

The Stater

A Magazine for the Alumni and Friends of Southern Arkansas University



Mulerider
Strong

#MuleriderStrong

We all agree that 2020 was a year like no other. We faced so many challenges in our homes, our work places, and in our nation and world. The SAU campus experienced its own challenges during the year, but even in the midst of a world-wide pandemic, our campus and community helped keep us safe, strong, vibrant and indeed moving forward.

The SAU Health Services office, SAU Housing office, the Risk Management Task Force, and our faculty and staff as a whole carried out heroic work to keep our campus, classrooms, and residence halls as safe as possible against the invisible enemy of the COVID-19 virus.

The extraordinary individual efforts by our students, faculty, and staff kept us on course. By adhering to the protocols and procedures outlined by the Risk Management Task Force, our people cared for themselves and each other. These individual efforts not only kept our campus as healthy as possible, but also allowed SAU to continue to move forward in so many areas.

SAU achieved the highest freshman-to-sophomore retention rate in its history during the fall of 2020. Increased student retention is a primary goal of our institution. This new milestone is a testament of the campus-wide commitment to a shared "Culture of Caring" and the strong desire to help each student achieve academic and personal goals. Thank you, SAU faculty and staff!

The Mulerider Strong Fund was established during the pandemic to allow alumni and friends the opportunity to support SAU students and the campus during this critical and unprecedented year. Please know that the resources collected in this fund helped keep us safe. We modified our classrooms for virtual learning, and aided struggling students to stay in school. It also helped SAU meet critical needs caused by the pandemic. Thank you, alumni and friends!

Within the pages of this edition of *The Stater*, you will see many more examples of the strong momentum that continues at Southern Arkansas University. We know that there are many challenges ahead in 2021, and SAU is committed to meeting all of these challenges with teamwork, positivity, and resilience.

Thank you for all you have done to keep us #MuleriderStrong!

All the best –



Trey Berry, Ph.D.
President



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Upcoming Events

April 30
Spring Commencement

May 10
Spring Intersession Begins

May 21
Spring Intersession Ends

May 25
First Summer Session Begins

June 28 - July 1
Mulerider Kids College

June 29
Second Summer Session Begins

July 7-9
Mulerider Teen College

July 30
Summer Commencement

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



Stay **SOCIAL**

Follow the SAU Alumni Association on social media to keep up with your fellow alumni and see what's happening on campus.

Alumni

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@MuleriderAlumni



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The Stater

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

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Photo by **Matthew Wilkins**

Alexandria Hunter Breashears at the 2020 Summer Commencement ceremony.

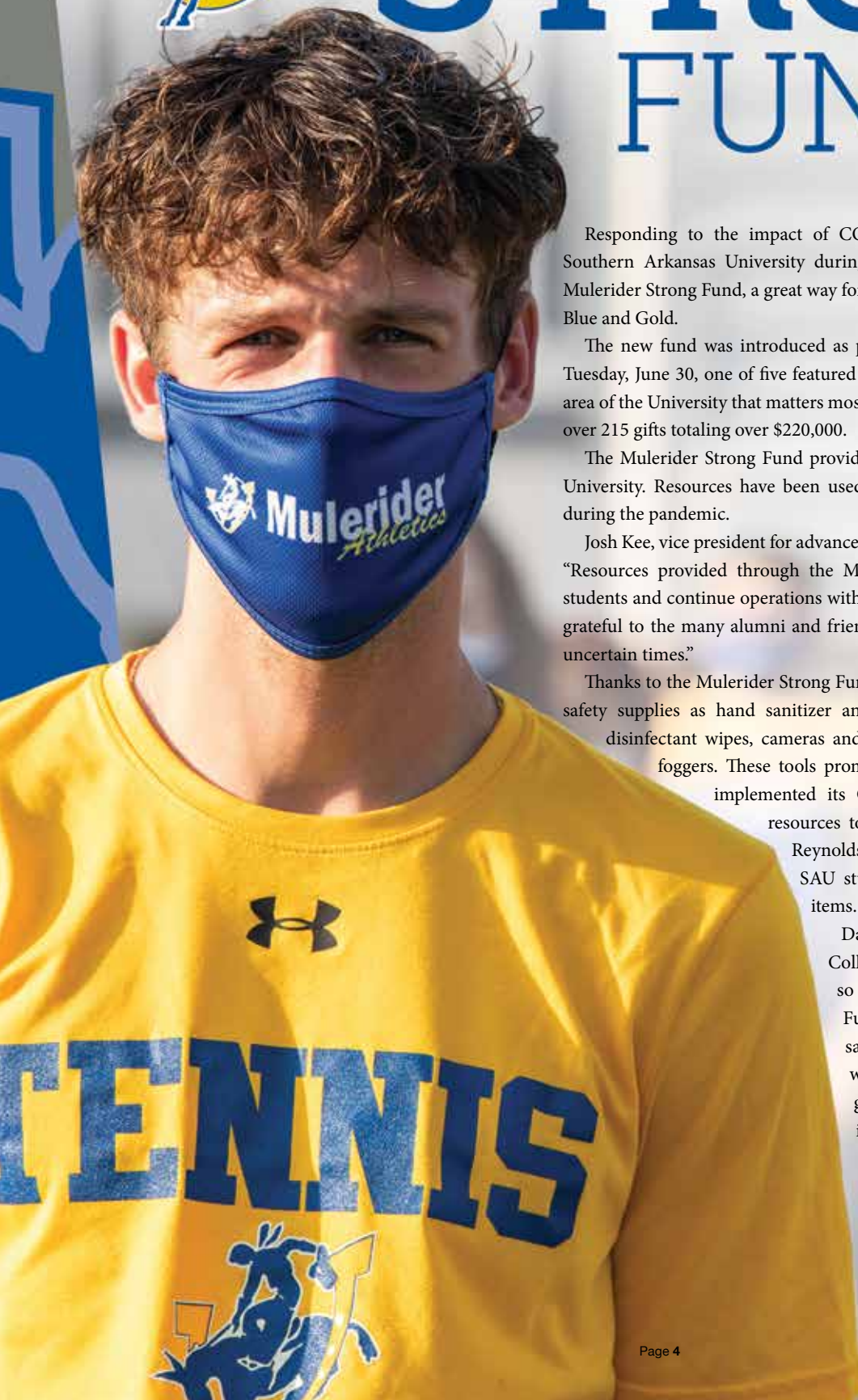


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MULERIDER STRONG FUND



Responding to the impact of COVID-19 and continuing the operations of Southern Arkansas University during a pandemic are the primary purposes of Mulerider Strong Fund, a great way for alumni and friends to show their love for the Blue and Gold.

The new fund was introduced as part of the sixth annual Giving Day held on Tuesday, June 30, one of five featured funds created to allow donors to support the area of the University that matters most to them. On that day, the University received over 215 gifts totaling over \$220,000.

The Mulerider Strong Fund provides operational funds to support needs of the University. Resources have been used to ensure the health and safety of campus during the pandemic.

Josh Kee, vice president for advancement, said donors continue to give generously. "Resources provided through the Mulerider Strong Fund allow us to help our students and continue operations without straining our budget," he said. "We are so grateful to the many alumni and friends who have partnered with us during these uncertain times."

Thanks to the Mulerider Strong Fund, SAU has been able to provide such critical safety supplies as hand sanitizer and dispensers, facemasks, Plexiglas barriers, disinfectant wipes, cameras and microphones for classroom use, and room foggers. These tools promote health and safety as the University has implemented its COVID-19 protocols. It has also provided resources to the new Mulerider Market, located in the Reynolds Center. The Market is available to all current SAU students in need of food or personal hygiene items.

Dale Adcock (55), a graduate of Southern State College, is among the many alumni who have so graciously donated to the Mulerider Strong Fund. "I think it helps everyone at SAU," Adcock said. "It does a lot of good. I had a lot of help when I started my college career in 1952. I got a job immediately at Southern State, and it helped me pay for my room and board. I greatly appreciate all the help that I received. It is so important to give back, especially at this time, when students are having to go to class virtually."

COVID Perspectives

Haylee Hines
SAU Cheerleader
Freshman
Mass Communications
Camden, AR



Although my freshman experience is very different from what I had imagined, it is definitely different in a positive way. The events hosted by the school did not have an abnormal feeling to them as I expected them to. All events were strategically thought out to where social distancing and masks did not make them awkward. It was pretty easy for me to adapt to hybrid classes. My professors were very helpful and provided numerous COVID-safe ways for students to contact them in regard to the assignments. The very few in-class sessions I had were extremely small and I believe helped to create a much more comfortable transition from high school to college. I pictured my first year of college cheer featuring a football season and many practices. After getting news that football season was cancelled, the cheer year started off pretty slow, but as the season progressed the entire team had to get tested to ensure the safety of others and to allow contact practices. Once full practices began, there was some feeling of normalcy to them. I started with a doubtful mind for the semester, but I am ending with a smile and seeing a promising second semester. In just one semester this University has brought me so many memories and new experiences that I will forever be grateful. I am extremely glad that I chose to attend school here, because even with COVID, it really does feel like home.

Dr. Connie Wilson '88
Assistant Professor
of Education/
EDAS Director



Since my program is 100% online, I look for creative and innovative virtual ways to connect with my Educational Leadership in Administration and Supervision (EDAS) graduate students. These include using Voice Thread in all my classes. This tool provides a virtual platform for students to interact via video and audio in an asynchronous way. Voice Thread is used for assignments and discussion boards, which allows students to work with me and other students in the course to discuss relevant topics in the field of educational leadership. I also give students opportunities to collaborate with me and each other on group projects. I use Google Folders, Zoom meetings, and Voice Thread to provide a means for collaboration, and it works really well.

Tremayne Bell
SAU Track
Senior
Accounting
Dallas, TX



Due to the COVID pandemic, many of my classes have switched to being hybrid courses or offering the ability to join a class via Zoom from home. Also, we no longer have the easy access of going to our professor's office during business hours to receive assistance or tutoring when needed. The same challenge presents itself with my fellow classmates as well, as we no longer have the access to work in groups and study face-to-face. Because of these challenges, especially with not having access to the study lounge in Blanchard Hall (a previous hot spot for many of us to study together), I've found Magale Library's study rooms as an excellent substitute to study and learn effectively during this time. It's very hard for me to learn and focus from my bedroom; therefore, the study room is a great resource I've utilized during COVID, especially since the rooms are sanitized after every use.

Lindsey O'Neal
Resident Assistant
Senior
Mass Communications
Shongaloo, LA



As a resident assistant dealing with the impact of COVID-19, it has been extremely challenging. You live in a residence hall with 150-200 students and you normally learn names and match them with faces. With a mask on, it was pretty difficult. This made you pay more attention to their voice, their wardrobe choices and their personality to get to know who they are! During the semester we also have to have "actives" which is where each RA plans an activity once a month to get our residents out of their room. COVID made it harder than normal because we had more restrictions on what we could do. It made us think of ways to be more sanitary and abide by the rules and regulations Housing placed on us. Some held virtual actives, some held events outside to a have clean open space, and some held events inside with six feet apart and masks! I'm really proud of how our residents adapted to the pandemic. They understood that masks are necessary and to constantly use hand sanitizer! Luckily, I live in Talley Hall, and everyone enjoys being outside. With the pretty weather we've had this semester, you could normally find all of us outside playing cornhole, listening to the guys play guitars, or using the roping dummy. I'm so thankful that during this time my residents, my staff, and my university have remained #MuleriderStrong.

Makenzi Hamilton '14, '16
Director of Recruitment



We've experienced a lot of trials this year due to COVID regulations, but our recruitment team has remained both positive and creative. We've continued keeping contact with our students whether it be virtual or in-person. We are grateful for the hard work from schools all over providing us with virtual options to engage with their students as well as allowing us to be in-person safely. We have steadily been texting, calling, emailing, and providing both in-person and virtual individual appointments. Our team has provided several virtual events with the help from various departments, faculty, and staff to provide our potential students with helpful information with our Mulerider touch. I'm grateful for our #MuleriderStrong community and how we've continued to provide for our future Muleriders.

Dr. Abe Tucker
Chair,
Biology Department



The Department of Biology has found new and innovative ways to teach courses safely in this era of social-distancing. Each faculty member has concocted their own specific combination of face-to-face and remote options for their students. Biology instructor Sarah Amonett has developed new remote labs for her students to conduct creative biology experiments in their dorm, outside or at home. Ms. Christa Marsh has modified her Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) labs to allow for interactive, remote labs that make use of video dissections and recorded tutorials. Dr. Abigail D'Ambrosia and Ms. Kjärstin Carlson-Drexler have redesigned all the Principles of Biology I labs to be conducted through online activities or performed outside. Dr. Jeremy Chamberlain arranged to teach his A&P course in a classroom-rigged Harton Theatre, which allows for outside air circulation and maximal social-distancing. The pandemic precautions have not deterred Dr. Rory Carroll from keeping his Ecology and Mammalogy students from safely conducting fieldwork at Laney Farm, the Couch Preserve and other sites, including the installation of bat houses across campus. Drs. Showalter, Hyde and McDermott have succeeded in facilitating socially-distant face-to-face lab courses for genetics and microbiology students by redesigning lab spaces and having students work in small groups while wearing face masks and face shields. Dr. Jennifer Kelton-Huff has facilitated a number of internship opportunities for her Public Health students to work safely in the community at organizations that are at the forefront of promoting science-based decision-making in the community.



