

The Stater

A Magazine for the Alumni and Friends of Southern Arkansas University

\$29.7

MILLION

Raised by SAU Alumni and Friends!

Southern Arkansas University
**LOVE AND
LOYALTY**
Campaign

Story on pages 18-19

Dearest Alumni and Friends,

In this special edition, we celebrate the amazing things that can happen when Muleriders unite. Together, alumni and friends supported Southern Arkansas University in the largest five-year fundraising goal in our history, raising more than \$29.7 million through the Love and Loyalty Campaign.

The campaign launched in October 2016 with an initial goal of \$22.3 million. Together, we went faster and further than any of us could have imagined when we began this journey, exceeding every established goal. Those goals were only surpassed because of one very important factor – Mulerider alumni and friends!

Through the generosity of our Mulerider Family, over 100 new endowments were created, providing reliable long-term support to increase student aid, provide support to SAU faculty and staff, initiate pioneer researching, develop stronger academic programs, invest in new technologies, and more. Over \$10.2 million was raised to enrich the lives of SAU students through scholarships, over \$6.3 million was raised to enhance our academic programs and over \$4.5 million was raised to support Mulerider Athletics.

The power of Mulerider pride has transformed SAU... and the impact will be felt for many, many generations to come!

Your constant display of love and loyalty to SAU has proven once again that we can leave a lasting legacy on a place that is home for many Muleriders. Thank you is not enough... but THANK YOU!

All the Best,



Trey Berry, Ph.D.

President



The advertisement features a smartphone on the left displaying the Mulerider Alumni App interface. The app screen shows a header with the SAU logo and the text 'Make the most of your app!'. Below this is a section titled 'TURN ON YOUR NOTIFICATIONS' with a toggle switch. Further down are several icons for app features: 'Update', 'Membership', 'Member Card', 'Alumni Events', 'Travel', and 'Marketplace'. To the right of the phone, the text 'Mulerider Alumni App' is displayed in a large, stylized font, with 'Mulerider' in white and 'Alumni App' in yellow and white. Below this text are two logos: 'GET IT ON Google Play' and 'Available on the App Store'. At the bottom, a line of text reads: 'Search for "Mulerider Alumni" and download our free, easy to use app today!'.

UPCOMING EVENTS

.....

April 20

Mulespy Awards

May 5

Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

May 6

Spring Commencement

May 24

First Summer Session Begins

June 9

Dallas Topgolf Alumni Event

June 23

First Summer Session Ends

June 28

Second Summer Session Begins

July 28

Second Summer Session Ends

June 20-23

Mulerider Kids College

June 24

Rip Powell Invitational

July 6-8

Mulerider Teen College

July 29

Summer Commencement

August 16

Blue & Gold Day

August 17

First Day of Fall Semester

*Dates are subject to change,
please see SAU website for
updated information.



Farmers Bank & Trust Distinguished Speaker Series

Story on page 20

Campus News

Malli Dooly - SAU Mulerider	4
Faculty/Staff Spotlight	5
Bussey Hall Renovation	6
Volunteer Spirit	7
SAU Agriculture Department	8
Healthcare Administration	9
Around Campus Photos	10-11
College News Briefs	12-13
Mulerider Marching Band	14

Athletic News

Mulerider Athletics Highlights	15
Dawson Athletic Complex	16

Division of Advancement

Foundation/Development

Serena Gill – Muleriders4Life	17
Cover Story: Love and Loyalty Campaign Celebration	18-19
FB&T Distinguished Speaker Series	20
Mulerider Club Invitational	21

Alumni

Alumni Profile: Christy Ouei	22
Alumni Profile: Matthew and Kaylee Vance	23
MBSF Reunion	24
Class News	25-30
SAU Board Profiles	31

The Stater

Winter 2022

The Stater is published twice a year through the partnership of the University Communications and Marketing Office and the Division of Advancement as a service to the alumni and friends of Southern Arkansas University.

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MALLI DOOLY

SHARING THE MULERIDER SPIRIT

MALLI DOOLY of Emerson carries the flag of a cherished tradition at Southern Arkansas University as the new official Mulerider Mascot. The freshman animal science major has long been affiliated with SAU through her high school extra-curricular activities, and now serves as a Mulerider advocate, spreading the word about her university home with the help of Molly Ann, SAU's beloved mule.

"One of my absolute favorite parts of getting to serve as our mascot has been the people I have met," Dooly enthused. "People love taking pictures with Molly Ann, she is so unique. I enjoy meeting the people who love celebrating Molly Ann as much as I do and hearing stories about their time at SAU."

The Emerson High School graduate participated in 4-H for 14 years, serving as a Teen Star and Arkansas 4-H Ambassador. She was in FFA for six years, serving as Arkansas FFA State Secretary and was also involved in Science Club, Beta Club, Youth Advisory Council, Student Council, and FBLA. She has shown livestock since ninth grade.

"Being involved in so many clubs and organizations throughout high school, I got to work with SAU on many occasions," Dooly said. "I knew I wanted to major in agriculture and fell in love with the Ag department and how it is committed to seeing successful students. I am also involved in the Collegiate FFA and Ag Club."

As the previous Mulerider, Abbie Guin, was preparing last year to graduate, Dooly received an email last year as Abbie Guin,

SAU's previous Mulerider, was preparing to graduate. "I had talked myself out of filling out the application," she said, "but a couple of friends encouraged me, so I called my parents to ask their opinion and decided to apply."

She gained a spot for an interview. "I got the call a few days later in which Coach Rusty Hayes told me I was going to be our next Mulerider, and I was ecstatic to say yes!"

Having grown up in Mulerider country, Dooly was excited to show her school spirit. "Being the Mulerider gives me an outlet to share my love for SAU, what we stand for, and to recruit some future Muleriders," she said. "As the mascot, I ride down the end zone at football games anytime our team scores. Beyond that, I get to carry the SAU flag at other events such as the home rodeo. Molly Ann has been in several parades, rodeos, events, and she even visited Grind City Media in Memphis."

Dooly looks forward to representing the Muleriders through these activities as she proudly fulfills one of SAU's most vital roles.





FACULTY AND STAFF SPOTLIGHT

FACULTY - DR. COPIE ROBERTS MOORE (BOULWARE PROFESSOR)



DR. COPIE ROBERTS MOORE is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Agriculture at Southern Arkansas University. She is in her 14th year at SAU, having received her BS and MS from Stephen F. Austin University and her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University.

She teaches senior-level agricultural education courses, advises several students in the agricultural department, observes student teachers, teaches courses in the Master of Science in Agriculture program, and animal science courses as needed. She also teaches a section of Freshman Seminar for agricultural majors.

“The highlights of my career are always the successes of my students upon graduation,” she said. “I derive a great amount of satisfaction in seeing my former students thrive! I love the friendly, approachable atmosphere at SAU and the open-door policy between professors and their students.”

For Moore, college is more than what the students learn in class. It’s the life lessons they further develop that are most important. “Above all, I try to instill in them the importance of honesty in everything they do and to never rely on excuses,” she said. “I also hope they know their purpose and are intentional with their actions.”

She advises potential SAU students in the Department of Agriculture to always get to know their professors, develop a plan to succeed, and develop a core group of classmates to study with and travel the journey together.

STAFF - VICTOR DUKE



VICTOR DUKE, originally from Las Cumbres, Panama City, Panama, arrived at SAU in the fall of 2002, having arrived here as a student to play Mulerider baseball under coaches Steve Goodheart and Mike Godfrey. He received his BS in Computer Science in 2005 and MS in Kinesiology in 2008 from SAU.

In his 19th year at SAU, Duke is the director of International Student Services and director of the Reynolds Center. He has also worked as a graduate assistant baseball coach (2005-2008), in the Housing Office as a resident director, and later assistant director of Housing (2005-2016). Duke moved over to the Reynolds Center in 2016 and has led the International Office since 2020. He also teaches a section of Freshman Seminar for international students and the leadership college program. He enjoys playing staff intramural sports to keep in touch with his students outside a classroom setting.

“Once I started working professionally at SAU, I learned from some great mentors that have guided me into the person I am today,” Duke said. “I learned quickly that I wanted to make sure students are taken care of to the best of my abilities. If I can help them with anything, I will try my hardest.”

Duke said his favorite thing about SAU “is the people I have met who have become like my family. With them, my time at SAU has been nothing short of amazing.”

BUSSEY HALL RENOVATION

REVITALIZING A PART OF SAU'S HISTORIC DISTRICT

HISTORIC BUSSEY HALL, one of the architectural landmarks on the SAU campus, has been restored to its former glory thanks to a generous grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC).

The grant totaled \$698,060 and is the largest the University has received to date from the ANCRC.

The restoration ensures that Bussey Hall will remain a viable residence hall for future Muleriders. The project included removing and replacing all attic insulation as well as the roof and some decking. It also included reinforcing the attic structure, installing new sinks, vanities, and cabinetry in each room, refinishing/replacing interior doors and painting the exterior.

Bussey was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013.

Dr. Trey Berry, president of SAU, thanked the ANCRC for its generosity. "We have a strong partnership, and I am so thankful for the Council's recognition of the value of this project," he said. "Restoring this historic building is a testament to what the ANCRC is all about. We are proud to be partners with the Council."

"The improvements allowed from this grant will return Bussey Hall to the elegant state she once was," said Dr. Donna Allen, vice president for student affairs. "We are very grateful to have been given this opportunity for our students."

"The ANCRC has made a profound impact on the campus through grants totaling over \$2 million to fund projects such as the restoration of Oliver Recital Hall, the Greek Theatre, Overstreet Hall, the Alexander-Warnock and Ozmer Historic Farmstead and Learning Center, and now Bussey Hall," said Josh Kee, vice president for advancement. "We are extremely grateful for the generosity of ANCRC to our University, our region, and our state."

The magnificent 43,569 square-foot women's residence hall opened on Lane Drive in the spring of 1951 and was named for Jesse and Carol Bussey (1913-1956), longtime dining hall directors. From its opening until today, Bussey Hall has been a home away from home for female students at SAU. It offers spacious residential rooms, a computer lab, small cooking areas, a laundry room, and a lobby area on the first floor.

Bussey Hall houses the Living Learning Communities of Health and Fitness, Studiers Unite, and several female athletic teams. It is part of a Historic District that includes Dolph Camp and Peace Halls. All three were constructed between 1949 and 1957 and have been noted as well-preserved examples of academic Colonial Revival architecture. All three structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

As a part of the renovation, the exterior of Bussey Hall received a fresh coat of paint.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Pictured are the new sinks, vanities, and cabinetry that were installed during the renovations.



VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

The Mulerider volunteer spirit is out in full force. Southern Arkansas University's Office of Volunteer Services and other organizations assist in projects meeting a variety of needs in Magnolia and Columbia County.

HURRICANE IDA RELIEF - Residents of south Louisiana once again battled mother nature as Hurricane Ida ripped through their towns in August 2021. In response to an urgent need, Southern Arkansas University collected disaster relief items for residents of Lafourche Parish. Athletics, Greeks, Housing, AmeriCorps VISTA, Mulerider Market, Student Activities, Aramark Food Services, College of Education and Human Performance, and numerous other students, were some that led the way in collecting bottled water, hygiene products, tarps, work gloves, cleaning supplies, and other needed items. SAU volunteers made the journey to personally deliver the products.

CCAPS - SAU students took action by volunteering at the Columbia County Animal Protection Society shelter. After completing orientation, students are able to volunteer. Many animals at the shelter are unfamiliar with human touch and are in need of love. Students have provided more than 117 service hours since September.

BOO IN THE BARNYARD - Boo in the Barnyard is an annual event hosted by the Southern Arkansas University Agricultural department in October. SAU students and instructors from the department welcomed the community to a fun evening filled with several different opportunities to get a taste of the agricultural life. The department gives a special thank you to Peoples Bank and Bodcaw Bank for their donations, and Arkansas Farm Bureau for allowing the department to use their Agricultural Education trailer.

PAWS ON THE MALL - The Office of Volunteer Services partnered with the Mulerider Activity Center to host Paws on the Mall this fall. 47 volunteers assisted the 306 students who stopped to interact with the animals.

PANTHER FOOTBALL - Mulerider volunteers helped out with the Magnolia School District Band Booster and Panther Quarterback Booster Club concession stands this past season reigning in over 60 service hours.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB - Mulerider students stay active at the Magnolia Boys and Girls Club, volunteering at concession stands, serving as referees, coaching, helping with homework, giving guitar lessons, mentoring, or simply doing after-school rotations. More than 70 SAU students have given their time to the Club, putting in 80 hours at concession stands and over 300 hours in after-school assistance. Additionally, SAU Housing and students in freshman seminar classes hosted the Trunk or Treat event at the Boys and Girls Club on Wednesday, October 27. Residents of Greene, Honors, Arkansas, and Burns-Harsh halls helped account for more than 30 volunteers who had a blast handing out candy, cooking hot dogs, and playing games with children from the Club.

