

# The Stater

A Magazine for the Alumni and Friends of Southern Arkansas University



DR. KATHLEEN MALLORY  
**A FOREVER  
EDUCATOR**

Story on pages 16-19

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Within the pages of this Stater you will read about current student accomplishments, academic programs, and future engagement opportunities. None of these would be possible without one vital component—people. People who dedicate their energy to investing in others. People who leave legacies.

We all leave legacies through the impact we have on our families. Our faculty and staff leave legacies through the impact they have on our students—whether advising, teaching, or maintaining facilities—students' lives are forever changed by our people. Our alumni and friends leave legacies by giving back to SAU with their time, talents, and resources. It is our distinct pleasure this fall to permanently honor the legacy of a true pioneer who dedicated her career to SAU, Dr. Kathleen Mallory.

Dr. Mallory left a legacy of perseverance that can be traced back to well before her career began at Southern State College (SSC) in 1974. During the 1950s when she could not continue her education beyond eighth grade in the one-room school house near Carlisle, AR, she entered boarding school. When the boarding school closed before her eleventh-grade year, she was forced to move out of state to finish her high school education and chose Piney Woods, Mississippi. She then returned to Arkansas to attend college, completed her bachelor's degree, immediately began work on her master's degree, and taught for several southwest Arkansas school districts. She began teaching English for SSC in 1974. She began a doctoral program with a full-time job and family to care for, earning her Ph.D. in 1983.

It has been noted, however, that Dr. Mallory's most well-known legacy is the generosity to the many students she taught and mentored at SAU. She was generous with her time, as she helped lead and develop student organizations, providing opportunities for minority students to build communities on campus. She was also generous with her home. Students who were homesick or needed extra encouragement found a true mentor in Dr. Mallory. Countless students, often four or five at a time, could be found sitting around her family dining table for an evening meal. Dr. Mallory left a legacy of going the extra mile to invest in students' lives and help them succeed. This fall, we will dedicate Mallory Hall as a lasting memorial to honor Dr. Mallory's legacy. Read more about this amazing educational pioneer in the pages that follow.

All the best,



Trey Berry, Ph.D.  
President



**HOMECOMING 2022**  
**OCTOBER 1, 2022**  
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September 1

SAU vs. Northwestern Oklahoma State Univ., Home Football Game

### September 21 - 22

SAU Giving Day

### September 24

Family Day, SAU vs. Henderson State Univ., Home Football Game

### October 1

HOMECOMING

- Mallory Hall Dedication
- SAU vs. East Central University, Home Football Game

### October 6 - 7

Fall Break

### October 21

Annual Murphy USA  
Mulerider Club Invitational

### October 22

SAU vs. Ouachita Baptist University,  
Murphy Classic in El Dorado, AR

### November 3 - 5

SAU Rodeo at Story Arena

### November 4

Rankin College of Business  
Hall of Fame

### November 5

SAU vs. Southern Nazarene  
University, Home Football Game

### November 10

Farmers Bank & Trust Distinguished  
Speaker Series

### December 1

Celebration of Lights

### December 9

Fall Commencement

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



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# The Stater

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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# A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE

## DISNEY INTERNSHIP OFFERS AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR LAIKEN NEWTON

by Rachel Jenkins

Laiken Newton never planned to spend the fall semester of her senior year driving massive trucks through the savanna. Navigating narrow roads through lion, cheetah and hyena habitats was not in her four-year degree plan as a musical theatre major at Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia. But, when the opportunity arose for Newton to join the Disney College Program, she had no idea she'd be assigned to the Kilimanjaro Safari Ride—and she could not have been happier. Like every Mulerider graduating in 2022, Newton is nothing if not resilient and adaptable, having learned to not only expect but to embrace the unexpected.

Newton first heard about the Disney College Program as a high school student in her hometown of Ashdown, Arkansas, and knew it was the perfect fit for a “Disney nerd” like herself. Having been to Disney World several times with her mom, Newton said, “I’ve always been obsessed with Disney. Disney World is my hub.”

Aiming to apply for the internship during her sophomore year at SAU, Newton watched the world shut down in 2020, including her beloved Disney World and the college program she was eager to join. Believing her dream of working at Disney had slipped through her fingers, Newton was determined to take advantage of every opportunity SAU offered, including performing in theatre productions, joining the President’s Ambassadors and running for homecoming court.

Meanwhile, businesses and entertainment parks across the country began reopening in 2021. It was during this time that the Disney College Program announced they were accepting applications, but the process was different than Newton anticipated.

According to the website for Disney Careers, the program is an immersive, semester-long internship aimed at “providing uniquely Disney learning experiences.” Newton did not know where she'd be matched. With positions in operations, lodging, recreation, sales, entertainment and food service, Newton realized that she may spend her semester behind a desk or refilling water glasses in one of Disney’s many restaurants.

“There were no phone interviews. No preferences page. You are only going to be a cast member,” she said. The process was expedited and left no opening for the performer roles she wanted. With an open

mind, Newton submitted her application.

One month later, she received her acceptance into the program. “It was the longest month of my life,” Newton said. “I was on my way home to Ashdown when I got the email. I called my mom sobbing.” But, Newton also needed help. Her position was listed simply: KSR.

After a quick search on the parent portal, Newton’s mom informed Laiken that she had been assigned to Magic Kingdom, providing tours on the Kilimanjaro Safari Ride.

“I immediately called Amanda [Anderson] and Makenzie [Hamilton] in the President’s Ambassadors’ office to tell them that I attributed getting the job I got to being a President’s Ambassador for the school.” As a President’s Ambassador, Newton could be seen regularly driving families all over campus providing tours to prospective students.

But trading in her golf cart for a 36-seat truck? “It was a lot.”

Anderson and Hamilton had no doubt that Newton was prepared for the savanna. “I feel like serving as a President’s Ambassador at SAU strengthens your people skills, communication skills, and ability to monitor and adjust at the last minute,” Anderson, Director of Enrollment Relations, said of the role.

As a student of theatre, Newton also credits SAU for her ability to memorize facts about the more than 50 animals roaming the park. Establishing rapport with guests came naturally to Newton, who loved sneaking in jokes whenever she could. “Elephants actually flap their ears to keep them cool,” she said. “It’s excellent ear-conditioning.”

“It was the most nerve-wracking but also exciting experience. I left my family for five months, but I literally lived on Disney World property. I could see the fireworks from my back porch at night.” Though far from home, Newton stayed in contact with Dr. Katherine Berry, Anderson, Hamilton, and her family. “I had a lot of good supporters looking out for me.”

When asked what’s next, Newton took her time, staring beyond the camera with a soft smile. “I’m not sure, but I’m not stressed,” she said, which comes as no surprise. Having auditioned for several theatre companies with call-backs lined up, Newton has options. “I might go back to Disney and enjoy it as a guest!”



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY LAIKEN NEWTON

# FACULTY AND STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## FACULTY - JAPHET MAKIA

JAPHET MAKIA joined the SAU faculty in 1990 as an instructor of writing, a position he continues to fill with distinction as a teacher of both transitional and general education courses in composition and world literature for the Department of Modern Languages. Originally from Nigeria, he earned his Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature from University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and his Master of Arts in English Literature from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. During his time at SAU, he has received many commendations, including the Robert Walz Faculty Teaching Award in 2005, the Spirit of SAU Award in 2016, and the Mary Armwood Faculty Diversity Excellence Award in 2019. All who have worked closely with Mr. Makia over the years are aware of his inspired commitment to writing and teaching and of his fundamental kindness and decency. His students realize this as well, and this is reflected in the fact that his classes are often the first ones to fill when registration opens every semester. Very few individuals have had the opportunity to affect the lives of so many students in not only the content of the course being taught but also what it takes to be a good and successful individual in life after SAU.



## STAFF - ANNE SANDS

ANNE SANDS graduated from SAU with a BBA in 2004 and immediately began working as an SAU staff member. In fact, her first day of work as the assistant director of Reynolds Center was immediately following her commencement ceremony. Throughout Anne's time as a staff member at SAU, she has held the positions of assistant director of Reynolds Center, director of Reynolds Center, financial aid advisor, assistant director of financial aid, and she now holds the title of director of career services. Anne is also the coordinator of Mulerider Kids College and teaches Freshman Seminar and Career and Life Planning. In 2019, she furthered her education at SAU while still a full-time staff member and graduated with an M.Ed. in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education.

"I love being a part of the SAU Community," Anne shared. "As a student, the campus and town of Magnolia instantly became my home. The relationships I developed with the staff and faculty as a student are why I am still here today. They have always treated me like family, and that is something that can be hard to find. We have a unique culture on this campus that I don't think you can find anywhere else. I want to do my part to contribute to that caring culture. Through all parts of my job, the most important aspect to me is that I am helping others. I hope to help make this campus feel like home as others have done for me."

## DR. LANGERBEIN

by Dan Marsh



Dr. Helmut Langerbein

Dr. Helmut Langerbein served as dean of the College of Liberal and Performing Arts at SAU since July 2013. This fall, he will return to teaching full-time, with Dr. Deborah Wilson, chair of Behavioral and Social Sciences, taking over duties as interim dean.

Langerbein received his Ph.D. in History with specializations in Nazi Germany, Modern Europe, World History, and Political Science from the University of California Santa Cruz. He then served nearly 10 years as an assistant and associate professor, and

later as History Department chair, at the University of Texas at Brownsville (now UT Rio Grande Valley).

“One of the attractions of the position at SAU was that I would teach one course each semester,” said Langerbein. “Teaching mostly world history and an occasional special topics class on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust allowed me to practice my craft, stay in touch with our students, and experience what faculty members see in the classroom.”

He is most proud that the faculty and staff of the CoLPA “have always come together. For example, when they created cutting-edge degree programs, such as the BFA in Performing Arts with its different concentrations, the BFA track in Interactive Media and Marketing, and the BS in Cyber Criminology.”

He pointed to the response to COVID as another example of not only CoLPA but the University as a whole “completing a task that needed to be done.”

The most amazing part of his tenure, he said, was “seeing the University grow rapidly from 3,400 students to 4,700 students without losing the familiar, small university feeling.”

Although a declining number of students graduating from high school will have an impact on the College, Langerbein is confident his successors, with the support of the Administration, will “continue to demonstrate the relevance of the liberal and performing arts, and put the College in a position to face future challenges.”

## TREY TALLEY

by Dan Marsh



Trey Talley

Greater career flexibility and making an invaluable contribution to the battle against cybercrime are only two outcomes Trey Talley is able to utilize as SAU’s first Cyber Criminology graduate.

Talley, a graduate of El Dorado High School, was the first to receive his degree in the program. Careers in cyber criminology include investigator, information security analyst, and digital forensic analyst, which are just some of the areas in which Talley and future graduates in the program can work.

“It’s crucial that people analyze and address these crimes from a legal and technical standpoint to make the world safer,” Talley said. “I firmly believe this degree prepares people to do that.”