CAMPUS

Response to COVID-19

Keeping students, faculty and staff safe and healthy is what kept SAU's campus open during the fall semester. Accomplishing that took a lot of teamwork from several different departments. A reopening task force was established early on to determine what processes the University needed to follow to bring students back to campus and how to manage positive cases.

University Health Services **The first step to keeping campus healthy**

Meeting students' needs and keeping the campus safe are top priorities for University Health Services (UHS) and University Housing during the pandemic. Both departments work diligently to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus on campus and create a positive academic and living environment.

Dr. Trey Berry, SAU's president, has offered praise for the heroic work of all faculty and staff who collaborated on safety procedures and protocols for the campus. These include not only UHS and Housing but the Risk Management and Reopening committees.

"What heroes we have," Berry said. "They have done everything

imaginable to keep us safe."

One crucial early decision in the fight against COVID-19 was to purchase two Rapid Testing machines over the summer. By the fall semester, more than 1,900 tests had been conducted using the devices.

"There's no doubt the machines helped us keep the campus safe and healthy," said Berry.

UHS has three SOFIA 2 SARS antigen testing machines that provide fast, accurate results to control the spread of COVID-19. UHS has also received an Abbott ID NOW instrument which can be used to test patients who are showing symptoms for COVID 19. It provides rapid results in 13 minutes or less.

The machines are part of SAU's overall endeavor to limit the virus's spread, perform contact tracing, and increase safety. This has allowed UHS to offer many testing clinics for various campus populations as



needed with quick results.

"Purchasing the machines was an important move for us," said Dr. Donna Allen, vice president for student affairs, "but we knew it would be critical in keeping students, faculty and staff safe, which is our highest priority."

The University purchased the machines in early July, putting SAU ahead of the curve in on-campus testing. Amanda Hanson APRN, FNP-BC, UHS director, said all clinic nurses are trained on the devices. Nurses test directly for viral components, detecting active infection instead of antibodies that indicate past infection. Antigen testing, such as this, can be done quicker than many other PCR tests, with similar accuracy and at a better cost to the University and its students.

Hanson said testing is available to students without requiring them to come into the clinic office. Drive-through testing is one means of keeping the process safe and socially-distanced.

Though the number of students who come for testing can vary, Hanson is pleased with the result and that students are following the protocols.

Face coverings are a requirement in all campus buildings, as is social distancing, which requires students to stay at least six feet apart in public spaces. Signs and posters have been placed to remind faculty, staff, and students to remain socially distanced.



Housing meets challenges

UHS works closely with SAU Housing to monitor and, if necessary, isolate and/or quarantine any positive COVID-19 cases. Housing Director Sandra Martin '01, '03 said her staff have "worked lots of hard hours to make sure we meet the students' needs."

This includes the delivery of meals to students in isolation or quarantine. Meals are delivered three times per day on weekdays, and twice per day on weekends, with a breakfast box provided on Fridays to cover breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday. Housing also provides laundry services. Quarantine is required of those who have had contact with a positive COVID case; isolation is necessary for positive COVID patients.

Housing has limited the number of people in common spaces in order to encourage social distancing. "We've done a good job this semester," Martin said, "but we have to remain vigilant."

She and her staff worked closely with UHS and the Risk Management Task Force to develop campus safety protocols.

"We try to keep students engaged and motivated," she explained. "Some students do choose to go home, but many also want to stay. They need to feel that engagement, so it's been a challenge for them."

Housing utilizes such technology as Zoom and video chat to stay in touch, hold meetings, and ensure consistent operations. "We try to keep our staff separated so we can remain steady, even if one of us is exposed," Martin said.

To make sure students in quarantine or isolation can stay up with their courses, Housing provides laptops and cell phones with Wi-Fi capability in case they need to contact UHS. "Our staff constantly helps monitor and address the needs of students," Martin said.

The University has also developed its own web-based contact tracing system. "We were ahead of many other universities in the state on contact tracing," Martin explained.

Web-based tracing

Working with Hanson and her team, Josh Jenkins, manager of web communications, assembled an online database to manage COVID response tracking and internal/external communications. The system processes patients reporting symptoms and communicates with patients and offices across campus about positive or quarantined students. "It also serves as the source of data for our public COVID data dashboard that is updated live," Jenkins explained.

Students presenting symptoms are entered into the database. UHS then works with them to determine whether they need testing, isolation, or have come in contact with a positive case. Students who test positive are given the option of isolating on campus. Those who choose to do so are transitioned entirely online, and information and resources are automatically sent to the student.

Automated emails and text messages are sent to Housing, Student Life, Student Affairs, and Athletics if the student is an athlete. UHS checks in with tracked individuals and performs internal charting. Advisors also check with students during this time to assess their academic needs. When a student is released from quarantine or isolation, all offices are notified by the system. UHS updates this information to the patient record.

Building community

SAU's Administration has been key to the success of preparing for and answering the COVID-19 crisis. "They have helped us respond and adapt to this new environment," said Martin. "Our goal is community building. If students feel connected, they are more likely to be successful, here and in life. It's been a challenge, but it is our goal to strengthen those connections."

Martin looks forward to a new normal. "I'm excited to see students' faces again!"

Admissions reaching out

Recruitment has been another critical area that has made adjustments due to the pandemic. Creativity has been the key to their success.

Sarah Jennings '97, assistant vice president of enrollment services, said SAU remains determined to reach out to prospective Muleriders but has changed methods. As college fairs have migrated online, SAU Admissions has provided videos, presentations, links, and real-time chats on virtual platforms.

"Our team members have been troopers and innovators!" said Jennings. "Some fairs are now open for several hours throughout the day, and our staff does a great job of monitoring the chats and responses. We miss face-to-face interaction! Fortunately, several schools are allowing in-person visits with extra safety protocols."

Several high schools have allowed SAU to join with their juniors and seniors on Zoom or other platforms. SAU has developed three types of tours: in-person, online tour videos, or a video chat providing a campus tour.

Face-to-face tours require a temperature check and face covering for each attendee. Group tours are split into smaller groups to permit social distancing. "On Preview Days, before COVID, we would normally host up to 400 students per date," said Jennings. "During this time, we have added days with a maximum of 50 students, socially-distance and split into smaller groups."

Drive-through events have proven effective for Admissions, and virtual sessions have ranged from scholarships to housing to a chance to meet Dr. Berry. "In addition to traditional topics, we have added fun," said Jennings. A virtual fun night for prospective students included an ugly sweater contest.

Prospective students have responded well to the University's pandemic-related communication plan. "We thrive on interaction with students, and we will use all types of resources to achieve that interaction," Jennings said, noting the importance of email and texting as part of the plan.

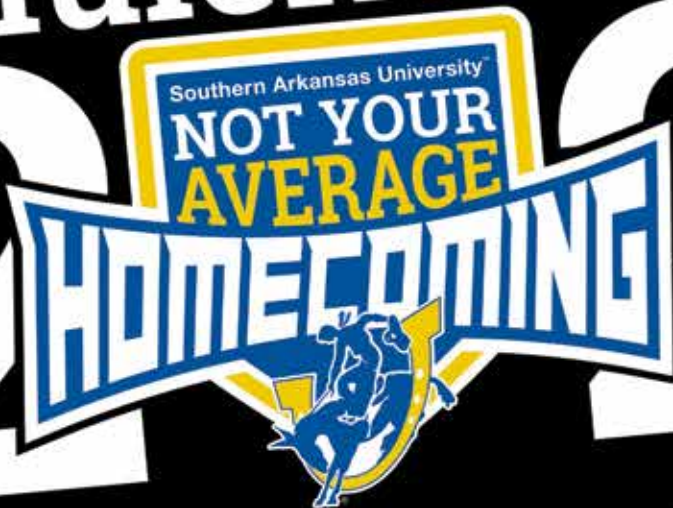
Some of the creative ideas developed out of necessity in the pandemic will enhance the University's regular recruiting plans once things return to normal.

"Reaching out to our future Muleriders is rewarding regardless of the method!" enthused Jennings.



Mask Up
Muleriders!

#MuleriderStrong 2020



The annual Drive-in Movie was another highly attended Homecoming 2020 event hosted by the Student Activities Board. The movie shown was Jumanji: The Next Level. The students gathered in cars and in the backs of trucks to enjoy a normal Homecoming tradition.

In 2020 we saw the cancellation of events and gatherings around the world, and SAU's football season and traditional homecoming festivities were not immune to the effects of the COVID regulations which were put in place. But, even though the GAC cancelled the Mulerider football season, SAU remained strong and continued with some of the most cherished Homecoming traditions – but in a different way. During the week of October 19-24, students, alumni, faculty and staff celebrated “Not Your Average Homecoming.” While Mulegating and a Mulerider football game were not able to happen, many SAU Homecoming traditions continued with a creative twist to follow new protocols, and some new events were begun.

A Virtual 5K was held, which allowed participants to run, jog, walk, or bike 3.1 miles at their convenience during Homecoming week. Participants wore blue and gold to show their Mulerider pride and posted pictures with the #MuleriderStrong2020 hashtag. A Shoebox Float contest was held which provided an opportunity for alumni, faculty, staff and current students to decorate a shoebox as a float and have it featured in SAU's Virtual Homecoming Parade.

Other events included Street Painting, Muleshoe Hunt, Mask Decorating Competition, Banner Decorating Competition, Spirit Log Decorating Competition, Virtual Alumni Check-in and Virtual Update from Dr. Berry, Drive-in Movie, Virtual Alumni Trivia Night, Coronation Ceremony, Virtual Golden Rider Reunion, Murphy USA Mulerider Club Invitational Golf Tournament, and the SAU Rodeo.

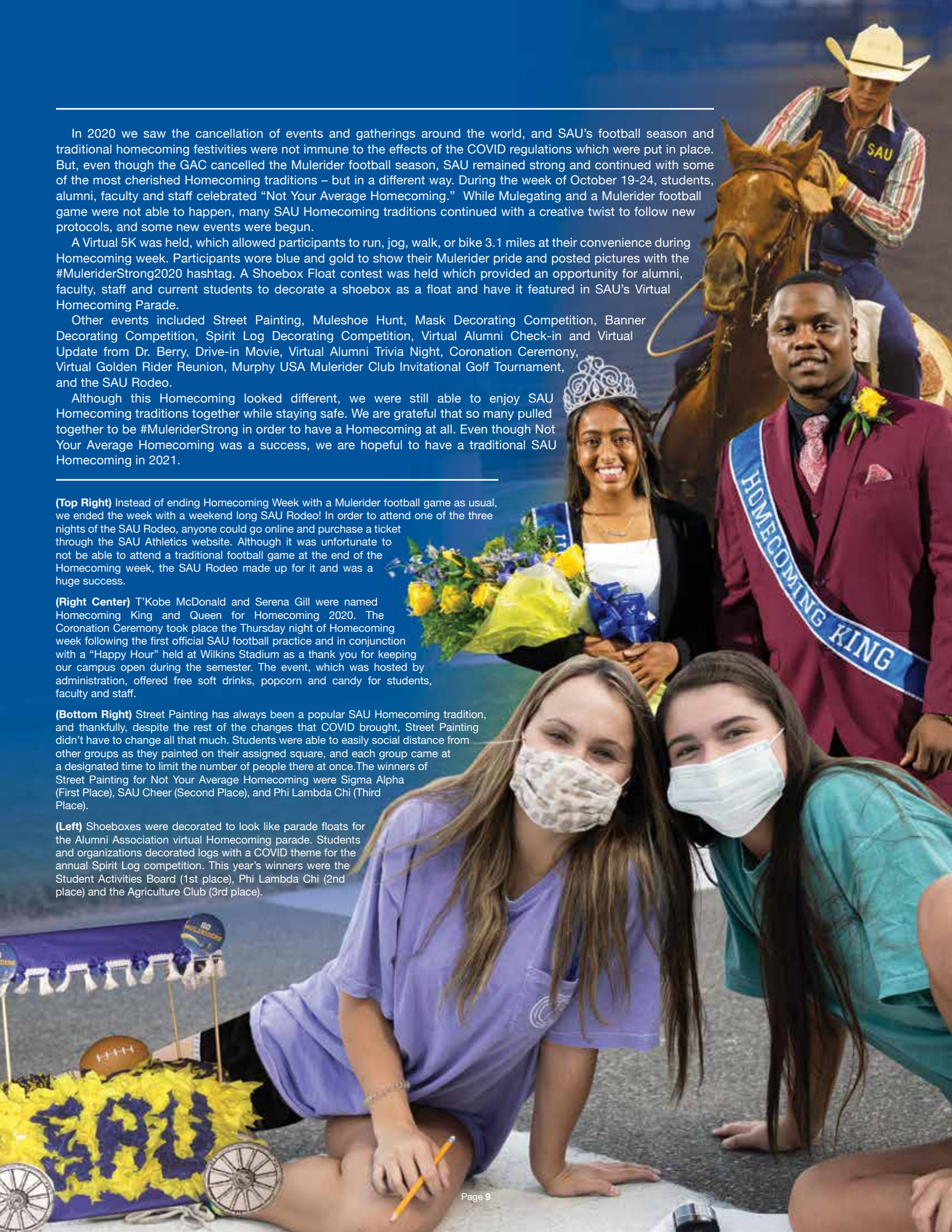
Although this Homecoming looked different, we were still able to enjoy SAU Homecoming traditions together while staying safe. We are grateful that so many pulled together to be #MuleriderStrong in order to have a Homecoming at all. Even though Not Your Average Homecoming was a success, we are hopeful to have a traditional SAU Homecoming in 2021.