STEWPOOT - The Stewpot provides hot meals for members of the community at the First United Methodist Church of Magnolia each week. Thirty four Muleriders enthusiastically volunteer their time to assist in this worthy endeavor.

PHOTOS BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

MULERIDERS AT THE ARKANSAS STATE FAIR

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES 30-YEAR TRADITION

“After graduating high school, I missed the FFA and agriculture building experience. The SAU agriculture department is as close to that experience as you can get. It is just like the high school FFA family.”

JUSTIN WIEDOWER '12, '14

As the sun sets in the afternoon on the Southern Arkansas University farm road, it is breathtaking to take in the beauty of the SAU farm, and all that agriculture truly represents to the university. As SAU emerged from strong beginnings in 1909 as the Third District Agricultural School, it is natural to reflect on the impact that agriculture has had on the institution over the years. Countless former students reminisce about the experiences that have impacted their lives and careers as a result of being a student in the agriculture department at SAU. These firm foundations have laid the groundwork for a department that has continued to grow and expand over the years.

Complete college experiences include great academic endeavors along with making friendships and memories that last a lifetime. Many of these educational experiences take the students out of the classroom and into the field for hands-on experiences. Often agriculture students are members of the 4-H and FFA and have enjoyed exhibiting livestock at local, state, and national shows.

The Arkansas State Fair is an exciting event for such students to exhibit their livestock projects at the state level. For more than 30 years, the SAU agriculture department has volunteered to assist with the ASF market hog show. This has allowed SAU students to learn about volunteer service, network with leaders in agriculture, and share the Mulerider spirit with the exhibitors at the ASF.

This past October, the SAU Alumni Association assisted the ASF in recognizing SAU's agriculture department's long history of volunteer service to the market hog show at the ASF. This time was an excellent opportunity for Mulerider agriculture alumni to be recognized at the state level for their years of volunteerism. It was a heart-warming moment as recent program graduates shared their praises for SAU and their SAU instructor, Dr. Copie Moore. Justin Wiedower, SAU alumni with a BS in Agriculture Education ('12) and an MS in Agriculture ('14), is currently an agriculture instructor at Greenbrier

High School. Justin was present to take part in the alumni reunion event. He strongly stated, “The SAU agriculture department is a family. He also shared, “After graduating high school, I missed the FFA and agriculture building experience. The SAU agriculture department is as close to that experience as you can get. It is just like the high school FFA family.”

Under the leadership of department chair and Boulware professor Dr. Copie Moore, the SAU Agriculture Department continues to attract large numbers of students from the region. Strong programs of study are offered in agricultural business, agricultural education, and agricultural science, with options in animal science, plant science, and pre-veterinary. The most recent addition to the department involves an agricultural science degree in poultry science. The department not only continues to graduate successful students, they do all of this within a learning environment that also makes the students feel like part of the SAU agriculture family.



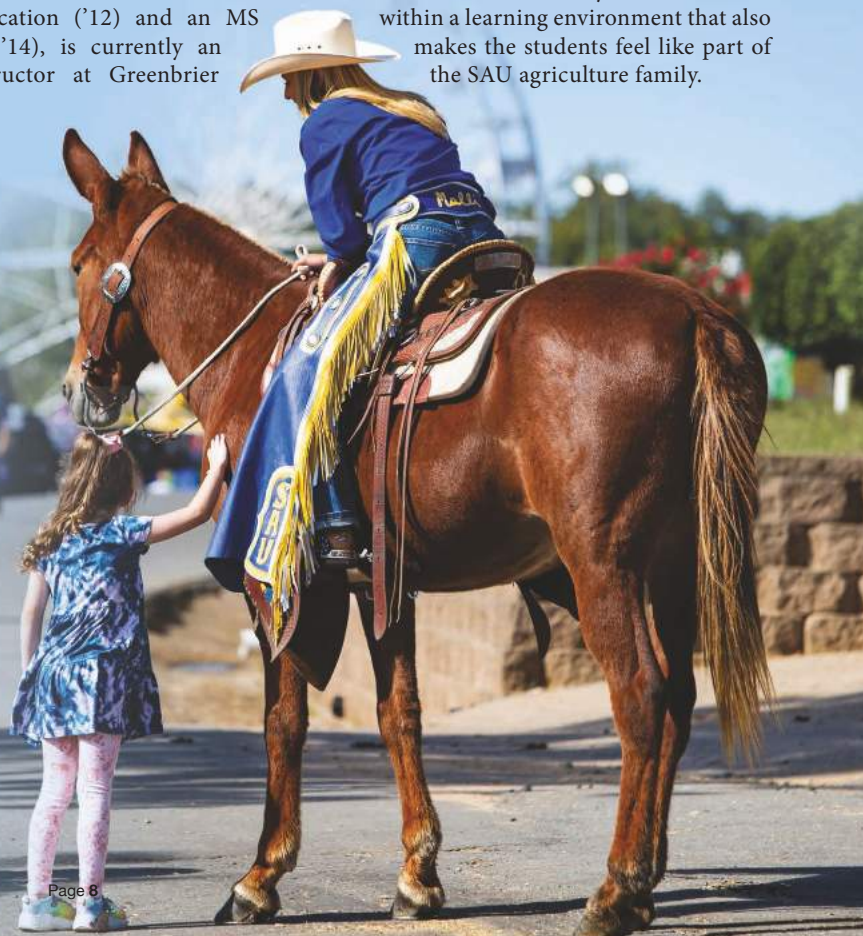
PHOTOS BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Mulerider agriculture alumni and current student volunteers pose for a photo during the market hog show at the Arkansas State Fair.



PHOTOS BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Carrying on a tradition spanning more than three decades, Mulerider students volunteer during the Arkansas State Fair market hog show.



HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR JOBS IN AN EXPANDING INDUSTRY

Southern Arkansas University's new Healthcare Administration major will prepare students to work in various professional positions in the medical field, aiding doctors, nurses, and other specialists in healthcare delivery. It is offered through the David F. Rankin College of Business.

"The healthcare industry is expanding, and we see this as an opportunity to support that growth," said Dr. Robin Sronce, Peoples Bank Dean of the College of Business. "It fits well with SAU's nursing, pre-health, and public health degrees. Students who want to be part of the healthcare industry might not realize the opportunities available that support and enable healthcare delivery."

The program, to be delivered in-person and online, will prepare students to lead people, teams, and departments in facilities large and small. They will be able to run these organizations effectively while being mindful of patients, employees, and the larger community.

"Many of our graduates working in the healthcare industry encouraged us to prepare students for this growing area," Sronce continued. "In designing the program, we worked with experienced professionals to ensure we balanced the need for business expertise with an awareness of people in the system."

The program will utilize existing business and public health courses while adding four new classes. One online course will be taught by Dr. Karen Landry, Embree Chair/Department of Nursing. "Our faculty has expertise, and we will look to practitioners for additional support," Sronce said. The College of Business plans to partner with a hospital

system for internships.

Administrative positions in doctor's offices, clinics and long-term care facilities could be as close as Magnolia, El Dorado, and Camden. Data positions in health information management, patient accounts support and IT application support, as well as human resources, home health care administration and insurance underwriting, are options in Shreveport, Dallas, Little Rock, Hot Springs, and Northwest Arkansas. "We are already seeing our graduates employed in these areas," Sronce said.

Kile Pletcher, a 2018 graduate of SAU, put his degree in finance to work in a medical setting. "I always had an interest in the healthcare field, but decided to go the business route," he said.

In 2019, Pletcher went to work as a financial analyst at Baptist Health thanks to skills he learned as a business major. "SAU did a phenomenal job in giving me the tools I needed to take on a multitude of tasks," he explained. "I did not realize how simple a skill as Excel proficiency would help me in my job every day."

SAU also taught Pletcher how to acquire new skills quickly and deliver professional presentations, both of which are essential in the medical setting.

"It is extremely exciting that SAU is launching this new program," Pletcher shared. "It is definitely something I would have been interested in as an undergraduate." Having an understanding of the different types of jobs and skills needed to advance toward an administrative career will be invaluable to students, he shared.

PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS



around campus

(Right) **MULERIDER FOOTBALL** - Mulerider football resumed for the fall 2021 season, and we could not have been more pumped! Fans near and far loved being able to gather and cheer on SAU during the season. Go, Muleriders, go!



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

MULERIDER REALITY CHECK - Mulerider Reality Check was a hit! Hosted by the SAU AmeriCorps VISTAs on the SAU Alumni Center Lawn and Mall Area, this event allowed students to learn more about life responsibilities, and ensure that they are prepared for what is to come post-college.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

FRESHMAN STEAK DINNER - SAU Freshmen gathered to enjoy a delicious steak dinner at this special Mulerider tradition that occurs each fall semester as new students begin their Mulerider journey.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

FAMILY DAY - Family and friends of Muleriders gathering on campus to enjoy traditional SAU Family Day events? Yes, please!



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

LATE NIGHT FEEDING FRENZY - Food, food, and more food! If endless amounts of yummy food doesn't take some of the stress away from finals week, we don't know what will! Hundreds of SAU students enjoyed Feeding Frenzy amid finals week to bring the fall semester to a close.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

HEADPHONE DISCO - Headphone Disco continues to be a fan fave on campus! This event allows students to wear headphones and dance to their choice of music... that only they can hear. As a bystander, it can be a bit strange to see people dancing to what appears to be silence. So, grab a set of headphones and join the fun.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

SPITFIRE GRILL - The Department of Theatre at SAU brought a great deal of entertainment to Harton Theatre as students put on an outstanding show called "The Spitfire Grill." Based on the hit 1996 film, The Spitfire Grill is a heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance, and family.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

FALL FEST/CHILI COOK-OFF - There is nothing like a warm bowl of chili and a little friendly competition to make for a great night in SAU's mall area!



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

AGRI BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH - The SAU Ag Department hosted a Back-to-School Bash, allowing students to learn more about the department, enjoy fantastic door prizes, and receive a special free meal provided by Mulerider alumni from Pilgrim's Pride of De Queen/Nashville.



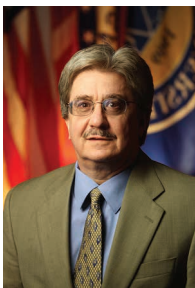
(Left) **CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS** - Darrell '71 and Diana Duke "flip the switch" for this year's Celebration of Lights.



College of Education and Human Performance

- A group of STEM education students, along with their professor, Dr. Angela Stanford '97, recently traveled to Protem, Missouri, to tour the Ozark Underground Laboratory (OUL). While there, Dave Woods, a research biologist, provided an educational tour of both the surface of the karst area as well as the interior of the Tumbling Creek Cave system. The OUL utilizes its fluorescent dye tracking system to help detect water flow patterns and contaminants in order to improve water quality and conservation efforts. Additionally, this laboratory helps to monitor the unique Tumbling Creek Cave's ecosystem that is fragile and is a habitat for at least four endangered species as well as two unique species that are only found globally in this one Ozark cave ecosystem.

College of Liberal and Performing Arts



Dr. James Ulmer

- Dr. James Ulmer, the Chair of the Department of Modern Languages, has published two short stories. The piece in *Arkansas Review* is entitled "New Madrid." The story upcoming in *Sequestrum* is entitled "Dietrich's Witness." Both pieces are ghost stories with connections to Arkansas history and folklore. The Arkansas delta is the location of the New Madrid fault line, and the first story is about what happens when an eruption along that fault line (caused by fracking) opens some old graves. "Dietrich's Witness," the second short story, is based loosely on the disappearance of Maud Crawford, a prominent lawyer, from her home

in the historic district of Camden, Arkansas, in the late fifties. Her disappearance remains a mystery that has never been solved.



Dr. John Schneiderwind



Dr. Svetlana Paulson

- The Department of History, Political Science and Geography has created a new certificate in World War II and Holocaust Studies. The department uses the expertise of its faculty, Dr. Svetlana Paulson (World War II in Europe), Dr. John Schneiderwind (World War II in Asia and at home), and Dr. Helmut Langerbein (Holocaust and Nazi Germany) and hopes to attract students as well as interested members of the community. The certificate was also developed as Southern Arkansas University's response to Arkansas SB 160 requiring public school educators to teach Holocaust history.
- Two students from the Department of Performing Arts and Mass Communication participated in prestigious national training and performance sessions. Last summer, Tyler Dennis (Music Education) marched in Drum Corps International (DCI) with Troopers Drum and Bugle Corp from Casper, WY. Logan Jacobs (Music Performance) attended national trumpet conferences and workshops.
- Two students from the Department of Art and Design, Kenzie Glass and Jordan Scrivner, participated in important internships. Kenzie Glass interned with Facebook Career Connections where she focused on social media and digital marketing. Jordan Scrivner was an intern for Art Feeds, a non-profit organization that creates art programming for children. She is currently an intern with Magnolia School District and assisted with the annual Magnolia School District Student Exhibit in May 2021.



Alumni celebrate 20 years of Social Work at SAU.

