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Richardson, Banegas named Man, Woman of 2017

Cody Richardson, Adrian, and Samantha Banegas, Alpine, were named the 2017 Sul Ross State University Man and Woman of the Year at the annual Honors Convocation, held April 17 in Marshall Auditorium.

Sul Ross President Dr. Bill Kibler presented the awards. The Man and Woman of the Year award is the top honor a Sul Ross senior can receive.

Richardson, who will graduate in May, is a Business Administration major, Honors Program graduate and president of the Sul Ross Ranch Horse Club. He has compiled a 3.795 grade point average through Fall Semester 2016.

Banegas, a junior Education major, is a member of Sigma Tau Delta (International English Honor Society), has been named to the Dean’s List, is a marathoner, and, in addition to being a full-time student, is a full-time Sul Ross employee, wife and mother.

"People often say that Sul Ross...graduates coaches, cops and cowboys," Richardson’s nomination stated. "[Richardson] emulates the best of that tradition. He lives the Code of the West, but in a 21st century manner. He knew that if he wished to continue living the ranching style of life he would need more than a love for wide-open spaces and horses. He would need to know about economics, market cycles, and the latest that science has to share on how to increase yield and health in one’s stock."

"He knew that he would need a college education in order to successfully live the lifestyle that he has chosen," the nomination continued. "At Sul Ross, he has excelled academically and socially."

Banegas drew praise for her dedication, diligence and scholarship, as well as being an excellent role model.

"Her goal is to be a teacher of special needs children, a profession suited to her warm nature and diligent work ethic," one nomination stated. "She is a bright light and wants to make a difference in the world," another nomination stated, calling her an exemplary full-time student.

Behavioral and Social Sciences

Clifford B. Casey Book Award – Marissa Garcia, Marfa
Outstanding History Major, Phi Alpha Theta History Award – Christy Sanchez, Alpine
Outstanding Psychology Students of the Year – Cassandra Sandoval, Odessa; Nadia De Luna, La Vernia

Biology, Geology and Physical Science

Outstanding Undergraduate Biology Student Award – Maggie Rumbelow, Alpine; Yeliza Avila, El Paso
Outstanding Graduate Biology Student Award – Clara Brodie, Midland
Julius Dasch Outstanding Undergraduate Geology Student – Stephanie Elmore, Fort Stockton
Lance Forsythe Memorial Outstanding Graduate Student Award – William Bailey, Marshall
Outstanding Non-Traditional Geology Student – Brian Lones, Midland
Outstanding Student in Introductory Chemistry – Olivia Enriquez, Lamesa
James G. Houston Organic Chemistry Award – Jesus R. Guerreo, El Paso

Business Administration

Outstanding Undergraduate Business Administration Student – Cody Richardson, Adrian
Outstanding Master of Business Administration Student – Jessica Smith, Alpine
Outstanding Master of Business Administration Online Student – Karen Herzog, San Antonio; Phillip Waldmann, Lubbock

Computer Science and Mathematics

Outstanding Senior in Computer Science – Shawn Templin, El Paso
Outstanding Freshman in Mathematics – Courtney Dillard, Hawley
Outstanding Senior in Mathematics – Erika Amador, Presidio
Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Gilley Mathematics Excellence Award – Dominic Carillo, Midland

Outstanding Agricultural Education Student – Emily Skaggs, Cherokee
Outstanding Animal Production Student – Carlis Pisano, Weatherford
Outstanding Pre-Veterinary Student – Alexa Gallardo, El Paso
Outstanding Science Student – Celina Zuniga, El Paso
Outstanding Animal Science Graduate Student – Cheryl Hansen, Marathon

Students earn academic awards

Animal Science

Behavioral and Social Sciences

Biology, Geology and Physical Science

Business Administration

Computer Science and Mathematics

The following departmental awards were presented at Honors Convocation, April 17

Outstanding Undergraduate Biology Student Award – Maggie Rumbelow, Alpine; Yeliza Avila, El Paso
Outstanding Graduate Biology Student Award – Clara Brodie, Midland
Julius Dasch Outstanding Undergraduate Geology Student – Stephanie Elmore, Fort Stockton
Lance Forsythe Memorial Outstanding Graduate Student Award – William Bailey, Marshall
Outstanding Non-Traditional Geology Student – Brian Lones, Midland
Outstanding Student in Introductory Chemistry – Olivia Enriquez, Lamesa
James G. Houston Organic Chemistry Award – Jesus R. Guerreo, El Paso