(Top Right) Instead of ending Homecoming Week with a Mulerider football game as usual, we ended the week with a weekend long SAU Rodeo! In order to attend one of the three nights of the SAU Rodeo, anyone could go online and purchase a ticket through the SAU Athletics website. Although it was unfortunate to not be able to attend a traditional football game at the end of the Homecoming week, the SAU Rodeo made up for it and was a huge success.

(Right Center) T’Kobe McDonald and Serena Gill were named Homecoming King and Queen for Homecoming 2020. The Coronation Ceremony took place the Thursday night of Homecoming week following the first official SAU football practice and in conjunction with a “Happy Hour” held at Wilkins Stadium as a thank you for keeping our campus open during the semester. The event, which was hosted by administration, offered free soft drinks, popcorn and candy for students, faculty and staff.

(Bottom Right) Street Painting has always been a popular SAU Homecoming tradition, and thankfully, despite the rest of the changes that COVID brought, Street Painting didn't have to change all that much. Students were able to easily social distance from other groups as they painted on their assigned square, and each group came at a designated time to limit the number of people there at once. The winners of Street Painting for Not Your Average Homecoming were Sigma Alpha (First Place), SAU Cheer (Second Place), and Phi Lambda Chi (Third Place).

(Left) Shoeboxes were decorated to look like parade floats for the Alumni Association virtual Homecoming parade. Students and organizations decorated logs with a COVID theme for the annual Spirit Log competition. This year's winners were the Student Activities Board (1st place), Phi Lambda Chi (2nd place) and the Agriculture Club (3rd place).



Career Services:

Making Connections with Virtual Handshakes

During these socially-distanced times of COVID, we have chosen to forgo the traditional handshake to help eliminate the spread of germs. But SAU's Career Services is keeping the handshake alive – at least virtually – to provide a platform for students and alumni to connect and find resources to benefit them both.

Handshake is an online career management tool designed for college students, alumni and employers. It offers networking opportunities, job postings and is the means by which SAU students can access all of the resources available through the Office of Career Services. Setting up an account with Handshake is free to all SAU students and alumni.

"Our goal is to help students transition from the classroom to their career," said Anne Sands '04, '09, director of Career Services. "We also want to help connect students with alumni as well as keep alumni engaged with SAU. We can use Handshake to help make all of this happen."

SAU offers free Handshake accounts to all students. Currently, 950 students have activated their Handshake account. Through this account, students have access to available positions at more than 400,000 companies. They can apply for internships and take part in career fairs. They can also use Handshake to connect with Career Services and take advantage of the many resources they offer.

"I tell students that they will learn what they need to know about their specific field in their classes," Sands said, "but we can teach them the skills they need regardless of where they work."

Career Services offers career readiness skills by providing guidance on interview skills, resume preparation and how to network. All of the services provided by Career Services are free.

"Alumni can have an account through SAU for free as well,"

Sands said. "They can have an individual account if they are looking for a job or a company account if they are looking to hire staff. If alumni have open positions at their company, they can notify Career Services, and we can help connect them with students who would qualify for their positions."

All of the jobs on Handshake are meant for new college graduates. This makes it an ideal resource to connect employers with graduates.

"We want to help facilitate relationships between our students and our alumni," Sands said. "I feel like there is no one better to lead a student than someone who has been in their shoes on the other side."

Career Services also hosts regular events to highlight different alumni or have students speak on past internships they have completed. These events are open to all students and have been conducted through Zoom during COVID.

Pre-COVID, Career Services began an initiative to connect alumni with students: AIM – Alumni Inspiring Muleriders. "Initially it was developed as a job shadowing program to allow our students to connect with an alum in their field and shadow them for a day to gain a better understanding of what jobs in their specific field entailed," Sands explained. "But COVID put a stop to that, so we had to adapt to doing things virtually. We are still using the AIM program but more as a mentorship opportunity, and it is working really well; we hope to get more alumni involved in this program."

Sands encourages any alumni who are interested in participating in the AIM program or connecting with students through Handshake to contact the Career Services office at saumag.edu/career-services or via email at CareerServices@saumag.edu.





for these **Future Farmers of America**



“FFA is so much more than agriculture.
It is leadership, education, public speaking
and team building...”

- **Kyleen Hewitt**
Fouke, Arkansas
SAU - FFA District Vice President

Three of Arkansas' 2020-2021 state FFA officers are making Southern Arkansas University their home for pursuing their passion in agriculture. The freshmen all come from different backgrounds and found FFA in different ways, but each developed a passion for the organization and the agriculture industry.

Sarah Thomas, from Concord, Arkansas, is serving as reporter but admits she did not have an agriculture background before FFA. “I was required to take an agriculture class at my high school,” Thomas explained. “I did that and ended up showing a pig at the fair and absolutely fell in love with it!”

Thomas immediately got involved in FFA and continued showing pigs throughout high school. She knew she wanted to pursue agriculture in college and applied to SAU in the tenth grade because of guidance from her FFA chapter advisor. “I obviously had to wait to finish high school,” she said, “but I knew then SAU is where I would go to college. It really does feel like home.”

Dominic Pizzimenti, from Mountain Home, Arkansas, is serving as Eastern District Vice President but was undecided on his choice for college for quite some time. “I was considering SAU and another in-state school,” Pizzimenti said, “but SAU was more welcoming and I had more of a personal connection here, and that really made it feel like home.”

Pizzimenti's grandfather showed cattle but his parents weren't involved in the agriculture industry. Taking his first agriculture class in eighth grade introduced him to the world of showing animals.

“I began showing goats and attended FFA national convention and that hooked me,” he said. “I've shown every species of animal you can show. I'm really drawn to the livestock showing.”

Kyleen Hewitt is from Fouke, Arkansas, and is serving as Southern District Vice President and had a more logical path to SAU. “My family owns a cattle ranch which my great grandfather started, so it's been in my family for several generations,” she explained. “I joined FFA and showed cattle all through high school. Plus SAU is just an hour away from my home and my mom is an alum, so it was a logical choice for me.”

Of the six state officers, whose terms end in April, three chose SAU, two are attending the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and one is at Arkansas Tech University.

“It really speaks highly of SAU's agriculture program, that we, as FFA officers and people who are so passionate and involved in agriculture, chose SAU,” said Hewitt. “It shows that SAU's program is made up of people who are just as passionate about it as we are.”

The officers are sure to be assets for recruiting the next class, as well. “There are nearly 16,000 FFA students across Arkansas,” said Pizzimenti, “and when they start looking at college, we can really impact them and encourage them to attend SAU because of the great experience we are having here. We have connections with other state officers and members from other state organizations, too, so we can influence students outside of the state.”

“FFA is so much more than agriculture. It is leadership, education, public speaking and team building,” said Hewitt. “The connections you will make are not just in the agriculture industry but also in business. You develop great friendships, grow as a leader and a communicator and learn about the agriculture industry, which is the largest industry in Arkansas.”

“It's very humbling,” added Thomas, “to be involved in this industry, which allows all other industries to exist. Without agriculture, we wouldn't have anything else.”

The trio also noted how hands-on the agriculture classes are at SAU, especially the Farm Experience class which allows students to learn and reinforce life skills like looking at fencing and handling the cattle.

“I think this is another advantage of attending a smaller school,” said Thomas. “I have friends at other schools who had all of their classes online, but I'm so glad we were able to continue some in-person classes to gain this experience.”

While each of these students came to FFA via different paths, they all have obviously developed similar passions for the organization and the industry, and each wants to use their FFA experiences and the degree they earn from SAU to help farmers and ranchers continue to do their jobs.



(Right to Left) Sarah Thomas, Dominic Pizzimenti, and Kyleen Hewitt.



Photo by **Matthew Wilkins**

Commencement ceremonies looked slightly different this summer, as SAU adapted to the changes that COVID-19 brought not only to the SAU community, but the entire globe. As a result, all six commencement ceremonies were held at Wilkins Football Stadium on campus. In addition, a number of spring graduates who received their degrees in May 2020 also chose to walk in the summer commencement ceremonies, due to the spring commencement ceremonies being cancelled. The fall commencement ceremony was held in Wilkins Stadium in November, as the fall semester ended earlier than normal.



Photo by **Matthew Wilkins**

SAU wasn't able to host the annual Celebration of Lights ceremony in December because of COVID, but that didn't stop us from filling the campus with the traditional holiday displays. The festive lights throughout campus brought the magic of the holidays for all of the community to enjoy.

around campus



Photo by **Matthew Wilkins**

Starting in the Spring 2021 Semester, the Mulerider Café is now proudly serving Starbucks® hand crafted beverages through the We Proudly Serve Starbucks® program! The Mulerider Express Convenience Store also offers snacking, groceries or on-the-go meals to serve all of the SAU community. The café, which is located in the Reynolds Center, is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. to satisfy the coffee cravings of campus and community members.

Photo by **Matthew Wilkins**

(Left) During the week of Halloween, a Halloween Costume Contest took place in Foundation Hall on campus.



Photo by **Matthew Wilkins**

Founding members of the Delta Eta Chapter at SAU gathered with current members to unveil their new monument on campus. Omega Psi Phi was the first African American fraternity to be established on SAU's campus. We love seeing SAU alumni and current students come together to represent their fraternity!



Photo by **Matthew Wilkins**

Because being able to socially distance and wear a mask were two of the most important factors for an event to take place on campus, band performances took place at the Greek Theatre and Story Arena.



Photo by **Matthew Wilkins**

There are several on-going construction projects on campus including a new 10,000 square foot facility for the College of Education. This structure will provide classrooms and office space for all COE faculty. Completion is scheduled for early 2021.



Photo by **Matthew Wilkins**

To end the fall semester on a high note, two popular student events were combined into one big event. Feeding Frenzy is an event that typically takes place the week before finals. Headphone Disco is an event where students can dance while listening to different songs through headphones, creating a 'silent disco' for anyone without headphones. A huge shout-out to the Student Activities Board, SAU Dining, and all volunteers who made this mega event successful!



Photo by **Matthew Wilkins**

The classroom setting was an adjustment for both students and faculty. Masks were required to be worn in all classrooms and inside campus buildings, as well as students having to socially distance from one another.



Photo by **Matthew Wilkins**

Big Money Bingo looked a lot different this year, but it was still a highly attended event by the students. Big Money Bingo has always been a popular event for the students to attend, but this year, the event was relocated to Wilkins Stadium where the students were able to socially distance while still being able to play multiple games of Bingo and win big prizes.



College of Education

- The College of Education is now offering an exciting new graduate program for P-12 educators. Unlike other advanced degrees offered for educators, this program will provide teachers the opportunity to enhance teaching skills and become leaders within their school districts and remain in the classroom upon completion. The Instructional Facilitator/LEAD Teacher MED is offered fully online. A revision of the previous Curriculum & Instruction master's degree, it provides teacher leaders the opportunity to hone their craft while learning to apply the acquired skills in assisting other educators.
- The United States Center for Coaching Excellence (USCCE) has asked Steven D. Dingman '90, Chair of the Health, Kinesiology and Recreation Department, to participate in a USCCE Think Tank project to begin work with state high school athletic associations and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) to recognize National Committee for Accreditation of Coaching Excellence (NCACE) accredited programs and to develop initiatives to promote and advocate for accredited programs.