- On November 5, 2021, the Department of Behavioral Sciences celebrated the 20th anniversary of the first accreditation of its social work program by the Council of Social Work Education. The Social Work program is currently led by Mercedes Ray. At the event, guests also celebrated the completion of the Renda Henry Scholarship Endowment to benefit a social work student.

At a reception attended by current students, alumni, and faculty, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. David Lanoue, reminded the audience that a small rural university like SAU has an accredited social work program because of the need for social workers who tirelessly care for the less fortunate and often forgotten members of the community and southwestern Arkansas.

- Art professors Anna Zusman and Rhaelene Lowther have collaborated to create a body of work called "Quotidian Moments: Different Lenses." As they walk the farm road each morning, they photograph interesting items such as a crawfish, a dead bird, or the fog in the trees as the sun rises. Then, independently, they use these images to inspire works of art that contrast in approach and perspective. Their exhibition was on display in the Brinson Art Gallery from Oct. 15th – Nov. 15th, 2021.
- On October 23, 2021, the Department of Art and Design hosted its first annual Arkansas Indie Festival showcasing indie video games, table top games, short films and zines. The keynote speaker was Tamara Duplantis. This

festival will be held yearly as one of the featured events in affiliation with the Arkansas Techtober series of events.



Steven Ochs

- Professor Steven Ochs' Advanced Photography students once again supplied photographs for *Magnolia Living*. The magazine has published 58 student photos over the last three years. One of Steven Ochs' photos became the cover of *Arkadelphia Life* and the *DeGray Lake Adventure Guide* published by the Regional Economic Development Alliance and the Area Chamber of Commerce.

Rankin College of Business

- New faculty joined the RCOB this fall. Dr. Jimmy Chein, assistant professor of finance and Dr. Bao Hoang, assistant professor of management from Louisiana Tech; Dr. Stephen Juma, assistant professor of marketing from Virginia Tech Pamplin; and Kristen Cribb, marketing instructor moving from the ASBTDC.
- Fifteen students joined the Rankin College of Business Mentorship program. The students were paired with Business Advisory Council Members and other alumni. Students will meet monthly, virtually, or in-person with their mentees during this school year.
- More than 20 students from majors across campus competed in the Mulerider Entrepreneur Pitch and Idea Competition. Students submitted a virtual pitch to a judging panel. The top four were voted on by SAU faculty and staff. First place went to senior marketing major Dazha Lockhart for her proposal for LYFE Aquatic Gear. Senior entrepreneurship major Jarius Curry received the Forge Fund prize for his Curry Pollution idea.



Dr. Jennifer Logan, Puterbaugh Professor

- Economics professor Dr. Jennifer Logan published her article, "Keynesian Economics with Balloons-An Activity to Expand Student Engagement with Economic Policy," in *The Journal of Economics Teaching*. Dr. Logan's article shares a favorite engagement activity she uses in her classes.

Dr. Logan's research interests include economic education, regional studies, and financial decision-making. Dr. Mujtaba Zia and Dr. Jennifer Logan recently published an article titled "Bank Revolving Credit as a Channel of Monetary Policy" in the *Review of Finance and Banking* in December 2021. Earlier in the fall Dr. Logan also published "Keynesian Economics with Balloons - An Activity to Expand Student Engagement with Economic Policy" in the *Journal of Economics Teaching*. Her philosophy regarding scholarship is that teaching helps one improve their research, while research helps one's teaching, thus creating a virtuous cycle of teaching and learning.



Dr. Ken Green

- Dr. Ken Green and co-author Dr. Tony Inman published an article, "Environmental Uncertainty and Supply Chain Performance: The Effect of Agility," in the highly rated *Journal*

of *Manufacturing Technology Management*. This article adds to the volume of research produced by Dr. Green that has generated over 6,000 citations.

College of Science and Engineering

- Dr. Karen Landry, Embree Chair of Nursing, shared that the SAU Foundation provided funds received through the recently-concluded Love and Loyalty Campaign to purchase the ASL 5000 breathing simulator, which allows students to run scenarios with patients who are breathing with the assistance of a ventilator. These simulations prepare nursing students for situations in real world situations working with patients in ICUs.
- Dr. Trent Wells, assistant professor of Agricultural Education in the Department of Agriculture, published an article, "School-based Agricultural Education Teachers' Experiences During a Year-long Field Test of the CASE Mechanical Systems in Agriculture (MSA) Curriculum," in Volume 62, Issue 1 of the *Journal of Agricultural Education*, which is published by the American Association for Agricultural Education (AAAE). This qualitative research article documented the experiences six high school agricultural education teachers across the United States had when teaching agricultural mechanics subject matter using a new, innovative, inquiry-based curriculum.
- Samantha Jones, biology student, recently presented her research at the 104th Annual Meeting of the Arkansas Academy of Sciences, winning first place in the Medical Science and Parasitology division. Jones, of El Dorado, conducted research in the laboratory under the supervision of Dr. James Hyde in the Department of Biology at SAU. Her research focuses on keeping pituitary cells alive outside the body to study further the cells' structure, communication, and genetics. Her work focuses on microscopic techniques and imaging and uses newly acquired microscopy equipment obtained through an INBRE grant awarded to Dr. Hyde.



SAU MULERIDER BAND

THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS, THE SAU BAND GETS NEW DIGS



PHOTOS BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

(Above) The Mulerider Marching Band performs during the halftime show for the first time since the 2019 football season. (Right) Curt Smead, a senior music education major from Sheridan, Arkansas, proudly models the new Mulerider band uniforms.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

The recently expanded Oliver Band Hall features several new individual practice rooms.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

An expanded equipment storage room accommodates the University's growing band.

THE SAU MULERIDER BAND has updated not only its practice space but its appearance on the field with a greatly-expanded Magale Rehearsal Hall and new uniforms to be introduced in the fall of 2022.

A generous grant of \$100,000 by The Roy and Christine Sturgis Charitable and Educational Trust of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, paired with gifts from other alumni and friends will provide funding needed to purchase the new uniforms.

The band will sport a new look for the first time in over 15 years. J.P. Wilson, director of bands, thanked the Sturgis Trust for the grant. "We would not be able to purchase these uniforms without the Sturgis Trust getting us to our goal," Wilson said. "These uniforms are solid, sharp, and will provide a great visual to go along with our awesome sound."

The new Mulerider uniforms maintain a traditional look but have clean lines and colors that will reflect the University's colors of blue and gold. Audiences will be able to see different colors on the uniforms depending on whether the players have their instruments up or down.

The band has sprung back into the spotlight with a greatly-expanded Magale Rehearsal Hall providing plenty of new rehearsal space.

"We are delighted with our renovated and expanded spaces," said Wilson. "When a prospective student and their family walk through Oliver Band Hall, they can tell our program is well taken-care of."

The expansion was completed in spring 2021 and boasts greater acoustics and more square footage. Existing space was reorganized to create valuable new storage areas for equipment and uniforms.

"We were very fortunate to receive this expansion," said Wilson. "The size and acoustics of the new Magale Rehearsal Room 'sealed the deal' for several students to come to SAU."



ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

A FEW OF THE RECENT
ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS
AND CHANGES AT SAU



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

The Restore-It Nutrition Center provides healthy resources for athletes such as the Muscle Milk protein shakes pictured here.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Trey Berry and Steve Browning present new SAU football coach Brad Smiley with an authentic 1922 team pennant that has been hanging in Dr. Berry's office for several years.

Browning becomes newest chair of GAC's Council of Athletic Administrators

In August of 2021, the Great American Conference Council of Athletic Administrators announced Southern Arkansas Director of Athletics Steve Browning '01, as the new Council chair with a one-year term set for expiration on June 30, 2023. Browning has held the position of Director of Athletics at SAU since 2012. As the Muleriders' head baseball coach from 2011-16, he posted a 224-107 record with five NCAA tournament appearances. Additionally, Browning is in his fourth year as a member of the NCAA Division II National Baseball Championship Committee in which he serves as the Central Region Chair. During his time leading Mulerider Athletics, Browning has overseen numerous championship programs, state-of-the-art athletic facility enhancements, a multi-year apparel agreement with Under Armour that began in the Fall of 2017 and spearheaded the department's community service initiative "Muleriders in Magnolia" in 2012 as a way to continue to connect Mulerider Athletics with the city of Magnolia.

Restore-It Nutrition Center

The Ribble Strength Training Center received a tremendous upgrade last fall with the addition of the Restore-It Student-Athlete Nutrition Center. With funding made possible by Marcus and Chrystal Osborn, owners of Magnolia Glass & Mirror and Restore-It Restoration & Cleaning, the game-changing student-athlete nutrition center services more than 450 student-athletes on a daily basis. The Restore-It Nutrition Center provides healthy resources such as protein shakes and bars, fruit, and various other healthy food and beverage options for Mulerider student-athletes to replenish their bodies after workouts.

Carley Hale NCAA Woman of the Year Top 30 Honoree

One of the more highly-decorated female student-athletes in department history, Carley Hale '21 added a prestigious honor to a long list of worthy accomplishments. The Panhandle, Texas, native, who is a two-time CoSIDA Academic All-American, a two-time GAC Elite Scholar-Athlete, the only female to be named the Murphy USA Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year twice and was voted as SAU's Outstanding Senior in Art & Design for the 2020-21 year, was selected as a Top 30 honoree for the 2021 NCAA Woman of the Year.

Jariq Scales becomes Mulerider Football's single-season rushing leader

In his first season of competition, redshirt freshman running back Jariq Scales laid claim to the best single-season rushing campaign in program history. In 11 games, the Osceola, Arkansas, native tallied 236 carries for a single-season program record 1,477 yards with nine rushing touchdowns. Scales was named the Great American Conference Freshman of the Year, an All-GAC Second Team performer and was honored as a CoSIDA Academic All-Super Region 3 First Team honoree.

Morgan Schuster – 2000 career assists

Mulerider Volleyball sophomore setter Morgan Schuster entered SAU's November 2 match with Arkansas-Monticello needing just 22 assists to reach 2,000 for her career. In the second set of what would be a five-set thriller, Schuster eclipsed the mark to become just the fifth player in the program's rally scoring era to do so. She currently has 2,124 career assists, the fourth-most all-time, and is just 300 assists away from taking over the top spot in program history.

Andy Sharpe – 300th career win

On November 22, in a contest that saw the Southern Arkansas Men's Basketball team notch a new single-game scoring record in a 120-56 rout of Champion Christian, tenth-year head coach Andy Sharpe reached another coaching milestone as he earned the 300th victory of his career and the 132nd as the leader of the Mulerider Basketball program.

Brad Smiley – New leader of Mulerider Football

Named the program's 21st head coach on December 3, Brad Smiley was officially introduced as the newest leader of the Mulerider Football program to a standing room only crowd on December 6 inside SAU's Donald W. Reynolds Campus and Community Center. Smiley, who joined the Mulerider Family from Northwestern State, was presented with an authentic 1922 team pennant adorned with the lettering "Muleriders." That was the first season that the program competed as one of the most unique mascots in all of sports. Smiley's first campaign in Magnolia will be the 100th season as the Muleriders and 104th overall.

Alli O'Banion '18 – Former SAU standout returns home to lead Mulerider Volleyball

A familiar face has journeyed back to Magnolia as former Mulerider Volleyball standout Alli O'Banion (2014-17) was named the program's tenth head coach on December 8. O'Banion's most recent stop was at NJCAA Division II Northeastern Oklahoma A&M where she served as head coach of the Lady Norse in 2020 and 2021. She led NEO to a combined record of 32-17, including an 18-9 mark in 2021, while garnering back-to-back NJCAA Region II titles. Prior to coaching stops at Ouachita and Logan High School (Utah), O'Banion was a three-time All-GAC Honorable Mention performer and finished her career as one of just two players in the program's rally scoring era to eclipse 1,000 kills and 300 total blocks in a career.

Mulerider Football raises funds for local cancer patient

In October of 2021, during Breast Cancer Awareness month, the Mulerider Football team raised funds among its locker room in support of the special initiative. The team decided it wanted the funds to help out a local family. On December 7, SAU Football team members Andrew Schreiner, Trent Franklin, Cole Williams and Gavin Roe presented a check with the proceeds from October, which was matched by Mulerider Athletics, to Mrs. Andi Spurling who is in the midst of her own personal battle with breast cancer.

TRANSFORMATIVE STEEL

GEOSURFACES CONTINUES TO LEAVE MARK ON MULERIDER ATHLETICS



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the Dawson Family officially cut the ribbon celebrating the opening of the new Dawson Athletic Complex.

JACOB PUMPHREY - Assistant AD for Communications

It was a beautiful morning prior to the kickoff of Mulerider Football's Great American Conference matchup with Oklahoma Baptist on October 30, and Southern Arkansas University and Mulerider Athletics took the opportunity to officially dedicate the campus' newest athletic facility: the Dawson Athletic Complex.

The crowd was filled with university and athletic department administrators, faculty, staff, student-athletes, coaches, fans, and donors to the project which included the Dawson Family, who has played an essential role in the construction of multiple athletic facilities at SAU.