Outstanding Undergraduate Business Administration Student – Cody Richardson, Adrian
Outstanding Master of Business Administration Student – Jessica Smith, Alpine
Outstanding Master of Business Administration Online Student – Karen Herzog, San Antonio; Phillip Waldmann, Lubbock

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Outstanding Pre-Veterinary Student – Alexa Gallardo, El Paso
Outstanding Science Student – Celina Zuniga, El Paso
Outstanding Animal Science Graduate Student – Cheryl Hansen, Marathon

Photo by Gunner Gardner
Student-directed one-act plays begin tonight

Four plays, including an original work written by a Sul Ross State University student, will be presented at the bi-annual one-act play festival, Friday and Saturday, April 28-29. Curtain time is 7 pm in the Studio Theatre, Fine Arts building. Admission is free and open to the public.


The fourth play, “Vertical Lines,” is a staged reading of a new play written by graduating theatre major, Chinasa Broxton Okorocha. The play, directed by theatre professor Dona Roman, contains serious subject matter and language. Parental discretion is advised. Run time for this production is approximately 45 minutes.

There will be a brief intermission prior to the staged reading of “Vertical Lines.”

“Mozart and the Grey Steward” was written as part of a collection. In this short ten-minute play, the audience sees a dying Mozart commissioned by a masked stranger to write a requiem for the masses.

“Hubie’s Best Friend” is a 25-minute comedy and one of over 100 one-act plays written by Tasca. The play is a comedic look at love and the strain it can put on a friendship.

“The Worker” creates a paranoid environment where a man works for his life while his wife wants to start a family. A single mistake could be the difference in either of their lives. This dark comedy also runs approximately ten minutes.

For more information, call 432-837-8218 or visit www.sulross.edu/theatre.

Lobo Pantry helps feed hungry students

Volunteers for the Lobo Pantry distributed bags of groceries and pantry items to students April 18 at the Lobo Village Community Room.

The Lobo Pantry is sponsored by Collision Church. For more information or to find out how to volunteer, contact Jon Herrera at jon@collisionalpine.com.

Photo by Magaly De Leon
Harveson gets first Distinguished Faculty Award

By Steve Lang, Contributor

Dr. Louis Harveson's impressive list of personal and program accomplishments now includes a new honor—the President's Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award at Sul Ross State University.

Harveson, professor of Natural Resource Management and the Dan Allen Hughes, Jr. Endowed Director of the Borderlands Research Institute (BRI), joins Dr. Sarah Roche, professor of Education at Rio Grande (BRI), as the initial recipients of the award, designation as Distinguished Professor at Sul Ross, a medallion award, designation as Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award recipients definitely meets the anticipated standards of excellence," said Dr. Bill Kilber, Sul Ross President. "Their respective accomplishments embody the goals this university strives to meet."

Harveson joined the Sul Ross faculty in January 1998 as an assistant professor in Natural Resource Management. He later served as department chair and was named BRI director at its formation in 2008. During his tenure, he has received Sul Ross' Outstanding Teaching Award, has been honored as Student Organization Adviser of the Year, and received the Quality Enhancement Innovation Award.

Outside of Sul Ross, Harveson received the Educator of the Year award from the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Texas Wildlife Association's Sam Beasom Conservation Leader Award and was named a Texas Tech University Outstanding Alumnus.

Throughout his career, Harveson said his efforts have been energized by interaction with students. "Sul Ross is a special place. It's a great place to raise a family, there are great programs throughout the university and I love the vision of our leadership," he said. "I thoroughly enjoy my colleagues, and the students are the key."

"The students keep you young with their passion, their energy and their attraction to the conservation field, because they want to leave the world a better place. For them, it's not a job; it's a commitment."

Harveson called Sul Ross' Natural Resource Management program "small, nimble and efficient, but one of the top two or three programs among the 15 in the state," adding that the program has attracted extensive media attention "for who we are and what we do."

"As a professor, program leader, department chair and director, I like being a part of building things that are bigger than me, will outlive me and establish a legacy to benefit all," Harveson said. "It continues to be exciting to be a part of this, and our greatest investment is in our students, who, through their success beyond Sul Ross, are our best ambassadors."