Steven D. Dingman

College of Liberal and Performing Arts



- SAU will begin offering a bachelor of fine arts degree in Art & Design with a concentration in Pre-Art Therapy in spring 2021. According to the American Art Therapy Association, art therapy is an integrative profession that enriches lives through active art-making, applied psychological theory, and human experience. Students in the 120-hour undergraduate program will acquire a broad understanding of the applications, theories, and career paths when preparing to apply to accredited art therapy or other related counseling graduate programs.

College of Science and Engineering

- Dr. Scott White, associate professor of chemistry and director of the SAU STEM Center for K-12 Education, was named the 2020 Honor Professor. White accepted the ceremonial University Mace from Dr. Kenneth Green, outgoing Honor Professor, during a virtual event held in August. White received his BS and Secondary Education Certification from Harding University and his MS and PhD from Purdue University. He started his career at SAU in August 2000.
- SAU's 2020 graduates of its Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program ranked first among state-supported four-year universities in Arkansas for first-time NCLEX pass rate, as reported by the State Board of Nursing. To obtain licensure in Arkansas, graduates of the program are required to take the National Council for Licensure Exam-RN (NCLEX-RN) which ensures candidates are well prepared for entry-level practice. For the 2020 year, which runs from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, SAU nursing graduates achieved a 97.3 percent pass rate on their first attempt.



Dr. Scott White

Rankin College of Business



- SAU's David F. Rankin College of Business was ranked as the most affordable online MBA program in Arkansas according to rankings by College Consensus. The online MBA program through SAU's David F. Rankin College of Business is fully accredited by AACSB, International, the premier accrediting body for colleges and schools of business. Fewer than five percent of all business programs worldwide are accredited by AACSB, which indicates the quality of the program offered at SAU. College Consensus combines results of other college rankings to provide a comprehensive view of colleges and universities across the nation.

- The 2020 Rankin College of Business Hall of Fame Class was announced. This is the second class of hall of fame inductees and includes Dr. David Rankin, president-emeritus of SAU; Mr. Ron LeMay '67, managing director and co-founder of OpenAir Equity Partners and CEO of Main Street Data; and business honoree Murphy Oil Corporation. Inductees were presented during a Zoom meeting of the Leadership Challenge Speaker Series in October. An induction ceremony will be held in 2021.



Dr. David F. Rankin



Ron LeMay



- The RCB is adding new tracks for the MBA program including an MBA with an emphasis in Data Analytics, an MBA Data Analytics Graduate Certificate, an MBA with an emphasis in Business Leadership and an MBA Business Leadership Graduate Certificate.



- The \$1 million goal to endow the Rankin College of Business has been exceeded thanks to many individuals who have come together to support SAU and honor SAU President Emeritus Dr. David F. Rankin. A permanent donor wall recognizing all of the donors to the endowment has been installed in the lobby of Blanchard Hall. Proceeds from the endowment will provide a dedicated stream of income to ensure the RCB's continued excellence through scholarships, classroom enrichment and student travel.



Contributed Photo

Jessie Davis Jr., a sophomore forward on the Mulerider Men's Basketball team, interacts with a resident of Greenhouse Cottages of Wentworth by playing tic-tac-toe with window chalk.



Contributed Photo

Members of the Mulerider Football team pose for a picture after aiding the SAU Physical Plant by washing the University's bus fleet.



Contributed Photo

Men's Basketball sophomore guard Dodge Brown and Men's Golf freshman Connor Harrington enjoy a break and a quick photo while assisting with some landscaping around the location of the new Magnolia police station inside the Harvey Couch Business Park.



Student athletes make the best of postponed competition

Jacob Pumphrey
Director of Athletic Communications

Following the Great American Conference's August 14 announcement to suspend all fall and winter sports through December 31, the typical day-to-day, in-season operations of the SAU Athletic Department and its 14 NCAA-sponsored athletic programs changed drastically. With 10 of the department's programs seeing its fall sports competition shelved through the remainder of the year, Mulerider student-athletes focused on winning off the court specifically in the area of community service through the department-led program "Muleriders in Magnolia."

"I have always been extremely proud of our student-athletes and their desire to give back to the campus of SAU and the community of Magnolia," stated SAU Director of Athletics Steve Browning. "With no competition this fall, we felt like our student-athletes needed to find other ways to engage with the community, and it has been inspiring to see the differences that our student-athletes have made across our wonderful campus and the city of Magnolia."

While the "Muleriders in Magnolia" (MIM) program is certainly not new to the Mulerider Athletics department, as the program received the NCAA's Division II Award of Excellence for Community Engagement in 2013, the group's involvement on campus and around Magnolia during the fall semester was as impactful as it has ever been.

"Muleriders in Magnolia has been extremely beneficial for our student-athletes," remarked Mulerider Men's Basketball Assistant Coach and MIM Coordinator Logan Quinn who witnessed over 300 SAU student-athletes log over 600 hours of community service during the fall semester alone. "Magnolia does so much for SAU, and we hope to give back to our community in a way that makes Magnolia proud."

In the fall semester alone, MIM's visibility on the Southern Arkansas campus was tremendous. The group aided the SAU Physical Plant in

several areas including the beautification of flower beds around campus as well as with the washing of the SAU bus fleet. They teamed up with Bodcaw Bank to help clean up the property line between the bank's newest location and the SAU President's Home.

The group also assisted the on-campus Mulerider Market by sorting through old and expired canned goods and helping organize the many items that are offered. MIM also took the time to handwrite "thank you" cards to financial donors of SAU.

Within the Magnolia community, the program had a profound impact as it engaged in numerous community service projects from mid-August through early November when the semester ended. MIM helped out the Central Arkansas Development Center at the Magnolia Fairgrounds by passing out boxes of food to families in need. They also assisted with some landscaping around the new city police station that will soon be located inside the Harvey Couch Business Park. Additionally, MIM helped with the hanging of Christmas lights at the Cecil Wilson Garden located just off the Magnolia square.

Interaction with individuals young and old within the community was difficult considering the public health crisis, but that didn't deter the group from finding ways to interact. MIM spent quality time with the residents at the Greenhouse Cottages of Wentworth as they wrote encouraging words and played games with window paint. They spent several mornings virtually greeting students from Eastside Elementary as they were being dropped off for school, and several student-athletes appeared in a video sponsored by the Magnolia Rotary Club to encourage local elementary students.

"My hope for each student-athlete is that throughout the year they can realize the importance of giving their time and effort to people," Quinn acknowledged. "It is a real credit to these student-athletes who are willing to give their time back to the community. It has been difficult with COVID-19 to be out and about like we normally are, but we will continue to find ways to give back!"

Getting to COMPETE

As many sports competitions were halted for the fall semester because of COVID restrictions, SAU's Fishing and Rodeo Teams took advantage of the opportunity they had to continue to compete even during this time of social distancing.

After four fall rodeos, the Men's Team was ranked fifth in the Ozark region, and the Women's Team was ranked third. There are five more events scheduled for the spring semester with the College National Finals scheduled for June 13-19, 2021.

Individual accolades for men's team included:

• **Tie-down Calf Roping:**
Booker McCutchen 2nd

• **Steer Wrestling:**
Chris England 8th

• **Team Roping:**
Strand Barricklow 6th header
Logan Graham 9th header
Latham Dickson 6th heeler

Individual accolades for women's team included:

• **Barrel Racing:**
Shiloh Marchand 2nd

• **Breakaway Roping:**
Harley Lynn 2nd
Allie McMahan 3rd
Anna Dietrich 7th
Chloe Cox 11th

• **Goat Tying:**
Shelbi Rice 3rd
Anna Dietrich 6th
Jordan Neeley 7th

Photos by **Jessica Williamson**

The SAU Rodeo team welcomed competition to campus during Homecoming Week as they hosted the National Intercollegiate Rodeo. Fans enjoyed three nights of exciting rodeo competition with schools from several states in the Ozark Region of the NIRA.





The SAU Fishing Team is **Making History**

SAU has a young fishing team this year with only two seniors, Dalton Keith and Dalton Rissinger, but the team fished the Arkansas Collegiate Series tournament trail during the fall semester. The first tournament of the year was at Lake Hamilton, which did not produce the results the team wanted, so they made changes. The second tournament was on Lake Greeson, and the changes paid off with the team having better results and finishing in 6th place with the team of Isaac Whittington and Caleb Thompson.

The third tournament of the year was the turning point of the program. The team competed at Bull Shoals and not only won the whole tournament but also won big bass. The team of Isaac Whittington and Caleb Thompson fished out of the school boat and brought home the first tournament win ever in school history. The final tournament of the fall semester was held on Lake Millwood where the team of Dalton Keith and Dalton Rissinger finished in 7th place but brought home the big bass for the tournament.

The team will compete in the FLW tournament series in the spring. Team members are Dalton Rissinger, Dalton Keith, Isaac Whittington, Caleb Thompson, Chase Hampton, Blake Stringfellow, Zac Bryant, Shane Collins, and Ty Ragan. Sponsors/coaches are Chris and Jeanne Boswell and Jim and Jennifer Ford.

(Above) Caleb Thompson and Isaac Whittington

(Top Left) From left to right: Blake Stringfellow, Ty Ragan, Shane Foster, Dalton Rissinger, Isaac Whittington, Caleb Thompson, Dalton Keith

(Top Middle) Dalton Keith and Dalton Rissinger

(Top Right) Isaac Whittington and Caleb Thompson

(Below) Driving: Isaac Whittington and Caleb Thompson

Contributed Photos



Giving back to the COMMUNITY

Jacob Pumphrey
Director of Athletic Communications

With its intercollegiate fall season postponed and shifted into a shortened slate to be played out in the spring of 2021, the Southern Arkansas Women's Volleyball program, like many programs around the country, found itself with a little extra time on their hands as well as a longing for the competition that they are accustomed to during the fall season. However, it wouldn't be long before head coach Lindsey Parks' squad began to give the game of volleyball back to the Magnolia community.

"To see our volleyball team's commitment to growing the sport of volleyball in Magnolia was remarkable," noted SAU Director of Athletics Steve Browning. "Their engagement, from coaching, to encouraging, to just being a smiling face to those young ladies created memories that will last a lifetime. The mark they made on volleyball at the Boys and Girls Club of Magnolia will carry on for years to come."

"We needed four volunteers for the four teams and when I first asked in our group text to see if anyone was interested, I was honestly expecting only a few people and thought that [Graduate Assistant Volleyball Coach] Bree Davis and I would probably end up coaching a team or two," Parks stated. "In only ten minutes I had nine volunteers, and others who were in class at the time were somewhat upset they missed the initial opportunity."

Eleven of Parks' 16 players volunteered their time at one point or another at the Magnolia B&GC this past fall scheduling their own practices, coaching in the weekly games, and most importantly being a positive influence on the young girls in grades 1st through 6th.

"Our young ladies were completely in

control of that schedule. They had practice at random times, one of them on Saturday mornings. What college student voluntarily gives up their Saturday mornings without being asked?" questioned Parks. She answered, "The kind that love giving back to the future generation. It warmed my heart every time I heard them talking about their teams, and I am so thankful they were able to give back in this small way."

Some would contend with Parks that it was far from small in the way in which her team gave back to the local community. Chris Ludwig, Magnolia B&GC Director of Sports and Facilities and proud Mulerider supporter, witnessed firsthand the impact the Muleriders had on the league.

"When the SAU Volleyball Team agreed to coach our fall league this past year we were beyond excited," noted Ludwig. "We knew they would bring the ability to teach valuable skills to the girls going forward; however, we couldn't have ever imagined the passion and the drive that they brought out as well."

Ludwig praised the team for instilling a new love for the game of volleyball in players that had never played before, while also preparing the older, more experienced players with tools to help them expand their game.

He added, "It was rewarding for me to see girls come to love the game and improve throughout the season, but also to see the parents' excitement grow during the season as they watched the games being played. We can't thank Coach Parks enough for allowing the team to be involved and are hoping we can continue their involvement in our B&GC volleyball program."



"My biggest takeaway from the whole experience is definitely a refreshed perspective! Working with girls who are brand new to the game reminded me of all of the reasons that I fell in love with this game so many years ago. It's so easy to get caught up in the intricacies and competitiveness of high level volleyball, and it was really nice to kind of reset and remember all of the things that built me and got me to this point!"

Morgan Gross
Senior
Engineering/Physics;
Chemical Engineering
Bandera, Texas



Contributed Photo

SAU senior volleyball players Morgan Gross (left) and Lauren Smith (right) give instruction to their team prior to playing a match at the Magnolia Boys & Girls Club.



"Being fresh out of high school, I was constantly playing volleyball. Between school and travel ball I was always on a court and with the season being postponed, I felt confused as to how to spend a majority of my time. Thankfully we were able to stay involved through coaching - it kept my craving for competition in check. I love watching the game grow whether it be in my team or the younger generation. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience."