The major combines Computer Science and Criminal Justice courses. Dr. Elizabeth Gloyd, assistant professor of Criminal Justice and Cyber Criminology, said the Internet “has truly made the world a smaller place. There have been significant advancements in technology that have benefited everyone, but also created new opportunities for criminals to cause harm to others.”

Talley said the program’s mix of Cyber Security and Criminal Justice piqued his interest. “It details the human aspect to cybercrime, not the victims but the offenders,” he said, “and that pulled my attention.”

He described Cyber Criminology as the study of “how our current legal system handles cybercrimes, what makes certain groups more susceptible to cybercrime than others, and how you can use computers to investigate and defend against these crimes.”

Cyber Criminology at SAU incorporates the computer science skills needed to tackle this new issue affecting society. The major underscores the importance of understanding human behaviors and victimization as a means to prevent cybercrime.

Talley transferred to SAU from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He has the distinction of being the first person in his family to graduate from a four-year institution. He completed his degree in Spring 2022.



# DR. KIM BLOSS

by Rachel Jenkins

The sun is shining on the Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, campus. Dr. Kim Bloss has raised the blinds, framed photos and notes lining the window sills of her office in the Education building. Tidy piles of papers and research cover every other surface. As she contemplates her upcoming retirement, Dr. Bloss says with a chuckle, “I’ve been a pretty work-oriented person.”

When she joined the faculty at SAU in the summer of 1997, Dr. Bloss served as an associate professor of counselor education and chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction while her then-husband Dr. Dan Bernard was hired as the associate dean of Graduate Studies in the College of Education.

When Dr. Bernard passed in 2005, Dr. Bloss recalled numerous faculty members approaching her about taking up her late husband’s mantle for the Graduate School.

Having no prior interest in being an administrator, Dr. Bloss applied for the post with reservations. “I needed a change. It took some courage. But sometimes that gets you over a hump into a new beginning,” she says. With clear goals and three new master’s programs to implement, Dr. Bloss set out in those early days to make graduate school accessible, research-driven, and meaningful.

At the heart of Dr. Bloss’ mission for the graduate school was removing barriers. Under her leadership, SAU boasted the first fully-online master’s degree in the state of Arkansas, making an advanced degree possible for working students who couldn’t travel to campus. Additionally, SAU shortened degree plans, shifted more programs online, and strove to provide the same services as face-to-face learners.

“It took the whole campus to make that shift to online,” Bloss says,

crediting the Magale Library for its support of graduate research. “They have evolved with us as far as making sure our students have an adequate number of electronic databases (and references).”

“Her positive attitude and problem-solving mindset has transformed graduate studies over the years,” says Dr. Melody Mayo, assistant dean for Graduate Student Success.

Ever humble, Bloss gracefully redirects praise. “I had a team that made it happen. All those great program directors, Melody, and people that have worked in this office shared the vision about student service . . . and making SAU feel like home. Having everybody on that same page helped students decide to come here.”

Sixteen years and a Carnegie classification later, Bloss doesn’t regret taking the Graduate Studies helm. “I kind of followed in Dan’s footsteps. He’d be happy.”

What’s next for Dr. Bloss? “My husband Philip says on Sundays I put on Dr. Bloss, and he doesn’t see Kim again until sometime on Saturday.” She aims to change that by spending time with friends and family as well as focusing on areas of her life she admits to neglecting over the years.

“In 2023, we’re going to hike across Spain.” Pilgrims have hiked the Camino de Santiago for over one thousand years, and Bloss looks forward to finding herself among the relics and travelers. “I’ve been an educator for 40 years. I want to see what else is out there.” As they say in Spain, “Buen Camino!”

If you would like to honor Dr. Bloss, consider donating to the Dr. Kim Bloss College of Education and Human Performance Enrichment Endowment by visiting [www.saufoundation.org/make-a-gift](http://www.saufoundation.org/make-a-gift) or calling (870) 235-4078.



Dr. Kim Bloss





# SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE NEWS BRIEFS

## College of Education and Human Performance



Jamie Boyd

- Jamie Boyd, director of Admissions, Field Experience and Licensure, serves as a member-at-large on the executive board of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC). At the annual board meeting held in Boston, MA, in June, she was appointed to the national search committee for a new executive director of NASDTEC. Her duties on the committee will begin in August 2022.
- In May, a group of SAU Teacher Education students and professors traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland, and London, England, to learn more about the educational systems in each country. Both of these systems are ranked in the top 10 in the world. The group toured the Edinburgh Academy and a London primary school, where they observed classroom teaching, visited with administration, and ate lunch with students. They also participated in a guided tour of Cambridge University. In addition, they visited various historic sites and tourist attractions. Those attending were Katilynn Haney, Olivia Reeves, Morgan Seymore, Aaryn Avant, Kamrin Hooks, Marianna Sartain, Dr. Lisa Oden, and Dr. Angela Stanford. Special thanks are given to many SAU alumni donors, the SAU Foundation, and the College of Education and Human Performance for the additional support to make this educational trip possible.
- In June, Arien Faucett, assistant professor and program director of Sport Management, attended the United States Center for Coaching Excellence Annual Coaching Summit in Spokane, WA, with fellow coaching educators, coach developers, and leaders from national and international sporting organizations. While there, she presented a poster entitled, "An Examination of Organizational Influences on Coach Decision-Making." This project explored how high school sports coaches make various decisions while working within the confines of an organizational environment and how corporate stakeholders

influence coach decision-making. Her audience included leaders from the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and national and international coaching educators and scholars. Ms. Faucett was also invited to appear on a panel that discussed how graduate students are being prepared to transition into roles where they will develop practicing coaches. This panel was attended by national and international coach developers, educators, and leaders from various United States Olympic and Paralympic sport-specific organizations.

- Dr. Jessica Samples, assistant professor and director of the Masters of Special Education Program, was chosen to serve on the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Advanced Standards Workgroup (2022 - 2025). The CEC is the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving the success of children and youth with disabilities, gifts, and talents. The purpose of the workgroup is to revise the current CEC Advanced Standards. Being selected to serve on this national workgroup is truly an honor for Dr. Samples and an opportunity for Southern Arkansas University to be involved in such an important task.
- Matt Aiken, a human performance and sport sciences department student, was recently accepted into the doctor of physical therapy program at Arkansas State University. Matt was a valued member of the Mulerider Baseball team and excelled in and out of the classroom. He has gone above and beyond at SAU, leading and completing a research project under the guidance of Dr. Keith Pfannestiel. "The drive to continue his education makes Matt stand out as a star within our department," said Steve Dingman, chair of Human Performance and Sport Sciences.

## College of Liberal and Performing Arts

- SAU students participated in two Days of Service honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Engage AR provided funding for both events. SAU volunteer coordinator, Katie Heese, organized both Service Days. On January 17, SAU students demonstrated how they healed by painting meaningful canvases. Additionally, on January 17, Steven Ochs, chair of the Art and Design Department, supported and encouraged students, staff, and VISTA Fellows to participate in the program. Some participants donated their canvases to be displayed as a mural in the Magale Library. On January 28, the Days of Service continued at the Boys and Girls Club of Magnolia.

- The annual LPA award ceremony was held in April. Madelynne West, a theatre major, was named the College's Outstanding Student and will continue her studies at the University of Indiana in Bloomington. Mackenzie Downs, a political science major, received an award from the Department of History, Political Science, and Geography and has enrolled in the Texas A&M Law School in Fort Worth. Kel Vin Tee, a psychology major, received an award from the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences and will begin a position as a psychological counselor in California.



Lucia Ochoa

- SAU's Department of Modern Languages celebrated National Foreign Language Month in March. Lucia Ochoa, the coordinator of Bilingual Curriculum and Instruction at Texarkana Independent School District, spoke on bilingual education on March 9 at the Reynolds Center.
- SAU's Blue Trumpet Ensemble advanced to the live quarterfinal round at the National Trumpet Competition. The prestigious annual event occurred in March and April at the University of Delaware. David D. Torres, director of athletic bands and instructor of trumpet and horns, offered congratulations to these Mulerider musicians who recorded a video in early December and submitted an eight-minute performance to the national panel.



- SAU Theatre and MHS Theatre presented to the Magnolia community a joint production of "Guys and Dolls," the award-winning classic set under the bright lights of Broadway. Nightly performances were held in April at the new Magnolia Performing Arts Center at Magnolia High School.

- Mulerider Jonathan Mitchell presented his poster, Factors Contributing to Burn Out in College Students, at the Southwestern Psychological Association in Baton Rouge. This was a timely topic given experiences coping with the pandemic.

## Rankin College of Business

- Mike Preston, Arkansas Secretary of Commerce and Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, provided an update on the economic outlook for the state during the Business Advisory Council meeting in April.
- Members of the RCB faculty received Faculty Excellence Awards for 2021-2022. They included: Lindsay Givens, instructor of management, who received the Faculty Excellence Award for Advising; Megan Whitehead, instructor of finance, who received the Faculty Excellence Award for Service; Dr. Jennifer Logan, who received the Faculty Excellence Award for Research; and Dr. Caroline Chen, who received the Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching.



- The SOAR Sustainability Conference was held at SAU on April 20. Thanks to sponsors, presenters, and volunteers, the conference was a huge success, seeking to build a better tomorrow for South Arkansas. During the conference, three SOAR Stars were awarded. Abilities Unlimited received the Good Steward Leadership Award; Leadership Magnolia received the RCB Sustainability Award, and Katie Heese received the New Generations Impact Award.
- Let's Talk Careers, a podcast on the RCB website was hosted in the spring 2022 semester by accounting instructor NaTashia Riley and Business Student Advisory Council members. In each episode, a BSAC member interviews a Rankin College of Business faculty member or alum about their path to success, providing advice about job interviews and many other topics.
- Joanna Graham received the RCB Outstanding Graduate Student award for 2022. Jarius Curry received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student award for 2022. Other Outstanding Student Award recipients included Anna Grace Griffin, Accounting; Curry, Entrepreneurship; Molly Scriber, Finance; Ian Murphy, Information Systems; Rogio Medina, Management; Mallory Cain, Marketing; and Faith Lonigro, Supply Chain Management.

- Mike Dumas, Entrepreneur in Residence, visited with students and faculty on April 6 and 7. A maritime executive and chairman of Carbon Neutral Energy USA, Dumas is a strong supporter of the RCB and SAU, serving on the Business Advisory Council and the SAU Foundation Board. He spoke on Organizational Theory and Behavior, Management Strategy and Policy, and Entrepreneurial Finance.

- Several RCB finance students and faculty members visited New York City in April, touring the Financial District, Bloomberg, Merrill Lynch, JPMorgan, and Ellis Island in an unforgettable travel experience for Muleriders.
- Dasiah Williams, a senior majoring in Entrepreneurial Finance, has been chosen for the 2022 Tjuana Byrd Summer Internship Program, sponsored by the Women's Foundation of Arkansas.
- SAU Phi Beta Lambda won 27 awards at the State Leadership Conference in April. They qualified to represent Arkansas PBL at the National Leadership Conference in Chicago in June. Students competed on the state level in forensic accounting, client service, and website design, among other fields.



