

Louis Johnson Blanchard and Martha Jones Blanchard

SAU lost one of the greatest ambassadors our University will ever know this spring as Mr. Blanchard (Louis Johnson Blanchard) passed away on May 4, 2019, after a courageous battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. After serving in World War II in the Air Force providing air weather support, he completed his education in Mississippi before working at Price Waterhouse in Houston. He and his wife, Martha Jones Blanchard, started their Mulerider journey in 1956 when he was hired as a faculty member at then Southern State College.

While taking his real world experience to the classroom, Blanchard discovered his passion for university life and inspiring young business students. He set a high bar academically yet his personal interest in his students was felt by many at SAU which then fostered numerous long-standing relationships. Very few places that he traveled later in life did he fail to encounter and recognize a former student. His legacy of kindness, gentlemanliness,

and statesmanship has set an example for many.

Blanchard served as Chairman of the Department of Accounting, retiring in 1998 after teaching 42 years in the College of Business. Friends and alumni established The Louis J. Blanchard Endowed Scholarship at SAU in 1985 and the fully-endowed Louis J. Blanchard Professorship in Accounting in 1999; in 1989 he was selected by SAU faculty peers as Honor Professor and in 2001 received the distinguished title of Professor Emeritus. Blanchard served as President of the SAU Foundation and as Interim President of SAU in 2001. In addition, he has served on the SAU Board of Trustees, the SAU Foundation Board of Governors and the Mulerider Club Advisory Board. He served as the SAU faculty athletic representative for 33 years. In 2017, SAU honored Martha and Louis by naming the SAU business building Blanchard Hall.

Excerpts from the  
online Tribute Wall at  
[www.lewisfuneralhome.biz](http://www.lewisfuneralhome.biz)

"He was truly an inspiration and a perfect example of a true southern gentleman. I know he has left a permanent mark on the SAU legacy and all of South Arkansas."

– Genna Hargis '86

"I am grateful for the fact that he is responsible for starting me on my own 40-year career as an accounting professor by giving me my first teaching job at SAU. Thanks, Mr. Blanchard, for being a part of my life and the lives of SO many others who came both before and after me."

– Benny Zachry '77

"May we honor this great man with fun, laughter, happiness in our journey each Day!"

– Jerry Wayne and Linda Arrington '68

"A truly gentle soul and great gentleman. Bled SAU thru and thru!"

– Tom Walters '63

"Mr. Blanchard left his mark in my heart. I am so glad he did. Whenever walking into Blanchard Hall, I think of him and cannot help but smile."

– Petra Biddle



# SAU Alumni *and Friends* TRAVEL *Program*

The SAU Alumni Association is delighted to announce the return of the SAU Alumni & Friends Travel Program with some amazing trips for you!

For several months, the SAU Team has been organizing the return of wonderful travel opportunities. The program is designed to give SAU Alumni & Friends more possibilities to connect and build relationships, as well as create new shared memories. Our friendly, inclusive, experience-based tours are led by expert tour directors, feature local guides, and are accompanied by SAU President Dr. Trey Berry and Dr. Katherine Berry.

The program first began under the direction of Jeanie Bismark, former Director of the SAU Foundation. Bismark shared that the first trip, led during late 2009, was a quick excursion to see the Radio City Rockettes in Little Rock, Arkansas. The program caught attention, grew interest, and continued with trips to Ireland, Paris, Australia, New Zealand, Greece, and more.

