The athletic department prides itself on providing a comprehensive support network to ensure the student-athlete has appropriate resources necessary to succeed. This newsletter is designed to help give student-athletes, parents and recruits a better understanding of the support services available to SFA student-athletes.

The goal of the SFA athletic training department is to prevent injuries. When a student-athlete sustains an injury there are systems in place to assure an injury receives top priority. Lumberjack student-athletes are provided the opportunity for quick and accurate medical services on a daily basis.

The strength and conditioning coaches help the Lumberjacks improve overall health and fitness. They also help prepare the student-athlete for the demands of Division 1 collegiate athletics. SFA’s strength and conditioning coaches help improve overall athletic performance, which usually means improving athletes’ speed, conditioning, strength, power, and reduce the potential for sports-related injuries.

The equipment staff ensures that the athletic equipment and clothing utilized by athletes on a daily basis fits properly and is conditioned. This guarantees each item has been properly outfitted with safety in mind.

SFA’s Athletic Academic Center’s purpose is to ensure student-athletes fulfill their academic obligations with discipline, perseverance and integrity. The center’s responsibilities include: meeting weekly or bi-weekly with all student-athletes from their assigned athletic teams, monitoring study hall, checking class attendance, referring the student-athletes to the appropriate campus-wide resources when necessary to succeed academically and many more.
Sports Medicine Mission

SFA’s athletic training department provides comprehensive, state-of-the-art health care and wellness services to our student-athletes.

We deliver professional, first-class care and counseling that may be necessary to help SFA student-athletes prevent, manage and rehabilitate their injuries.

Our department serves as a major intellectual and creative resource for SFA Athletics, and we partner with allied health professionals to participate in the exploration and development of our student-athlete’s health and well-being.

Contact Information

Phone: 936.468.4550
Fax: 936.468.4052
Email: sfasuath@sfasu.edu

Sports Medicine, Athletic Trainers

Jeff Smith
Head athletic trainer
Lumberjack Football
B.S., Northwest Missouri State University
M.S., Louisiana State University
A.T.C., L.A.T.

Jeff Smith came to SFA to serve as head athletic trainer in 2012. He is the primary athletic trainer for the Lumberjack football team. A native of Mexico, Mo., Smith joined the SFA staff after spending three years as the head football athletic trainer at his alma mater, Northwest Missouri State University. During the 2009 season, the NWMSU Bearcat football team captured the NCAA Division II National Championship.

Before joining the NWMSU staff, he spent six years as associate athletic director/head athletic trainer at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La., where he was responsible for all medical care of Nicholls’ 16 Division I sports teams.

At Nicholls State, he traveled with the football and men’s basketball teams. He also was an instructor within the university’s accredited athletic training educational curriculum program.

In addition, from 2005-2011, Smith served as head athletic trainer for the Manning Passing Academy hosted by Archie, Cooper, Peyton and Eli Manning in Thibodaux, La. The academy serves as the nation’s premier offensive skills camp and hosts approximately 1,500 attendees annually.

Prior to Nicholls State, Smith worked in professional football, serving one season as an athletic trainer for Europe’s National Football League’s Barcelona Dragons, and he spent the 2002 NFL season as a member of the athletic training staff for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Before beginning his career as an athletic trainer in the NFL, Smith worked as a graduate assistant at Louisiana State University with the football and track and field teams. He was on the sidelines during three track and field national championships and a Sugar Bowl and SEC football championship. Additionally, he was selected as the medical coordinator for the 2002 NCAA track and field championship hosted by LSU.

While attending NWMSU as an undergraduate, Smith worked with the 1998 and 1999 Division II NCAA championship Bearcat football, basketball, track and field, volleyball and tennis teams. He also served as an intern with the Kansas City Chiefs during this time. Smith received his bachelor’s degree in physical and health education in 2000 from NWMSU, along with his ATC certification. He earned his master’s degree in kinesiology from LSU in 2002.

Smith is married to the former Tori Priddy, who also works for SFA Athletics.