- The traditional Induction Ceremony for new RCB members was held on March 15. As students are inducted, their faculty advisors present them with a certificate and a unique pin symbolizing their membership in the Rankin College of Business.

## College of Science and Engineering

- SAU's College of Science and Engineering, in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), was awarded a \$1 million federal grant for the implementation of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention initiative to address health disparities among high-risk populations, including racial and ethnic minority populations and rural communities. The project, *Building a Diverse Workforce to Advance Health Equity*, includes a student training program allowing students to engage in activities focused on health equity in underserved communities.
- Dr. Kathryn Watson is new to the SAU biology faculty. She is an assistant professor

of Biology, leading the growing Wildlife and Conservation Biology program. Dr. Watson studies birds' breeding and movement behaviors, with a particular focus on raptorial species, such as hawks, falcons, and owls. "I am particularly interested in how predator populations and behaviors are impacted by changes to the food chain and the environment," she said.

- SAU's nursing department has obtained new equipment to give students the hands-on training they will encounter in real-life ICUs. Dr. Karen Landry, department chair, said the SAU Foundation provided funds to purchase the ASL 5000 breathing simulator, allowing students to run scenarios with patients breathing with ventilator assistance.

## School of Graduate Studies



Dr. Connie Wilson

- Dr. Connie Wilson has been promoted to dean of the School of Graduate Studies at Southern Arkansas University. Wilson said that in overseeing the office, she will work collaboratively with administration, deans, and the graduate program directors and faculty to "enhance the learning experiences for SAU graduate students." In addition, she will oversee the graduate admissions process, work with Dr. David Lanoue, provost and vice-president for Academic Affairs, and other deans on strategies for program development and marketing of current and future graduate programs, and chair the Graduate Council. "I look forward to serving SAU as the School of Graduate Studies dean," Wilson said. "SAU has innovative graduate programs that prepare students with advanced skills for their profession." Wilson received her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Louisiana Tech University in 2018 and her M.Ed. in Secondary Education from SAU in 2001. She received her B.S.E. in English Education from SAU in 1997. Since 2016, Wilson has served as associate professor of Education and director of the Educational Leadership in Administration and Supervision (EDAS) program. She has taught undergraduate, master's and doctoral-level courses and serves on the Ed.D. Leadership Team. Wilson also taught English in Bossier and Caddo Parish schools and previously worked at SAU as assistant dean of students and student success coordinator.

# around campus *and the community*

PHOTOS BY THOMAS TURNER



A dream that the residents of Magnolia never believed would happen! A former SAU student brought the famous Whataburger to town and the traffic is much livelier across the highway from Walmart!

1. On May 6, 2022, SAU honored over 500 graduates during the three commencement ceremonies that took place. Congratulations and good luck to our newest alumni! 2. Students came out to SAU's Mall Area and conquered the mechanical bull, had a blast swinging from the Alpine, got free custom T-shirts and road signs, yummy food, and a lot of puppy love! Spring Fling was a huge hit this year. 3. Magnolia's Downtown Square Park now has the perfect place to take a quick selfie while visiting this beloved, small town! 4. Our newest Miss SAU, Ansleigh Patrick, has represented SAU so well, especially during her time competing at Miss Arkansas 2022. Thank you, Ansleigh, for your wonderful service as Miss SAU! 5. Come and visit SAU Beyond the Campus on Magnolia's downtown square! SAU Beyond the Campus is a student-managed career-training center dedicated to providing graduate students enrolled at the University the opportunity to sharpen career-readiness skills. The people of Magnolia have the perfect place to gather up their Mulerider gear! 6. The latest addition to SAU's campus – the new HOME sign! We see several photos in the future being captured here with students, alumni, and more. SAU feels like HOME!





(Above) Becoming a Mulerider (BAM) was in full swing this summer! We were thrilled to meet our incoming freshman class and can't wait to see what amazing things they accomplish during their time at SAU. (Top Right) While we are always sad to see our seniors graduate and head off to conquer life, we love to end their year on a celebratory note! Senior Celebration was full of warmth, laughter, and door prizes! (Right) The SAU System Board of Trustees approved a lease agreement with Dawson Hotel Management LLC to construct a Best Western Plus hotel at U.S. Highway 82 and the old McNeil highway. This investment will provide a perfect place for family of students, SAU alumni, friends of the University, and many more people to stay while visiting Magnolia!





PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY MIKI TAKEI

“ It’s been great! Every day has been an amazing opportunity to learn, apply, and grow. ”

MIKI TAKEI

## KNOCKING FOR OPPORTUNITY

by Jacob Pumphrey

Opportunity knocks. That’s true. But for former Mulerider Men’s Basketball graduate assistant coach Miki Takei, he had to knock for his opportunity... after executing what ended up being the perfect Google search. Takei, who recently earned his MBA from SAU’s Rankin College of Business, is currently serving as a translator and coaching assistant with the WNBA’s Washington Mystics, an appointment that came following four seasons as a member of the SAU Men’s Basketball coaching staff.

Born in Bangkok, Thailand, and raised in Tokyo, Japan, Takei competed collegiately as a men’s basketball student-athlete for four seasons at Tokai University in Japan where he would earn a Bachelor of Arts in English. Following graduation, Takei planned to move stateside to pursue his dream of becoming a professional basketball coach and was looking for an NCAA Division II school where he would have an opportunity to help out with the institution’s men’s basketball program.

“I literally googled “US College, Affordable” ...and SAU popped up...I felt that SAU would be the right school to get into,” noted Takei when asked how his journey to Magnolia began.

With his destination aimed at southwest Arkansas, Takei was still hopeful to have an opportunity to help out the Muleriders on the court. “Several days after I landed in the United States and settled in Magnolia, I decided to go to the coaching office to ask if there were any available positions to help out,” remarked Takei. “The answer was no.”

However, Takei asked, and knocked, again. And again. And again.

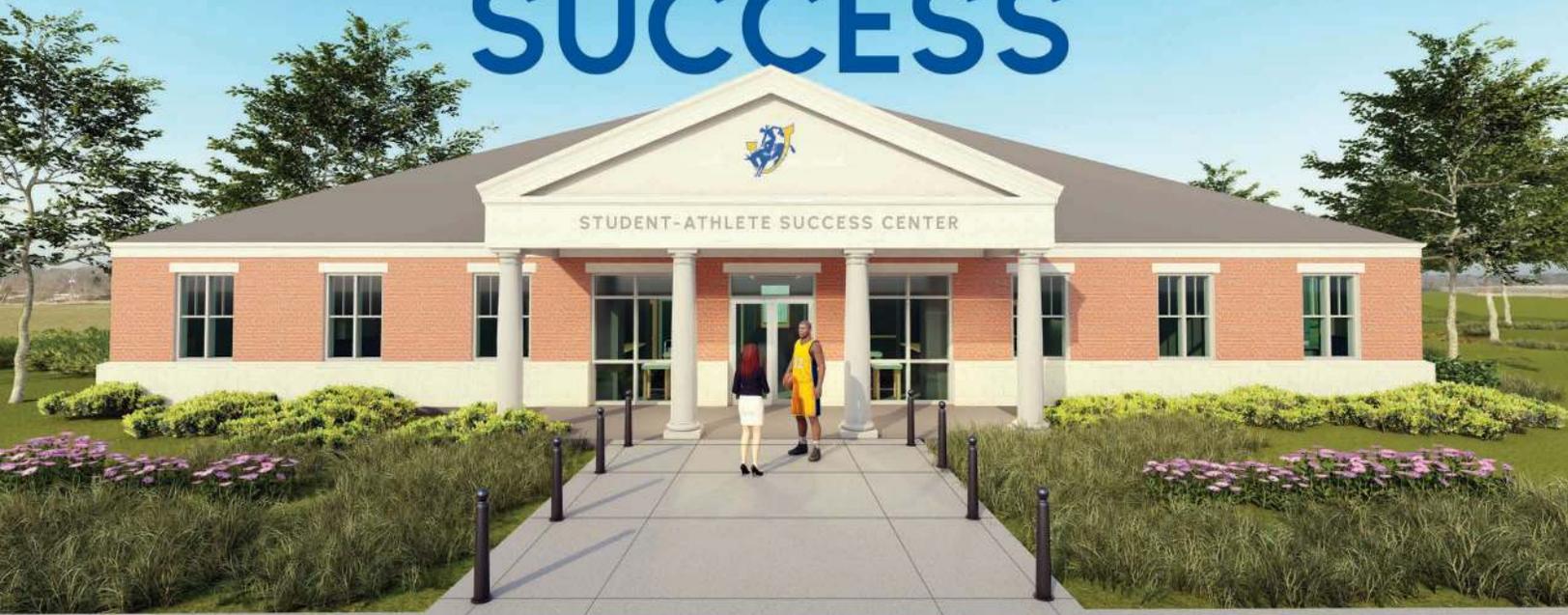
And in the meantime, he introduced himself to several members of the team in SAU’s Blue and Gold Dining Hall which led to Takei organizing and putting the players through workouts. And then springing up from what was an original “no” came opportunity. “Coach DA (former men’s basketball assistant coach David Anderson) asked if I would like to join the team as a volunteer assistant. I was just eager to help players, coaches, and the program as much as possible to win a championship so that’s probably what made me relentless.”

His love for the game began at an early age, and that same love was shown during his time under head coach Andy Sharpe. Takei was a part of 65 wins, a GAC Eastern Division title, four GAC Tournament appearances, one GAC Tournament Championship appearance and the program’s first ever NCAA Tournament appearance.

Currently, Takei serves as the primary point of contact from the Mystics’ coaching staff to international player Rui Machida. He also assists with all day-to-day team operations both on and off the court including practice and individual workouts, film and playbook breakdown as well as assisting with team travel and serving as the human resources and media liaison for Machida.

“It’s been great! Every day has been an amazing opportunity to learn, apply, and grow. This type of experience is a thing I’ve never done before, so I’m just very fortunate to be here [and] to be a part of this amazing organization in the best women’s basketball league in the world.”

# MAKING ROOM FOR SUCCESS



RENDERING PROVIDED BY WER - ARCHITECTS/PLANNERS

## THE SAU STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS AND ATHLETIC OPERATIONS CENTER

The SAU Student-Athlete Success and Athletic Operations Center (Phase II of the Dawson Athletic Complex) will provide the resources necessary for student-athletes to attain the highest level of academic and athletic achievement.

This 7,500 square-foot facility, which will serve as a central hub for SAU's 16 athletic programs, is designed to address the academic, nutritional, personal and professional development of more than 450 student-athletes. The facility will have a tremendous focus on keeping academics at the core of Mulerider Athletics, providing multiple learning environments, including a large meeting room for team meetings, classrooms for studying and coursework, computer labs with the latest technology, and tutoring rooms. Mulerider Athletics administration and coaches' offices will also be located in this facility.