SAU President Dr. Trey Berry enlightened those in attendance with a history lesson as he spoke of surplus steel from the WWII effort that was obtained by Colonel Charles S. Wilkins, the president of Magnolia A&M from 1945 to 1950. That steel would become the home grandstands of Mulerider Stadium which opened in 1950 on the northeast edge of campus. The new facility had a capacity of 4,000. It would be named Wilkins Stadium decades later, honoring President Wilkins.

"Today, fast forward 75 years and we are standing under steel that is again going to transform SAU Athletics," remarked the University's president. "This is going to be a place that will impact every sport on this campus and every athlete on this campus. Dawson Family, I think you know that this is more than just a building. This is a place where life is going to happen. Life is going to happen each and every day. A place where dreams are going to come true, where young men and women from large towns, small towns....will come and fulfill their dreams to play collegiate athletics."

Berry added, "Long after all of us are gone, this facility will still continue to change lives."

Located just south of the Mulerider Track and Field Complex and directly to the east of Wilkins Stadium at Rip Powell Field, SAU visitors are now greeted by the prevalent structure when entering campus from US Highway 82. The 175' wide by 190' foot long by 50' foot tall facility features a 60-yard turf field from GeoSurfaces with field markings for multiple sports and state-of-the-art LED lighting from GeoSport Lighting Systems.

"I don't know if we could have done this in today's market with the supply chain

issues and inflation," noted SAU Director of Athletics Steve Browning. "But we had forward-thinking people. Once the initial donation was made and the Dawson Family jumped on board, we had others that joined and those in leadership positions that said 'let's get it done now,' and now we stand here under a facility that is going to benefit every one of our athletes, every one of our coaches, and help us for years to come."

Browning also talked about how the facility will not only be used for in-season workouts and practices, but also in the summer for athletic camps and clinics to help keep campers safe from the blistering summer sun of south Arkansas.

Head Coach Justin Pettigrew, whose Mulerider Baseball program will certainly benefit from the new facility, was very appreciative of those that played a part in making the facility a reality and addressed those in attendance on how a structure like the Dawson Athletic Complex will help his program become more efficient.

"Not only is it [Dawson Athletic Complex] going to be beneficial as far as how much work we are going to be able to get done, but we are also going to be able to crunch that time down and that is something that is important," noted Pettigrew. "It will be huge for us to get valuable reps, but also a lot more reps in a facility this size and be able to condense our time where our student-athletes will be able to go back and study and do the things that they need to do to be successful off of the field."

The facility was funded entirely through private support from alumni and friends, and its completion now provides an immediate impact to over 450 student-athletes, coaches, and administrators that make up the 14 athletic programs at SAU.

One of those student-athletes, Mulerider Softball's Sarah Evans, who is also a student athletic trainer at SAU, has witnessed firsthand the transformative facilities that have been constructed since her arrival on campus in the fall of 2018. Evans spoke about how the facility

will reshape the athletic training department's approach to rehab.

"We now have the ability to do our strength and conditioning programs inside the facility, just like the athletes do, but from the rehab side of things to help them improve and get them back onto the field," stated Evans. "I am just so happy that I have been able to be here throughout my whole college experience, and I am blessed that everyone else can experience it, too."



DAWSON ATHLETIC COMPLEX INTERIOR



DAWSON ATHLETIC COMPLEX EXTERIOR



Muleriders4Life

“We really hope to begin to strengthen the bond between current students and alumni and help both groups feel more connected...”

SERENA GILL

SAU student-athlete Serena Gill has certainly found ways to be involved on campus during her time as a Mulerider. Gill has been a member of the SAU Women's Tennis team since the program was revived for action in the fall of 2018. She has been named the Great American Conference's Player of the Week and has played a key part in 36 team victories.

In the fall of 2020, Gill was named SAU's Homecoming Queen, and her campus participation extends to the Rankin College of Business where she currently serves on the student advisory council and to the SAU Department of Athletics where she presently holds the position of president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

But her latest involvement on campus could arguably be her most vital to the University's long-term success. Gill is one of seven current SAU students that make up the Division of Advancement's new initiative, a student organization called Muleriders4Life. The mission of Muleriders4Life, which debuted in the fall of 2021, is to “instill a philanthropic spirit in current students and boost their engagement with SAU both as students and as future alumni.”

“I was nominated by the SAU faculty, and through the Advancement team's interview process, they were really able to key in on students that are passionate about the University and that take the time to become involved on campus,” noted Gill.

The organization aims to become multi-faceted and multi-purpose, with the first priority being to educate students on how alumni impact, remain engaged, and support their alma mater. M4L strives to accomplish its mission through

engagement, investment, and education for current students throughout the year.

“The best part is that we get to be involved in all of the student activities, while serving as a voice for the University with the goal of developing a relationship with the students rather than just serving as a point of contact,” noted Gill.

As an international student, Gill, who came to Southern Arkansas University from Wolverhampton, West Midlands, England, understands the impact that she can have and currently has with Mulerider students, especially those that are far from home.

“It's very easy to relate to international students,” stated Gill. “Like with any student, our focus is on establishing a connection with them and building a relationship with them. It is more than just about money. We are a relationship team. I feel like I already have a connection with many international students because I know how difficult the journey can be at times and that's why I am so excited to be a part of this new initiative.”

Muleriders4Life has big plans moving forward in 2022 and beyond which includes the development of a board to help bring more direction for the group's involvement, growing its core membership of student leaders, and continuing to be more active on campus through both student-based activities and events tailored towards alumni and donors.

“We really hope to begin to strengthen the bond between current students and alumni and help both groups feel more connected with SAU and present more opportunities for involvement,” stated Gill.



LOVE AND LOYALTY CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION



Through the most ambitious comprehensive fundraising initiative in its 112-year history, Southern Arkansas University has far surpassed its goal of raising \$22.275 million thanks to the generosity of Mulerider alumni and friends.

The Love and Loyalty Campaign, an effort to strengthen SAU's commitment to affordability and innovation, began in 2016 and concluded October 9, 2021, having raised an extraordinary \$29.7 million – exceeding the goal by 33 percent. The campaign benefitted student enrichment, academic programs, faculty and staff support, student life and community engagement, revitalized facilities, and Mulerider athletics.

“When Muleriders unite, we do wonderful things,” said Dr. Trey Berry, president of SAU. “Together, we went faster and further than anyone could have imagined five years ago. Thanks to our dedicated alumni, friends, faculty, and staff who showed their amazing love and loyalty for our University. Your collective power has transformed SAU, and your impact will be felt for generations to come.”



That collective power includes the establishment of over 100 new endowments during the life of the campaign. SAU now has 17 endowed faculty positions to help recruit and retain top faculty. With the help of devoted Muleriders, the University also experienced its first endowed Dean's Chair and first endowed Department Chair.

The campaign focused on several key areas to help keep SAU competitive in a rapidly-changing educational environment. Students will have access to additional scholarships and travel opportunities thanks to the more than \$10 million raised for student enrichment. Faculty and students can continue striving for their highest potential thanks to over \$6.3 million raised for academic programs. An additional \$1.6 million was invested in the leaders of today and tomorrow through faculty and staff support. And, the tradition of excellence in Mulerider Athletics lives on with over \$4.5 million raised on behalf of student-athletes, coaches and athletic facilities.



PHOTOS BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

(Top to Bottom) Photo 1: Jan Story '85, Love and Loyalty Campaign Co-Chair, pauses for a picture with Steve Browning '01, Director of Athletics, and Dr. Trey Berry, President, after the pre-game coin toss. Photo 2: Dr. Jerry Thomas '93, Alumni Board Director, shares his appreciation with faculty and staff for their participation in the Love and Loyalty Campaign. Photo 3: Don McDonald '89, National Campaign Cabinet Member and Rankin College of Business Advisory Board Member, shares with other board members about his involvement in the campaign. Photo 4: Chelsa Carr '14, Dr. Genese Lavalis '04, and Dr. Valerie Arnold '11 enjoy connecting during the Campaign Leadership Jazz Brunch.

LOVE AND LOYALTY Campaign

Campaign Timeline: Oct. 2016 – Oct. 2021

\$22,275,000 - Campaign Goal

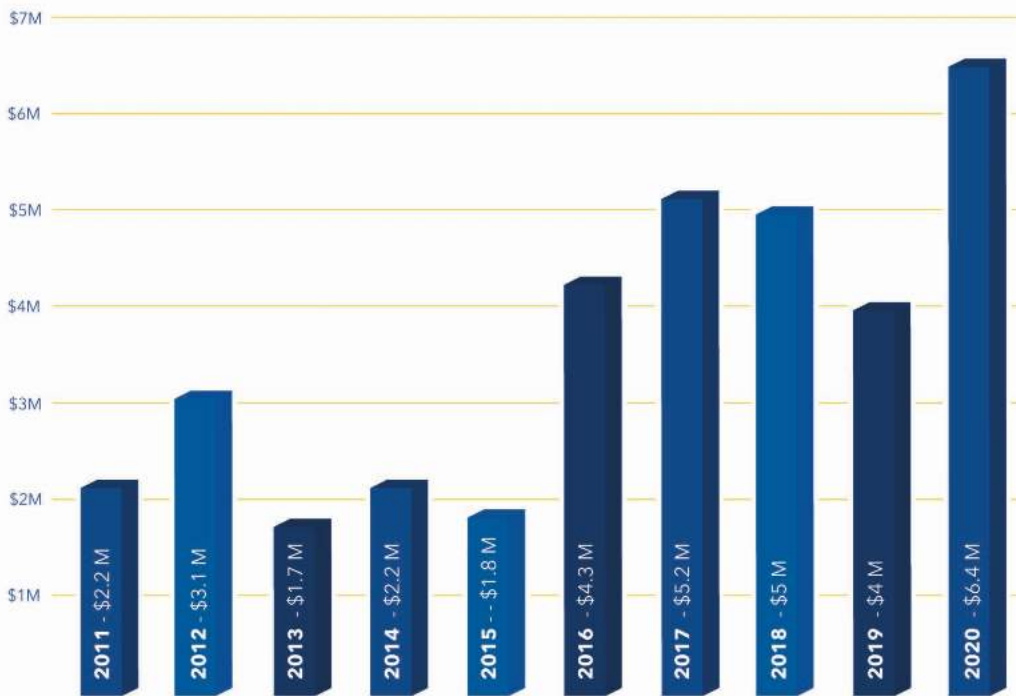
\$29,722,178 - Total Raised (133% of goal)

4,188 - Donors

17,023 - Gifts

Amount Raised:

The campaign greatly impacted annual giving totals as represented in the 10-year graph below.



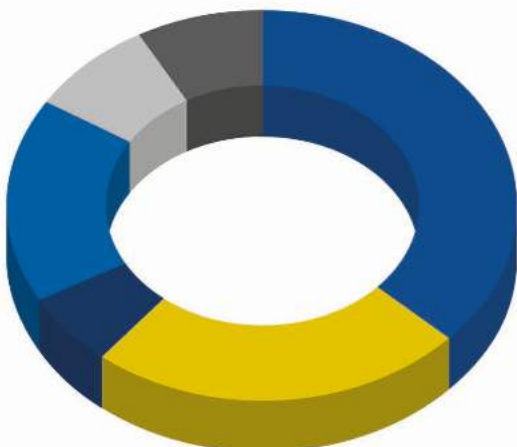
Campaign Facts:

82%+
Faculty/Staff
Giving Percentage

100+
New Endowments

17
Endowed Faculty
Positions

- Experienced first endowed Dean's Chair and first endowed Department Chair



Impact by Campaign Area:

- **\$10+ Million** raised to benefit student enrichment
- **\$6.3+ Million** raised to benefit academic programs
- **\$1.6+ Million** invested in faculty and staff support
- **\$4.5+ Million** raised to benefit Mulerider Athletics
- **\$2+ Million** raised to impact student life and community engagement
- **\$2+ Million** raised to benefit revitalized facilities

TERRY BRADSHAW

2021 FARMERS BANK & TRUST DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

“ When I put my hand on the football, something magic happened. Find the one thing in life that you want to do, and don't let anybody talk you out of it. ”

TERRY BRADSHAW

Four-time Super Bowl quarterback, Terry Bradshaw, enthusiastically and humorously urged a sold-out audience at Southern Arkansas University to live joyfully, embrace opportunities, and find reasons every day to be thankful. Bradshaw delivered his remarks as the 2021 Farmers Bank & Trust Distinguished Speaker in the W.T. Watson Gymnasium, an event that raised over \$51,000 to benefit SAU scholarships.

Dr. Trey Berry, president of SAU, welcomed friends and alumni. “Tonight is all about our students,” he said, stressing the importance of SAU's history with Farmers Bank & Trust. “You can drive around this campus, in any direction, and see the influence of Farmers Bank. It was here from the very beginning.” Berry announced Kimber Birdsong of Prescott, Arkansas, and Seth Horn of Farmington, Arkansas, as the recipients of the Farmers Bank & Trust Scholarship. “Thanks to Farmers Bank for its indelible impact on generations of students,” Berry said.