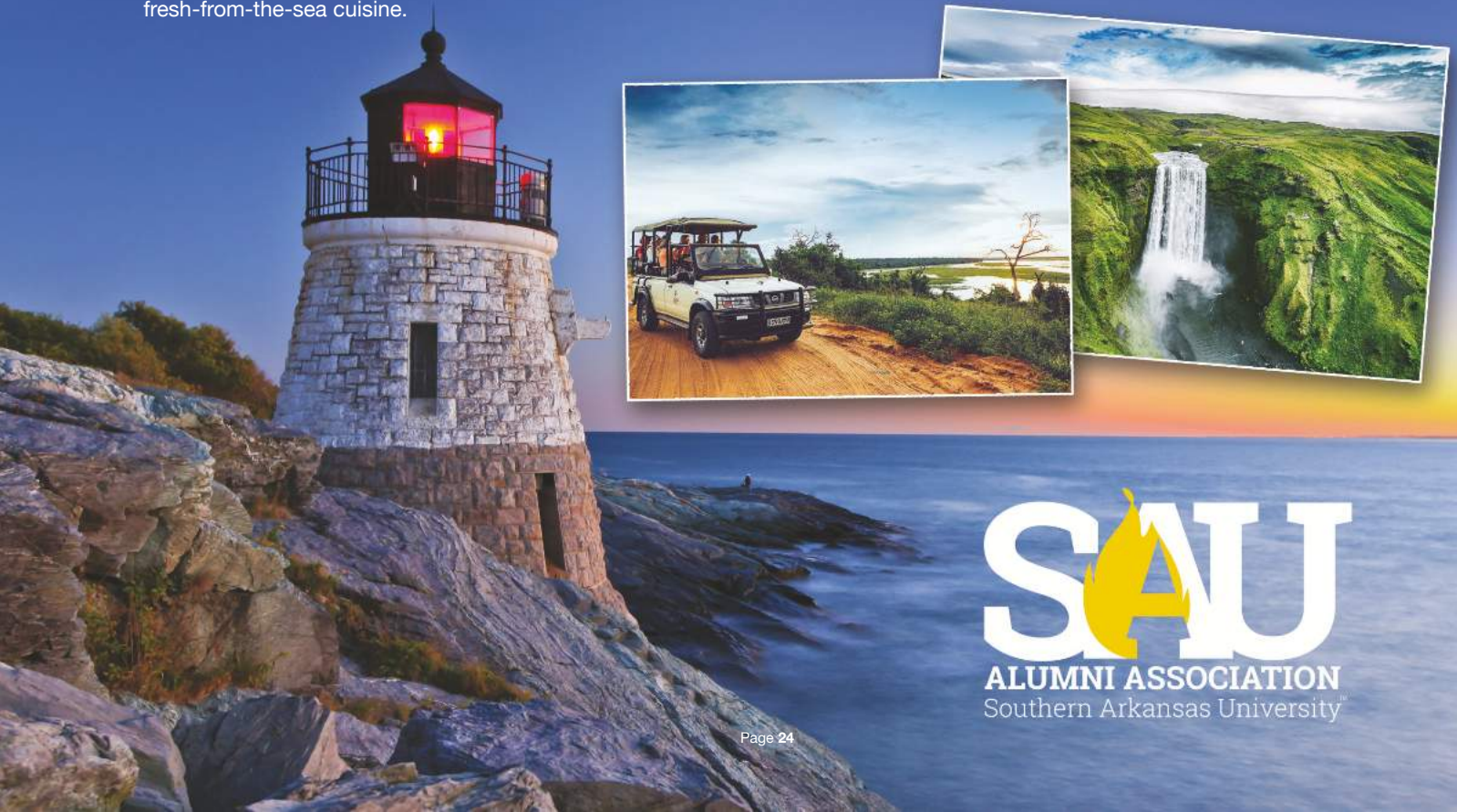
The program took a brief hiatus after Bismark's retirement, but with the vision of Drs. Trey and Katherine Berry coupled with the excitement of the SAU Advancement Team and SAU Alumni Association, the program has been revived!

The program's first trip, Islands of New England, will travel October 4-11, 2019. Travelers will discover the natural beauty that lies among the shores of New England and will come to know the coastal charm, friendly people, and fresh-from-the-sea cuisine.

Exciting future international trips are also scheduled. During summer 2020, the group looks forward to experiencing "Iceland: Land of Fire & Ice." For the summer of 2021, the group will be touring "Spectacular South Africa." More information to come soon.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.sau alumni.com/travel](http://www.sau alumni.com/travel). Here, you can learn more about the program, sign up to be on our travel contact list, and see more details about future trips.

If you have questions, please call the SAU Alumni Office at (870) 235-4079 or email [sau alumni@saumag.edu](mailto:sau alumni@saumag.edu).