Another area of importance for Mulerider student-athletes is nutrition. Giving them the proper resources to develop and recover their bodies after competition, strength and conditioning workouts and offseason training is a priority and a state-of-the-art Nutrition Center is included.

Lastly, the facility includes locker rooms for men's and women's Track and Field/Cross Country programs. With more than 120 athletes, there is a growing need to find a space for these elite athletes to continue their journey in southwest Arkansas.

Located directly south of the Dawson Athletic Complex, the Center will provide essential resources for all student-athletes, coaches, administration, and Mulerider alumni and friends.

### Facility Features

- Classroom and computer lab for student-athletes academic and coursework
- Large team meeting space that can accommodate 125 student-athletes (able to be configured to host alumni events).
- Tutoring rooms
- Nutrition center
- Women's Track & Field/Cross Country locker room
- Men's Track & Field/Cross Country locker room
- Mulerider Athletics Hall of Fame
- Administrative and head coach offices



### Timeline

The goal is to secure commitments to cover the cost of the facility by the end of 2022 and break ground in January 2023. However, if we accomplish our goal prior to 2023, we would break ground as early as Fall 2022.



A FEW OF THE RECENT ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHANGES AT SAU



### A Legend Leaves Magnolia

PHOTO BY THOMAS TURNER

### A Legend Leaves Magnolia

After 33 years of service as the department’s head athletic trainer, 2012 Southern Arkansas University Sports Hall of Fame inductee Ken Cole is moving on...to retirement. Cole arrived in Magnolia in January of 1989 and began a hall of fame career that impacted hundreds of Mulerider student-athletes. During his time at SAU, Cole’s tireless service led to a transformation of the Athletic Training Department’s operating procedures in addition to state-of-the-art renovations of SAU’s athletic training room. Cole is also an inductee of the Southwest Athletic Trainers’ Association (SWATA) Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Athletic Trainers Association (AATA) Hall of Fame. He was named the NCAA Division II National Athletic Trainer of the Year in 2011, and in 2013 he received the NATA Athletic Training Service Award.

### Sharpe Steps Away, Quinn Promoted to Lead Mulerider Men’s Basketball

Andy Sharpe led the SAU Men’s Basketball program for ten seasons and in the process turned the Muleriders into not only a contender in the Great American Conference, but regionally as well. Sharpe won 147 games and within those victories are ten consecutive GAC tournament appearances, the program’s first appearance in a GAC Tournament title game, a GAC Tournament Runner-Up finish and the program’s first-ever NCAA postseason berth. The program has been left in great hands as Sharpe’s assistant Logan Quinn was promoted as the program’s sixth head coach of the department’s NCAA Era. In his first three years in Magnolia, Quinn’s emphasis on ball movement and improved perimeter play has resulted in the Muleriders improving its points per game average, three-pointers made per game average, and its overall assists per game rate. This past season, Southern Arkansas set an NCAA Era program record with 392 assists: the fourth-most all-time.



### Sharpe Steps Away

PHOTO BY THOMAS TURNER

### Muleriders for Micah

In early April, members of SAU’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), along with the generous help from several local restaurants, hosted “Muleriders for Micah” restaurant week where local restaurant partners graciously gave a portion of their earnings during lunch or dinner on a specific day to the fundraiser. Magnolia native Micah Gunnels was diagnosed with B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia on December 31, 2020. Throughout his battle, which is now in a maintenance/remission stage following chemo treatments, he would often ask his mother if they could visit the zoo every time they had to make a trip to the hospital to get “poked.” SAU’s SAAC stepped in with the sole purpose of sending Micah to the zoo outside of a time when he visited the hospital in order to help create a more positive zoo experience. The fundraiser’s success enabled Micah and his family to take an all-expenses paid trip to the Memphis Zoo.

### Mulerider Track & Field Shows Out in Shawnee

The Mulerider Men’s and Women’s Track & Field teams each posted a third-place finish at the Great American Conference Championships in Shawnee, Oklahoma. The two programs, led by longtime head coach Tim Servis, combined for over 40 All-GAC honors over the three-day event. Three Muleriders garnered individual GAC titles as Magnolia native freshman Ja’Kamron Zackery won the men’s discus event (161’ 8”), while fellow SAU Men’s thrower senior Darius Trimble stood atop the podium for the men’s shot put (51’ 4.5”). Mulerider Women’s freshman thrower Kailyn Thomas earned first place in the women’s discus event (140’ 5”).



### Mulespy Awards

PHOTO BY THOMAS TURNER

### Fifth Annual Mulespy Awards

“I hope I did you proud by going off and accomplishing what I accomplished. I’m at the top of one mountain, I’m looking to climb my next mountain, but when I get to the top I want to look over and see you at the top of your mountain.... stay the course.” Those were the words of former Mulerider Football All-American and Canadian Football Hall of Famer Nik Lewis who served as the keynote speaker at the Fifth Annual Mulespy Awards. The night included the presentation of the department’s eight major awards as well as a ceremony honoring the second induction class of SAU’s chapter of Chi Alpha Sigma. Spring graduates who would not have an opportunity to walk at graduation due to competition were honored in a graduation ceremony. Fifteen outstanding student-athletes and one outstanding athletic trainer were honored, while 65 senior student-athletes were recognized and gifted a special framed letterman patch to commemorate their time as a Mulerider.

### Mulerider Men’s Golf Earns Second NCAA Postseason Trip

Southern Arkansas Men’s Golf earned a trip to NCAA postseason play for the second time as a team this past spring. The Muleriders, led by second-year head coach Neriah Brown, were tabbed as the No. 9 team in the Central Region and competed among the twenty-team field at the Central/Midwest Regional in Noblesville, Indiana. SAU recorded six top 10 team finishes across the fall and spring semesters in addition to setting top five single season program records in par-3 scoring, par-4 scoring, par-5 scoring, birdies, eagles, rounds played, par or better rounds and finish percentage. Senior Roman Timmerman was named an All-GAC Second Team performer and earned his fourth GCAA DII PING All-Central Region honor. Sophomore Connor Harrington was named GAC Distinguished Scholar Athlete, and for the second straight year, the Magnolia native earned CoSIDA Academic All-District 7 First Team honors.

### Mulerider Men’s Tennis Returns to the NCAA National Tournament

This past spring, fourth-year head coach Greg Owen led his Mulerider Men’s Tennis team to its second NCAA DII National Tournament berth of the past four seasons. SAU competed in the national Round of 16 against Embry-Riddle in Altamonte Springs, Florida. The Muleriders posted a 20-6 overall record, were unbeaten at home with a 7-0 mark, defeated ten nationally-ranked opponents and finished as runner-up in both the MIAA-GAC South Division regular season and at the MIAA-GAC Tournament Championship. All six singles players and all three doubles teams received All-MIAA/GAC recognition, while Owen’s players combined for five MIAA-GAC South Division Player of the Week honors this season. Southern Arkansas held an ITA Top 25 team ranking throughout the spring reaching as high as a program-best No. 8 nationally. Four players spent time ranked nationally in singles play, while two doubles pairs were also nationally ranked.



### What a Ride

PHOTO BY JESSICA GREAVES

### Muleriders in Magnolia

Southern Arkansas University’s community service initiative “Muleriders in Magnolia” was once again very active in and around Magnolia this past school year. Led by Mulerider Men’s Basketball Head Coach Logan Quinn, SAU student-athletes logged over 2,500 hours of community service since July 1, 2021. Over 350 SAU student-athletes, which makes up 83% of the department, served throughout the community aiding children, youth, and senior citizens in addition to helping clean up and protect the environment and supporting civic and community relations. As a result of the volunteerism displayed, which included 68 different opportunities attended and 19 organizations supported, the group recorded an economic impact of over \$72,000.

### What a Ride

Of all the highly talented teams that have represented Southern Arkansas Baseball, the 2022 Muleriders accomplished what no team before them had been able to. A dominant regular season, which saw SAU win its sixth GAC regular season title, preceded a wildly exciting postseason journey. The Muleriders went 4-0 in the league tournament in Hot Springs to earn the program’s sixth GAC tournament title and the GAC’s automatic bid to the NCAA Central Region Tournament, the program’s 14th NCAA regional berth. The Muleriders hosted for just the third time in program history, and the SAU faithful were treated to a plethora of memorable moments as Southern Arkansas engineered late-inning rally after late-inning rally, which led to the program’s first NCAA regional title in program history and its maiden trip to the DII Baseball Championship in Cary, North Carolina. Sixth-year head coach Justin Pettigrew was named GAC Coach of the Year for the second time in his career, nine players earned All-GAC honors, five of these nine players were named to all-region teams, and two received All-America acclaim.



### Sensational Season

PHOTO BY JESSICA GREAVES

### Sensational Season

Mulerider Baseball freshman right-handed pitcher Jeremy Adorno claimed one of the most dominant pitching campaigns in program history. In his first start as a Mulerider, the Puerto Rico native fired just the sixth no-hitter in the program’s NCAA history, which was the first of a single season program-record 15 wins in 2022. He struck out seven that game, and 16 starts later, he became the single season strikeout leader with 136. Adorno collected five Great American Conference Pitcher of the Week honors and became the first player in league history to capture a weekly honor in three consecutive weeks. He was named the unanimous GAC Pitcher of the Year in addition to earning Newcomer of the Year honors and a unanimous All-GAC First Team accolade. On Division II Baseball’s biggest stage, he fired his eighth complete game of the season as he scattered five hits and a walk with six strikeouts to help SAU win its first national postseason tournament game since 1987. Adorno capped his memorable campaign as a consensus first-team All-America honoree and as the National Pitcher of the Year.