Elizabeth Burns Anderson, executive director of the Farmers Bank Foundation, announced the renaming of the scholarship endowment to the Farmers Bank and Trust/ Dr. Bob Burns Distinguished Speaker Scholarship Endowment, which will provide scholarships for generations to come.

Bradshaw used his signature humor to regale the audience with stories of inspiration and encouragement. “I knew from the age of seven that I wanted to play for the National Football League,” Bradshaw said. “When I put my hand on the football, something magic happened. Find the one thing in life that you want to do, and don't let anybody talk you out of it.”

The 73-year-old Shreveport native played high school football at Woodlawn High. He was the No. 1 overall draft pick in 1970 from Louisiana Tech. Bradshaw became one of the most prolific quarterbacks in history, leading the Pittsburgh Steelers to four Super Bowl championships, six AFC championship games and eight straight playoff appearances (1972-79).

Bradshaw stressed the importance of good leadership, shaking hands, and offering a friendly smile. “Everybody follows somebody.” He also emphasized the need to express gratitude. “I love saying ‘thank you,’” he said. “The most important thing in life is how you approach people. You cannot be successful in life until you learn how to love everyone.”

With his warm, folksy humor, Bradshaw shared that living joyfully is more important than temporary happiness. “If your favorite team wins, you're happy,” he said. “Joy sustains us. It's rock solid. There should be something that triggers joy in your life, that says to you, ‘let's go, let's accept the challenge.’”

He said that throughout his career, he never lost faith in his abilities or in the knowledge that “God's greatest gifts are compensation for trials and tribulations.” “I never was any good,” he said of his early football years. “I didn't know how to snap, I couldn't run out of my own way. Not one time did I ever question, ‘I'm going to the NFL.’ Pursue, pursue, pursue.”

He recalled his experiences in the huddle for the Pittsburgh Steelers as an example of leading people to victory. “I never yelled at anybody on the football field,” Bradshaw said. “I led them with love.”



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

(Pictured left to right) Allen '78 and Abigail Loe, Linda Puleo, Travis Buchanan '78, Gary Sewell '70, Greg Owens '81, Janet and Monty Harrington '93



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Donnell '94 and LaTanya Ford



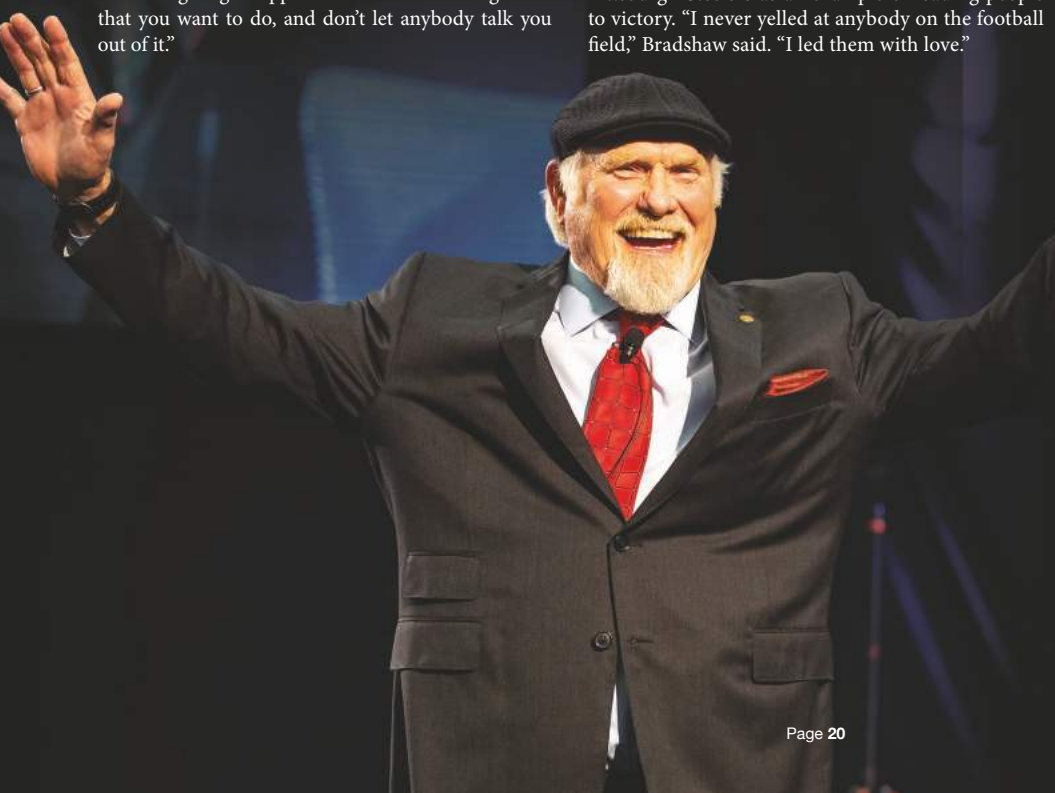
PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Marilyn Trexler Koehler '74, Dr. Anna Trexler, and Nancy Trexler Hartness '67



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Bradshaw speaks to a sold out crowd in the W.T. Watson Athletic Center.





MURPHY USA MULERIDER CLUB INVITATIONAL SECOND ANNUAL



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Some of Dr. Margaret Downing's favorite former players joined us for the fun at the invitational. Referred to as "Riderettes," pictured from left to right are Tina Cheatham '79, Karlene Coleman Hooker '78, Janet Cooper Wood '78, and Gigi Hazel.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Winners of the morning flight and pictured left to right are Shaun York, Jonathon Orr '95, Scott Carmody '92, and Christian Martin '95.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Members of Connor and Duffer Insurance pictured from left to right are Dustin Austin, Rex Burks '83, Janson Carr '15, and Justin Arsenault '12. Connor and Duffer Insurance sponsored the tournament's Hole in One Challenge on Hole #4.

MURPHY USA MULERIDER CLUB INVITATIONAL

The 2nd Annual Murphy USA Mulerider Club Invitational kicked off a big weekend for SAU alumni and friends in El Dorado with the return of the Murphy USA Classic.

The tournament was made possible by the support of Murphy USA, Title Sponsor for the second consecutive year. Generous sponsors, along with 30 teams made up of alumni and friends, came together at Mystic Creek Golf Club to raise over \$36,000 for the 14 athletic programs that make up Mulerider Athletics.

In two years, the invitational has raised just under \$80,000 to benefit over 450 Mulerider student-athletes and coaches, providing additional resources for them to be successful in the classroom and on the playing surface.



Southern Arkansas University™ Rip Powell 12th Annual Invitational Golf Tournament

Friday, June 24, 2022
www.saualumni.com/RipPowell



NEVER BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR CHRISTY OUEI



The fondest memories are made when gathered around the table, and SAU alumna Christy Ouei '96 works hard each day to make this statement a reality for her patrons.

In 2018, Christy and her fiancé and business partner, Burt Adams, packed their bags for a road trip. They traveled through the southeast and central United States to seek entrepreneurial inspiration that could add value to the local community. They saw an opportunity to have a career they were passionate about which would allow them to work side by side.

Just one year later, MuleKick opened its doors in Magnolia. MuleKick offers a unique customer experience through its eclectic environment, live music, and handmade pizza, coffee, craft beer, and ice cream. Ouei's establishment offers Arkansas-based products including coffee from Ouachita Coffee Roasters in Mena, craft beer from Native Dog Brewing in Camden, and ice cream from Loblolly Creamery in Little Rock.

Christy states, "When you come in, we want you to feel like you have stepped out of this area." The restaurant, located less than half a mile from Overstreet Hall, quickly became a staple for Magnolia and Southern Arkansas University. "College students provide energy with just their presence. Magnolia doesn't have a typical college town feel. They have embraced us and the connections we have made with SAU students," explains Ouei, who has hired over 100 Mulerider students since opening.

Just two trips around the sun and Ouei was off to her next adventure – a new location. MuleKick @ MAD opened in late September 2021. The new hot spot came to life through a partnership with the Murphy Arts District in El Dorado. "We hit the ground running and have already worked several major live music shows. We hosted more than a half-dozen Christmas parties. The community continues to let us know how excited they are to have us here," states Ouei.

In October 2021, the SAU Alumni Association hosted an alumni event at MuleKick @ MAD, the first official alumni event held since the COVID crisis began. The event featured an SAU Jazz Ensemble Concert. Later in November, Mulerider Athletics hosted its Live Remote at Lunch at MuleKick's Magnolia location.

A Stamps native, Christy was named one of the 2021 Most Intriguing Women by *AY Magazine*. She was the 2017 Small Business Association (SBA) Emerging Leader graduate, and the 2021 Arkansas Community Development Fall Conference keynote speaker. Christy also makes time in her busy schedule to volunteer and support many special causes, such as the Special Olympics, Battered Women's Shelter, Nepris, and public school districts.

The "Ouei Way" of determination, passion, and creativity helped Christy build her empire from ground zero to now over 140 employees across five business models. "Christy is an excellent role model for students and alumni who have an entrepreneurial spirit and want to make a difference. I can't wait to see what exciting adventure she starts next," states Megan McCurdy, SAU Director of Alumni Relations.

To learn more, connect with MuleKick on social media at @MuleKickatMad and @MuleKickMag.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Christy Ouei and fiancé, Burt Adams, have created quite the experience for patrons in the Magnolia and El Dorado area.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

The SAU Jazz Ensemble, led by David Torres, recently hosted a concert at MuleKick @ MAD during a Mulerider Alumni Event.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matthew '13 and Kaylee Wise '13

ALUMNI PROFILE

GETTING TO CARNEGIE HALL

There is an old joke that goes, “How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice.” In the case of Kaylee Vance Wise '13, the decision to apply landed her the chance of a lifetime to serve as the Manager, Email Marketing and Strategy for the world-renowned Carnegie Hall.

While she isn't acting in her new role, this opportunity did not come without years of experience under the stage lights. Kaylee, a Texarkana native, is no stranger to performing, as a dancer since age 4. When she arrived at Southern Arkansas University to study theater in 2010, little did she know where her passion would lead her - starting with love.

Wise attended a freshmen Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) event and met Matthew Wise '13. The pair continued to cross paths and were officially introduced weeks later. Matthew recounts, “I first fell in love with Kaylee while acting in *Royal Gambit*. I was Henry the VIII and she was Anne Boleyn.” A photograph of the couple from the performance still adorns the Overstreet hallway that connects the historic building to Harton Theatre.

The couple shared many special moments in Mulerider Country. Matthew recaps arguably the most impactful event for the lovebirds, “I woke up knowing that I was going to propose to Kaylee that night, and it was going to be a very long day. We had our Fall Preview Day at SAU so I was giving tours to potential students most of the day.” Meanwhile, Kaylee was competing in the Miss SAU Pageant that same evening. Between tours and helping Kaylee prepare for the pageant, Matthew snuck away to decorate the spot he would soon propose.

After the pageant, Kaylee went on a scavenger hunt, taking her to many meaningful places across campus. Friends and family awaited each spot

with jewelry and the next clue. The hunt ended with tears of joy and one big “yes” at SAU's Greek Theater.

Matthew and Kaylee graduated from SAU in 2013 and married in November 2014. In May 2021, the couple packed their belongings and started a new adventure in New York City after Matthew began a new job as Pastor of Families and Assimilation at The Journey Church NYC. Shortly after, Kaylee began her new role at Carnegie Hall. “For so much of my life, I was unsure where my passions would lead me. I knew I loved the arts, but I didn't want to pursue a career in the spotlight. My time at SAU helped me find my sweet spot in marketing for the arts. To have found a path that allows me to further the careers of talented artists and help share their gifts with the world is deeply rewarding for me,” Kaylee remarks.



In the coming year, more Muleriders will visit Carnegie Hall. Dr. Justin Nelson, director of choral activities, was invited to conduct a choir of 100 singers, a professional orchestra, and soloists at Carnegie Hall in spring 2023. The SAU Chamber Singers will join this group made up of high school and university choirs from across the country. Kaylee says she would love the opportunity to speak with them while they're visiting. “We have several incredibly talented musicians on staff, as you can imagine. I'd love to talk with them about the business side of the arts.”

Many might imagine this would be a tough act to follow for the Wises, but Kaylee and Matthew welcomed another exciting adventure in February 2022 - a future Mulerider! The dynamic duo looks forward to navigating their new, exciting journey in Manhattan as a family of three. Kaylee and Matthew, from your Mulerider Family, “break a leg!”