**SAU**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
Southern Arkansas University





**Mulerider Basketball Reunion**  
**February 9, 2019**  
**W.T. Watson Gymnasium – Magnolia, AR**

# Spring Alumni Events

**Shreveport Alumni Gathering**  
**March 14, 2019**  
**Red River Brewing Co. – Shreveport, LA**

[1] Haley Bell '13, Megan McCurdy '14 '17, Chelsa King '14, Emily McPherson '14, Kaci Wallace '13 [2] Keith Roberison '87, Tammie Roberison, Cheri Armitage, Kirk Armitage '90, Gene Strogen '92 [3] Chris Barbee '98, Elaine Barbee, Pam (Rogers) Martin '85, Dr. Robert Martin '85 [4] Wendy (Baldwin) Pearson '77, Randy Pearson '77, Theresa Mayper, Brian Mayper '95 [5] Antonio Hoof '04, Josh Kee '03

To see upcoming events, more event photos, and sign up for alumni invitations, visit [www.sau alumni.com/events](http://www.sau alumni.com/events).

Mulerider Basketball Alumni gathered for a reunion in Magnolia and cheered on the Muleriders during their conference game versus Arkansas Tech. During halftime of the Mulerider game, the 1988-1989 District 17 Champions and the 1989-1990 AIC Champions were honored to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of their championship.

[6] Members of the 1988-89 and 1989-90 Championship Team in attendance: Marvin Jones, Anthony Beasley, Darnell Ford, Jimmy Wilder, Dyun Long, Pat Wason, Michael McDaniel, Coach Sam Biley [7] Mulerider Basketball table decorations [8] Mulerider Basketball Alumni gathered for a meal. [9] Riderette Basketball alumnae photographed with Coach Margaret Downing. Top Row (left to right): ShaRonda Davis Brooks '07 '11, Kathy Medley Sixbey '94, Cecily Riley Butler '94, Karlene Coleman Hooker '78, Carolyn Mack Baker '14, Kathy Mixon '92, Jennifer Rowe Ford '96, Tammy Pickering Alexander '88, Carolyn Scheett '87. Bottom Row (left to Right): Julie Jackson Watson '01, Deidra Williams Mack '93, Coach Margaret Downing, Janet Cooper Wood '79, Sara Wooley '77.





# Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner



Photo by **Su-Ann Tan**

Mark Trout, emcee for the event, welcomes guests and introduces award recipients.

Southern Arkansas University Alumni Association hosted the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner on May 2. This event celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of Mulerider former students and their experiences, achievements, and services that have had an impact across the globe. The criteria for these awards include outstanding service to SAU, the community, state, and/or nation. The individual must be a person of such integrity, stature, and demonstrated ability that the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Southern Arkansas University will take pride in, and be inspired by, their recognition. Nominations are open on the SAU Alumni Association website ([www.sau alumni.com](http://www.sau alumni.com)) each year from June 1 – July 31, and honorees are selected by the SAU Alumni Association Board. This year's awards were presented by SAU President Dr. Trey Berry and 2018-19 SAU Alumni Association Board Chair Bobby Thompson '86.



Photo by **Su-Ann Tan**

Gloretta Lee '93 & Dr. Corbet Lamkin '75



Photo by **Megan McCurdy**

Recipients were joined by SAU student body representatives for a networking lunch following commencement. Current SAU students at the luncheon included Taijee Bunch, Cody Lucy, Katy Medford, Sydney Parham, Alexandria Proffitt, Cameron Sorenson, Charlie Thomas, Chioke Thomas, and Adriana Valentine.



Photo by **Su-Ann Tan**

Charley Jackson, SAU Trustee, enjoys remarks from recipients.





**Distinguished Young Alumni Award**  
Julie Kay Barber '09 - Greenbrier, Arkansas



**Distinguished Alumni Award**  
Debbie Arnold '85 - Magnolia, Arkansas



**Distinguished Golden Rider Award**  
Dr. Robert W. Henderson '68 - Dallas, Texas



**Distinguished Young Alumni Award**  
Dennis Joseph '03 - Atlanta, Georgia



**Distinguished Alumni Award**  
Dr. J. David Ashby '77 - Taylor, Arkansas



**Distinguished Golden Rider Award**  
Dr. Daniel G. Kyle '59 - Baton Rouge, Louisiana



**Distinguished Alumni Award**  
Rod Duckworth '87 - Tallahassee, Florida



**Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Dr. Tom Brian '69 & Sharon L. Brian '68 - Allen, Texas



**Lifetime Achievement Award**  
Edgar O. Lee '85 - Chidester, Arkansas





# HOME COMING

## **Friday, October 18, 2019**

- 6:30 p.m. .... **Sports Hall of Fame Induction Dinner** - Reynolds Center, Grand Hall  
For more information, please call (870) 235-4102.
- 9:00 p.m. .... **Black Alumni Reception** - Engineering Building  
For more information, contact Cledis Stuart at (870) 235-4046 or [cdstuart@saumag.edu](mailto:cdstuart@saumag.edu).