# Dr. Kathleen

# MALLORY

• **Born April 4, 1934**  
 Child of Sharecroppers  
 Near Carlisle, Arkansas



• **Attended an English Institute**  
 Colorado State University  
 1965

• **Earned Bachelor's Degree**  
 Philander Smith College  
 1955

• **Attended 9th and 10th Grades**  
 Fargo Agricultural School  
 East Arkansas



• **Graduated High School**  
 Piney Woods School  
 Piney Woods, Mississippi



• **Earned Masters Degree**  
 University of Arkansas  
 1957

• **First Black Faculty Member**  
 General Education Program  
 Southern State College  
**August 29, 1974**

**“ Teaching was her breath.  
She did it no matter where she was.  
Imparting knowledge was  
part of her life force. ”**

**“ We always called her Doc....  
We could sit down and write a book,  
The Wise Words of Doc. ”**

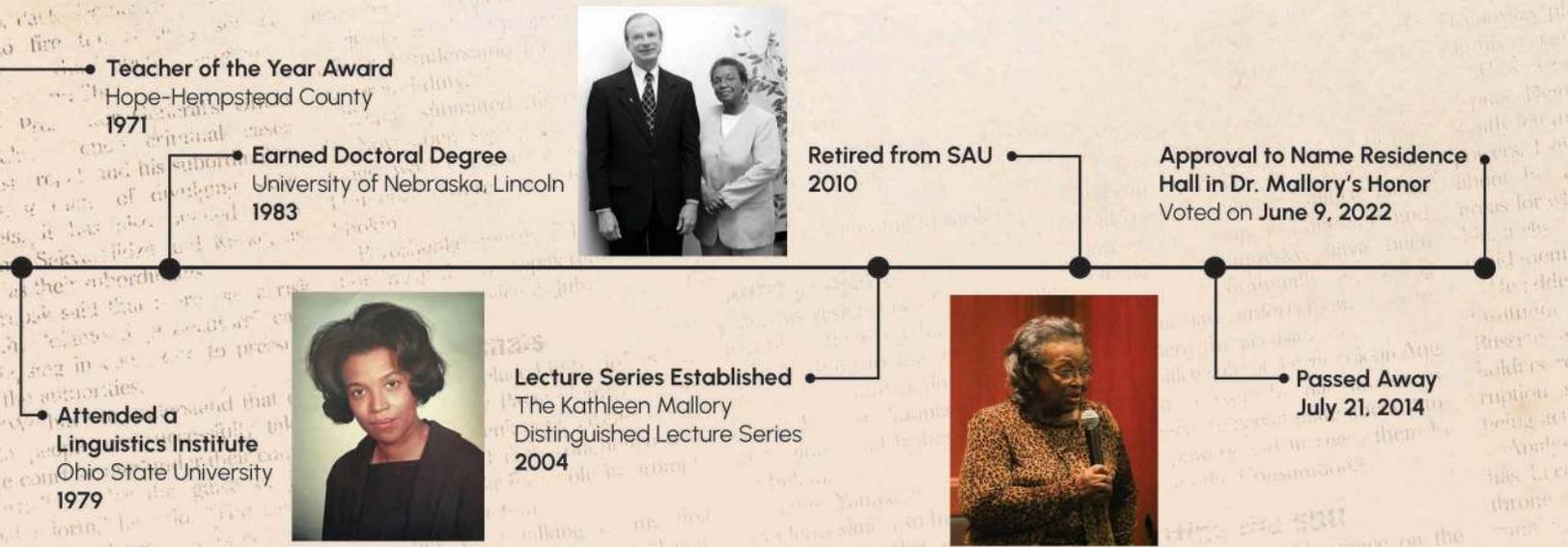
by Rachel Jenkins

These words reflect the feelings of deep respect and appreciation for Dr. Kathleen Jordan Mallory from the many students that were taught, mentored, and loved by Dr. Mallory during her career as an educator. These comments from Cassandra Relynn, a former student and now a film and television actress as well as a writer and producer, speak for many. It was as a high school student that Relynn first met Dr. Mallory. After winning an award at the Youth Writing Festival, hosted by SAU, Relynn recalled Dr. Mallory's early encouragement and support. She credited Dr. Mallory as "one of the reasons I still write today."

A pivotal part of Relynn's college experience was Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, particularly the lessons she learned from Dr. Mallory. She related that as a founder turned advisor, Dr. Mallory took her role seriously, instilling in her members the importance of: speaking confidently in front of crowds, managing their administrative workloads, and supporting their communities. Members also knew to wear stockings and slippers while juggling it all. Dr. Mallory was very proud of the reputation that the Lambda Mu Chapter had built on campus and the fact that she was integral in starting it. In the years leading up to Dr. Mallory's retirement, she could be found attending Chapter meetings, paying fees for those students without funds, providing meals for students in her home, and offering advice and encouragement. Dr. Mallory had too many stories to count, particularly because Dr. Mallory saw opportunities to impart wisdom everywhere she went.

"Teaching was her breath," Relynn said. "She did it no matter where she was. Imparting knowledge was part of her life force."

The Kathleen Mallory Distinguished Lecture Series was established in 2004 to honor Dr. Mallory's contributions to Southern Arkansas University and the community. This endowment has brought scholars working in the fields of African Diasporic and African American Studies to SAU to share their scholarship.



**Teacher of the Year Award**  
Hope-Hempstead County  
1971

**Earned Doctoral Degree**  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
1983



**Retired from SAU**  
2010

**Approval to Name Residence Hall in Dr. Mallory's Honor**  
Voted on June 9, 2022

**Attended a Linguistics Institute**  
Ohio State University  
1979



**Lecture Series Established**  
The Kathleen Mallory Distinguished Lecture Series  
2004



**Passed Away**  
July 21, 2014



# MALLORY HALL DEDICATION

**HOMECOMING 2022**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022**

at 9:00 a.m.

In Front of the Former University Hall  
Reception to follow at the Alumni Center

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Formerly known as University Hall, the \$5.2 million residence hall at SAU was constructed in 2008 as a unique living and learning community. During the October 1, 2022, SAU Homecoming, University Hall will be dedicated to Dr. Kathleen Jordan Mallory and renamed Mallory Hall. “Naming a residence hall after Doc,” Relynn said, wiping tears from her eyes. “It’s so perfect because when you’re on campus, that residence hall is your home. And Doc was our home.” A co-ed residence for upper-class students, the hall boasts fully furnished suite-style units, with a private living room, bathroom and kitchenette shared by four residents. Students have access to all perks in the University Village complex, including a clubhouse, pool, laundry facility, student lounge, and easy access to Panda Express.

Residents of Mallory Hall may choose between Living Learning Communities of Helping Hands LLC or SOAR (Sophomore Opportunities Achievement Recognition) LLC.

Renaming a residence hall, which merges academics and community, after Dr. Mallory is fitting as she tirelessly dedicated herself to both. Relynn recalled Mallory saying, “You’re not in school to get a job. College is an experience. You’re here to get a body of education that’s going to benefit you outside of this campus.” For Dr. Mallory, that body of education included service-learning opportunities. “She encouraged us to bring our children, especially our daughters, to our community service projects,” Relynn said.

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## MALLORY'S CAREER

Kathleen Jordan Mallory was a child of sharecroppers and grew up near Carlisle, AR, picking cotton. She attended high school at Fargo Agricultural School, a private black residential school in east Arkansas. The school was founded by Floyd Brown in 1919 for students excluded by segregation from Arkansas's 1909 agricultural schools.

Mallory was one of the first two black students to attend classes at Southern State College while she was teaching at Carver School in Stephens, AR. Mallory graduated from Philander Smith College in 1955, and earned her master's degree from the University of Arkansas in 1957. While teaching at SSC, Mallory completed a doctoral degree at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Dr. Mallory taught in public schools across the region, including Crossett, Camden and Hope, earning Hope-Hempstead County's Teacher of the Year in 1971. On August 29, 1974, Dr. Mallory became the first black faculty member in the general education program at SSC. As an English professor at SSC and later Southern Arkansas University, she made extraordinary contributions to the university and English curriculum across the state of Arkansas.

After spending over half a century in the classroom, Dr. Kathleen Mallory retired from Southern Arkansas University in 2010. She educated students, invested in their lives, and made an impact on their futures. Looking back at her career, Dr. Mallory said, "I've always been happy to know that my students were successful."

Dr. Mallory was actively involved in community efforts, which included being a charter advocate for the Single Parent Scholarship Fund, Magnolia Housing Commission, SAU Foundation Board of Governors, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She began the Youth Writing Festival at SAU with the aim to get students more involved in writing and to recognize the outstanding works of students across the region.

## TRAILBLAZER

"Dr. Mallory was a compassionate fighter for equality all around her. It did not matter who the person was, she took on the fight as if it were her own," said Cledis Stuart, SAU's associate dean for multiculturalism and diversity. "She was a true drum major for the rights of others. She will be sorely missed, but her legacy will live forever."

Dr. Mallory was a legend in her own right. "She knew her humble beginnings and all she had accomplished. She went through poverty. She fought segregation, racism, classicism," Relynn recounted. "All these things she fought and came out on the other side—in a pair of stockings without a run in them."

Dr. Mallory's students—her community—knew her as someone who cared for them. She was tenacious: as a mother raising two daughters while attending school, as a daughter taking care of her mother, as a sorority advisor ensuring her members knew their potential, and as a teacher improving the English curriculum across the state, all while battling cancer.

"We all thought Doc would outlive us all," Relynn said.

In many ways Doc Mallory's legacy lives on through her family as well as the countless students, colleagues, and community members whose lives she touched and the stories they tell. She endures through the Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Lambda Mu Chapter, the Kathleen Mallory Distinguished Lecture Series and now a residence hall in her name.

An enrichment endowment to benefit Mallory Hall has been initiated by the family. If you would like to honor Dr. Mallory's legacy by making a gift of any size to this endowment, please contact the SAU Foundation at (870) 235-4078 or visit [www.saufoundation.org/make-a-gift](http://www.saufoundation.org/make-a-gift).



Southern Arkansas University™  
**Division of Advancement**

SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY  
**LIGHT**the**WAY**

On April 30, 2022, Southern Arkansas University Foundation celebrated the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Honor Societies Dinner after a long two-year break due to the pandemic. The evening's theme was Light the Way and honored generous donors' philanthropy for lighting the way for the SAU community.



PHOTO BY JESSICA GRAEVES

JoAnn '93 and Dr. Jim Tollett '57 visit with Dr. Pierre Boumtje



PHOTO BY THOMAS TURNER

Ed '58 and Joan McCrary '58 and Laura '88 and Doug McCrary '87 celebrated the funding of the Othella Hammonds Watkins Endowment.



PHOTO BY THOMAS TURNER

Patsy '71 and Amos Taylor and Linda Jackson '12 enjoyed the fellowship throughout the evening.



PHOTO BY THOMAS TURNER

Lisa and Dr. Chuck Kauffman '75 members of the President's Club

# Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

On May 5, after a two-year wait, the Southern Arkansas University Alumni Association hosted the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner. This event celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of Mulerider former students and their experiences, achievements, and services that have had an impact across the globe. The criteria for these awards include outstanding service to SAU, the community, state, and/or nation. The individual must be a person of such integrity, stature, and demonstrated ability that the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Southern Arkansas University will take pride in, and be inspired by, their recognition. Nominations are open on the SAU Alumni Association website ([www.saualumni.com](http://www.saualumni.com)) each year from June 1 – July 31, and the SAU Alumni Association Board of Directors selects honorees. This year's awards were presented by SAU President Dr. Trey Berry and 2021-22 SAU Alumni Association Board Vice-Chair Ledly Jennings '12.