Did you know?

SFA has eight certified athletic trainers on staff.

Multiple team physicians care for SFA student-athletes.

SFA is the only Southland Conference university to have an in-house X-ray unit.
What is an athletic trainer?

The American Medical Association recognizes athletic training as a health care profession.

Certified athletic trainers work as health care professionals and collaborate with physicians to optimize the activity and participation of their clients and patients.

Athletic training encompasses the prevention, diagnosis and intervention of emergency, acute and chronic medical conditions involving impairment, functional limitations and disabilities.

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Loree McCary

Athletic trainer
Ladyjack Basketball and Bowling
B.S., Kansas State University
M.E.S.S., University of Florida

Loree McCary joined the SFA athletic training staff in 1990. She is primarily responsible for the care and rehabilitation of SFA’s female athletes and mainly serves as the athletic trainer for the Ladyjack basketball team.

She is a member of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association, and, in June 2009, she was recognized as the Assistant Athletic Trainer of the Year by the National Athletic Trainers’ Association. She also holds a NATA 25-Year Membership Award.

She serves as the senior women’s administrator for SFA Athletics, where she oversees the Student-Athletes Advisory Committee and coordinates all student-athlete community service projects and the NCAA Life Skills programs. In addition, McCary serves as the secretary for the Southwest Athletic Trainers’ Association’s Executive Board.

When she’s not involved in overseeing the care of student-athletes, McCary also teaches undergraduate courses in SFA’s kinesiology and health science department and SFA 101, the university’s freshman seminar course.

McCary came to SFA after serving as a graduate assistant/athletic trainer for volleyball at the University of Florida.

The Girard, Kan., native is a 1988 graduate of Kansas State University and received her master’s degree from the University of Florida in 1990.

She is married to Vance McCary, and they rescue and adopt golden retrievers. McCary also participates in the Avon Marathon and Half Walk for breast cancer each spring in Houston.

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Josh Lammert

Athletic trainer
Ladyjack Soccer and Lumberjack Baseball
B.S., Missouri Valley College
M.S., Northwest Missouri State

Joshua Lammert joined the SFA athletics training staff in July 2013. Lammert will work directly with the Ladyjack soccer and Lumberjack baseball teams.

A licensed athletics trainer who is certified by the Board of Certification, Lammert comes to Nacogdoches after spending the past season serving as an assistant at Bryan College in Dayton, Tenn., where he worked with the baseball, men’s soccer and women’s golf teams.

Prior to his time in Dayton, Lammert spent two seasons working with SFA head athletics trainer Jeff Smith at Northwest Missouri State as a graduate assistant. Lammert was given the responsibility of working with the Bearcat volleyball, baseball and track and field teams, as well as assisting with an NCAA Division II semifinalist football team.

Lammert also spent three seasons at Missouri Valley College where he worked with the football, softball, baseball, women’s soccer, women’s basketball and men’s volleyball teams. Prior to moving into the collegiate ranks, Lammert spent one year working as a student trainer at the Excel Physical Therapy Clinic and with the Columbia Orthopedic Group.

Lammert has been the recipient of the National Athletic Training Association scholarship. He received a NATA-REF undergraduate scholarship in 2009, and a NATA-REF graduate scholarship in 2011. Lammert also received the Mid-America Athletic Trainer’s Association Post-Graduate Scholarship that same year.

Lammert is a 2010 graduate of Missouri Valley College. During his time at MVC, Lammert was named the Athletic Training Student of the Year. He received his master’s degree from Northwest Missouri State in April 2012. Lammert’s wife, Sarah, works for the SFA Charter School.
Online health forms for student athletes

All student-athletes must provide the athletic training staff with up-to-date demographic and insurance information, as well as signed release and consent forms before participation in any sport.

An athletic pre-participation physical exam or annual health status review also will need to be completed with a staff athletic trainer.

For incoming freshmen and new student-athletes, we will attempt to schedule a physical during your orientation session. (Physical exams performed off campus will not be accepted due to liability issues).