He and his wife, Dr. Patricia Moody Harveson, Sul Ross associate professor of Natural Resource Management, have two children, Katie, a freshman at Texas Tech, and Jake, a sophomore at Alpine High School.

For more information, contact Harveson, 432-837-8225, or harveson@sulross.edu.
Test anxiety looms as finals draw near...

By Vashti Armendariz, Reporter

“My scholarships are all GPA reliant, meaning any major test has several thousand dollars on the line,” answered a respondent to the Skyline’s recent campus-wide test anxiety survey. This student is not alone. More than 25 percent of university students experience anxiety caused by tests, according to a recent study.

Test anxiety varies in intensity, but some test-takers may manifest physical symptoms from headaches and nausea to panic attacks. Knowing this, we questioned students about their experiences with test taking.

Our four-question survey asked students to describe how they feel before, during and after taking a test.

Prior to taking a test some feel “excited, anxious, and little like I am about to pee my pants,” while others reported feeling “near tears stressed.”

During a test, anxiety varies. Some feel “anxious and overthink every question,” others feel “relaxed, relieved” and some experience “moments of confidence, and utter moments of despair.”

After finishing a test, most students reported feeling more relaxed but generally still anxious because they tended to second-guess their work or feel “nervous about how I actually did.”

The survey also asked students to describe how they manage their testing anxiety. Respondents included consuming their favorite drink or foods such as coffee, tea or chocolate, and one admitted to taking “a shot, just one, about 30 minutes before taking the test.” Listening to music, playing video games, and exercise were also listed as coping tools.

Others practice controlled breathing exercises and strategically answering questions. “If I struggle with a question, I move on to the next one to avoid frustration. I come back to the skipped question once I am able to gain some clarity,” said one student.

Another contributing factor of test anxiety is that tests may be so heavily weighted that they can become detrimental to one’s GPA.

There are no treatments for testing anxiety, but the Anxiety and Depression Association of America (ADAA) does recommend a number of management tactics.

First, students are advised to develop good study habits; to try to simulate exam conditions; to practice test taking and develop good test taking skills; and to learn a set of relaxation techniques that can be employed during a test.

The survey also asked students if they believe that tests accurately measure their knowledge.

Some argue that it depends on the format of the test, while others feel that tests do not accurately test knowledge of a subject.

Those in favor of tests expressed that tests “accurately measure how much a student has covered during the time period,” while other responses included those of students who feel that tests “measure how much you can memorize” because tests are “built around short-term memorization with little practical application.”

Do students want change when it comes to testing?

“Don’t ask me. Ask Finland.”

“No matter what we say, the testing system will never change.”

One respondent’s suggestion was to allow students to “create a project … a PowerPoint that displays all the student’s knowledge” as a more accurate way to measure their knowledge.

While responses varied, the truth is there is no escape; we will all be taking finals in the next two weeks.

Study hard and prepare for the tests to come. Good luck!
compete alongside so many different athletes; it was very uplifting."

When he isn’t training to be an American Ninja Warrior, Kamara enjoys tutoring fellow students in math, chemistry, geology and physics. He also competes in competitions like the Spartan Race, the Tough Mudder and Savage Race.

Kamara teaches two open fitness classes in the Graves Pierce Gym Mondays through Thursdays: one class meets at noon and the other at 8 pm.

"I enjoy teaching the class mostly because I want to encourage people to get up and be active," he said. "It also provides a good fellowship and a community of good people."

Kamara hopes to eventually find a job in the oil and gas industry, while still competing in American Ninja Warrior for as long as he can, and to continue inspiring people to be active.

"If people could see where I came from and who I was and see what I’ve become, I hope that would inspire them to do things they think that they can’t do, and realize that anything is possible."

Training to become an American Ninja Warrior challenged him in many ways.

"The people who compete are all-around athletes. They’re body builders, rock climbers, dancers, gymnasts, everything—you name it. So, to compete, I had to become more well-rounded in different fields of athleticism to even have a chance."

Kamara believes that working out is the best kind of medicine and provides a good balance to his academic life.

"It just makes me feel good both mentally and physically. Working out and physical activity give me good energy and lead to a healthy future."

Some of his fondest memories during the competition were meeting a diverse group of people and making new friends.