## **Saturday, October 19, 2019**

- 10:00 a.m. .... **Golden Mulerider Brunch, Honoring the Class of 1969** - SAU Alumni Center  
RSVP to the SAU Alumni Office at (870) 235-4079.
- ..... **BSU/BCM Alumni Reunion** - Baptist Collegiate Ministries Building  
For more information, contact Robert Gunnels at [rgunnels@sautech.edu](mailto:rgunnels@sautech.edu).
- 11:00 a.m. .... **Mulegating** - Alumni Center Lawn
- 1:00 p.m. .... **Homecoming Pep Rally** - Alumni Center Lawn
- 2:00 p.m. .... **Presentation of Homecoming Royalty** - Wilkins Stadium at Rip Powell Field
- 2:30 p.m. .... **Kickoff: SAU vs. Southeastern Oklahoma State University**
- 6:00 p.m. .... **NPHC Greek Show** - W.T. Watson Gymnasium  
For more information, contact Cledis Stuart at (870) 235-4046 or [cdstuart@saumag.edu](mailto:cdstuart@saumag.edu).  
Hosted by Omega Psi Phi.

**BSU/BCM Alumni Reunion** - 21 Olde Oaks Circle, Magnolia, AR  
For more information, contact Robert Gunnels at [rgunnels@sautech.edu](mailto:rgunnels@sautech.edu).

**[www.saualumni.com/homecoming](http://www.saualumni.com/homecoming)**

**SAU Beyond the Campus** – Friday (10 a.m. – 7 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)  
**SAU Bookstore** – Friday (8 a.m. – 4 p.m.) and Saturday (8 a.m. – 12 p.m. and during the game through halftime)



## 1960-1969



**Mike Kinard '61** recently started a new position with Graham Law Firm of Magnolia. Kinard will be serving "of counsel," bringing 53 years of law practice experience with him.



**Dr. Bernie Daniels '62** was recently inducted into the Arkansas Agriculture Hall of Fame. Daniels began his collegiate experience at Southern State College and went on to earn his undergraduate and master's degrees at the University of Arkansas.

**James Boley '63** was recently inducted into the Lake Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame.

## 1970-1979

**Marvin Lindsey '77** has been inducted into the 2019 Arkansas High School Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame.

## 1980-1989

**Bruce Maloch '80** received the Citizen of the Year Award at the Magnolia-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Banquet on March 7.

**Tracy Davis Card '83** was recently selected as the 2019 Columbia County Educator of the Year. Card is a guidance counselor at Magnolia High School. She has 35 years of counseling experience in Webster Parish, Louisiana, and Columbia County, Arkansas. All award nominees were selected by school officials through nominations of worthy school employees. Each area school district or private school in Columbia County was able to submit one nomination. The Chamber of Commerce then selected the winner of this award from the nominations submitted. The award winner must exemplify excellence in their field or job by their enthusiasm, expertise, creative ideas, and communications skills. This individual should also be respectful and inspiring to both students and co-workers.



**Shelby Brown '84** has been appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Visitors at University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana.

**Allen Brown '86** has been elected as the mayor of Texarkana, Arkansas.



**Mickey Moss '86** recently accepted a new position as account executive at U.S. Leadership, Inc. in Irving, Texas.

**Steve Forbes '88**, East Tennessee State University's head coach for men's basketball, has been named a finalist for two national awards: the 2019 Skip Prosser Man of the Year and the Hugh Durham Award. The Skip Prosser Man of the Year Award is an award given annually to a men's head basketball coach in NCAA Division I who exhibits strong moral character. The Hugh Durham Award is presented annually to the nation's top mid-major coach.

**Michael Campbell '88** has been appointed to the Board of Directors of The Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, which serves more than 15,000 girls and 5,000 adult volunteers focused on STEM, outdoors, life skills, and entrepreneurship.