## Recipients of the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Awards

### Distinguished Young Alumni Award

Cody Burkhart '14 – Little Rock, AR  
 Dr. Kristofer Freeland '03 – Little Rock, AR  
 Dr. Genese Lavalais '04 – Montgomery, AL

### Distinguished Alumni Award

Jim Andrews '86 – El Dorado, AR  
 Allan Robbins '86 – Kailua Kona, HI  
 Gwendolyn Roland '86 – Houston, TX

### Distinguished Golden Rider Award

Dr. Gayle White '63 – Goldsboro, NC

### Lifetime Achievement Award

Edna Cook-Norvell '38 – Posthumous

PHOTOS BY THOMAS TURNER



Bruce Maloch '80, emcee for the event, welcomes guests and introduces award recipients.



Dr. Tim Wise, SAU professor, enjoys remarks from recipients.



Dr. Dale Robbins visits with Paul and Karen Joplin.



2020 Distinguished Alumni Honorees honored during the 2022 May Commencement Ceremony.



Top Row L to R: Dr. Kristofer Freeland, Allan Robbins, Jim Andrews, Cody Burkhart  
 Bottom Row L to R: Dr. Genese Lavalais, Dr. Gayle White, Gwendolyn Roland

# where it all started

BY RACHEL JENKINS  
PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY JAY SHINN



World-renowned artist and Arkansas native, Jay Shinn, has been busy. He's had exhibits across the globe but travels regularly from his home in Dallas, Texas, to New York City and Berlin, Germany. While in New York City recently, he sat down to reflect on where his journey began.

Shinn credited growing up in Magnolia, AR, for kindling his early love of art. "In coming from a small town, one of the best advantages was that it was a college town. That really made a difference."

A student of Marjorie Chamberlain's "House of Artists," Shinn recollected his first lesson as a second grader: "I remember going over behind Eastside school. Marjorie took us to the circus, and we painted. I decided then—that summer—that I wanted to be an artist."

For an ambitious student like Shinn, Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, provided access to resources and mentors that many aspiring artists envy.

"I remember in sixth or seventh grade going to the SAU library and sitting in the floor and looking at stacks of art magazines and art books. That was eye-opening to discover Pop art and Claes Oldenburg and soft sculpture," he said. "I learned a lot about the world from the library."

After a summer camp at the University of Kansas, Shinn was exposed to the academic world of art, studying new mediums and taking college-level courses. When he returned to Magnolia, he was eager to continue challenging himself.

“ SAU made the world feel like a smaller place because of exposure to certain things that I might not have otherwise. ”

JAY SHINN

Shinn rode his bike from the junior high school to SAU's art department to audit sculpture and print-making courses. "I was too young to get a grade or credit, but I loved it," he said.

After a year studying metal-working in Memphis, Shinn returned to SAU to continue his studies. "I went from painting barns and flowers to going into abstraction. That was fueled at SAU because that's what they were doing in the early '70s. It's interesting the work I do now, so much of it goes back to early interests that I had back then," he said. "It all circles around."

Shinn identified several faculty members who influenced him, from Fred Henry's sculpture classes to Diane O'Hearn's art history and painting courses, from Gisele Souter's French classes to Janelle Viertel's voice lessons.

But it was Dr. Willard Carpenter who shaped Shinn's view on media: "If you have the idea, you'll find the technique to get there. The idea drives the material or the technique." And Shinn has applied this lesson not only to his projects but to his goal of pursuing art full time.

"Through education, through opportunities in a small town, my aspirations seemed real, and they seemed achievable, even back then," Shinn said. He traveled the country to study, teach, and collaborate, working in the hotel business by day to manifest his dream.

With current shows in New York City and outside of Berlin as well as June 2022 shows at Houston's Moody gallery and the Bob Whistler gallery in Dallas, Jay Shinn has built the life he dreamed of as a seven-year-old behind Eastside elementary school.

"The baby steps add up," he said. And SAU played a pivotal role in Shinn taking those initial steps. "SAU made the world feel like a smaller place because of exposure to certain things that I might not have otherwise."

And for any student pursuing a passion, Shinn advised, "It's great to find it early and follow it. And maybe you find it late and follow it then. Follow it and go where you need to. Don't be afraid of it."



Southern Rose in progress (2022). [wall painting with projector]. Auf der Seite des Lichts/Side of Light Exhibition at Till Richter Museum, Buggenhave, Germany



From left to right: Golden Levee (2022). [acrylic on canvas]; Circle Mountain 6 (2021). [acrylic on panel]; Outside Voice (2014). [painted neon on laminate form]. Lineage Exhibition at 375 Hudson Street, New York City

# NOLAN ENDOWMENT SENDS LEAH SANDERS TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

by Jessica Greaves



Leah Sanders '22 and Senator John Boozman

More than two decades ago, the William C. Nolan Public Affairs Internship Endowment was established through the SAU Foundation. The design of this Endowment produced a summer legislative internship in the United States Congress, financially accessible for an SAU student from the Department of History, Political Science, and Geography. The stipend from the Nolan Endowment helps offset expenses while also allowing a student to gain practical experience in the government.

Leah Sanders, a spring 2022 graduate of Southern Arkansas University, had been searching for internship opportunities. She had always thought it would be wonderful to seek an opportunity to intern in a legislative office since she

majoring in history with an emphasis in social studies education. With this in mind, Sanders received an email from the Executive Director of SAU Foundation, Macy Braswell, stating that they are searching for candidates to receive the William C. Nolan Public Affairs Internship. Leah was immediately thrilled, as she saw this as the perfect opportunity to boost her future career with a life-changing internship without the heavy burden of financial stress. After Sanders sought more information on the Legislative Internship and applied, she received word that she was a recipient of the Endowment.

“When I saw Mrs. Braswell’s email, I was excited knowing that it’s something I’ve always been interested in, and it would allow me to not worry about the financial stress,” said Leah. “I was just so thrilled about it after being told I was offered the position.”

Professor Nolan began teaching political science at Southern State College and SAU in 1962, after serving in the United States Air Force during WWII and the Korean War. He was also the chairman of the division of social sciences. Nolan graduated from Western New Mexico University and the University of New Mexico, then went to New York University and the University of Mississippi for graduate work. He returned to his home state of New Mexico after retiring from SAU in 1987. Nolan passed away in 2015.

During Leah’s time at SAU, she was involved in several organizations. To name a few, she was a member of Phi Mu, the Writing Center, the Student Athlete Advisory Council, and she also served as a team captain for the women’s cross country and track team. “SAU allowed me the opportunity to do a lot of things and to develop my skills to see what I’m interested in,” Sanders stated when asked what SAU did for her over the past three years. “SAU allowed me to grow and enjoy my different passions. It allowed me to cultivate and develop as an individual.”

Leah interned in Washington, D.C., with Senator John Boozman’s office from May 28 through July 1. Before leaving for D.C., Sanders exclaimed her appreciation even further. “I am so grateful for the William C. Nolan Public Affairs Internship scholarship and thankful for Mrs. Braswell for helping me through this process. SAU has been amazing and has ensured that I’m taken care of and supported while in Washington, D.C.”



# JOIN US FOR MULEGATING



**September 1, 2022**

**SAU vs. NOSU**

Mulegating: 3:00 p.m.

Kick-off: 6:00 p.m.

Mulegating sponsored by Mule Kick

**September 24, 2022**

**SAU vs. HSU**

**Family Day**

Mulegating: 3:00 p.m.

Kick-off: 6:00 p.m.

Mulegating sponsored by Farmers Bank & Trust

**October 1, 2022**

**SAU vs. ECU**

**Homecoming**

Mulegating: 11:00 a.m.

Kick-off: 2:30 p.m.

Mulegating sponsored by Peoples Bank

**October 22, 2022**

**SAU vs. OBU**

**Murphy USA Classic**

El Dorado, AR.

Mulegating: 11:00 a.m.

Kick-off: 2:00 p.m.

**November 5, 2022**

**SAU vs. SNU**

Mulegating: 11:00 a.m.

Kick-off: 2:00 p.m.

Mulegating sponsored by BancorpSouth

**SAU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
Southern Arkansas University™

For additional information, please visit  
[www.saualumni.com/mulegating](http://www.saualumni.com/mulegating) or call (870) 235-4079.



# SAU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOSTS TOPGOLF GATHERING

Mulerider Alumni of all ages enjoyed good grub and golf at Topgolf in Dallas, Texas.

To stay up-to-date on upcoming SAU Alumni Association events, visit [www.saualumni.com/events](http://www.saualumni.com/events)



Alumni enjoyed dinner and a brief University update before heading out to golf.



Steve Sheiron '59



Blair Martin '22, Christian Martin '95



Nekita Howell '08 '10, Dr. Valerie Arnold '11, Markiya Okpo '09



Aurthur Jeffery '19



China Williams '17, Breanna Cross '14, Jazmine Gooden '13



Darian Collins '20 '21, Lucas Melott '99, Adriana Goodwin '21, Trey Hall '22, Hunter Fleming '22



**1950 – 1959**

**William Philpot '55** retired from LSU after 63 years as a research professor.

**1970 – 1979**

**LaRhonda Martin '74** is now retired after being a nurse for 46 years. She now resides in Hot Springs Village to be near her son and two granddaughters.



**Benny Harris '77** is the head coach of the varsity boys' basketball team at Bradley High School in Bradley, AR. He coached his team to a state championship in March 2022.



**Margaret Moss '78** was inducted into the Educational Hall of Fame by Hope School District in Hope, AR.

**1980 – 1989**



**Billy Humphries '83** retired with 35 years of experience. He spent 17 years as a teacher and coach and 18 years in administration. He was named the Region VIII Assistant Principal of the Year in 2004. During his time at SAU, he participated in three sports: golf, tennis, and swimming/diving. He set a school record in one and three-meter diving.



**Michele Hamilton Rhodes '84** is the executive director of Hamilton Haven in Prescott, AR. Hamilton Haven was selected as the 2021 Organization of the Year by the Prescott-Nevada County Chamber of Commerce.



**Sarah Whitten Hersey '85**, who is a cancer nurse navigator at Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center, received the Wellstar Oncology Services Nurse of the Year in Atlanta, GA during the system annual meeting.



**Bobby Thompson '86** became the regional sales manager for the Southeast at Morse Architecture.



**Theresa Cowling '88 '01** was hired as the principal at Redwater Elementary in Redwater, Texas.



**Floyd Anthony Young '88** was chosen to serve on the University of Arkansas MBA Alumni Advisory Board.



**Don McDonald '89** runs a wealth advisory group that was named second in the state of Arkansas on Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list.

**1990 – 1999**



**Dr. Lisa Toms '90** began a new job as provost/VPAA at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, MO.



**Brad Barnett '92** was elected to serve as the 2022-23 National Chair of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). He is the associate VP for access and enrollment management/financial aid director at James Madison University.



**Dr. John Allen Hendricks '92** received the 2022 Broadcast Education Association's Book Award for "Radio's Second Century: Past, Present, and Future Perspectives" published by Rutgers University Press. John Allen is a member of the SAU Alumni Association Board of Directors.



**Erica Woods '93** graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. While attending UALR, she became a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing -Gamma XI Chapter. Erica serves as vice-chair for the SAU Board of Trustees.