"It was so incredibly humbling for someone like me to be able to compete alongside so many different athletes; it was very uplifting."

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You can watch Abraham Kamara’s segment on American Ninja Warrior on NBC June 12.

In the meantime, stay up to date on his workouts by taking his fitness class, or check out his Instagram page @abebeast.

Watch Sul Ross’ American Ninja Warrior June 12

By Gunner Gardner, Co-Editor

In the (sometimes) quiet halls of Sul Ross State University, a ninja walks among us: a man who conquers insane feats of strength and agility while, at the same time, pursuing a higher education. But, Abraham Kamara is not your average ninja—he’s an American Ninja Warrior.

Last month, Kamara competed in NBC’s American Ninja Warrior qualifier competition in San Antonio. Kamara moved to Texas in 2009 from Liberia to pursue a higher education, and received his bachelor’s degree in geology in 2014 from Sul Ross. After his first degree, Kamara moved to Houston to work in petro-engineering and as a personal trainer at the local YMCA. He returned to Sul Ross and earned his master’s degree in geology in 2016.

Kamara says he chose to compete in American Ninja Warrior to not only push his limits but to inspire people.

"I was born premature, and when I came here back in 2009 I weighed less than 110 pounds. I was introduced to the gym and fell in love with how it made me feel and the rush it gave me," he said. "Over the years, I became stronger and gained weight, and saw the American Ninja Warrior show and thought how cool it would be for a person like me to do something like that. However, my body was nowhere near ready at that time, so I had to keep pushing myself."

Kamara finds his inspiration through his upbringing in poverty.

"Growing up, I didn’t have much of anything except for myself, so I decided to become the best person I could possibly be. Any time that I want to give up, I think about where I could be or what my life would be like had I not come to America, and that inspires me to push harder and become stronger and better at everything I do."

He wishes that people who saw him four years ago could see him now.

"If people could see where I came from and who I was and see what I’ve become, I hope that would inspire them to do things they think that they can’t do, and realize that anything is possible."

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Students got to show off their creative sides when Sully Productions sponsored a Craft Night April 20. Participating students decorated mason jars and transformed them into candleholders. Photo courtesy Jeff Blake

A “Swim for Change” pool party was held April 21 at the Graves Pierce pool by Residential Living. The event was a benefit for the Alpine Animal Shelter. Students were asked to donate spare change, blankets and towels, and pet products to be used at the shelter. Photos by Magaly De Leon

Sul Ross students were zipping across the south end of campus Monday, April 17, thanks to Sully Productions bringing in a crew and equipment to provide some stress-free (almost) fun. Action was supposed to take place from 1 to 7 pm, but due to lightning in the area, playtime was cut a bit short. Still, many thrill-seeking students managed to fly through the air before the weather turned ugly. Photos by Rainey Miller

Sul Ross students, faculty and staff were joined by members of the community for the Alpine March for Science held on campus on Earth Day, April 22. The march was organized by the Sul Ross Geology and Biology clubs.

Prior to the noon march, participants met at the rally point—the SRSU outdoor amphitheater—to hear speakers, make posters, and visit information tables manned by local science organizations.

The Alpine march was an official satellite march of the National March for Science in Washington, D.C.

Photos by Magaly De Leon
Successive series wins, coupled with some help from Concordia-Texas, have kept the Lobo baseball team in contention for a post-season berth.

The Lady Lobos lost 7-3, 10-2 and 2-1 to eventual ASC runner-up East Texas Baptist April 13 and 14. The Friday doubleheader was played in Fort Stockton due to wet grounds in Alpine. Eventual champions UT-Tyler won 2-0, 10-2 and 5-1 in Tyler April 21 and 22, ending Sul Ross’ season.

Destanie Hernandez paced the team in most offensive categories, batting .347 with 41 hits, 11 doubles and 24 runs scored. She tied with Chris York with 17 runs scored. Alexis Trotter (.286) scored 20 times to pace the team, while Darrien Doederlein (.291) nailed eight bases in nine tries. The Lady Lobos batted .258 as a team.


Lady Lobos end softball season, set new win mark


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Top: Sul Ross and ETBU at the end of the game.
Bottom: Catcher Destanie Hernandez traps an ETBU runner.
Photos by Magaly De Leon

Lobo nine battles back into playoff contention

Successive series wins, coupled with some help from Concordia-Texas, have kept the Lobo baseball team in contention for a post-season berth.