Returning student-athletes complete annual reviews when they report for school or camp. To access the release forms, log into: www2.sfasu.edu/athletictraining/Physical.htm, and click on the appropriate ‘Complete Packet’ link.

After you print and complete your forms, return them to your team’s athletic trainer. You do not need to complete any of the ‘Individual Forms’ unless instructed to do so by your team’s athletic trainer.

Steve Condon

Athletic trainer
Lumberjack Basketball, Lumberjack and Ladyjack Golf
B.S., Northwest Missouri State University
M.S., University of Iowa

Steve Condon came to SFA in 2012 to serve as an assistant athletic trainer working primarily with Lumberjack basketball. He also teaches undergraduate athletic training courses in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Science.

Before coming to SFA, Condon spent six seasons with the NFL’s Philadelphia Eagles. In 2010, the Eagle’s athletic training staff was voted the NFL’s Athletic Training Staff of the Year. Prior to his employment in the NFL, Condon was the head athletic trainer for the Milwaukee Bucks professional basketball team.

He spent 2001-2002 at Marquette University as head athletic trainer, where he witnessed one conference title and a Final Four appearance. From 1999-2001, he served as the head basketball trainer and travel coordinator for Iowa State University, where he was present for two conference title wins.

From 1985-1995, Condon served as the head basketball athletic trainer at the University of Arizona with coach Lute Olson. The university captured seven Pac 10 conference titles and earned two trips to the Final Four. Prior to that, he worked for Athletico Sports Medicine and Physical Therapy in Chicago, Ill.

Condon’s extensive experience in athletic training also provided him the opportunity to work with USA Basketball (1986, 1988 and 1991), the Los Angeles Summer Pro League (1992), the Desert Classic (1993-1995) and four NBA Chicago pre-draft camps.

Early in his career, he was the assistant football and head baseball athletic trainer at the University of Iowa. Condon began his career working as the assistant football, head wrestling and baseball trainer at West Point.

A native of Iowa City, Iowa, Condon graduated with a bachelor’s degree in health education from Northwest Missouri State University and a master’s degree in physical education from the University of Iowa. He is a certified member of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association and the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

Steve and his wife Carol are parents of two adult daughters, Kelly and Katie.

Athletic Training Education

SFA has a rich tradition of not only providing great care to the Lumberjack student athletes but also educating athletic training students.

SFA has both an undergraduate athletic training internship program and a master’s level entry-level athletic training education curriculum.

These two programs combined have approximately 50 students who are utilized within the Athletic Training Department for clinical education.
The athletic training department serves student-athletes in five athletic training facilities. The main facility is located in the athletic field house and serves as the hub for Lumberjack and Ladyjack student-athlete training services.

All treatment, injury evaluations, rehabilitation, taping and bracing occur here.

The four additional rooms are dedicated to serving Lumberjack basketball; Ladyjack basketball; Ladyjack volleyball and SFA cheer; and Lumberjack baseball and Ladyjack softball.

The field house recently was renovated. All new treatment tables, rehabilitation equipment, taping stations, plunge-style cold and hot whirlpools, and a physician’s office complete with X-ray machine were added or upgraded.

The main field house facility is open during the morning for treatment and rehabilitation and in the afternoon for pre-and post-practice services and game-day preparation.

Meet our graduate assistants

- SFA utilizes four graduate assistant athletic trainers.
- They are certified athletic trainers and licensed to practice in Texas.
- To be eligible to participate in our graduate assistant program, all students must be graduates from an accredited athletic training education curriculum program.
- Our graduate assistants receive real-world experience working with all sports and are responsible for the care of SFA’s student-athletic teams.

CHELSEA DOCKREY
B.S., Nicholls State University
Cross Country, Track and Field

JOHN MCLAUGHLIN
B.S., Louisiana State University
Volleyball

TRACI RIGDON
B.S., Iowa State University
Cheer, Dance, Spirit

SETH TISDALE
B.S., High Point University
Softball
Wellness and health education

Our approach to wellness with SFA students involves education, prevention and promoting self-responsibility in maintaining one’s own health.