**Don Robertson '89**, founder of RocketFast Car Wash, is excited to bring his business to Magnolia. Robertson built the first location in Ruston, Louisiana, in 2013. In the six years since, six other locations have been built along the I-20 corridor in Louisiana. Construction for the Magnolia site will take around six months and will be located at 818 East Main Street.

## 1990-1999

**Lisa Ballard-Jolley '90** recently started a new position as Leasing Consultant at Castle Properties.



**Gene Stroger '91** was honored as one of the state's top wrestling officials by the Louisiana High School Official's Association.



**Allen Gum '93** recently reached 500 career wins in his coaching career. Coach Gum is the head baseball coach at University of Central Arkansas. He earned 226 of his collegiate wins while coaching the SAU Mulerider Baseball team from 2006-2010.

**Susan Nelson '93, '98** was inducted into the Class of 2019 SAU College of Education Leadership Hall of Fame.



**Dr. Jerry Thomas '93** was recently selected as a member of Leadership Hot Springs.



**Erica (Jackson) Woods '93** was named one of the Great 100 Nurses of Arkansas and was honored at an awards banquet on April 9, 2019, in Little Rock.



**Michael Buccheri '94** has been named the new president and chief executive officer of CIO Foods.



**Pam Reynolds '95** was recently honored by Four States Living Magazine as a "Woman of Texarkana."



**Jason Sullivan '95** celebrated his ten-year anniversary with Union Bank of Mena where he serves as the vice president of lending.



**Michael Walters '95** won Best Supporting Actor/Musical at The Carbonell Awards for his performance in "The Pirates of Penzance" at The Wick Theatre & Costume Museum.



**Nikki Duggan Braunig '96** started a new position as cheer coach at Hays High School in Buda, Texas.

**Charlie Dawson '96** is the founder of GeoSurfaces. What began as a small company has grown at breakneck pace. GeoSurfaces has installed more than 300 sports fields in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

**Terry Lindsey '96**, director of Materials Management at Fibrebond in Shreveport, Louisiana, was named the Best Award Winner for February. Lindsey is known for his leadership skills, as well as his ability to handle on-the-job stress and developing solutions that solve any problem at hand.



**Dyun Long '96** was recently selected as a 2019 Arkansas High School Coaches Association All-Star Coach. He coaches the Magnolia Panther High School boys' basketball team that won this year's state championship. Long was also recently named the new athletic director for the Magnolia Panthers.

**Russ Phillips '96** will now serve as the new offensive coordinator of the Hendrix College Warriors in Conway.

**Lori Arnette, BSN, RN '97, '18** was recently promoted to program director of the Practical Nursing Department at the University of Arkansas Hope/Texarkana.

**Mark Fullenwider '97** is a Magnolia FFA advisor and his chapter received the 2019 National Chapter Award.

**Amy Ingram '98** has been named one of the Dallas Wings Jr. NBA Coach of the Year Finalists.

**Stephanie (Bennett) Thompson '98** released on February 9 her third book *Love Yourself First*, which is available on Amazon.

**Audra Bryant '99** published a second book of poetry, *Sentiments of a Southern Lady*, in 2018. It is available on Amazon and Kindle Publishing for ebooks.

**Dr. Ked Davis '99** was named Magnolia's Favorite Physician for 2019.



**Kerri Eppinette '99** was recently honored by *Four States Living Magazine* as a "Woman of Texarkana."



## 2000-2009

**Jamey Giddens '00** is the creator and co-executive producer of "Ambitions" on the Oprah Winfrey Network. He is pictured on the set with Robin Givens. The family saga premieres later this year.



**Glenn Wootton '00** was chosen as the Magnolia Junior High School Teacher of the Year.



**Stephen Zorsch '00** was recognized as the #1 producer in Blue Cross Blue Shield for 2018.



**Ellie Baker '02** received the honor of the 2019 Career Achievement Award by the South Arkansas Women's Network.



**Alice Fanning '02** has been named as a 40 Nurse Leaders Under 40 for 2019 by the Arkansas Center for Nursing, Inc.



**Keri Hamilton '03** was recently chosen as the 2019 Magnolia High School Teacher of the Year.

.....Continued on page 30



## Class News Cont.



**Morgan Jerry '03** was recently honored by *Four States Living Magazine* as a "Woman of Texarkana."

**Jamie Waller '03** received the Business Leader of the Year Award at the Magnolia-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Banquet held March 7, 2019.