Truli Bates
Freshman
Social Studies Education
with Coaching Endorsement
Bryant, Arkansas

Why I Give - Linda Barnes '72

“ I’ve never had a second thought about giving to SAU. I hope that, someday, my gift may be there to help a student. ”

For Linda Harris Barnes, giving back to Southern Arkansas University is not only the right thing to do, but a way to help future students in need.

Barnes, a 1972 sociology graduate and current board member of the SAU Alumni Association, made the impactful decision to include SAU in her planned giving – a choice that came from her heart.

“My friends would say I am very analytical,” Barnes explained, “but I’ve never had a second thought about giving to SAU. I hope that, someday, my gift may be there to help a student.”

Barnes, a native of Nashville, Arkansas, who retired from Entergy Corporation, made her decision based on her memories of SAU as a compassionate institution, to which she feels a strong personal connection.

Her inspiration came, in part, from meeting Dr. Trey Berry, SAU president. “I thought immediately, ‘this person is genuine.’ There is a warmth about him I was so delighted to see. It reminded me of my days at SAU and the people I encountered.”

A subsequent visit to campus further energized her. “It brought back so many memories,” she enthused. “I saw all the progress that has been made, the expanded programs and facilities.”

At an awards ceremony on campus, Barnes realized that, as a student, she had received a scholarship endowed by one of the persons recognized. “I remember that scholarship,” she said. “At the time, I didn’t realize the

significance of what it meant. It is so easy to take it for granted.”

Her SAU experience meant more than textbooks and classrooms. “I saw the most caring and compassionate professors. They made a huge impact.”

At graduation, one of her professors presented her with an encouraging poem written on the occasion of Barnes’ father’s passing. “I still have that poem,” Barnes said. “I have thought a lot about the example that was set.”

Many faculty influenced Barnes in ways large and small. She recalled the help of Dr. Ann Thomas, who encouraged Barnes to apply for an internship with the Arkansas Department of Corrections at Cummins Prison. “They were hiring only male interns and I didn’t know what to do when I applied. Mrs. T, as I called her, told me I should speak to the superintendent. I did and ended up getting the job. My husband of 45 years also worked there, so she gets credit for that, too!”

Barnes said it is important to remember where the financial resources come from to fund scholarships.

From growing up on a farm, to working internationally for a major corporation, Barnes expressed amazement at her life’s trajectory. Now she is expressing her gratitude to SAU for helping her get started.

“I feel strongly that it’s the right thing to do,” Barnes said of giving back to future Muleriders. “It truly is a matter of the heart. I hope that ‘paying it forward’ has the same impact on someone else’s life as it had on mine.”



Linda Barnes '72

For more information on how to include SAU in your estate plans, contact the Division of Advancement at 870-235-4078 or visit <https://saufoundation.planmygift.org/>.

Rip Powell

10th Annual Invitational Golf Tournament



SAU celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Rip Powell Invitational at the Magnolia Country Club on July 24. Over 27 teams joined us for the tournament, and we had more sponsorships from corporate partners, alumni, and friends than ever before.

For the sixth consecutive year, Mustard Seed Wealth Management was our Title Sponsor for the Invitational. In the midst of all COVID restrictions, a golf tournament proved to be a safe and successful event as alumni and friends came together to raise over \$30,000 to benefit the Mulerider Football team. To date, the Invitational has raised over \$250,000.

The inaugural Murphy USA Mulerider Club Invitational replaced the festivities of the El Dorado Boomtown Classic this fall as 32 teams joined together to support all 14 athletic programs for Mulerider Athletics at Mystic Creek Golf Club in El Dorado.

Highlighted by the generosity and support of Murphy USA as the Title Sponsor for the event, sponsors, alumni, and friends came together to raise over \$38,000 to benefit current and future student-athletes through the Mulerider Club.



Photo by Matthew Wilkins

2020 Check Presentation – Pictured from left to right: SAU President Dr. Trey Berry, Former Mulerider Football Coach Bill Keopple, Director of Athletics Steve Browning, and Founder of the Rip Powell Invitational Mike Waters '70.



Photo by Matthew Wilkins

(Above) Playing for our Title Sponsor's team, Mustard Seed Wealth Management, was, pictured left to right, Bob Buck, John Stevens, Adam Pinner, and Dalton Smith. (Right) Amongst 27 teams, Jimmy Mohr (pictured on the left) with teammate, Patrick O'Neill, had the best score of the day with a 53.



Photo by Matthew Wilkins



Photo by Matthew Wilkins

(Above) Murphy USA Team 1, at the iconic Hole 12 at Mystic Creek Golf Club. Pictured left from right Will Hegi, Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives Matthew Shepherd, Murphy USA Vice President and General Counsel John Moore and SAU President Dr. Trey Berry.



Photo by Matthew Wilkins

(Above) 2020 MUSA MC Check Presentation – Pictured left to right are SAU Associate Director of Development Jackson McCurdy; Murphy USA Vice President and General Counsel John Moore; SAU President Dr. Trey Berry; SAU Director of Athletics Steve Browning; and SAU Vice President for Advancement Josh Kee.



The tournament featured a Grab and Go Lunch provided by SAU Alumnus, Donnie Clayton '87, Owner of Main Street Pizza, in downtown El Dorado. Donnie's generosity in being the official lunch sponsor for the event influenced the success of the tournament. It allowed participants to grab their lunch as they finished or as they were heading out to start the course.

MULERIDER CLUB

Join the Mulerider Club today by visiting, <https://web.saumag.edu/mulerider-club/> to help benefit all Mulerider student-athletes.

Southern Arkansas University

LOVE AND LOYALTY

Campaign



Over the past several months, Muleriders have demonstrated their unwavering pride and steadfast love for Southern Arkansas University.

As we move into the final year of the campaign, we are challenging all alumni to join with us and help us reach our goal of 4,500 donors to the campaign. The size of your gift is not what matters. What's important is that you join thousands of other alumni and friends to make a collective difference for future generations of Muleriders.

There is strength in numbers -
Stand with us and be counted by visiting
sauloveandloyalty.com



Current Number of donors:
3,658



Percentage of timeline elapsed:
82%



Number of gifts:
14,261

Ways to Give



Pledge

Gifts that allow support to be given over a period of years.



Cash

Gifts in the form of cash, check, or credit card.



Planned Gifts

Gifts of life insurance, retirement assets, charitable gift annuities, real estate, cash, and more.



Endowments

Gifts that provide opportunities to create living legacies.



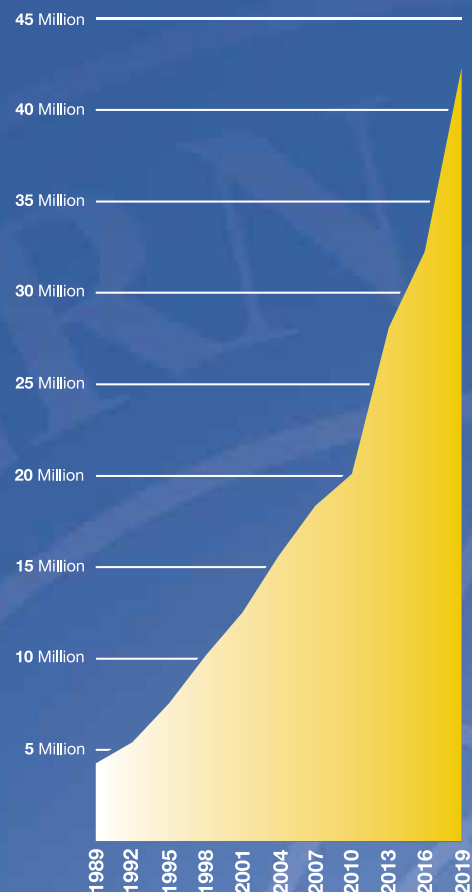
ENDOWMENTS

SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Funded to Award Level During 2019

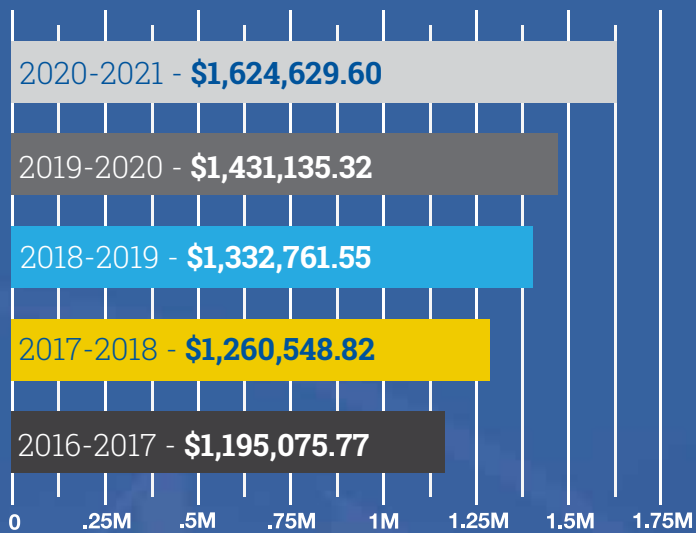
- **Arkansas Seed Dealers Association Scholarship Endowment** - Established by Arkansas Seed Dealers Association to provide financial assistance to a sophomore through senior level student in an agricultural related undergraduate major.
- **Dr. Dan L. Bernard Counseling Scholarship Endowment** - Established by Dyana '01 and Chris Robbins in memory of Dan L. Bernard.
- **College of Education Professorship Endowment** - Established to provide a professorship in the College of Education.
- **Dr. Rudy Eichenberger Physics/Engineering Scholarship - Endowment (3)** Established by Dr. Rudy Eichenberger to provide a scholarship for Engineering/Physics students who are juniors or seniors.
- **The Ford Girls Student Travel Endowment** - Established by Amy Ford '77 and Shirley Wigand '70 to provide resources for student travel and internships in the Rankin College of Business.
- **Norris Fox Athletic Scholarship Endowment** - Established by Dr. Emogene Fox in honor of Norris Fox '58 to provide a scholarship for an athlete.
- **Lenna Frances Sanders Furlow Scholarship Endowment** - Established by Mr. and Mrs. Barney Hugh Reeves '62 in memory of her mother to provide a scholarship to a nursing major.
- **Dr. Ginger Hurst Scholarship Endowment** - Established by an anonymous donor in honor of Dr. Ginger Hurst '08 to provide a scholarship.
- **Jeff and Marcia Jester Athletic Scholarship Endowment** - Established by Jeff '84 and Marcia '80 Jester to provide a scholarship for an athlete.
- **Don Johnson Faculty Salary Supplement Endowment** - Established by Don Johnson '57 to provide supplemental funds for a faculty salary.
- **Velma and Floyd Matlock Gas for Class Endowment** - Established by Rosie Matlock-Muldrew '85 and Candice Randall in memory of the late Velma and Floyd Matlock to provide a gas card for a Freshman commuter student from Lafayette High School.
- **NORCO Dean E.E. Graham Scholarship Endowment** - Established through a testamentary gift from the Edna Norvell '38 estate in memory of Dean E.E. Graham to provide scholarships for engineering students.
- **SAU Mulerider Endowment** - Established by D. Ronald Harrell '56 to provide perpetual resources to strengthen, support, and protect the University's time-honored mascot and much-beloved mule on which the mascot rides.
- **Dr. Betty F. Smith Scholarship (3)** - Established by Dr. Betty F. Smith '49 to provide scholarships for students from Marysville/Mt. Holly in Union County, Arkansas.
- **Dr. Betty F. Smith Scholarship (4)** - Established by Dr. Betty F. Smith '49 to provide scholarships for students from Marysville/Mt. Holly in Union County, Arkansas.
- **Carl and Sue Teague Business Endowment** - Established by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Teague '62 to provide funds for College of Business faculty travel.
- **Harold Waters Scholarship Endowment** - Established by Lu Waters in memory of Harold Waters '67 to provide a scholarship for a non-traditional student.
- **Claudell Woods Scholarship Endowment** - Established by the Columbia County NAACP in memory of Claudell Woods '79 to provide a scholarship for a Political Science student.
- **The Frank Merritt Scholarship Endowment** - Established by the Estate of Frank Merritt to provide a scholarship.