MULERIDER REUNION

MISSIONARY BAPTIST STUDENT FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI

On October 9, SAU Missionary Baptist Student Fellowship (MBSF) alumni held a 30-year reunion in Benton, Arkansas. This group of friends was involved in the MBSF at SAU in the late '80s and early '90s when Mark Davis served as MBSF director. During this time, they traveled to perform their music at church retreats. This was the first opportunity they had to gather since their previous reunion in the late 1990s on campus. However, they have stayed in touch through the years through family and church events, SAU Homecoming, and emails, texts, and phone calls. "Thanks to our time at the SAU MBSE, we have remained friends all these years. We are grateful for this wonderful organization that continues to inspire students today and serve the Lord," shared Melissa Weatherford.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BACK ROW (L to R): Bryan Weatherford '95, Deana Steely '91, Richard Collier '88, Jerry Dykes '93 **MIDDLE ROW:** Denise Davis, Mark Davis (MBSF Director 1989-93), Melissa (Aaron) Weatherford '93 '08, Marsha (Raines) Haller '93, Jana (Haller) Marston '96, Kevin Caldwell '93, Steve Marston '96, Brian Haller '92 **BOTTOM ROW:** Rita (Sprayberry) Ray '94, Tricia (Bennett) Dykes '93

Did your SAU group recently hold a reunion?

Let us know at www.sau alumni.com/alumni-class-update.



NEW BENEFIT!

Online Directory & Member Profile

The SAU Alumni Association is proud to announce a new, free benefit for all Mulerider Alumni!

Registering is free, quick and easy!

- ✓ Activate your Member Profile.
- ✓ Update your information to share on the directory.
- ✓ Search and connect with classmates.

Get started now at www.sau alumni.com/connect



SAU TOPGOLF DALLAS ALUMNI EVENT

JUNE 9 6-9 P.M.

TOPGOLF
8787 PARK LN - DALLAS, TX

Learn more and register at www.sau alumni.com/events.

1960 – 1969



Lawrence (Larry) '65 and Linda Creed '68 celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on June 11, 2021. They live in Springdale and their two daughters live in nearby Rogers. They have two adult grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Wanda Maureen Miller '65 published her seventh book entitled *SOLANGE, Daughter of Last French Casquette Bride in New Orleans*, a historical romance set in the 18th century. The book can be purchased at www.GoodReads.com. Wanda, now retired, enjoys playing pickleball and is writing her last book.



Maurice N. Birdwell '67 was named a Distinguished Member of the House of Delegates by The American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

1970 – 1979



Johnny Sinclair '71, owner of Lycus Ltd. of El Dorado, was recently announced as one of six winners to receive a 2021 Governor's Award for Excellence in Global Trade. Lycus Ltd. was recognized for Resilience in Manufacturing.



Joyce Elliott '73 was listed in *Arkansas Business* as one of 250 Most Influential Leaders of 2021. Elliott has served in the state senate since 2009 and before that spent six years in the Arkansas House. Elliott, who spent 30 years as a high school English and speech teacher, focuses much of her attention on education and issues of racial and socioeconomic injustice. Elliott is currently running for Congress and her campaign policies hinge on her goal to "form a more perfect union" and remove barriers to our pursuit of happiness.

Clyde Baxter '74 retired after working almost 45 years in the chemical research industry. He, along with two long-time colleagues, recently established NewTec Partners, LP in the Houston area. NewTec is a research company that specializes in fuel and lubricant additives and develops new chemical technology for license to corporations who could utilize the technology to upgrade or replace old technology in their operations. NewTec rapidly became a recognized world leader in this technology and holds four American patents, one Canadian patent, and two Indian patents. Patents are pending in Europe, Brazil, and Singapore.



Dr. C. Allan Lockyer '74 serves as Professor Emeritus at Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina, where he taught Geography and Earth Science for the last 31

years of his career. He is currently at work on his fifth book entitled *Schoodic Land: Conservation versus Development on Maine's Gouldsboro Peninsula*.

Robert Byrd '75 retired with 31 years of service with Miller Transporters. Byrd retired to the family farm at Lake Columbia, west of Magnolia.



Eddie Choate '75 was listed in *Arkansas Business* as one of 250 Most Influential Leaders of 2021. Choate joined Delta Dental of Arkansas as president and CEO in 2000. During his tenure,

the company was named the 2013 Arkansas Business of the Year and has been recognized seven times as one of the "Best Places to Work in Arkansas." He currently serves on the boards of Baptist Health, Delta Dental Association, and Conway Development Corporation. Choate received the 2020 Vision Award from the World Services for the Blind.



Denise Rogers '76 celebrated 40 years of employment at Farmers Bank and Trust in Magnolia.



Gary Don Smith '77 was inducted into the 2021 Union County Sports Hall of Fame. Smith's coaching career lasted 42 years with over 700 wins in senior high girls basketball and over 400

wins in junior high girls basketball. He first coached at Village High and then took over at Union High in 1980 where he led the Lady Cyclones for 25 years. At Union, he led the girls' teams to a regional championship, seven district championships, 13 conference championships, eight county championships, and three state championships. Following Union, Smith coached at El Dorado and Hot Springs Lakeside. At Lakeside, he led his boys and girls golf teams to 24 conference championships and 13 state championships. Smith was inducted into the Arkansas High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 2020.



Karlene Hooker '78 is excited to announce that her daughter, Deedra Hooker, has graduated from SAU with a MAT degree. The Hooker family is four for four on attending SSC/SAU.

Karlene (Korny) and Wayne Hooker '80 met on campus. Brent followed in 2008, and now Deedra completes the set.



Michael Joseph White '78 retired as the Superintendent of the Parkers Chapel School District.

1980-1989



Bruce Maloch '80 received the Lifetime Service Award at the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention.



Louie Avery '81 retired as Sports Editor of *Texarkana Gazette* in 2014. He works part-time for Fox Sports Texarkana, Caddo Country Radio, and most recently with *Hootens*.



Teri Burge '82 retired from Magnolia Eastside Elementary after teaching for 39 years.



Jay Shinn '82 had a visual art exhibition entitled *Step Forward/Stand Back* at the South Arkansas Arts Center in El Dorado.



Rex Burks '83 retired after 25 years of service to Simms ISD as its Superintendent.



Karen Epperson '83 retired from Magnolia Eastside Elementary after teaching for 38 years.



Ricky Hughes '83 was voted Best Veterinarian by Hot Springs County. Hughes Animal Hospital, located in Malvern, was voted Best Pet Boarding, Best Pet Supply, and First runner up Animal Clinic.



Candy Adams '86 '91 became a realtor at Trademark HSV Real Estate in Hot Springs.



Jim Andrews '86 was elected Vice-Chairman of the Arkansas Economic Development Council. He has served on the council since his appointment in January 2018.



Rita Hamilton '86 was selected to serve on the board of the American Paraplegia Society and will help guide the national organization in advancing spinal cord medicine through education and advocacy research during her service.



Iverson Jackson '86 received the 2021 Fredrick Douglass Award. This award was presented by the African American Coalition of Arkansas at this year's Douglass-Lincoln Dinner held at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion. Iverson currently serves on the SAU Foundation Board of Governors.



Mike Smith '87 was recognized as the Outstanding Crossett Ambassador by the Crossett Area Chamber of Commerce. The Crossett Ambassador is recognized for their work to share information with the world to bring new businesses, new services, and new people to Crossett.



Kathleen (Ford) Dingman '88 '11 is a four-time Coach of the Year in Arkansas High School Swimming and Diving. She was named 2014 Boys Coach of the Year, 2015 Boys Coach of the Year, 2020 Girls Coach of the Year, and 2021 Boys and Girls Coach of the Year in Arkansas High School Athletics. Dingman led the Panthers to five state championships and the Lady Panthers to two state championships.



Kerri Kitchens Ochs '88 '95 retired as the school counselor at Magnolia after serving 29 years in the Arkansas public school system, with 24 years in the Magnolia School District.



Dale '91 and Margot '89 Yutzy celebrated 30 years of marriage on December 28, 2021. Margot is a Health Systems Business Specialist for Boehringer Ingelheim.

1990-1999



Tommy Richardson '92 was named Coach of the Year by All Arkansas Preps. Tommy coaches baseball for Woodlawn.



Allen Gum '93 retired from UCA as the winningest coach in UCA baseball history. After 11 years, he retires with 310 victories. He amassed 536 victories through his coaching career at SAU and UCA.



Veronda Tatum '93 '01 was named the new Dean of Enrollment Management at South Arkansas Community College. This new division will include Admissions, Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, Veteran Affairs, and the CARES Support office.



Terri Orr '94 was awarded the Ambassador of the Year Award. Terri teaches and sponsors the cheerleaders at North Webster High School in Springhill, La.



Christy Ouei '96 opened a second MuleKick location in El Dorado at the Murphy Arts District, MuleKick @ MAD in late September 2021.



Jennifer Palmer '96 celebrated 25 years at Magnolia Regional Medical Center as a Registered Nurse. In addition to her duties as Director of the Emergency Department, she also

serves as coordinator for the MRMCTrauma Program and Arkansas Saves Program.



Mindy West '96 was named the newest member of the SHARE Foundation Board of Directors. West is the current Executive Vice President of fuels, Chief Financial Officer, and

Treasurer for Murphy USA in El Dorado.



Jennifer Pierce '98, Trusts and Estates lawyer for Mitchell Williams Law Firm, is one of 42 lawyers included in the 2022 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America -

the oldest and most respected peer-review publication in the legal profession. Pierce currently serves as chair of the SAU Foundation Board of Governors.

2000-2009



Jay Click '00 graduated from Mid-South Basic Economic Development Course (MSBEDC).



Chris Ezell '00 '03 was selected as the 2020-21 All Arkansas Preps Golf Coach of the Year. His boys and girls golf teams won the 5A Golf State Championships. Ezell recently completed

his eighteenth year at El Dorado High school.



Traci Hughes '00 started a new position as the Office Manager for the Majestic Baseball Field Complex in Hot Springs.



Heath Miller '00 was presented with the 2021 Arkansas ALE Administrator of the Year Award for his exemplary contributions and support to Alternative Education at Lake Hamilton and

through Arkansas.



Chris Starkey '00 was named the Head Softball Coach at Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Mo.



Steve Browning '01 was named the new chair for the Great American Conference Council of Athletic Administrators.



Donnell Hegler '01 was appointed by Governor Asa Hutchinson to the Arkansas Coalition of Juvenile Justice.



Peter Klucar '01 completed his medical residency at LSU Oshner Hospital in Shreveport, La.



Gary Steelman '01 was named Principal at Smackover Elementary School. Gary has 17 years of experience in public education, including 13 years in administrative positions.



Cody Cranford '02 was named Assistant Principal for Norphlet Middle School. Cody has spent the past 19 years coaching.



Brian Arnold '03 was named the Smackover-Norphlet School District's Director of Technology. He has worked in the technology field for more than 20 years, from

Murphy USA to Systems Analyst at Teris, LLC. For the past 15 years, he has worked as the Network Administrator for the Magnolia Public School District.



Stasha King Irby '03 was hired as the Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau's destination services manager.



Courtney Ray McHenry '03 was named the new Taylor High School Head Softball Coach.



Jordan Babineaux '04 was recently featured in the podcast, *Hey, Where'd You Go?* The podcast is a showcase of Jordan's high school days, a recap of

his Mulerider football days, transitioning away from football, his new book, and more.



Bryan Biley '04 was promoted to the rank of Fire Captain by the Little Rock Fire Department.



Jake Vandenberg '04 recently wrote Sunday School literature published this quarter by the Baptist Publishing House in the Fall 2021 Learner Baptist Expositor. He is the Pastor of the Walnut Road Baptist Church in Springhill, La.



Jimmy '04 and Julie Walker '04 recently purchased Marlar's Cafeteria in Magnolia.



Jessica Yarbrough '04 '21 earned her MBA at SAU. She earned her Juris Doctor degree, passed the bar exam in two states, and has practiced law for 14 years. Even after so much accomplishment, she decided to return to SAU's MBA program to master the business and economics courses that once intimidated her as an undergrad.



Whitney Matthews Gass '05, current faculty member at SAU, completed her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She was promoted to Associate

Professor during spring 2021.



Todd Marshall '05 was named the new Director of CTE & STEM Education for the Texarkana Independent School District.



Brigette Biley-Olatunji '05 was named a regional finalist for the 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year by the Arkansas Department of Education.



Richard Reeves '05 '06 was announced as the new Senior Administrative Services Director for UAMS at the Magnolia and El Dorado campuses.



Jessica Talley '07 was recently named a regional finalist for the 2022 Arkansas Teacher of the Year by the Arkansas Department of Education and received the Bessie B. Moore Award, an honor bestowed upon exemplary teachers for successfully developing outstanding economic and personal finance classroom projects.



John Ward '07, superintendent of the Magnolia School District, was recently presented with the 2022 Arkansas Superintendent of the Year Award.



Dr. Tara Almand '08 '10 was recently honored for Excellence in Teaching from SAU's College of Science and Engineering.



Justin Morris '08 was recently promoted to District Manager for Airgas, covering Central Arkansas.



Britnee Weaver-Yates '08 was hired as the new director of Central Baptist Church Wee Care, a child care center in Magnolia.



Jack Crowley '09 started a new position as Director of Services and Delivery at Virtustream.