**Jason Neill '04** was recently hired as a new real estate appraiser at PLN Appraisals.

**Jason Colvin '05** was hired as the new information technology director of IT Infrastructure and Technical Services at Saint Francis Healthcare System.



**Brandy Martin '05** was recently chosen as the 2019 Walker Pre-Kindergarten Center Teacher of the Year.

**Ryan Rainwater '05, '08** has become a partner at Crane, Phillips & Rainwater, PLLC. Rainwater has been practicing law for seven years and has handled many cases across south Arkansas.



**Cassidy Smith '07** was recently named Central Elementary Teacher of the Year in Magnolia, Ark.



**Raven Swint '07** is the new assistant principal at Hugh Goodwin. Swint has been with the district for 12 years as an elementary teacher at Yocum Elementary School and Hugh Goodwin.



**Kimberly Thomas '07** was recently named the new Strong-Huttig superintendent starting in the 2019-2020 school year.



**Greg Harrison '08** accepted an invitation to become a limited partner in The Jones Financial Co., the holding company for the St. Louis-based financial services firm.



**Micah Hicks '08** recently published another novel, *Break the Bodies, Haunt the Bones*. Hicks returned to SAU campus to read from his novel in Foundation Hall and to present his novel to Dr. Shannin Schroeder's Young Adult Lit class and Dr. James Ulmer's Creative Writing class.

**Bethany (Cheatham) Moore '08** serves as the education director at the South Arkansas Center on Aging Education Center in El Dorado. She has been with the center for more than six years.



**Laura Pinner '08** was recently honored by *Four States Living Magazine* as a "Woman of Texarkana."



**Ashlee (Dixon) Allen '09** received the Diamond Level Award for sales over \$7 Million in 2018. This award is given annually by the Arkansas Realtors Association.

**April Doss '09** has published her first book, *An Undeafening Line*. Her first book signing was held on January 12, 2019, on the campus of SAU.

### 2010-2019

**Blake Simmons '11** is a Magnolia FFA advisor and his chapter received the 2019 National Chapter Award.

**Katie Jones '12** was recently hired as an underwriter at Arkansas Farm Bureau Insurance.



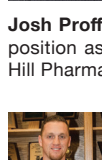
**Nick Tuberville '12** started a new position as agent intern at State Farm.



**Megan Godsil '13** recently accepted a new position as digital recruitment account executive at Sonoma Media Investments, LLC.



**Micah McCartney '13** was recently named the new public communications assistant for the city of College Station.



**Josh Proffit '13** recently started a new position as staff pharmacist at Hickory Hill Pharmacy.



**Zeb Prothro '13** was honored with the Arkansas Farm Bureau Outstanding New Ag Educator award during Farm Bureau's annual convention in November 2018.

**Barbara Rutter '13** graduated with her Ph.D. in Explosives from Missouri University of Science and Technology in May 2019. Her research is focused on relating blast-induced traumatic brain injury to observable blast injuries. She plans to continue her research into blast-induced traumatic brain injury in her postdoctoral research position.



**Brinkley Threet '13** recently started a new position as technical sales manager at Chentronics.



**Jarryd Dempsey '14** earned his Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree from Arkansas State University in May 2019.

**Kelsey Elam '14** is a Magnolia FFA advisor and her chapter received the 2019 National Chapter Award.



**Drake Frisby '14** was promoted to senior manager, International Financial Analytics at Walmart.



**DeAndre Jenkins '14** was recently hired as the new relationship manager with the Bank of America.



**Truitt Key '14** was recently promoted to senior district executive at De Soto Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

**Emily Markle '14** recently received the Outstanding Female Dental Student award at UT Dental School.

**Payton McDonald '14** graduated from Ross University with his Doctor of Medicine with High Honors.

**Alyssa Riley '14** started a new position as senior accountant at the Medical Center of South Arkansas.



**Brooks White '14** started a new position as physical therapist assistant at Bridges Therapy Group in Fayetteville, Arkansas.



**Jesse Castleberry '15** recently started a new position as operations engineer staff at Lockheed Martin.



**Jeremy Malone '15, '17** is now the head athletic trainer at Tatum High School in Texas.

**Logan Owens '15** received special honors for his service to the El Dorado Police Department. He was awarded SWAT Operator of the Year.