Our focus is to encourage students to maintain their physical health by providing medical services and health education that will enhance their learning experience and help them establish healthy lifestyle skills.

The SFA Student Health Clinic is an outpatient medical facility located on campus that offers preventive and medical services to all currently enrolled students. Licensed doctors, nurses, laboratory personnel and support staff operate the clinic.

Staff work in conjunction with other campus student services, such as counseling services, recreation/wellness programs, dietitian/nutrition, health science and athletics to help support each student’s comprehensive mental and physical wellness.

Penny Jeffery, M.D.
Student Health Center medical director
B.S., Friends University
M.S. and M.D., University of Iowa

Dr. Penny Jeffery serves as the medical director for the SFA Student Health Clinic. Jeffery received her undergraduate degree from Friends University in Wichita, Kan.

She received her medical degree and her postgraduate training at the University of Iowa and is board certified in family medicine. Graduating with highest honors, she has received many academic, leadership and teaching awards.

She is a member of the American and Texas Academies of Family Physicians, the Texas Medical Association, and the American College Health Association.

Concussion information

Concussions are a health issue taken very seriously at SFA. Since 2008, SFA has utilized ImPACT, a neurocognitive computer baseline test. All student-athletes are tested before entering SFA’s athletic program and later retested against their baseline results if a head injury is suspected.

This tool has helped make the concussion diagnosis, management and return-to-play decisions more reliable.

The NCAA recommends all colleges and universities develop a concussion management plan and utilize the suggested guidelines SFA implemented in its plan. The SFA plan is a graduated program focusing on both student-athletes return-to-play and academic return to the classroom.

Sickle cell trait information

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that affects red blood cells. People with sickle cell disease have red blood cells that contain mostly hemoglobin S, an abnormal type of hemoglobin.

Sometimes these red blood cells become sickle-shaped and have difficulty passing through small blood vessels.

When sickle-shaped cells block small blood vessels, less blood can reach that part of the body. Tissue that does not receive a normal blood flow eventually becomes damaged.

Having the sickle cell trait is not the same as having the sickle cell disease, although it has been linked to health and performance concerns in student-athletes. Some student-athletes with the sickle cell trait exhibit problems with physical exertion.

The NCAA mandates that student-athletes be tested for sickle cell trait to allow the sports medicine team to be aware of and monitor them closely. The SFA Student Health Clinic can perform sickle cell testing.
Insurance information
Since 2009, the NCAA has mandated all student-athletes to carry athletic injury coverage under a primary insurance plan.

Currently, SFA utilizes the AG Administrators Insurance Company to act as the secondary insurance carrier for athletic-related injuries. In the event medical appointments are scheduled, the student-athlete’s primary insurance is processed first. All other remaining costs, deductibles and co-pays will be processed through the university’s secondary policy. When a student-athlete does not have a primary policy, he/she will need to secure insurance coverage prior to participation. All walk-ons and non-scholarship student-athletes are required to have insurance coverage in place before participation.

It is important to verify with the insurance company that the student-athlete’s primary policy is available for use in the Nacogdoches area and provides coverage for athletic injuries.

A PPO-type policy is encouraged because many HMO policies do not provide access in the Nacogdoches network. SFA has a fulltime insurance coordinator to assist with questions, insurance verification and claims management.

You may contact Tori Smith at (936) 468-3506 or smithvl1@sfasu.edu.

SFA Team Physicians

Steven Dickhaut, M.D.
Orthopedic specialist
M.D., Baylor College of Medicine
Residency, University of Texas Health Science Center

Dr. Steven Dickhaut was named SFA's orthopedic specialist in August 2010. A graduate of the Baylor College of Medicine, Dickhaut has been an orthopedic surgeon in Nacogdoches since 1986. Dickhaut specializes in arthroscopic shoulder and knee surgery and total joint replacement.