Sul Ross, 14-23 overall, 7-14 in American Southwest Conference play, faces Hardin-Simmons (8-13, 16-20) Friday and Saturday, April 28-29 in Abilene, with the series winner claiming the eighth and final place in the upcoming ASC tournament.

Coach Bobby Mesker’s team won two of three games from LeTourneau April 8-9, lost a non-conference tilt to New Mexico State 19-9 April 11, and after a bye weekend, returned to Kokernot Field to win two of three from the University of the Ozarks. Sul Ross won 6-2 Friday, April 21, took Saturday’s opener 12-4, but dropped the nightcap 12-7. Hardin-Simmons, meanwhile, opened the door by losing three straight at Concordia April 21-22.

Senior Johnny Campos (.307 batting average) recorded his 200th collegiate hit with a home run against New Mexico State. He leads the team with 32 runs scored and is second with 46 hits and seven doubles.

Ryan Almager paces the Lobos with a .361 batting average, 52 hits, nine doubles, six homers (tied with Chris York) and 36 runs batted in. Starters Phillip Russell (.325), Wesley Moss (.321) and Ryan DeLeon (.304) are also batting over .300, while Jonathan Bigley (.297), Mike Minden (.290) and York (.282) provide added punch. Sul Ross has a .304 team average.

Cody Remore has a 5-4 record in 12 starts with two complete games, a shutout and 3.24 earned run average. Aaron Marquez and Peyton Maret have combined for six wins and two saves in relief.

Men’s tennis team ends year with win

Sul Ross won five singles matches and two doubles sets to end the 2017 campaign with a 7-2 victory over host Howard Payne April 22. Coach Dee Dee De La O’s team ended with a 1-13 record, 1-4 in American Southwest Conference action.

Howard Payne defeated the Lady Lobos 8-1, with Kelyn Likiakoa gaining the lone win at number two singles. The women’s team finished the year 2-12, 0-6 in ASC play.

Ryan Ray, Chris Moolchan, Kyle Ferguson, Nathaniel Boatright and Gunner Gardner won the second-sixth singles matches, respectively, against the Yellowjackets. Moolchan and Ferguson won at number two doubles, while Victor Garcia and Boatright won at number three.

A day earlier, Sul Ross dropped matching 9-0 verdicts to UT-Dallas, also at Brownwood.

Top: Senior Johnny Campos slides safely onto base.
Bottom: Junior Chris York makes it to third base against the Ozarks.
Photos by Magaly De Leon

Photos by Magaly De Leon
Stevens named ASC track and field athlete of year; men, women fifth in standings

Jermaine Stevens set a record in the long jump, tied a record in the 100 meters and helped the 4x100 relay team to another first place finish to win 2017 Male Track and Field Athlete honors. Coach Antuan Washington’s men and women’s teams both finished fifth in the ASC meet, held April 20-22 at Abilene.

Stevens teamed with Richard Snyder, Byron Jones and James Davis to win the 4x100 relay, and Sergio Solis added another gold medal in the discus as the Lobos tallied 88 points, just seven behind third-place Hardin-Simmons and five behind East Texas Baptist. McMurry won both meets handily, while UT-Tyler was second.

Karley Harris paced the Lady Lobos (54 total points) by winning her second straight 400 meters title and adding a fifth place showing in the 200. Audrey Lozano won the shot put and LaNasia Reed finished second.

Other men’s placings included Joseph Parker, second in the 1500 meters and third in the 5000; Davis, Jones, Snyder and Dimitri Thornton, second in the 4x400 relay; Snyder and Jones, second and third, respectively, in the 200 meters; and Mando Ruvio, third in the discus.

Rachel Hamilton placed second in the 800 meters for the Lady Lobos, and teamed with Marza Alatorre, Karina Ramirez and Harris to gain the silver medal in the 4x400 relay. Photos courtesy Travis Hendryx
**FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE**

For Classes Meeting on:  

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*Finals exams in Labs and Physical Education activity courses will be given during the last class period of the semester. For times not listed, consult with your instructor.*

*Spring commencement exercises are Saturday, May 12 at 7 pm in the Pete P. Gallego Center.*

*University residence halls will close at noon, Saturday, May 13.*