Endowment Growth

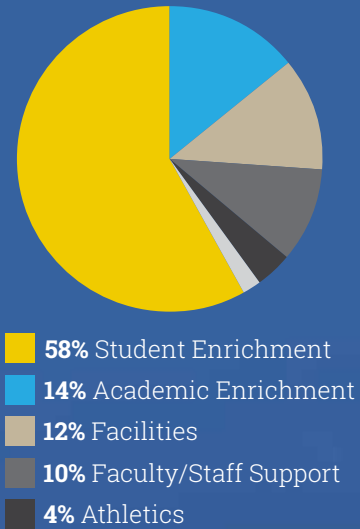


1989.....	\$4,221,316.00
1992.....	\$5,419,544.00
1995.....	\$7,582,680.00
1998.....	\$10,104,432.00
2001.....	\$12,468,231.00
2004.....	\$15,641,814.00
2007.....	\$18,339,419.00
2010.....	\$20,027,222.00
2013.....	\$28,090,194.00
2016.....	\$32,201,797.00
2017.....	\$37,524,608.25
2018.....	\$34,796,144.03
2019.....	\$42,259,913.92

Endowment Impact



Endowment Designation



\$1,814,060.48

Amount of Donor Contributions to Endowment Funds in 2019

926

**Individual, Donor-Established
Endowments**

4.75%

Annual Distribution



TrueBlue Love Stories



Cameron '14 and Chelsa (King) Carr '14

Cameron and Chelsa met on campus during biology lab. Cameron says that Chelsa didn't notice him, although she claims that's far from true. They both lived in the SAU Village Apartments. Chelsa had a class every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Somehow, Cameron just happened to be downstairs or near his car when she was leaving for class. The couple celebrated their wedding in March 2020. Chelsa currently serves on the SAU Alumni Association Board of Directors.



Gary '85 '88 and LeAnn (Morgan) Miller '86

Gary and LeAnn met at a dance at the VFW. Gary played baseball for the Muleriders in the early '80s. LeAnn was a charter member of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority at SAU and recalls a special memory where Gary helped her pay for her national induction fees. Gary and LeAnn's two children, Morgan and Tyler, followed in their footsteps and became Muleriders. Morgan (Miller) Colson '13 studied nursing and also met her husband, Hunter Colson '14, during her time at SAU. They have a future Little Mulerider, Beckham Colson. Ty Miller '18, '20 studied business and is engaged to Bailey-Ann Luckett '19. Mulerider Country has played a very special part in the Miller Family.



Mason '16 and Jessica (Arnold) Powers '15

Mason came to SAU from Iowa on a cross country scholarship and studied business. Jessica grew up in Magnolia and studied education. The couple didn't know each other during their time on campus, but met years after graduation. After seeing a devotional Jessica posted to Facebook, Mason reached out and their love story began. They quickly realized their faith, family, and Mulerider connection bonded them. Jessica's bridal luncheon was held at the SAU Alumni Center. As a surprise, her family gifted the couple an anniversary brick on SAU's Legacy Lane. They were married on July 27, 2019. To purchase a Legacy Lane Brick visit www.saualumni.com/legacylane.



Larry '72 and Wondrous (McHenry) Roach '74

Larry and Wondrous met at her home after her brother caught a ride home with Larry in the spring of 1969. They were not initially attracted to each other. Two years later, Wondrous enrolled at SAU. Larry called Bussey Hall to invite her to dinner in the cafeteria. From that point on, the couple rarely missed a meal in the cafeteria. On one of their romantic walks on campus, Wondrous' class ring slipped off of her finger. They never did find the ring, but she wasn't too upset after seeing how much Larry cared about helping her find it. The couple enjoyed going to free movies in the student center and attending football and basketball games. They spent a great deal of time in the Wesley Foundation, where he proposed to her. The couple graduated and got married in 1974. They have been married for forty-six years.

To submit your True Blue Love Story, visit www.saualumni.com/trueblue.

DR. DOWNING'S RIDERETTES KEEP CONNECTION WITH COACH

"We get to spend quality time with our buddies and our coach, it doesn't get any better!"

- Janet Cooper Wood '78

A tight-knit group of alumni has shown their enduring care and affection for a true icon of Southern Arkansas University -- Dr. Margaret Downing, a former coach of women's athletics and an inaugural member of the SAU Sports Hall of Fame.

Loved as a pioneer, coach, mentor, and friend, Downing was the Riderettes' basketball coach from 1965 until 1984. As head coach of the SAU women, she led the Riderettes to 223 wins against 163 losses, a winning percentage of .578 -- the best in its history. Downing also guided the Riderettes to a volleyball championship in 1974 and coached golf, track and field, swimming, and softball.

During her remarkable tenure, Downing influenced hundreds of students, including those who still consider themselves her children and grandchildren. To make sure Downing feels their appreciation, these caring alumni have gone on camping trips to Lake DeGray with their former coach and continue to check in on her during the pandemic.

"We get to spend quality time with our buddies and our coach," Janet Cooper Wood '78 said of their excursions. "It doesn't get any better! And we always throw in an activity -- golf or disc golf -- just to give ourselves a little competition."

The group has used camping trips to Lake DeGray as an opportunity to relive memories from Southern State College and catch up. Karlene Coleman Hooker '78 hopes the tradition will continue.

"A few years ago, we said, 'let's all go to DeGray,'" Hooker said. "I wasn't able to make that first trip, but the next year, we all visited and just had a great time. But, we nearly froze! We had a big time on the Eagle Tour; Dr. Downing got to view some bald eagles from a pontoon boat."

The time spent with Downing is meaningful to all. "It's important that we continue to reach out to her as a group, that we reach out individually," Hooker said.

"Dr. Downing was actually my camp counselor in Girl Scouts a few decades ago," said Sallie Dalton '70. "So, when I was a student at Southern State (1966-1970), she told me to skip her Camp Counseling course, because she had taught me all she knew!"

Downing versed her students in the essentials, including making

biscuits on a stick, building a campfire, and cooking hobo dinners. Hooker recalled putting these skills to the test at Lake Erling and Lake DeGray. "We built the latrine, we slept in lean-tos -- this was primitive camping!" she said. "Camp and Camp Counseling was a semester-long class. We took all that knowledge to the camp site with us."

Their recent excursions have offered a chance to strengthen the decades-old bonds. "It's the Riderettes' love we share, no matter the years," explained Sara Wooley '77. "We talk about old, new and future events in our lives. Camping is what we all enjoy and is a perfect setting for the adventure. Did I forget to mention, the laughter we share is wonderful!"

Of her recent outings with her former students, Downing said, "It certainly is an informal, fun, and reminiscent time for all of us."

The friends pay personal visits, call Downing at home, and use social media to keep tabs on her health. "She stays close to home," Hooker said. "I was in the area recently and called to say I wanted to stop by and sit on her porch. She said, 'no hugging!' We're glad that she is playing it safe during this time."

The group has found innovative ways of keeping in touch with their former coach. "Last year, when Dr. D was sick, we decided we'd each take a month, and that was our month to check on her," Hooker said. "We'd send a card, or call her, or stop by. That was our mission. About six months later, when I was talking to her, she said, 'there is something going on. I think you're checking up

on me!'"

Looking to the coming year, Hooker said she hopes the group can continue its annual campouts. "We haven't made definite plans, but I feel we will, if the world gets back to normal. I don't think it's something we'll stop doing. We enjoy being around each other. We're home."

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame inducted Downing in 1987 and the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 2012. In 2018, alumni, Mulerider softball fans, and former players packed Dawson Field inside the Mulerider Softball Complex to watch SAU President Dr. Trey Berry reveal the facility's new name: Dawson Field at The Dr. Margaret Downing Softball Complex.



Photo Contributed by Rachel Smith

Dr. Downing's Riderettes on a visit to Lake DeGray in 2018: (left to right) Sallie Dalton '70, Janet Cooper Wood '78, Rosemary Spigner '78, Dr. Margaret Downing, Sara Wooley '77, Karlene Coleman Hooker, '78 and Rachel Perdue Smith '79.

1960 – 1969

• **Jean Woodell Antoine '66** recently retired from the Chamber of Commerce after serving for over 30 years.



• **Dr. Carolyn Langston '67** recently celebrated her 45th year at SouthArk.

1970- 1979



• **Tom '70 and Sharon Brian '68** recently had 293 volunteers over four days that packaged a total of 91,368 meals - 76,680 Latin Rice for local food pantries and 14,688 International for Honduras.

Tom and Sharon have a stateside ministry, "Kids Against Hunger," which is a food packaging event that supports feeding the malnourished at the House of Hope, as well as hungry children in the USA and throughout other parts of the world.



• **Dr. William McHenry '72** recently received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. Dr. McHenry is currently the Executive Director

of the Mississippi e-Center Foundation and is among 11 individual honorees announced by the White House.



• **Eddie '73 and Katherine Corbett '73** recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.



• **Mike Waters '73** recently retired from BancorpSouth after a 35-year career in banking. Mike served as a long-time member and past chairman of the SAU Alumni Association Board

of Directors and also served on the Mulerider Club Advisory Board.



• **Bill Skains '76** was recently re-elected as Alderman for Ward 1 in Branson, MO. He was also selected as the Acting Executive Director for the Ozark Region Workforce Development Board after

serving for four years as the Missouri State Workforce Board Chair.



• **Joey Baker '77** and his daughter, **Lindsey Jordan Baker '15**, recently wrote "Baker's Dirty Dozen," a lighthearted book teaching basic financial principles, which can be purchased at <http://bit.ly/BakersDirtyDozenBook>. Joey was also recently presented with the Arkansas

BakersDirtyDozenBook. Joey was also recently presented with the Arkansas

Pharmacists Association 2020 Friend of Pharmacy Award.



• **Marsha Rouse '77** recently retired from BancorpSouth after a 35-year career in banking.



• **Gary Don Smith '77** was recently inducted into the Union County Sports Hall of Fame and the Arkansas High School Coaches Hall of Fame as part of its 2020 class in October.

1980-1989



• **Renee Bailey '80** recently retired from the Magnolia School District after 36 years of teaching. She began her career teaching third and fourth grades at Willisville School. After joining the

faculty of Magnolia's Central Elementary School, she taught Title I reading and sixth grade before moving to fourth grade, where she has been since 1988. • **Paula Metcalf '80** recently retired after 47 years in education, 38 of which were spent within Magnolia's current school district.



• **Steve Griffith '81** was a recent recipient of the 2020 Rob Patrick Community Service Award.



• **Joe Inscore '82** recently wrote a book, "Growing Up Southern-Doodlebugging, Pond Swimming, Sweet Tea and Jesus."



• **Kaye Minter '82** was recently named the Magnolia High School Teacher of the Year.



• **Gaye Manning '84** was recently appointed to the Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Board of Directors.



• **Michele Hamilton Rhodes '84** was recently appointed Executive Director of Hamilton Haven in Prescott, AR.



• **Debbie Arnold '85** recently celebrated her fifth year with Peoples Bank. Arnold is the Senior Vice President of Marketing at Peoples Bank and has over 24

years of banking experience.



• **Rosie Biley '85** recently retired from the Magnolia School District. She is retiring after 35 years in teaching, including 28 years in the Magnolia School District.



• **Fred Weatherspoon '86** was recently named to chair the Governor's Law Enforcement Task Force by Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson.



• **Rod Duckworth '87** recently celebrated the culmination of a very impactful chapter of his career after serving eight years with the Florida Department of Education as Chancellor for Career

and Adult Education and serving in an Executive Director role during his last year. Rod was honored with the SAU Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award in 2019. Rod is pictured with his wife, Dr. Cyneetha Strong Duckworth.



• **Kathleen Dingman '88 '11** was recently named as the AHSCA Girls' Swim Coach of the Year as the Magnolia Swim Coach for the 2019-2020 athletic season.



• **Mandy Headrick '88** recently retired from the Magnolia School District at the end of the 2020 school year. She is retiring after 38 years in education and the Magnolia School District.

1990-1999



• **Dr. Mariette Pierre '91** recently opened Pierre Physician Group in downtown Houston, Texas, where she is practicing internal medicine.



• **Annie Witcher '91** recently retired from the Magnolia School District. She taught a half-year in the Waldo School District. After coming to the Magnolia School District, she taught three years at Central Elementary School, 22 years at East Side Elementary School and four years at Magnolia Junior High School.



• **Glen Amason '92** recently started a new position as PAS Client Management Representative for Fidelity Investments in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.



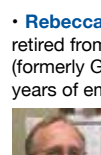
• **Cody Beene '92** recently retired from Nemo Vista School where he served as the Superintendent and as Facilities Director at Arch-Ford Educational Cooperative.



• **Mitzi Burton '92 '98** recently started a new position as Director of Program Operations at Harbor House Recovery in Fort Smith, AR.



• **Melissa Weatherford '93 '08** was recently chosen as the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year for Glen Rose School District in Malvern, AR.



• **Rebecca "Becky" Holloway '94 '05** retired from J. Richard Morgan, CPA (formerly Gary deYampert, CPA) after 30 years of employment.



• **Luther Allgood '95** recently published a book, "Transition: Deathbed's Compelling Evidence of Life After Death." His book is available in bookstores and digital format.



• **Craig Mahar '95** recently accepted a new position at Lafayette County School District as the High School Principal.