He has taught arthroscopic surgery and is certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery. In addition to his practice in Nacogdoches, Dickhaut serves as the team orthopedist for many East Texas high schools.

Following his graduation from Baylor, Dickhaut did an orthopedic residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio from 1977-1982. He also participated in a mini fellowship with the University of Texas athletic program in Austin. He held a practice in the Dallas area for several years before moving to Nacogdoches.

A member of the Texas Orthopedic Association and the American Medical Association, Dickhaut also has served on the Board of Directors for the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Dallas County, Nacogdoches County American Heart Association and the Nacogdoches Area Physicians Association.

Dickhaut, and his wife Charmayne, have been married for 27 years.

Mike Randle, M.D.
Nacogdoches Medical Center chief of staff
M.D., Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara
Residency, University of Maryland Medical Center

Neurosurgery specialist Dr. Michael J. Randle earned his medical degree at the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara in 1982 and completed his residency in neurological surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Md.

Randle is a member of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, American Academy of Spine Physicians, American Medical Association, Texas Neurological Society, Texas Medical Association, Texas Medical Association Political Action Committee, American College of Sports Medicine, Nacogdoches-San Augustine County Medical Society and Southern Medical Association.

He serves as chief of staff at Nacogdoches Medical Center and is a member of the governing board of both Nacogdoches Medical Center and the Surgery Center of Nacogdoches. He has devoted years of service to his community and country, serving as a mentor to the board of directors for the Nacogdoches Boys and Girls Club and the Nacogdoches and Lufkin Chambers of Commerce. He also serves as the steering committee neurosurgical consultant for SFA sports medicine. In addition, he served as a hospital corpsman in the U.S. Navy from 1969-1973.
**About the program**

The strength and conditioning program is designed to provide student-athletes with the most comprehensive speed, strength and conditioning equipment and training available under the direction of a staff committed to the safe and effective development of SFA student-athletes.

This program promotes movement efficiency and mental toughness. The facility operates 14 Olympic racks and seven power stations, which provide a total of 28 stations to perform core movements, as well as various plate-loaded machines to aid in development.

Programming is based on the systematic development of speed, strength and conditioning levels to help improve athletic performance. Each phase of training places a focus on force production, rate-of-force production and the transfer of force to athletic movement, while emphasizing free weights to adequately load musculature and promote functional strength.

In addition, a sports/nutrition counter provides Lumberjacks and Ladyjacks with body composition and nutritional assessments.

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**Dan Eason**

**Wellness Center director**  
**B.S., Southwest Missouri State University**  
**M.S., University of Tennessee**  
**S.C.C., C.S.C.S., U.S.A.W.**

Dan Eason was named director of the SFA Wellness Center in 2001. He comes to Nacogdoches by way of Orlando, Fla., where he was the assistant strength and conditioning coach at the University of Central Florida.

Prior to his stop at UCF, Eason spent two seasons as a graduate assistant strength coach and coordinator of sports nutrition at the University of Tennessee. He started his coaching career at Chowan College, where he spent three seasons as the defensive line and strength and conditioning coach.

Eason played college football at Southwest Missouri State University, where he graduated in 1995 with a bachelor’s degree in dietetics. He went on to receive his master’s degree in human performance and sports studies from the University of Tennessee in 2000.

Eason is married to the former Angel Damian. The couple have two children, Violet and Aedan.

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**Joseph Boyd**

**Strength and conditioning assistant**  
**B.S., Ouachita Baptist University**  
**M.S., Mississippi State University and Arkansas State University**  
**C.S.C.S., N.S.C.A., U.S.W.**

Joseph Boyd was named assistant strength and conditioning coach in July 2013. Boyd came to SFA after spending the previous year as an assistant strength and conditioning coach at Kennesaw State University.

While at KSU, Boyd oversaw the design and implementation of training programs for women’s soccer, women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s golf, men’s and women’s tennis, and track and field teams.