**Whitney Rook '15** recently started a new position as program technician – Animal Science at University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

**Trey Tatum '15** received special honors for his service to the El Dorado Police Department. He was awarded Officer of the Year.



**David Cook '16** started a new position as professional development candidate at Weyerhaeuser.



**Sara Dahl '16** earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Harding University in May 2019.

**Robert Ellis '16** has been promoted to the position of employer relations coordinator for the University of Arkansas Career Development Center.



**Mindy Coburn '17** was chosen as Teacher of the Year at Genoa Central School District.

**Kylie Jo Coker '17** accepted a position at Washington Regional Hospital in Fayetteville as Neuro ICU aide.



**Caroline Fischer '18** recently started a new position as cyber security analyst at LedgerOps.



**Wilson Impson '18** was recently hired as the assistant director of Development at Southern Arkansas University.

**Anna Kirksey '18** was recently hired as the new assistant to the dean of Communications & Development at Southern Arkansas University Tech in Camden.

## Weddings



**James '13 and Ashton (Vann) Dixon '18** were married on October 13, 2018.





**Sean '96 and Martell (Robinson) George** were married on February 09, 2019.



**Justin '16 and Taylor (McNeel) Wiseman '18** were married on January 05, 2019.



**Rowdy '16 and Jimi Ann Scott '15** announce the birth of their daughter, Poppy Jean Elizabeth Scott, born April 05, 2019. She weighed 8 lbs. and 4.6 oz. and was 23 inches long.



**Ryan '08 and Valeria (Norris) Sworn '07** announce the birth of their son, Ryan Sworn, Jr., born on April 3, 2019. He weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 21 inches long.



**Alan '15, '19 and Lauren (Taylor) Tyson '14** announce the birth of their son Brooks Alan Tyson, born January 25, 2019. He weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 20.5 inches long.

**Leon Howard '56**  
December 20, 2018  
**Horace Justin Thomas '56**  
January 29, 2019  
**Robert G. Cook '57**  
March 4, 2019  
**Joe P. Franks '57**  
February 1, 2019  
**Ruth Mocklin-Green '57**  
December 7, 2018  
**Jo Ann Lewis '57**  
February 2, 2019  
**Dorothy Edwards '59**  
March 17, 2019  
**Rebecca Holland '59**  
December 12, 2018

#### 1960-1969

**Sarah Hayes '60**  
February 23, 2019  
**Linda Mathews Houck '60**  
January 26, 2019  
**Claud C. Talley '60**  
December 14, 2018  
**Kathryn E. Perry '61**  
April 28, 2019  
**John W. Perry '61**  
March 3, 2019  
**Leonard M. Pike '62**  
January 12, 2019  
**L. Carl Teague, Jr. '62**  
April 4, 2019  
**Joseph Raymond Johnson '63**  
January 4, 2019  
**Nancy R. Lamb '63**  
February 22, 2019  
**Doy D. Raborn '63**  
March 16, 2019  
**Joseph H. McCurry '64**  
December 28, 2018  
**James W. Anderson '65**  
January 19, 2019  
**Donna Carle '65**  
February 3, 2019  
**John Alton McEwen, Jr. '65**  
December 18, 2018  
**Raymond L. Garrett '66**  
January 4, 2019  
**Melba Bussell '68**  
January 10, 2019  
**Mary L. Camp '68**  
March 28, 2019  
**Donald R. Sparrow '68**  
April 2, 2019  
**Jimmy D. Thacker '68**  
January 2, 2019  
**Michael L. Archer '69**  
February 7, 2019  
**Don Russell Smith '69**  
March 31, 2018

**1970-1979**  
**Randall F. Price '70**  
March 26, 2019  
**Deborah Davies '71**  
November 28, 2018

**David Wayne Johnston '71**  
January 29, 2019  
**Camille Epperly '73**  
February 17, 2019  
**Alma M. Ferrell '74**  
January 1, 2019  
**Linda Ree Wynn Blakely '75**  
January 19, 2019  
**Rita L. Phillips '75**  
April 3, 2019  
**James H. Humphries '77**  
March 18, 2019  
**Marilynn J. Barnes '78**  
December 8, 2018  
**Hattie M. Duncan '78**  
March 26, 2019  
**Michael F. Powell '79**  
April 14, 2019

