Earl Miller

- Enrolled as student at SSC in the early 1950s
- To help pay for school took a job as a student driver of the school bus
- By 1955, a full-time physical plant employee, maintaining school autos and exclusively driving the school bus
Earl Miller drove campus buses for almost fifty years. He drove two million miles and never had a wreck. His SSC/SAU buses went everywhere, including Washington, D.C. and Mexico City. His first bus was an U.S. Army surplus vehicle that athletes said had “square wheels.” Miller was proudest of the bus he called “Big Blue,” acquired in 1970.
“Mr. Earl,” as students called him, was noted for his friendliness. Miller was like Will Rogers. He, too, never met a person he did not like, and no stranger he met went away without knowing about Southern Arkansas University. He was SAU’s roving ambassador of goodwill.
“As a high school football player, I was on a recruiting trip to UAM at Monticello. I was watching a baseball game between UAM and SAU, and a gentleman named Earl Miller came up and started talking to me. He asked me if I”
“had I considered SAU. I didn’t even know where SAU was. He told me about SAU and gave me a ride on the school bus when he went to get some gas. When I got back home to Lonoke, I told my coach I wanted him to arrange a trip to see SAU. That’s how I got to SAU in 1978.”
Chris Gilliam

A Mulerider football player, Gilliam earned a B. S. in Mass Communications in 1982. He has been managing editor and sports editor of Magnolia’s *Banner News*. Heavily involved in community service, he has served on the SAU Board of Trustees and other boards. Recently, he was Rotary Club President.