Stephen Pennington '09 '10 was elected to serve a second term as President of the Arkansas Nurses Association (ARNA). In 2019, Pennington made history in the organization when he was elected as

ARNA's first male president.

2010-2019



Whitney R. Adams '10 started a new job as the High School Counselor for Atlanta ISD.



Caitlin Pennington '10 was promoted to Senior Corporate Recruiter at Garver. She previously served four years as a Corporate Recruiter.



Rachel '12 '15 and John Michael Bearden '12 '15 received the Excellence in Agriculture Award from Arkansas Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers.



Tommy Clark '12 '14 '17 started a position as Professor of Business and Supply Chain Management at Southeast Arkansas College.



Michael C. Davis '12 '14 accepted a position as Junior System Administrator for Silver Creek Materials in Fort Worth, Tx.

**Chase Helm '12**

accepted a position at Southern Medical Group and will be treating patients of all ages. Dr. Helm joins fellow Mulerider providers Dr. Matt Barnett, Dr.

Rodney Griffin, Andi Spurling, APN, and Shawntel Price, APN.

**Ledly Jennings '12**

was hired as Attorney at Stan Miller Law Group in Little Rock, where he focuses on estate planning, business and tax planning, probate and trust administration, and incorporating various strategies to preserve family legacies. Ledly currently serves as the vice-chair for the SAU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**Christopher B. Phillips '12**

accepted a new teaching and coaching position at Mt. Vernon-Enola School District.

**James '13 and Ashton Dixon '18**

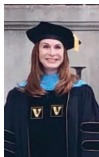
received the Achievement Award from Arkansas Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers.

**TC French '13 '17**

was hired as head girls basketball coach and history teacher at Emerson High School.

**Alisha Goodner '13 '21**

accepted a fifth-grade science teaching position at Magnolia Central Elementary.

**Dr. Beth Anne Rankin '13**

earned her Doctorate of Education in Leadership and Learning in Organizations from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College of Education. Dr. Rankin has also been appointed to the Arkansas Board of Education.

**Shelbi Sloan '13**

opened a new business, Sloan Aesthetics, in Phoenix, Az. Sloan Aesthetics was recently named to the 2021 Top 25 Hottest + New Med Spas in Arizona.

**Kaylee Wise '13**

accepted a position as Manager, Email Marketing and Strategy for the world-renowned Carnegie Hall in New York City.

**David C. Bailey '14**

started a new position as Cloud and Cognitive Sales Specialist with IBM.

**Hannah Barnett '14**

was promoted to Graduation Coordinator at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, La.

**Marcia Brigham '14**

was awarded the southwest region 2021 Junior High Counselor of the Year by the Arkansas School Counselor's Association.

**Dave A. Carter '14**

was selected as 2020-21 Bauxite Middle School Teacher of the Year.

**John '09 and Sara Crangle '14**

were among two couples named as finalists for the 2021 Excellence in Agriculture Award.

**Levi Ellison '14**

was promoted to manager at the Walgreens in Mena and now serves as the Pharmacist in Charge.

**Sarah Madelyn Jones '14 '16**

started a new position as the Director of Employer Relations for the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas.

Sarah was selected as the 4-Year College/University Representative for the Arkansas Association of Colleges and Employers 2021-22 Board of Directors.

**Schuyler Murph '14**

was promoted to Production Supervisor at Delek US Holdings.

**Jacob Pumphrey '14 '17**

was promoted to Assistant Director of Athletics for Communications at SAU.

**Jennie Sanders '14 '18**

was hired as the Head Softball Coach and Middle School Teacher for Genoa Central.

**LaDonna Young APRN '14**

serves as a medical provider bringing 7 years' experience to River Life Health.

**Lindsey Baker '15**

began teaching history at Summit Schools in Richmond, Cal. She also wrote a book with her father, Joey Baker '77, entitled *Baker's Dirty Dozen: Principles for Financial Independence*.

**Jeff Burson '15 '17**

was named the head baseball coach at El Dorado High School. He served as the pitching coach for the University of Arkansas at Rich Mountain; before Rich Mountain, he led the Smackover Buckaroos.

**Jessica L. Hickman '15 '18**

began a new career with the Arkansas Department of Education as the State Coordinator for the McKinney Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Law.

Jessica is currently within her last year of pursuing her doctoral degree from Grand Canyon University.

**Shelby L. Sanders '15**

was recently board certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner and is now practicing at Interfaith Clinic in El Dorado, Ark.

**Shelby N. Weldon '15**

graduated with her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from the University of Central Arkansas. Shelby has accepted a position at Baptist Health Center.

**Robert Ellis '16**

started a new position as a Career Counselor for the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas. He was also recently voted President-Elect of the Arkansas Association of Colleges & Employers and will lead the organization as president in the next term.

**Gregory Hall '16**

accepted a position as the Media Partnerships Manager at Sam's Club.

**Darian Harris '16**

was named the Sweeny High School Head Softball Coach.

**Shatavia Hill '16**

accepted a federal position with the Department of Labor as a Workers' Compensation Claims Examiner.

**Devan Walker '16**

became a Family Nurse Practitioner at Homer Medical Clinic at Claiborne Memorial Medical Center in Louisiana.

**Brandon D. Watson '16**

recently graduated from the University of Arkansas at Monticello with a forestry degree. Following graduation, he successfully passed the Arkansas Board of

Registration for Foresters. Brandon started his own company, Watson Timber & Forestry Co, LLC.

**Chet Green '17**

started a new position as Greek Life Coordinator at SAU. He also serves as Asst. Resident Director for the University Housing team.

**Kelsey D. Jackson '17 '20**

accepted a position at South Arkansas Community College as Director of the TRIO program Upward Bound. Jackson becomes the youngest woman to ever serve since the program first began.

**Keehly Key '17 '20**

started a new position as Associate Accountant at Murphy USA in El Dorado.

**Texas Long '17**

was chosen as Avery Elementary 2021 Teacher of the Year.

**Will R. Mcgee '17**

accepted the position of Youth and Worship Pastor at First Baptist Church in Springhill, La.

**Kayla O'Neal '17**

earned her MFA from Louisiana Tech University in May 2021.

**Madison Peppers '17**

accepted a new position as Logistics Load Manager with Walmart Home Office.

**Caleigh Watlington '17 '19**

was promoted to Loan Officer for Farm Credit of Western Arkansas. She serves Columbia, Union, Ouachita, and Calhoun counties.

**Ethan Edwards '18**

graduated from South Texas College of Law. Ethan studied Criminal Justice during his time at SAU.

**Kaylee Franks '18**

started a new position as the Logistics Coordinator at Total Quality Logistics (TQL).

**Chenier Gardner '18**

created and designed NBA star Trae Young's personal logo. The logo will be featured on Trae Young's apparel and shoes.



Ashton Glascock '18 started a new position as a Speech-Language Pathologist at Kenny Rogers Children's Center.



Melissa Ludwig '18 accepted a position as the Membership and Marketing Manager at Mystic Creek Golf Club in El Dorado.



Claire McMaster '18 started a new position as an Occupational Therapist at Oschner Medical Center.



Kayla Saviers '18, current SAU MBA student, recently accepted a position as a Social Media Manager at Vival in Denver, Colorado.



Taijee Bunch '19 made his professional debut as a Director of the play, Clue, at TheStudio! While at SAU, he became the first black student to ever write, produce, and direct his own work!



Kelsie Collatt '19 '21 accepted a position as a Temp Controlled Carrier Sales Rep at Priority1, Inc. in Little Rock.



Bailey Darnell '19 graduated from the University of Arkansas Fayetteville with a Master's of Science in Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science.



Taylor Finley '19 started a new position as QA Warranty Specialist at Toyota Material Handling in Indiana.



Larry Joe Green '19 '21 was hired as an Ag Teacher at Blevins School District.



Jay'Len Gulley '19 started her teaching career at W.J. Clinton Primary School in Hope, AR as a first-grade teacher.



Marissa Johnston '19 graduated from the UAMS College of Pharmacy.

Ashleigh Cat Jones '19 was hired as the Yerger Junior High School Art teacher in Hope, Ark.



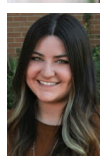
Kaitlin Kitchens '19 '21 was promoted to Vice President and Assistant Branch Manager of First State Bank of Dierks.



Clay Lavigne '19 accepted a position as Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach at the University of Sioux Falls.



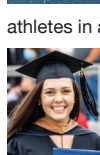
Kelsie Madison '19 started a new position with Murphy Arts District as the Hosted Events Manager.



Kaitlyn Odom '19 '21 started a new position as a Rocket Admissions Recruiter for Southern Arkansas University Tech.



Keeton Tennison '19 opened Ten-10 Training in Harrison. Ten-10 is rooted in science and backed by results. The team now operates out of NWAR training professional, collegiate, and youth athletes in a 25,000 square foot facility.



Madison Travis '19 '21 started a new position as a Crop Insurance Servicing Agent for Rabo AgriFinance in Jonesboro, AR.



Ashlyn Ussery '19 started a new job at UofA Northeast Rice Research and Extension Center as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Instructor.

2020-2022



Bryce Brooks '20 started a new position as a Field Sales and Marketing Representative at Techtronic Industries (TTI).



Ali Brumley '20 '21 started a new position as a Financial Analyst with Nexans AmerCable.



Chelsea Cook '20 became an Administrative Specialist with the Missouri Department of Conservation. She completed her M.S. in Wildlife Conservation and Management at Unity College in Maine.



Jamia Evans '20 was hired as the Social Media Specialist for the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau.



Andrew Graydon '20 accepted the position of Student Engagement Coordinator for Student Activities at SAU. Andrew also serves as Residence Hall Director of Talbot Hall.



Abbie Guin '20 accepted a position as a Claims Adjuster with Farm Bureau in Little Rock.



Tyler Linton '20 accepted a kindergarten teaching position at Harmony Grove Elementary in Camden, Ark.



Robert T. Martin '20 started a new position as Associate Procurement Analyst at Aerojet Rocketdyne in Camden.



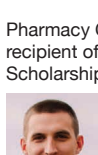
Sydney Parham '20 accepted a new position as Law Clerk with Reece Moore Pendergraft Law Firm in Springdale.



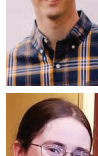
Connie Riley '20 was named President-elect to the Arkansas Association of Financial Aid Administrators during their fall conference.



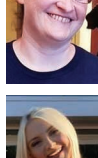
Micheala Roden '20 was elected the 2021-22 Vice President of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists Patient Care for Harding University's College of Pharmacy Chapter. She is also the recipient of the Joey Baker Emerson Scholarship Award.



Hunter Southerland '20 was hired as the Head Boys and Girls Basketball Coach for Taylor High School.



Ashley Stewart '20 will attend the Edward Via School of Osteopathy in Monroe, La. beginning this fall.



Allison Theonnes '20 started a new position as the Coordinator of Sales and Service for the Athletic Department at the University of Arkansas.



Courtney Williams '20 started a new position as the Head Coach of the junior high girls basketball team at Magnolia Public Schools.



Kimberley G. Baker '21 started a new job as Ag Teacher and FFA Advisor at Fouke School District.



Je'Len Berry '21 started a new position as the Alumni Relations Engagement Coordinator at SAU.



Hunter Karl Bryant '21 accepted a position as the Communication Specialist at SAU.



Heather Cox '21 started a new position as the District Flex Administrator with Arkansas Virtual Academy.



Sarah Deaton Lindsey '21 started a position as a Seventh and Eighth-grade teacher at Taylor High School.



Katy Dickerson '21 was hired as a Kindergarten teacher at Fairview Elementary School.



Hadley Fields '21 began his career as an Ag Teacher with the Rural Special School District in Arkansas.



T.C. Graham '21 was accepted into the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. He began medical school in August 2021.



Lauren Hall '21 accepted a new position as a Coordinator at the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, FL.



Tristen Jones '21 started a new position as Career Coach at Arkansas High School.



Cait Light '21 accepted a position as a kindergarten teacher at Eastside Elementary School in Magnolia.



Isaac Minton '21 was hired as the new Jr. Boys Basketball Coach and Assistant Baseball Coach at Mena Public Schools.



Cameron Nichols '21 was accepted into the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. She began medical school in August 2021.



Thomas Price '21 was hired as the new softball coach and seventh and eighth-grade math teacher at Emerson High School.



Katherine Pletcher '21 was accepted into the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. She began medical school in August 2021.



Kayla Ratcliff '21 accepted a position as the new Ag Teacher at Hawkins High School in Hawkins, Texas.



Jesse Tompkins '21 was accepted into the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. He began medical school in August 2021.



Alex Whaley '21 started a new job as Jr. High Volleyball Coach, Assistant High School Softball Coach, and teaching in the SPEED Department at Magnolia

Public Schools.

Weddings



Justin '17 and Emily (Harrell) Blann were married on July 18, 2021.



Dedrick '14 and Shavonica (Wilson) Box were married on September 25, 2021.



Elliott and Haley (Herring) Courson '15 were married on August 15, 2021.