• **Sherry Stiles '95 '17** recently graduated from the UAMS College of Nursing.



• **Dr. Lee Smith '96** recently started a new position as Assistant Superintendent at Mena Public Schools. He also serves part-time as an Affiliate Professor for the University of

Arkansas at Little Rock where he teaches master's and doctoral level courses for Educational Leadership & Administration.



• **Angela Watson '96** was recently named Central Elementary School Teacher of the Year in Magnolia.



• **Chris '97 and Denise '00 Sweat** were named Arkansas Farm Family of the Year by Arkansas Farm Bureau. This is the 73rd year for the annual program. Chris and Denise have 500 acres

where they raise cattle, sheep and rabbits. They have been farming for 23 years and have two daughters, Sara and Anna.



• **Nasir Maqsood Ahmed '98** recently started a new position as Deputy CEO & CFO at Venture Capital Bank in Bahrain.



• **Duane Clayton '99** recently accepted a new position as Principal and Instructional Leader at Mills University Studies High School in Little Rock, AR.

2000-2009



• **Karen Williams-Bogan '00** was recently promoted to Principal at Frances Corpew Elementary School in Mount Pleasant, TX.



• **Jay Click '00** recently graduated from the Red River Leadership Institute's inaugural class. Red River Leadership Institute connects emerging leaders within the Ark-La-Tex-Oma

region by instructing participants on how to build a more livable regional community through the integration of leadership with regional priority areas, e.g., education, transportation, technology, small business entrepreneurship, healthcare, and tourism.



• **Chris Lucy '00** recently accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church in Springhill, Louisiana.



• **Jonathan Baird '01** recently celebrated 15 years with Peoples Bank where he is currently a Financial Officer/Lending Officer.



• **Michelle Lyons '01** was recently nominated for El Dorado Teacher of the Year. Michelle was a top-three finalist out of two schools.



• **Ali Hickman '02 '11** '18 was recently awarded Teacher of the Year at Arkansas Virtual Academy, where she currently teaches 7th grade English.



• **Stephanie (Albertson) Milburn '02** was recently promoted to the rank of MAJ in the United States Army Reserve (USAR). Stephanie has served as a Judge Advocate (JA) in the USAR since 2013.

Her five-year-old daughter, Vivian, got to participate in the promotion ceremony by removing Stephanie's old rank and "pinning" on her new rank. Stephanie's husband, Tom, LT, United States Navy Reserve, also attended the ceremony. In her civilian career, Stephanie is an Assistant District Counsel for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Tulsa, OK.



• **Karen Weido '02** was recently named to the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Magnolia.



• **Lindsey Townsend '03** was recently selected as the 2020 Best Real Estate Agent for the SWAK Today Readers' Choice.



• **Catiya Welch '03** recently accepted a new position as Assistant Professor of Social Work/Field Director at Southern Arkansas University.



• **Melanie Dillard '04** was recently named Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year at the University of Arkansas Hope-Texarkana.



• **Isaac Woods '04** was recently named vice president, treasurer, and board-elected officer of Milwaukee-based Rockwell Automation. Woods most recently served as director of Finance for the company's Power Control business. Rockwell is the world's largest company dedicated to industrial automation. Rockwell Automation employs 23,000 employees in 10 countries.

• **George Wong '05** recently accepted a position at Southern Arkansas University as Assistant Controller for Finance.



• **Barbara Hudgens '06** recently received her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Nursing at SAU.



• **T.J. Lee '06** was recently promoted to Program Manager at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District.



• **Stephanie Schmittou '06** was recently named to the Board of Directors for the Arkansas Organization of Nurse Executives.



• **Seth Pinner '07** was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and will assume assistant commander duties within the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L, headquartered at Lowell.

Lieutenant Pinner is a 21-year state police veteran and most recently has been assigned to supervisory duties as a post sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop G, headquartered at Hope.

• **Kyle Smith '07** recently received the Nursing Excellence Award from Northwest Medical Center in Bentonville where he is presently employed as a nurse in the ICU and COVID Units.



• **Elizabeth Thomson '07** recently opened her own office, Betsy Thomson-State Farm Insurance.



• **Scott Hinton '08 '10** recently received a Master of Public Health Degree from UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health.



• **Courtney Riddle '08** recently completed her Nurse Practitioner Certification in Family Medicine.



• **Deanne Ross '08 '11** recently started a new position as a Licensed Professional Counselor at Life Forward Counseling. Deanne is also an Integrative Nutrition Health Coach.

• **Dylan Anderson '09** recently started a Wine and Spirits Distribution Company called Rock Creek Distributing located in Dallas, TX



• **Keith Beason '09** recently started a new position as City Planner II of Texarkana, TX.



• **Zach Fowler '09** recently started a new position as Associate Principal at Pleasant Grove Middle School in Texarkana, TX.



• **Dr. Zack Lamkin '09** recently graduated from medical school and is a practicing Podiatrist. He recently opened Delta Foot and Ankle in Metairie, LA.



• **Christy Wust '09 '16** recently accepted a position at Southern Arkansas University as a Nurse Practitioner in University Health Services.

2010-2019



• **Brittany Barnett '10** was recently featured in *Four States Living Magazine* for the 2020 Fabulous 40 and Under feature.



• **Jordan Craig '10** was recently named one of the Top Twenty in 20 Advocacy Professionals by The Advocacy Association.



• **Nathaniel Doddridge '10** recently started a new position as Vice President of Fuels for Casey's General Stores, Inc.



• **Caitlin Pennington '10** was recently named a 2020 Spirit of Garver Award finalist.



• **Laura Long Akkub '11** recently accepted a position at Bodcaw Bank as Human Resources Director.



• **Patric Flannigan '11** was recently named James A. Branyan Outstanding Young Man of the Year by the Camden Lions Club.



• **Jessica Fulenwider '11 '13** recently started a new position as Campus Intervention Specialist/Testing Coordinator at Dr. Linda Henrie Elementary in Dallas, TX.



• **Nicole Woods '11 '13** recently completed her Educational Doctorate in Higher Education and Organizational Change at Benedictine University. Nicole currently serves as the Director of TRIO

Upward Bound at the University of Arkansas Community College Hope-Texarkana and an Adjunct Instructor at Southern Arkansas University.



• **Sgt. Kristi Bennett '12** was recently named Interim Chief for the Texarkana Arkansas Police Department. Sgt. Bennett has been with the department for 15 years and is well known for creating PRIDE academy.



• **Cameron Brown '12** recently accepted a new position as an Assistant Football, Head Baseball Coach, and History Teacher at Bismarck School District.



• **Dr. Hannah Grace Eveld '12** recently started a new position as a Medical Doctor at Mercy Clinic in Ozark.



• **Larry "Rex" French '12** recently accepted a position as General Manager at Frank Fletcher Subaru in Joplin, MO.



• **Carter Jones '12 '19** recently accepted a new position as Software Developer in the Longview, TX, office of Tyler Technologies.



• **Daveante Jones '12** was recently named on the New Influentials: 20 in Their 20s list. Each year, *Arkansas Business* puts the spotlight on 20 talented young leaders in Arkansas' business and nonprofit community. With more than 300 nominations to review, an internal committee chooses the honorees based on their accomplishments, responsibilities, and those believed to be ahead of their time.



• **Tabitha Lowery '12** was recently selected as the Society of Early Americanists Junior Scholar of the month for October 2020.



Kashandra Collins-Murphy '12 was recently named the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year at Union Elementary in the Texarkana, AR School District.



• **Megan Carpenter '13** was recently promoted to Relief Coordinator at Turning Point of South Arkansas.



• **Cammie Coker '13** recently started a new position as Recruiter at Amazon.



• **Tyler Granberry '13, '17** was named the LSU Outstanding Graduate Student, which recognizes an MS or PhD graduate student on assistantship who goes above and beyond to assist the

department, demonstrates excellence in graduate coursework and shows a willingness for hard work and dedication to the program.



• **Casey Ray Key '13** recently started a new position as Area Manager with Walmart and will be working at one of their distribution centers in Bentonville, AR. Casey is photographed with wife, Randi, and daughter, Rayelynn.



• **Kelsey Prothro '13 '15** recently started a new position as a Licensed Professional Counselor at the Forge Counseling Group.



• **Candace Stringer '13 '15** recently received a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree from UAMS College of Health Professions.



• **Will Whitehead '13** was recently presented the 2020 Businessman of the Year Award at the Springhill North Webster Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.

• **Zach Hammack '14** recently accepted a new position at Hampton High School as the Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor.



• **Trevor Munn '14** was recently promoted to Process Engineer at Cooper Tire & Rubber Company in Texarkana. Trevor has been with the company for over five years.



• **Lauren Russell '14** recently received a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacology degree from UAMS Graduate School.



• **Subir Shakya '14** recently graduated with his Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Louisiana State University.



• **Staysha Sisk '14** recently accepted a new position as Head Teller at First Financial Bank in El Dorado, where she has worked for over five years.



• **Mitchell Bradford '15** recently accepted a new position as an English Language Tutor at Xi'an Jiaotong Liverpool University. It's the largest Sini-Foreign program in China.



• **Derek Cox '15** started a new position as Operations Supervisor at Southeast Poultry, Inc. in Rogers, AR.



• **Mike Fritzler '15** recently started a new position as Director of Aviation for The Stephens Group, LLC in Little Rock.



• **Dillan Harris '15** recently accepted a teaching position at Connally Jr. High School.



• **Daniel Jones III '15** recently started a new position as Consultant for FTI consulting in the Washington, D.C. area.



Joshua Lindsey '15 recently received a Doctor of Medicine degree from UAMS College of Medicine.



• **Majesta (Miles) Maxwell '15** was recently named Rural Teacher of the Year for southern Arkansas.



• **Allen Plunk '15** recently started a new position as Summer Associate for Financial Restructuring Group at Houlihan Lokey.



• **Morgan Rich '15 '16** recently received a Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from UAMS College of Pharmacy.



• **Chloe Sims '15** recently became a business owner for her new company, Eunque Travel Destinations.



• **Shelby Ward '15** recently started a new position as a 7th and 8th grade Social Studies Teacher and Assistant Softball Coach for the Junction City School District.



• **Janae Capshaw '16** recently started a new position as an Instructional Coach at Morningside Elementary, in Fort Worth, TX.



• **Tanner Hudson '16** was recently promoted to the active roster of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.



• **Ashton McCrary '16** recently started a new position as Therapy Technician at South Arkansas Orthopedics & Sports Medicine.



• **Daniel Meadows '16** recently started a new position as Technical Support Specialist/STEM Lab Teacher at Evening Star Elementary within the Bentonville School District.



• **Cortney Sherman '16** recently started a new position as Associate Professor of Social Work at Southern Arkansas University.



• **Chelsey Turner '16** was recognized with the Teacher Excellence Award by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association, which represents over 35,000 teachers worldwide.



• **Trevel Young '16** recently started a new job as an Operations Representative at TUV Rheinland in Bentonville, AR.



• **Cord Barricklow '17** recently accepted a position with Corteva Agri Science and the Pioneer Brand as the Retail Manager for Western Kentucky.



• **Logan Brown '17** was recently chosen to be inducted into the Arkansas Military Veterans' Hall of Fame. Logan is currently a Wildlife Officer with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.



• **Natalie Cooper '17** recently received a Master of Science Degree in Nursing from Texas A&M University- Commerce.



• **William Dixon '17** recently started a new position as Title 1 Paraprofessional at Yerger Middle School in Hope, AR.



• **Brishna Hedstrom '17** recently accepted a new position at Camden Fairview High School as a Chemistry and Biology Teacher.



• **Tyler Hodnett '17** recently accepted a new position at El Dorado School District as the Assistant Baseball Coach. Over the past year, he has served as the 8th grade Football Coach and

Keyboarding Teacher for Barton Jr. High School.



• **Whitney Lambert '17** recently received a Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography from UAMS College of Health Professions.



• **Madison Peppers '17** recently accepted a new position as Product Specialist for the Pioneer Woman in Bentonville, AR.



• **James Perry '17** recently accepted a new position at Morriss Elementary School in Texarkana, TX, as a 5th Grade Teacher.



• **Jordan Thurmon '17** recently received the Medical Center of South Arkansas and Community Health Systems, Inc. National Nursing Excellence Award. Jordan

was chosen for this honor because of her consistent demonstration of compassionate nursing, leadership skills, positive attitude, professionalism and her willingness to go above and beyond.



• **Kahlil Wade '17** recently started a new position as Mathematics Teacher at Loyola Blakefield in Towson, MD.



• **Hemant Aradhyula '18** recently started a new position as Vice President of Technology Operations at JPMorgan Chase & Co.



• **Aaron Brock '18** recently received a promotion and now serves at the Senior Associate, Audit for KPMG.