**Jaunita Hogan-Ellison '94** celebrated 30 years as a public-school teacher. She currently works at the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District in special education.



**Latrina Brown '94 '01** was selected as the 2022 Teacher of the Year at Magnolia Middle School in Magnolia, AR.



**En Mao '94** became one of just 503 worldwide analytics professionals by earning the designation of Certificated Analytics Professional (CAP). She is a professor of computer information systems at Nicholls State University in Louisiana.



**Robby Frizzell '96** was named superintendent for the Smackover-Norphlet School District.



**Shelby Lamkin '96 '00** was selected as the 2022 Teacher of the Year at Magnolia High School in Magnolia, AR.



**Lori Arnette '97 '18** became the community health nurse specialist for the southwest region with the Arkansas Department of Health.



**Amy Ingram '98** was recognized for her 200th career win on January 7, 2022. She is the head girls' basketball coach at Kaufman High School in Kaufman, Texas. She has been coaching for 23 years, 11 of those as a head coach.



**Deborah Foster '99** retired from Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC). She now participates in foreign missions work in Uganda.

**2000 – 2009**



**Yolanda Holman '00** was promoted to accounting manager of the Northeast Louisiana Veterans Home.



**Shaneil "P.J." Yarbrough '00** became the Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA) president. Her term began on January 1, 2022. Since P.J.'s time at SAU, she has spent

the last two decades as a champion for children serving as an educator, executive director/administrator of a foster home, and a member of multiple boards of directors with children as the focus. AECA is a non-profit organization comprised of early childhood professionals and parents who share a common concern about the well-being of young children and their families.

**LaChar Gossett '03** finished her first year as a 5th-grade Literacy teacher at Camden-Fairview School District in Camden, AR.



**FaLinda Randolph '03** was promoted as the program eligibility coordinator with the Arkansas Department of Human Services in Faulkner County.



**Adam Dixon '04** was appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Visitors at the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana.



**Jennifer Kirkpatrick '04** is the math facilitator at Magnolia Middle School in Magnolia, AR. She earned her Master of Arts in Teaching, a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction, and is currently enrolled in the EDAS program at SAU.



**Genese Lavalais '04** was hired as the senior associate athletic director for student-athlete experience and senior women's advisor at Alabama State University. Genese is also a member of the SAU Alumni Association Board.



**Jennifer Jameson McKendree '04** has been named a member-partner at the law firm of Bell & Boyd, now to be known as Bell, Boyd & Jameson PLLC in Magnolia, AR.



**Bill Parker '04** became the vice president of operations at Hydroline LLC in Bossier City, LA. He is pictured with his son Bowen.



**Isaac Woods '04** was recognized by the *Milwaukee Business Journal* as a member of its annual 40 Under 40 class, recognizing top business leaders under 40 in the Milwaukee Metro area.

He is the vice president, treasurer, and executive officer at Rockwell Automation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



**Nikki Kitchens Moore '06** became the company recruiter for Pafford Medical Services.



**Andrew Woolfley '06** was initiated into the honors society of Phi Kappa Phi while completing his master's degree in Nursing at UT Arlington. He is pictured with his wife, Tracy Woolfley '12.



**Larry Dunn '07 '10** received the 2022 Arkansas Distinguished Director Award at the Arkansas All-State Conference. He is the director of performing arts and choral activities at Magnolia School District.



**Angie Parker '07** accepted a full-time biology instructor position at SouthArk Community College.



**Nicolas D. Williams '07 '08 '11** was named one of two recipients for 2022 Teacher of the Year at J. A. Fair K-8 Preparatory School in the Little Rock School District. This is Williams' second time

holding this honor.



**Haley Burrow '08 '12** started a new job at Malwarebytes as the customer success manager.



**Alan Garrett '08** celebrated five years working at Peoples Bank. He is the vice president/loan operations and serves on the SAU Alumni Association Board of

Directors.



**Julie Barber '09** serves as the board secretary on the Board of Directors for the Children's Advocacy Center of Pine Bluff.



**Zach Fowler '09** completed the year-long Leadership Texarkana Flagship Community Leadership Program. He is the associate principal at Pleasant Grove Middle School in Texarkana, Texas.

## 2010 – 2019



**Tennille Hampton-Brown '10 '14** accepted a position with Houston Independent School District as an elementary school counselor. She is pictured with her husband Sammie Brown.



**Cordara Newson '10 '17** starred in the summer musical "Kinky Boots" at the Marjorie Lyons Playhouse in Shreveport, July 14-17.



**Chelsea Slack '10 '13** graduated from Clemson University with a Ph.D. in Rhetoric, Communication, and Information Design. She is a full-time faculty member at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA.



**Anna Lester '11 '13** accepted the position of vice president and branch manager at Farm Credit of Western Arkansas in Russellville.



**Tyler Neal '11** is now the hospitalist director at the Medical Center of South Arkansas in El Dorado.



**Nicole Woods '11 '13** was awarded the Kenneth Muldrew Education Award from the NAACP 6012 Hope-Hempstead County Branch.



**Wayne Banks '12 '14** was awarded the Lifetime Membership Award and the Outstanding and Dedication Service Award by the Arkansas Association of College Registrars and

Admissions Officers (ArkACRAO) at the 2022 AACRAO Conference in Little Rock.



**Kristi Bennett '12**, Texarkana Arkansas Police Department Chief of Police, was featured in the November 2021 issue of *Four States Living*.



**Romerse Biddle '12** created the Academy for Public Service, a nonprofit with the goal of creating a new class of public servant leaders through civic education and leadership development.



**Samuel Jennings '12** was accepted into the Doctorate of Strategic Leadership program at Liberty University. He is also working on obtaining his teaching credentials with iTeachLouisiana.



**Rasheeda Joshua '12** was named the administrative specialist II/student development coordinator for Student Support Services at SAU.



**Alli O'Banion '12** was named SAU's head volleyball coach.



**Willis Smith '12 '14** has started working for Marin Community Clinics in San Rafael, CA, as a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. He works with underserved populations and is helping

cultivate perinatal psychiatry at the clinic.



**Hannah Alford '13 '18** started a new job serving as the soil conservationist for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) at the Hope, AR, USDA office.



**Hannah Burns '13** was selected as the 2022 Teacher of the Year at Central Elementary School in Magnolia, AR.



**Rachel Heidemann-Taylor '13** accepted a new position as the executive assistant to the superintendent at Windham School District in Huntsville, Texas. Windham is the school

district that educates inmates in the state prison system so they earn a GED or trade once they are released.



**Kaci Wallace '13** started a new position as assistant director of financial aid at Linden Management, LLC.



**LeRon Fielding '14** received the County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award for Lafayette County.



**Marcus Copeland '15** is the director of Student Success and Academic Engagement at SAU Tech in Camden, AR.



**Lauren Gentry '15** accepted a position with Empower Healthcare Solutions for Southwest Arkansas as the managed care coordination supervisor. She is pictured with her daughter, Adalyn.



**Taylor Mills-Ibibofofi '15** accepted a research assistant position at the University of Georgia. She will also be working towards a Ph.D. in Horticulture studying sustainability practices on blueberry farms in southeastern Georgia.



**Olivia Lowdermilk '15** started her job as a neonatal nurse practitioner at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN.



**Sarah Story '15** was selected as the 2022 Teacher of the Year at East Side Elementary School in Magnolia, AR.



**Robert Ellis '16** was honored with the Southern Association of Colleges and Employers 2021 New Professional Award at the annual conference in Houston.



**Brandon Groce '16** became the lead accountant/assistant director of business at Arkansas Baptist State Convention.



**Daniel Ibinola '16 '21** accepted an administrative analyst position with the CDC Foundation.



**Micah Williams '16 '19** became the administrative support specialist in Human Resources at SAU.



**Netasha Williamson '16** of Jan's Realty in El Dorado achieved the status of executive broker.



**Xavier Cooper '17** graduated from Logan University's doctoral program and is now working as a chiropractor at Cornerstone Chiropractic.



**Trey Frachiseur '17** became the new human resource director at the Sevier County Medical Center.



**Ronald Lewis '17** was hired as head football coach at Forrest City High School in Forrest City, AR.



**Destini Montgomery '17 '20** accepted a position working for the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) in Magnolia as a program eligibility specialist. She stated, "I took this

position to help and serve others."

**Reagan Patterson-Gray '17** accepted a full-time position as a clinical lab specialist for Creative Testing Solutions in Bedford, Texas. She recently graduated from Tarleton State University

with a master's degree in Biological Sciences.



**Libby Vaught '17** received the National Wild Turkey Federation's Educator of the Year Award at the 46th annual NWTF Convention and Sport Show.



**Tebor Gainwell '18** graduated with an MBA in Engineering Management from Southern New Hampshire University. He was also accepted into Capital Technology University to pursue an ongoing Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence.



**Baylee Prowant '18** started a new position as an RN at the Howard Memorial Hospital ER.



**Sheila Waller '18** was selected for the 2022 Teacher of the Year at Walker Pre-Kindergarten Center in Magnolia, AR.



**Kelsie Collatt '19 '21** became a purchasing agent at Sigma Supply of North America in Hot Springs.



**Evelyn Escamilla '19** was recognized as the December 2021 Teacher of the Month for Washington Middle School in the El Dorado School District.



**Levi Graham '19** was promoted to assistant cashier and loan officer at Liberty National Bank in Paris, Texas. He also serves as treasurer for The Children's Advocacy Center of Paris and is a North Lamar Education Foundation board member.



**Alysia Marie Hunter '19** was hired as the new conservation engagement manager of the Riverbanks Zoo & Garden in Columbia, SC.



**Marissa Johnston '19**, a pharmacist with Wadley Regional Medical Center, was featured in the November 2021 issue of the *Four States Living*.



**Jansen McCurdy '19** was promoted to account executive for UPS in the Tampa, FL, area.



**Sha'Daveya McPherson '19 '21** began a new job with Harris and Renshaw Physical Therapy as a certified athletic trainer and foundations of sports medicine teacher at Sylvan Hills High School.

This is the school's first year with the sports medicine class.



**Aaron Norton '19** obtained his master's degree in Fisheries/Wildlife Biology. In fall 2022, he will begin working towards his Ph.D. in Environmental Science at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.



**Jessica Rockett '19** accepted the position of AP specialist at Martin Resource Management in Smackover, AR.



**Yadira Yady Smith '19** works at UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute in the molecular diagnostics lab.



**Joshua Turner '19 '21** was hired to report at the *Magnolia Banner News*.



**Anthony Washington Jr. '19** became a breeder service tech at Pilgrim's Pride.



**Julianna Williams '19** became the partner operations coordinator with Strava.

## 2020 – 2022



**Aiyana Billings '20** accepted a travelers health project coordinator position with the Arkansas Department of Health under the epidemiology branch in Little Rock, AR.