Jared '15 and Lluvia (Martinez Adame) Garrett '17 were married on October 3, 2020.



Trey '17 and Chassity Geer were married on October 2, 2021.



D. and Jay'Len (Johnson) Gulley '19 were married on September 16, 2021.



Clint and Amy (Freedman) Hanna '95 were married on October 23, 2021.



Seth and Sadie (Oliver) Hennings '15 were married on November 13, 2021.



Clarke '19 and Madi (Chitwood) Henson '20 were married on October 23, 2021.



Tyler '11 and Lilly (Giles) Herring '19 were married on June 26, 2021.



Reed and Elizabeth (McCrary) Holloway '20 were married on July 31, 2021.



Ledly '12 and Bethany (Hutchins) Jennings were married on October 2, 2021.



Chance and Cami (Blakney) Johnson '13 were married on August 21, 2021.



Cole and Mollie (Watlington) McRae '16 were married on October 31, 2021.



Payton '14 and Caitlyn (Powell) McDonald '15 were married on September 18, 2021.



Caleb '21 and Jordyn (Lemons) McVay '20 were married on June 11, 2021.



Chase '19 and Lauren (Riemar) Morgan '11 were married on September 18, 2021.



Andrew '22 and Kaitlyn (Walthall) Oliu '09 '14 were married on October 15, 2021.



Brian and Shelley (Keith) Panulla '11 were married on September 4, 2021.



James and Tiffany (Brzozkiewicz) Price '16 were married on October 30, 2021.



Jacob '18 and Haley (Mullin) Richardson '20 were married on August 7, 2021.



Cody '15 and Topia (Addy) Sullivan '18 were married on June 4, 2021.



Mike and Toni (Hines) Taylor '16 were married on July 17, 2021.



David '21 and Karly (Riddick) TerBurgh '21 were married on June 26, 2021.



Tanner '20 and Alexandra (Walthall) Vaught '14 '15 were married on June 14, 2021.

Little Muleriders®



Aaron and Megan (Klippert) Bruce '17 announce the birth of their daughter, Naomi Kay Bruce, born on August 27, 2021. She weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.



Colton '14 and Presley (Pennington) Capps '14 announce the birth of their son, Colter James Capps, born on October 11, 2021. He weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. and was 20.5 inches long.



Brady '14 and Janae (Mosbey) Capshaw '16 announce the birth of their daughter, Sutton Every Capshaw, born on September 26, 2021. She weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz. and was 18.5 inches long.



Kevin '16 and Cheyenne (Anderson) Harris '17 announce the birth of their son, Kamp Michael Harris, born on August 2, 2021. He weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 22 inches long.



Jacob '10 and Brittany (Horten) Hooper '11 announce the birth of their daughter, Amelia Claire Hooper, born on June 16, 2021. She weighed 7 lbs. 3.2 oz. and was 21 inches long.



Michael '13 and Mallory (Wooten) Kornegay '14 announce the birth of their son, Malachi James Kornegay, born on September 7, 2021. He weighed 9 lb. and was 21.5 inches long.



Travis and Allison (Edwards) Phillips '19 announce the birth of their daughter, Laikyn Michelle Phillips, born on August 6, 2021. She weighed 7 lbs. 12.5 oz. and was 18 inches long.



Mitchell '17 and Taylor (Wyssbrod) Rowland announce the birth of their son, Tate Crawford Rowland, born on August 31, 2021. He weighed 9 lbs. 1 oz. and was 22.5 inches long.



Garrett '17 and Cassidy (Oglesby) Russell '19 announce the birth of their daughter, Hadley Grace Russell, born on September 20, 2021. She weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. and was 20 inches long.



Zachary and Meredith Taylor '21 announce the birth of their daughter, Georgia Renee Taylor, born on May 13, 2021. She weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.



Alan '15 and Lauren (Taylor) Tyson '14 announce the birth of their daughter, Adlee May Tyson, born on March 17, 2021. She weighed 7 lbs. 15.5 oz. and was 20 inches long.



Jordan '15 and Shelly (Glass) Wright '16 announce the birth of their daughter, Maggie Beth Wright, born on September 22, 2021. She weighed 7 lbs. 14.4 oz. and was 20" long. She is the grandchild to Wayne '85 and JoBeth (Fincher) Glass '85.

In Memory of

1940-1949

Dr. Herbert Rogers '42
April 18, 2021

Leta Rhodes Serio '43
August 2, 2021

Corinne Sanders Vetrano '43
September 30, 2021

Nada Knighton Clement '46
June 10, 2021

Roy Maurice Rogers '47
August 6, 2021

Julius Walter Elmore '48
July 15, 2021

Dr. Rufus Haynes '48
September 13, 2021

Bobby Dean Cross '49
October 15, 2021

1950-1959

Lois Gene Russell '50
June 27, 2021

Lenora Crow Glasscock '51
October 7, 2021

Charles Martin Kennedy '51
October 25, 2021

Jesse Dean Cowling '54
October 19, 2021

Harry "Spec" Smith '54
July 3, 2021

James Edward Cottingham '55
October 19, 2021

Betty Hildebrand Henry '55
August 31, 2021

Jimmy Clyde Cheatham '56
August 4, 2021

William Harold Hardin '56
July 30, 2021

Maurice Hendrix '56
June 19, 2021

Billy Parker Robinson '56
June 24, 2021

Frances Lucille Scott '56
July 13, 2021

Mary "Fran" Frances Burgess '57
June 8, 2021

Wayne G. Hamilton '57
October 29, 2021

Murrah Griffin Pickler '57
August 2, 2021

Gary Landon Corley '58

November 7, 2021

Lt. Col. Norton "Mac" W. Craig '58
August 2, 2021

Norman Douglas Gilbey '58
September 10, 2021

Donald Ray Henderson '58
April 14, 2021

Don Leslie Moore '58
August 12, 2021

Peggy Dismukes Rhoads '58
August 17, 2021

John Edward Crumpler '59
July 11, 2021

Marcia Crumpler Lebo '59
August 27, 2021

Charles Franklin Sellers '59
August 19, 2021

1960-1969

Margaret Ruth Alphin '60
June 20, 2021

James William Locke '60
October 22, 2021

Joe Thomas Stricklin '60
September 4, 2021

Glenda Holly Foreman '61
August 6, 2021

Gordon Lee Dunahoe '62
August 25, 2021

Harris Humphreys '62
August 13, 2021

Dr. Larry Winford McNeal '62
June 17, 2021

Meredith Ann Turk '62
June 10, 2021

Bernard Kuykendall '63
November 12, 2021

James Browning Lair '63
November 13, 2020

Emma Bagent Slack '63
October 1, 2021

Hershel Hawthorne '65
November 12, 2021

Claude Monta Walters, Jr. '65
October 10, 2021

Rev. Charles Olson Walthall '65
May 20, 2021

Ronald "Ronnie" Noel Jones '66
June 19, 2021

William Clifton Keith, Jr. '66
August 26, 2021

Sharon Edwards Bowles '67
August 7, 2021

Jane Wise Talley '67
September 9, 2021

Karen Rae Dendy '68
May 26, 2021

James Carney Fouse '68
October 29, 2021

David N Hipp '68
May 24, 2021

Lindell Gregory Buchanan '69
September 22, 2021

Noweeta Waldon Joyner '69

September 10, 2021

John David McWilliams '69
November 4, 2021

1970-1979

Lawana Sue Long '70
August 8, 2021

John Frank Scott '70
October 19, 2021

Robert C. Short '70
August 3, 2021

Kenneth Ray Hargis '71
July 22, 2021

Robert (Bob) William Lewis '71
October 8, 2021

Lamar Franklin Moore '71
November 15, 2021

Bart Reed '71
November 2, 2021

Preston Leon Hines '72
May 7, 2021

Lynda Price Keys '72
September 23, 2021

Lanelle Atkinson Purdy '72
April 25, 2021

Ricky Wendell Smith '72
November 14, 2021

Wyndal Ira Minton '73
August 28, 2021

Richard G. Edwards '74
September 26, 2021

Norma Janette McBride '74
August 5, 2021

Danny W. Ellis '75
May 25, 2021

Dorothy Bingham Shemwell '75
October 19, 2021

Ted A Souter '75
May 20, 2021

Kathia Jackson Warren '75
July 26, 2021

Cindy Cheatham Albritton '77
October 25, 2021

Mary Ellen Haefner '77
July 18, 2021

Sharon LaBelle Stanley '77
August 13, 2021

Dr. Timothy Graves Boreing '78
August 16, 2021

Dennis Morgan '78
October 23, 2021

Kay Works '78
October 10, 2021

Johnnie Land '79
November 15, 2021

1980-1989

Mitzi Lyn Garlington '80
May 4, 2021

Bonnie Williamson Landry '80
August 22, 2021

David Morgan '80
June 21, 2021

Marjorie Murphy '80
June 26, 2021

Harold L. Bennett '81

October 24, 2021

Dawn Elizabeth Dobson '81
October 28, 2021

Sharyn Thorne Stanley '81
August 13, 2021

Mary Lynn Clingan '82
July 28, 2021

Linda Fay Ford '82
May 18, 2021

Jana Lynne Hazelwood '82
July 5, 2021

Letitia D. Rusch '83
May 26, 2021

Gary Cowling '84
September 6, 2021

Donald Cicero Smith, Jr. '84
September 7, 2021

Jerry Lynn Jones '86
April 6, 2021

Robert "Bob" Cleve Newton '87
June 23, 2021

1990-1999

Amy Hudnall Tucker '93
October 14, 2021

Linda Joyce Robinson '94
June 26, 2021

Eric Clark Stone '94
July 9, 2021

Billie Denise Cameron '95
September 7, 2021

2000-2009

John "Andrew" Wilson '01
April 20, 2021

Stephone Avery, Sr. '03
October 25, 2021

Corey Alonzo Kimbrough '05
October 27, 2021

Tiffany Triplet Mendenhall '05
July 17, 2021

Brandon Hogg '09
May 19, 2021

2010-2019

Shelia Sherman Blake '13
September 12, 2021

Staff, Faculty, Students & Friends

Letha "Lee" Brown Davis
September 15, 2021

Nada Bright Cearley
November 18, 2021

Dorothy "DJ" Jeanne Fincher
June 15, 2021

James Allen Gilbert
October 8, 2021

Irene Rowe Harris
August 28, 2021

Austin Nathaniel Holiman
December 19, 2021

Peggy Ann Maloch
June 16, 2021

Hunter Allen Thompson
September 11, 2021

Janelle Sigsby Viertel
August 9, 2021





Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

May 5, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Reynolds Center, Grand Hall

For ticket information, visit www.sau alumni.com/alumnidinner.

SAU BOARD PROFILES



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Pictured left side, top to bottom: Mason Cozart '83, Debbie Arnold '85, Jason Sullivan '95, Edelman Simes '71, Julia Laney-Machen, Allison Schultz '85; pictured, right side, top to bottom: John Dews '77, Travis Buchanan '78, Orlando Todd '80, Steve Card '83, Monty Harrington '93, Tim Daniels '77, Jennifer Pierce '92, and Patsy Taylor '71. Not pictured: Cory Childs '95, John Dumas '79, Iverson Jackson '86, Jerry Mayfield '70, Evan McCrary '13, Joe Pieratt '92, and Stephen Weaver '93.



FOUNDATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The SAU Foundation Board of Governors steward and support Southern Arkansas University's fundraising goals while serving as the governing body for SAU Foundation. They oversee the Foundation and its investments on behalf of donors and SAU.

These experienced leaders dedicate their time and talents to secure a strong future for SAU. Our board governors come from a variety of backgrounds, with one common thread: sincere dedication to the success of SAU. Members meet quarterly and are led by four officers and six committees, which include Audit, Development, Governance, Investment Management, Membership, and Scholarship.



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Pictured front-row, left to right: Jennifer Pierce '92, Chelsa King '14, Amy Freedman Hanna '95, Valerie Arnold '11, Dr. Jerry Thomas '93; second-row: Alan Garrett '08, Linda Barnes '72, Norma Smith '16, Beth Galway '84, ; third-row: Dr. John Hendricks '92, Karlene Hooker '78, Deborah Nipper '75, Hilton Stewart '62, Justin Morris '08; top row: Laura Winning '83, Roxanne Stewart '85, Elizabeth Myrick '10, Genese Lavalais '04, Sorronto Aubrey '01, Steve Joplin '95. Not pictured: Ledly Jennings '12, Drake Frisby '14, John Armour '89.



ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The SAU Alumni Association Board of Directors provides guidance to Office of Alumni Relations staff to strengthen the connection of Mulerider alumni, friends, and students by promoting pride, providing meaningful activities, and fostering increased engagement opportunities for life.

Their instrumental role is to provide counsel on the policies, guidelines, and by-laws under which the association operates. The board also focuses on alumni communications and marketing, benefits, events, strategic planning, and more. The board is comprised of a diverse set of volunteers who proudly represent the alumni they serve.



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