#### 1980-1989

**Don Hamilton '80**  
January 21, 2019  
**John E. Hughes '81**  
January 12, 2019  
**Lois Dyer '84**  
January 23, 2019  
**William Franklin Wolfe '84**  
December 25, 2018  
**Liz A. Pitts '86**  
March 23, 2019

#### 1990-1999

**Melanie Jordan Lee '95**  
December 1, 2018

**2000-2009**  
**Misty Diggs '02**  
December 5, 2018  
**Rebecca C. Kimbrell '06**  
May 1, 2019

#### Staff, Faculty, & Friends

**Joyce L. McMahan**  
November 27, 2018  
**Michael C. Woodward**  
December 4, 2018  
**George E. Murphy**  
December 17, 2018  
**Jamie Brandon**  
December 24, 2018  
**Alice Opal Osborn**  
January 5, 2019  
**Dorothy Johnson**  
January 26, 2019  
**Robert "Bobby" Murphy**  
January 29, 2019  
**Cassie Farrar**  
March 17, 2019  
**Barbara Scurlock**  
March 19, 2019  
**W.R. Scurlock**  
March 23, 2019  
**Dickey L. Stewart**  
March 29, 2019  
**Louis Johnson Blanchard**  
May 4, 2019

## Little Muleriders®



**Ryan and Ashlee (Dixon) Allen '09** announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia Ryan Allen, born on February 8, 2019. She weighed 5 lbs. 12 oz. and was 18.5 inches long.



**Joshua '12 and Hannah (Adams) Burns '13** announce the birth of their daughter, Lincoln Katherin Burns, born August 25, 2017. Proud grandparents are Larry '81 and Sandi Burns '02.



**Shaun '08 and Nicki (Camp) Greening '07** announce the birth of their son, Townsend Shaun Greening, born September 12, 2018. He weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 21 inches long.



**Zac and Summer (Clark) Joslin '15** announce the birth of their daughter, Riley Jo Joslin, born August 28, 2018. She weighed 9 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20 inches long.



**Zachery and Robbie Massingill '14** announce the birth of their daughter, Lynden Massingill, born December 12, 2018. She weighed 5 lbs. 13.5 oz. and was 18 inches long.

## In Memory of

#### 1930-1939

**Ida B. Andres '39**  
November 7, 2018

#### 1940-1949

**Donald Canady '45**  
December 4, 2018  
**Janie S. Evans '45**  
January 19, 2019  
**Ruthie M. Pharr '45**  
April 6, 2019  
**Vivienne McCurley '47**  
January 17, 2019  
**Charles D. Cameron '48**  
January 7, 2019  
**Mary L. Pickens '48**  
April 1, 2019  
**Rosemary Thomas '48**  
March 29, 2019  
**Ben Burton '49**  
December 2, 2018  
**LaVerne Burton '49**  
December 11, 2018

#### 1950-1959

**Don Moore '53**  
January 5, 2019  
**James C. Bailey '54**  
January 2, 2019  
**Margaret Daniel '54**  
December 9, 2018  
**Frank S. Root '54**  
March 17, 2019  
**Frank D. Henley '55**  
December 21, 2018  
**Lenora Kelley '55**  
February 12, 2019  
**Ardie Dale Lewis '55**  
March 13, 2019



## Connect with other Muleriders®

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





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# CHAMPIONS

## **Men's Tennis**

- GAC Regular Season Champions in First Year of NCAA Competition
- 1<sup>st</sup> Championship of Any Kind Since 1988-89
- NCAA Division II National Tournament Appearance

## **Women's Tennis**

- GAC Regular Season Champions
- GAC Tournament Champions
- NCAA Division II Central Region Finalists
- Captured Programs First Ever NCAA Postseason Victory

## **Lady Mulerider Softball**

- Back-to-back GAC Regular Season Champions
- 4 Consecutive Central Region Tournament Appearances
- 4 Straight Seasons of 45 Wins or More

You are invited to join with other alumni and friends as we celebrate an extraordinary spring and reward our student-athletes for their athletic excellence.

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[www.saudevelopment.com/ignite](http://www.saudevelopment.com/ignite).