**Benita Carbone '20** started a new position as food access coordinator at Valley Food Partnership.



**Darian Collins '20 '21** joined Petro-Hunt, LLC in Dallas, Texas, as a staff accountant.



**Draylon Cooke '20** works for Exeter Finance as a funding analyst in Dallas, Texas, while managing his personal clothing business called In My Bag Apparel.



**Mara Beth Darden '20** started occupational therapy school at LSU Health - Shreveport.



**Scarlett Duncan '20 '21** accepted a new position as a training program specialist at Amfuel.



**Eboni Edwards '20** made her professional theatre debut as an understudy for The Mountaintop by Katori Hall as the character Camae at Cardinal Stage in Bloomington, IN.



**Sarah Glover '20** accepted a position in the hematology laboratory at UAMS in Little Rock. She also graduated with honors from UAMS with a Medical Laboratory Scientist degree.



**Ja'Maya Lark '20** was promoted to a program eligibility specialist position with the Arkansas Department of Human Services in El Dorado, AR.



**Quinn McGehee '20** is a cyber security analyst for Simmons Bank in Little Rock, AR.



**Macey Barker '21** accepted a job as a business development representative with J.B. Hunt.



**DeAndre Burton '21** started a position with TForce Freight as an operations supervisor.



**Alexis Flannigan '21** became the marketing director at Gibbs Financial Group and Gibbs Wealth Management in Alpharetta, GA.



**Cooper King '21** accepted a coaching position at Harrison Middle School. He will be coaching 8th-grade football, high school baseball, and teaching 7th and 8th-grade physical education.



**Malik McBride '21** became the curriculum coordinator for Upward Bound at National Park College in Hot Springs.



**T'Kobe McDonald '21** was named assistant director of development at Southern Arkansas University.



**Victoria Taylor '21** started a new position as truckload account development coordinator at ArcBest.



**Katie Terral '21** accepted a position at Drew Memorial Health System in the labor and delivery unit.



**Snowy Harvey '22** was accepted into the Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine beginning in fall 2022.

## Weddings



**Lucas '20 and Bailey (Darnell) Blake '19** were married on April 30, 2022.



**Tyler and Mykenzi (Word) Bradford '19** were married on December 4, 2021.



**Tyler '17 '18 and Carlee (Erwin) Burns '18** were married on March 19, 2022.



**Chad '20 and Gracie (Patterson) Butler '21** were married on April 23, 2022.



**Michael '12 '14 and Lauren (Jones) Davis** were married on October 9, 2021.



**Zachary '19 and Spencer (Stanton) Doolin '20** were married on April 30, 2022.



**Schuyler '14 and Karli (Shelton) Murph '18** were married on April 3, 2021.



**Ty '11 and Shelby (Sanders) Neal '15** were married on April 8, 2022.



**Jaidon '18 and Seven (Powers) Parrish '20** were married on June 25, 2022.



**Colin and Kynnedi (Gordon) Parnell '18** were married on November 20, 2021.



**James '17 and Katelyn (Herring) Perry** were married on December 29, 2021.



**Grady '19 and DeAnna (Nuckolls) Tracy '05 '10** were married on February 2, 2022.



**Geoffrey '18 and Hannah (Lakey) Vaughn** were married on June 5, 2021.



**Cole and Shelby (Borek) Webb '18** were married on April 8, 2022.



**Josh '21 and Mattie (Carter) Winfield '21** were married on December 11, 2021.



**Richard '20 and Kaytlyn (Crowder) Wornack** were married on May 15, 2021.



**Drake '14 and Alex Frisby** announce the birth of their son, Alexander Frisby, born on March 5, 2022.



**Blake '10 '13 and Jessica (Anderson) Fulenwider '11 '13** announce the birth of their son, Lane Robert Fulenwider, born on March 7, 2022. He weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.



**Mattison '15 and Julia (Webb) Hickey '17** announce the birth of their daughter, Presley Madison Hickey, born on March 17, 2021. She weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz. and was 21 inches long.



**William '15 and Caroline (Armstrong) Lester '17** announce the birth of their son, Lee Paul Lester, born on February 19, 2022. He weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. and was 21 inches long.



**Hunter and Michelle (Woolley) Page '18** announce the birth of their son, Beckham Ray Page, born on November 1, 2021. He weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20 inches long.



**Brady Eaton and Lindsey Smith '19** announce the birth of their twin sons, Landon Reginald Eaton and Lawson Anthony Eaton, born on December 26, 2021. Landon weighed 4 lbs. 5 oz. and Lawson weighed 4 lbs. 13 oz.

## Little Muleriders®



**Niyia Sims '20 and Shannon Cole** announce the birth of their daughter, Anastasia Leighann Cole, born on January 7, 2021. She weighed 580 grams and was 12 inches long.



**Elliott and Haley (Herring) Courson '15** announce the birth of their son, Brodie Cruz Courson, born on February 3, 2022. He weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. and was 21 inches long.



**Dillon '15 and Alexis (Griffin) Fogle '17** announce the birth of their daughter, Kamry Kate Fogle, born on March 5, 2022. She weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. and was 20.5 inches long.



**Bobby '03 and Amber Ford** announce the birth of their daughter, Lydia Brielle Ford, born on November 17, 2021.

## In Memory of

1940-1949

**Billy Carl Wallace '45**  
May 1, 2022  
**James Miner '48**  
May 12, 2022

1950-1959

**Nelda Gene Brinson '52**  
December 25, 2021  
**Marilyn Newell Ellen '52**  
February 9, 2022  
**Saralynn Dudney Beasley '54**  
November 26, 2021  
**K. Dale Wood '54**  
November 25, 2021  
**Bobby Van Caudle '55**  
February 24, 2022  
**Shirley Jane Wilson '56**  
April 10, 2022  
**Jean Ross Rogers '57**  
April 4, 2022  
**Sammy Levon Chaffin '58**  
November 19, 2021

1960-1969

**Gene Rainwater '60**  
February 10, 2022

**Charles Ray Shinn '60**

April 29, 2022

**Robert Byron Whitley '60**

March 27, 2022

**Mack Stockton '61**

February 25, 2022

**Susie Deaton '62**

March 26, 2022

**Felix Lamar Lee '62**

February 13, 2022

**Billy Mack Moseley '62**

March 26, 2022

**Glenda Sue Miller '63**

January 22, 2022

**Barbara Wesson Tidwell '63**

December 13, 2021

**Gary Burgess '64**

March 16, 2022

**James Roan Martindale '65**

March 2, 2022

**Walter Joseph Michels '65**

February 8, 2022

**Haydn M. Welsh '65**

January 20, 2022

**Jennings Shaw '66**

April 6, 2022

**Paul Edward Cobb '67**

December 9, 2021

**Donald Walthall '67**

February 27, 2022

**William "Bill" Hendricks '68**

February 23, 2022

**Billy Joe Moore '68**

January 9, 2022

**Terry Varnado '68**

March 27, 2022

**James "Jimmy" E. Askew '69**

January 31, 2022

**James Bryant '69**

February 9, 2022

**Paul Wayne Sanders '69**

March 9, 2022

**Morris Allen White '69**

November 23, 2021

1970-1979

**David Wilson Birge '70**

September 21, 2021

**Rose Stidham Dale '70**

January 13, 2022

**Jackie Ray Thompson '70**

March 20, 2022

**Lucretia Lucille Cross '71**

April 14, 2022

**Claudette Haynes '71**

February 15, 2022

**Lamar Kelley '71**

March 25, 2022

**David M. Dodson '72**

January 11, 2022

**Linda Grayson '72**

February 20, 2022

**Lewis James "Jim" Norman '72**

March 27, 2022

**Randy Ross '72**

April 12, 2022

**Terry Weems '72**

December 3, 2021

**Mitchell "Mike" Warren '73**

January 4, 2022

**Sheryl Powell Gasaway '74**

September 26, 2020

**Richard Miles Parrish '74**

December 4, 2021

**Julia Strobele '75**

April 25, 2022

**Karen Wiley '75**

April 9, 2022

**Susie Foster '76**

March 26, 2022

**Marilyn Cox Mitchell '77**

February 21, 2022

**Sidney Jo Padgett '77**

February 21, 2022

1980-1989

**Joe Dale Yocom '80**

January 27, 2022

**Meredith Cook "Cookie" Brooks '82**

March 21, 1922

**Sandy Stanley '82**

April 12, 2022

**Ray Kimbrough Sr. '83**

January 4, 2022

**Rita Ann Pyle '83**

March 12, 2022

**Clifford Lester '84**

January 30, 2022

**Bobby Barham '85**

December 23, 2021

**Paul Aubrey McChesney '88**

December 4, 2021

1990-1999

**Nancy Davis Arellano '91**

April 3, 2022

**Kerry Anne Murphree '93**

November 27, 2021

**Dewanda Nelson '93**

April 7, 2022

**John David Robertson '93**

February 15, 2022

**Veronica Franchelle Bryant '95**

November 3, 2021

**Alicia Taylor '96**

March 22, 2022

**Julia Burton '97**

May 9, 2022

**Tammy Renee Poole '99**

December 8, 2021

2000-2009

**Eddy M. Walters '05**

January 21, 2022

**Julie Griffin Trimble '09**

February 2, 2022

2010-2019

**Lewis D'Angelo Brown '11**

November 19, 2021

**Karenda Griffith Ray '12**

March 26, 2022

**Ralph Shannon Ceballos '14**

May 30, 2021

2021-2022

**Alexis "Lexi" Grace Wilkes '21**

December 19, 2021

**Staff, Faculty,  
Students & Friends**

**Donald Wayne Robinson**

January 3, 2022

**Anna Holloway Russell**

January 5, 2022

**Robert "Bob" Bryan Tolley**

February 21, 2022

**Marcia Goodwin Zeno**

February 22, 2022

**Bruce Blackwell**

March 18, 2022

**Dr. Rudy John Eichenberger**

April 8, 2022

**Dorothy Craig**

April 9, 2022

**Steve Morgan**

April 29, 2022

**Ann Bridges**

May 24, 2022

**Leo Carson Davis**

November 23, 2021

**Pat K. Howard**

November 30, 2021

## SAU BOARD PROFILE



PHOTO BY SAU COMMUNICATIONS

Pictured from left to right: John Armour '89 (Secretary), Stephen Zorsch '00, David Ashby '77, Shanna Singleton-Deitsch '18, Jonathan Baird '01, Elston Strong '80, Dr. David Rankin, Jim Andrews '86 (Chair), Don McDonald '89 (Vice Chair), and Jennifer McDonald '88.



DAVID F. RANKIN  
COLLEGE of  
BUSINESS  
at SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The primary purposes for which the Rankin College of Business Advisory Council (BAC) has been established is to advise, aid, strengthen and further develop in every proper and useful way the educational purposes of the Rankin College of Business, to promote excellence and preeminence in its students and graduates, and to promote the synergies, as well as the ties of interest and affection, existing between the Rankin College of Business and its alumni, friends, faculty, and students throughout Arkansas, as well as throughout the nation and the world.

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