

Heritage

The Magazine of Sam Houston State University



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Universities conduct game-changing research that has contributed to most significant technological advancements made today. Higher education institutions play a critical role in the innovation pipeline, providing opportunities that stimulate both economic growth and social well-being.

In this issue of the Heritage, discover for yourself how the pursuit of knowledge at Sam Houston State is generating exciting and intriguing research across our six colleges. Analyzing the causes and possible solutions for the deterioration of airplane runways, understanding how family-based treatment might reduce the risk of substance abuse, determining how music therapy can benefit stroke victims, and using Radio Frequency Identification to track surgical instruments during operations are just a few of the extremely diverse projects our faculty are currently exploring.

The benefits of research are not limited to just outcomes. Successfully integrating faculty research and teaching enhances the learning experience in the classroom, by providing cutting edge instruction and building students' critical thinking skills. Undergraduate research participation at our institution continues to grow as students are given greater opportunities to utilize their "book" knowledge by applying it to real-world needs. At last year's Elliott T. Bowers Honors College's Undergraduate Research Symposium, nearly 300 students attended and 115 presented their research.

Proactively nurturing intellectual inquiry and scientific innovation is critical to enhancing the university's stature among outstanding students and faculty. Sam Houston State is also developing the infrastructure to support or "incubate" high technology entrepreneurs and start-up businesses that will foster innovation and meaningful research as well as economic development.

Things are changing at our university at an unbelievable pace. Nonetheless, we remain true to our values and traditions to provide an accessible higher education of quality in a caring environment. We are thankful for all the contributions made by our faculty, staff and alumni over the years - as they have set in place the foundation on which we are building a dynamic future.

*"Innovation distinguishes
between a leader and a follower."*

—STEVE JOBS
Founder, Apple Computers

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ON THE COVER



On any given day at Sam Houston State University, hundreds of research projects are underway. See page 2.

Cover illustration by Jessica Blank



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Hayoung Lim

'REAL-WORLD' RESEARCH

By Kim Kyle Morgan

Professors from all disciplines at SHSU are proving the work they do outside of the classroom can make an impact not only on their fields but on the lives of everyday citizens.

On any given day at Sam Houston State University, hundreds of research projects are underway, studies that combine the best of both worlds: output and outreach.

Jaimie Hebert, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, said research in all six colleges is relevant to the work world and real life; applicable in academia, education, government and community.

The key component to successful output and outreach, Hebert said, is allowing faculty “absolute freedom” in defining the scope of their research.

“I tell faculty to work on something they enjoy working on, something they’re passionate about, because that helps us fulfill our educational mission,” Hebert said. “It means I have intellectually-engaged faculty teaching our students. That’s what it’s all about: the passion and nurturing that passion.”

Here’s a look at a handful of studies currently in the works.



Pat Harris

SULFATE SURFING

When cruising down a highway or taxiing down a runway, we assume it will be smooth sailing. But if something bad is going on underneath the pavement, it can be one heck of a rough—and dangerous—ride.

The problem first came to light in the 1990s when runways at the airport in

Beaumont began buckling. Pat Harris, of the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University, was called in to get to the bottom of it.

Harris discovered that the bandit behind the buckling was the formation of ettringite, the result of a chemical reaction when sources of calcium, aluminum and sulfates co-mingle. Add water and high

pH, and this swelling underground leads to cracked concrete above.

The main variable in all of this is the sulfate, said Harris, now an assistant professor of geochemistry in SHSU’s College of Sciences.

While Harris discovered the reason behind the buckling, he isn’t finished investigating quite yet. His goal now is to find a way to stop it from happening in the first place.

“We know sulfate is the bad stuff, so what can we do to stop this reaction from occurring?” Harris said. “There are several things to mitigate it, but right now there is not one good solution. Research is trying to find a way to stop this reaction completely.”