Prior to his stop at KSU, Boyd spent two seasons as the graduate assistant strength and conditioning coach at Arkansas State University. Boyd started his coaching career as an intern at Mississippi State University in 2008.

Mark Mitchell
Strength and conditioning assistant coach
B.S., Eastern Michigan University
M.A., Western Michigan University

Mark Mitchell was named strength and conditioning assistant coach at SFA in August 2012.

Prior to joining the Lumberjacks, Mitchell began coaching following his playing career at Eastern Michigan University where he served as an intern on the EMU sports performance staff.

He then interned with the football strength and conditioning staff at Ohio State University. In the summer of 2010, he joined the strength and conditioning staff at Western Michigan University as a graduate assistant, supporting the football and men’s tennis teams.

Mitchell earned his bachelor’s degree from Eastern Michigan and was a three-year letter winner as a defensive back on the Eagles football team.

He completed his master’s degree in sports performance at WMU in 2012. He holds certifications from the National Strength and Conditioning Association, Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association and the United States Weightlifting Association.

Greg "Buck" Payne
Manager of equipment and facilities
B.S., Stephen F. Austin State University

Greg Payne oversees the purchasing and maintenance of all football equipment and laundering services, and assists with other sports’ equipment and facilities.

He also is an active member of the Athletic Equipment Managers Association, overseeing continuing education hours for certified members in a four-state district. He also is a four-time recipient of the Knight-Pickard Athletic Equipment Award.

A native of Jacksonville, Texas, Payne’s service to SFA began as a student manager in the mid-1970s. Payne received his bachelor’s degree from SFA in 1979.

After spending the 1979 season as an equipment manager for the Houston Oilers, Payne returned to his alma mater in 1980.

He also has been an equipment manager for the East-West Shrine football game since 2007.

The strength and conditioning coaches help the Lumberjacks improve overall fitness while also preparing the student-athlete for the demands of Division 1 collegiate athletics.

The equipment staff ensures that the equipment utilized by each player fits properly.
The Department of Athletics at SFA has a longstanding tradition of excellence on the playing field; a rich tradition that also extends beyond that to academic excellence, campus leadership, and community outreach.

The Academic Center and Athletics Student Services provide our student-athletes resources to be successful in all of life’s arenas.

We facilitate advising, mentorships, tutoring, study hall, internship placement, as well as assistance to our coaches and players to remain compliant with NCAA and university academic standards.

**SFA ATHLETE ACADEMIC FACTS**

- 101 graduates in 2012-13
- 2.84 cumulative GPA
- 299 AD honor roll students in fall and spring
- 55 named to President’s List (4.0 GPA)
- 43 percent of athletes maintain at least a 3.0 GPA and higher
- Eight teams with at least a 3.0 GPA for fall or spring

**Rob McDermand**

Assistant Athletic Director - Student Services  
B.S., University of Waterloo  
M.A., University of Waterloo; M.P.A., Ohio State University  
Lumberjack Football and Basketball

Rob McDermand came to SFA as the Director of Academic Student Services prior to the start of the 2011-12 season, and was promoted to the Assistant Athletics Director for Academic Services in September 2012. McDermand oversees academics for all 17 SFA varsity sports, and works directly with the Lumberjack football and men’s basketball programs.

Before arriving at SFA in July 2011, McDermand spent two years working as an academic specialist at Lamar University, supervising the academic needs of more than 100 student-athletes spread out over 12 athletic teams. In addition to his advising duties, McDermand oversaw the Lamar Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and was an active member of the Student Advising and Retention Services department, winning the university’s 2011 Advisor of the Year award.

Prior to Lamar, McDermand spent two years as the assistant academic resources coordinator in the Student Athlete Support Services Office at Ohio State University. In his role he coordinated tutoring and study services for student athletes while leading new academic project initiatives and organizational program evaluations. Additionally, he worked closely as a tutor with men’s and women’s basketball and women’s softball, and was responsible for tracking and reporting the progress of more than 100 athletes on the football team.