• **Meco Davis '18** recently started a new position as Quality Management Director at Millcreek Behavioral Health in Fordyce, AR.



• **Jasmine Ferguson '18** recently accepted a new position as a Family Service Worker with the Department of Human Services in El Dorado, AR.



• **Trebor Gainwell '18** recently started a new position as Process Engineer at OQ in Houston, TX. Trebor also currently serves as Officer on MAC

Executive Leadership Board for AICHE. Trebor is currently pursuing his MBA with intentions to obtain an Artificial Intelligence PhD once complete.



• **Colby Geissen '18** recently started a new position as Assistant Offensive Line/Tight Ends Coach at Northeastern State University.



• **Brandon "Bubba" Gurley '18** recently started a new position as Senior Pastor at John Sevier Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN.



• **Jeremy Hunter '18** recently accepted a position as Store Manager at SAU Beyond the Campus.



• **Khadijah McCauley '18** recently started a new position as Case Manager at Elijah's House in Atlanta, TX.



• **Jessica Moore '18** recently accepted a position as 4th grade English and Social Studies Teacher with New Boston Independent School District.



• **Alli O'Banion '18** recently accepted a new position as Head Volleyball Coach at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in Miami, OK.

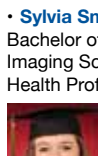
• **Danielle Strickland '18** recently started a position as Teller at BancorpSouth in Camden, AR.



• **Kathryn Woolley Page '18** recently accepted a new job as a teacher for Faith Christian Academy.



• **Jaidon Parrish '18** recently accepted a new position as a Coach and Teacher at Pine Tree High School in Longview, TX.



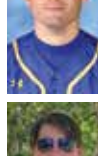
• **Sylvia Smith '18** recently received a Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Medicine Imaging Science from UAMS College of Health Professions.



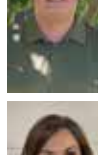
• **Sydney Reed '18** recently received a Doctorate of Pharmacy degree from UAMS College of Pharmacy.



• **Barrett Renner '18** recently started a new position as Consultant at Fidelity Investments.



• **Jacob Richardson '18** recently accepted a new position at England High School as the Head Baseball Coach.



• **Andrew Thrush '18** recently accepted a new position at Jacksonville High School as a 9th Grade Algebra 1 Teacher.



• **Heather Brooks '19** was recently named the new Principal at Haynesville Elementary School in Claiborne Parish, LA.



• **Kat Davoren '19** recently accepted a new position as the Criminal Deputy Circuit Clerk for Union County.



• **Evelyn Escamilla '19** recently started a new position as a 6th grade Science/5th & 6th grade Agriculture Elective at Washington Middle School in El Dorado, AR.



• **Justin Felder '19** recently started a new position as Sales Floor Associate at Cleo's Furniture in Texarkana.



• **Trenton Johnson '19** recently started a new position as Fraud Operations Specialist at Goldman Sachs in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.



• **Mary Beth Olvey '19** was recently recognized among the 2020 CFO of the Year Finalists with *Arkansas Business*.



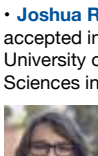
• **Eric Osburn '19** was recently promoted to Branch Director with Kindred At Home Health Care in Hope, AR.



• **Alli Phillips '19** recently started a new position as a Second Grade Teacher at East Side Elementary School in Magnolia.



• **Madeline Reed '19** was recently accepted into the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program at UAMS.



• **Joshua Russette '19** was recently accepted into pharmacy school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock.

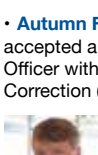


• **Madison Taylor '19** recently accepted a new position as a Math Teacher at Ashdown Junior High.

2020



• **Mekenzie Clift '20** recently started a new position as a Biology Teacher at El Dorado High School in El Dorado, AR.



• **Autumn Faulkner '20** recently accepted a position as Parole/Probation Officer with Arkansas Community Correction (ACC) in El Dorado, AR.



• **Michael Greer '20** recently began a new venture as a small business owner at Refuge Graphics and Design, a screen printing and embroidery company. Michael is also the Brand Manager at Mulekick in Magnolia.



• **Cody Lucy '20** recently started a new job as a 7th and 8th-grade Life Science, Environmental, Anatomy and Physiology Teacher and Distance Learning at Bradley High School.



• **Katy Medford '20** recently passed her Athletic Training Certification Exam.



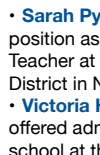
• **Olivia McClure '20** recently accepted a new position at Hudson Cisne & Co, LLP as a Staff Accountant.



• **Abby Morrow '20** was recently promoted to Mental Health Counselor at Ouachita River Correctional Unit.



• **Sydney Parham '20** was recently selected as a 1L Representative for the University of Arkansas Women's Law Student Association.



• **Sarah Pyle '20** recently started a new position as Middle School Social Studies Teacher at Smackover-Norphlet School District in Norphlet, AR.



• **Victoria Hardin '20** was recently offered admission to the pharmacy school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock.

• **Kinsey Watkins '20** recently accepted a new position at Baptist Health as a Registered Nurse.

In Memory of

1930-1939

Mildred Ruff '36
September 18, 2020

1940-1949

Oliver Barbaree '47
September 18, 2020

Roy Morris Fish '41
September 7, 2020

Frances Idabell Smith '42
June 21, 2020

Martha Kizzia '45
June 6, 2020

John Carroll Luck, Jr. '47
October 18, 2020

Mickey Sue Pittman '47
November 8, 2020

Sue Brown Worsham '48
August 5, 2020

Hoyt Floyd Watson '49
June 24, 2020

Margie Ann Short '49
June 7, 2020

1950-1959

James "Jim" Minto Cole '50
June 14, 2020

Norma Taylor '52
October 15, 2020

David Timberlake '52
June 27, 2020

Samuel Ray Brasher '53
May 16, 2020

Maurice Camell '54
July 7, 2020

Harold Jameson '54
December 2, 2020

John McClendon '54
October 13, 2020

Joe Thomas Doss '55
June 30, 2020
Billy Groves '55
May 21, 2020
Louise Tate O'Dell '55
September 11, 2020
James Gray McKenzie '57
September 29, 2020
James Modisette '57
November 3, 2020
Margaret Carol O'Dell '57
September 15, 2020
Winford Primm '57
August 13, 2020
Jewell David Copeland '59
May 18, 2020
Sammy Waters '59
August 20, 2020
Patty S. Webb '59
August 4, 2020
1960-1969
Lundy Ray Colvert '61
October 25, 2020
Jesse Lawrence Eades, Jr. '62
August 22, 2020
Sandara "Sandy" McLeon '62
July 13, 2020
Jerry C. Myers '63
October 27, 2020
Norman Lynn Reese '63
October 12, 2020
Bessie "Jeanette" Wilson '63
May 19, 2020
Nelda Jean Belvin '64
August 3, 2020
James "Tom" Forgey '64
October 10, 2020
Floyd Paul Goodwin '64
June 12, 2020
Jerry Wayne Powell '65
September 4, 2020
Louis Butler, Jr. '67
June 27, 2020
Carroll Dodson '67
August 10, 2020
Richmond "Joel" Reeves '67
July 16, 2020
David Carlton Williamson, Sr. '67
July 8, 2020
Barbara Ann Knight '68
October 21, 2020
Edward "Eddie" Jackson '69
October 12, 2020
Johnny Paul Richardson '69
June 23, 2020
1970-1979
Robert Anders '70
July 17, 2020
Jimmy Brook Matney '70
July 24, 2020
John Marshall Shackelford, III '70
July 25, 2020
David Stratton '70
July 3, 2020
Larry Glen Crumpler '71
August 21, 2020
Jack Carter Slayton '71
November 3, 2020
Gary Leroy Golden '72
September 4, 2020
David Street '72
August 19, 2020
Michael Lynn Davis '74
July 19, 2020
James "Bill" William Reed '74
July 5, 2020
Deborah Smith '74
August 14, 2020
Terrell "Terry" Randolph Taylor '74
June 24, 2020
Pamela Kay White '74
November 6, 2020
Dan Stout '75
October 6, 2019
Carol Hudgens '76

July 22, 2020
Linda Jimerson '76
August 17, 2020
Regina Minor '76
June 28, 2020
Wendy Sue Stinson '76
June 11, 2020
Edith Bryant '77
October 13, 2020
Tommy Brasher '78
October 11, 2020
1980-1989
Doris Jean Finley '80
July 19, 2020
Larry Atkinson '81
August 19, 2020
James Berry '81
August 1, 2020
Ruby "Juanita" Casey '81
September 25, 2020
Aurelia Gaylord '81
September 19, 2020
Suesette Marie Porter '81
July 21, 2020
Mary Eva Hines '82
November 11, 2020
John William Vickers '82
August 26, 2020
Charles Wingfield '84
August 14, 2020
Rosie Matlock-Muldrew '85
August 14, 2020
Deborah "Debbie" Colleen Grafton '87
October 15, 2020
Marie Lewis '88
November 3, 2020
Emma Rixse '88
November 6, 2020
Thomas "Wayne" Ross '88
July 14, 2020
1990-1999
Sammy Lawrence Fitzgerald '92
October 20, 2020
Van Gaines '92
July 2, 2020
Peggy Stephens '92
August 20, 2020
Charlotte Ann Hayes '97
May 31, 2020
2000-2009
Evelyn Jean Stevenson '09 '12
September 26, 2020
2010-2019
Calvin "Duddy" Dudley McClurkin '12
October 10, 2020
Valerie Kay Davis '16
August 30, 2020
Bryan Randall Martin '17
May 22, 2020
Houston Kane Koenigseder '19
September 25, 2019
Staff, Faculty, & Friends
Lt. Col Edward Bailey, Jr.
October 31, 2020
Peggy Trexler Bailey
June 24, 2020
Patricia Roper Laney
September 27, 2020
Phillip Edward Laney
August 26, 2020
Peggy Sue Miner
October 4, 2020
Margaret Myers
August 14, 2020
Nelda Reeves
May 31, 2020
Helen Samuel
October 3, 2020
David Sixbey
July 5, 2020
Raymond Uhrich
August 16, 2020

Little Muleriders®

Bradlee and Jessica Beck '19 announce the birth of their son, Joseph Bradlee "JB" Beck, born on August 1, 2020. He weighed 9.5 lbs and was 22 inches long.
Kade '16 and Payton (Baird) Benson '17 announce the birth of their daughter, Maybree Quinn Benson, born on July 18, 2020. She weighed 6 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20.5 inches long.



Cameron and Taryn (Covington) King '10 '14 '16 announce the birth of their son, Jett Alvin Nash King, born on November 1, 2020. He weighed 7 lbs. 9.6 oz. and was 19 inches long.



Corben '15 and Katie (Clark) Manzella '14 announce the birth of their daughter, Zoey Belle Manzella, born on May 7, 2020. She weighed 5 lbs. 1 oz. and was 18 inches long.

John '09 and Sara (Boyce) Crangle announce the birth of their daughter, Jodie Kate Crangle, born on August 15, 2020. She weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20 inches long.

Tyler Gipson and Jessica Baker '13 announce the birth of their son, Chandler JoLane Gipson, born on August 19, 2020. He weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. and was 17.5 inches long.

Antonio Gangale and Kaci Matthews '10 '12 announce the birth of their daughter, Stella, born on March 14, 2020. She weighed 6 lbs. 12 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Chase '13 and Sarah (Gatliff) Hardy '11 announce the birth of their daughter, Bella Marie Hardy, born on July 18, 2020. She weighed 7 lbs. 11 oz. and was 20.5 inches long.

Jordan '13 and Ashley Hill announce the birth of their son, Knox Jeffrey Hill, born on October 22, 2020. He weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches long.

Brian and Brinkley Moore Jackson '09 announce the birth of their son, Lindon Brady Jackson, born on June 15, 2020. He weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. and was 21 inches long.

Weddings



Sam and Sarah (Higginbotham) Codemo '15 were married on August 30, 2020.



Colt and Morgan (Layssard) Colvin '17 were married on October 24, 2020.



Micah '09 and Katie (Ward) Dawson were married on September 12, 2020.



Kevin '16 and Cheyenne (Anderson) Harris '17 were married on November 7, 2020.



Jeremy '18 and Allyisia (Hurt) Hunter '19 were married on July 25, 2020.



Dalton '16 and Ashlie Maness Jones '16 were married on October 10, 2020.



Spencer '20 and Merry (Ward) Minton '20 were married on October 10, 2020.



Sean and Elena (Maxwell) Sanchez '21 were married on December 19, 2020.



Mike and Becky (Holloway) Thompson were married on August 23, 2020.



Jeremy and Briana Walcker '15 were married on November 3, 2020.



Coe and Caleigh (Moyer) Watlington '17 '19 were married on October 9, 2020.

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