McDermand spent the first six years of his career as the academic adviser and operations manager in the Department of Athletics at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Canada. Responsible for all aspects of student academic success, McDermand helped to graduate all of the students he worked with, sent numerous student athletes into graduate schools and teacher’s colleges throughout Canada and was an integral part of the Warriors’ national championship appearance in 2005.

In addition to his collegiate experience, McDermand also spent two years with his country’s national team working as the operations manager for Basketball Canada, helping the team prepare for the World Championship and Olympic qualifying tournaments, and twice as the operations manager for the annual Adidas Canadian High School All-Star game. A native of Toronto, McDermand received his Bachelor of Arts and master’s degrees from the University of Waterloo in 2004 and 2006 and a master’s of public administration degree from Ohio State in 2009. He is currently pursuing an MBA in finance and economics at SFA.

He is a member of the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletes, the National Association of College Directors of Athletics and the Project Management Institute.
A.J. Majors

Academic Services Assistant
B.S., Pittsburg State University
Ladyjack Basketball, Baseball, Soccer, Volleyball and Golf

A.J. Majors came to the athletics department in July 2010 as an academic services assistant after spending nearly a year as an academic adviser in SFA’s Nelson Rusche College of Business.

Majors advised suspended and undecided students for the college, while overseeing their academic progress. She directly handled the day-to-day operations with the associate dean and coordinated the work for a pair of graduate assistants.

Prior to moving to Nacogdoches, Majors spent two years as an admissions counselor at her alma mater, Pittsburg State. At PSU, she was responsible for traveling to high schools throughout Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri to make informational presentations regarding Pittsburg State. While in the office, she advised students in choosing a major, and assisted in organizing on-campus events such as senior day and freshman orientation.

Majors, formerly A.J. Miller, is no stranger to athletics. She was a four-year letter winner at Pittsburg State for the Gorilla softball team, earning honorable mention all-conference honors as a second baseman in 2004.

She is married to Ladyjack basketball assistant coach Andy Majors. They are the proud parents of Mason Andrew, born February 2011.

Jennifer Gibbs

Graduate Assistant
B.S., Lamar University
Ladyjack Softball and Bowling

Jennifer Gibbs was hired as an academic services graduate assistant in the SFA athletics department prior to the start of the 2012-13 season.

Gibbs comes to SFA from Lamar University, where she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in history and secondary education. She is currently working on her master’s degree in history at SFA.

In her role as graduate assistant, Gibbs is responsible for guiding and mentoring the academic success of more than 20 student-athletes on the softball and bowling teams.

Gibbs was a four-year letter winner as a member of the Lamar Cardinals soccer team. During her time there, she was named a team captain, team MVP, Sports Performance MVP and an honorable mention all-conference goalkeeper.

She helped turn Lamar soccer into a top Southland Conference program, and was named to the Southland Conference Commissioner’s Academic Honor Roll all four years. Gibbs left Lamar as the program’s all-time winningest goalkeeper, and holds numerous school records.

Casey Finnell

Academic Services Assistant
B.S. and M.S., Kansas State University
Ladyjack and Lumberjack Track and Field, Ladyjack Tennis

Casey Finnell joined the SFA athletics department in July 2013 as an academic services assistant after spending five months as an academic intern in the Athlete Support Services Office at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

During her time working with UMKC, Finnell was charged with the task of providing educational support with at-risk student-athletes. She assisted with the advising of more than 200 student-athletes and provided bi-weekly skill instruction and learning strategies to further academic development of student-athletes.

Finnell also assisted with the Roo Life Skills Program. It provided support for student-athletes in the classroom, as well as career development. She also is individually certified with the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics.

Finnell makes the move to the academics side after five seasons as an assistant coach with the Kansas State equestrian team. One of the top equestrian coaches in the country, Finnell was a National Collegiate Equestrian Association Coach of the Year nominee in 2012.

Finnell graduated from Kansas State with a bachelor’s degree in 2007. She returned to her alma mater and received a master’s degree in counseling and student development in August 2010.