But Harris is getting closer. His *Mitigation of High Sulfate Soils* study officially ends this August, at which time he will seek approval from the Texas Department of Transportation to publish his results.

“As you do more and more research, you come up with more questions than answers,” Harris said. “A lot of research is trial and error. Look at Edison. How many times did he fail inventing incandescent light? That can be the hard part, convincing others.”



Craig Henderson

FAMILY FIRST

Research has already proven that family dynamics are very influential when it comes to the risk factor of adolescents starting down the path of substance abuse. Research has also shown that family-based approaches are effective at treating substance abuse.

But research has yet to show how family-based treatments are more successful for boys than girls or which ethnicities it will better impact, be it African Americans, Hispanics, whites or non-Hispanics.

That's what Craig Henderson is trying to find out.

"Which is the more important relationship: adolescents and therapists or adolescents and parents?" asks Henderson, assistant professor of psychology in SHSU's College of Humanities and Social Sciences. "How well are therapists providing treatment the way it's supposed to be done? How do these things lead to a decrease in substance abuse? Does it matter if, say, a Hispanic adolescent has a Hispanic therapist? What are the factors that contribute to successful outcomes?"

These are the \$64,000 questions Henderson is seeking to answer in the continuation of the research he began with colleagues at the University of Miami and University of South Florida before joining the faculty at SHSU in 2005.

Then, Henderson focused on the treatment approach. Now, it's about

gathering, collecting and analyzing the data of numerous individual cases.

So far, Henderson's original hypothesis is holding true.

"Family-based treatment is more effective," he said. "As for gender and ethnicity, we're discovering that males benefit more than females, and African American adolescents seem to be benefitting the most. That's not to say family-based treatment is not effective for females or Caucasian or Hispanic adolescents. All groups are still getting better, but some faster than others."

The next step, Henderson said, is to find the answers to even more questions—What is it about the treatment that makes it conducive to males and African American adolescents? Can anything else be done to make family-based treatments more effective?

"There's a lot of work that still needs to be done, even beyond involving parents in treatment," Henderson said. "But we're making inroads."

MOOD MUSIC

It's not every day the pinnacle of research comes calling, so when it recently happened to Hayoung Lim, it made her day and possibly even her year.

The National Institutes of Health is showing interest in providing Lim with a prestigious grant to put toward her research on music therapy for stroke victims.

Lim, assistant professor of music therapy in SHSU's College of Fine Arts and Mass Communication, said people who suffer a stroke in the left side of the brain lose speech ability, a condition called aphasia. Melodic Intonation Therapy is a promising rehabilitation tool, but some questions remain.

"You can teach somebody how to say 'hello, how are you' with melody," Lim said. "First by humming, then by adding the words, and then by finger-tapping on parts of the body."

The issue is whether Melodic Intonation Therapy is most effective when it's based on tones, rhythm or a combination of both.

"We really need to figure it out because it's such a critical therapeutic approach," Lim said. "If we can pinpoint this, we can really focus on whichever component it proves to be and provide efficient treatment during rehabilitation."

Lim will soon begin collecting data from patients at TIRR Memorial Hermann, a process expected to take at least five months.

She's also working on a second study, one that hones in on how music affects arousal. Lim isn't talking about Marvin Gaye 'mood music,' per se, but how music produces four types of arousal at the brain-activity level—energetic, tension, relaxed and tiredness.

An earlier study brought these types of arousal to the surface, but now Lim wants to investigate how certain tasks influence arousal levels, be it listening, singing, singing and tapping on a rhythm instrument at the same time, or playing a keyboard.

It's clear that Lim, who in 2011 published a book on the effect of music therapy on children with autism spectrum disorders, believes music can move mountains.

"Children with ADHD or people with depression have arousal disorders, and we know music changes arousal levels," Lim said. "Music can change almost anything."



IF YOU CAN'T BEAT 'EM...

It's a familiar story in schools across Texas—if a student gets caught using a cell phone in class, it's confiscated and parents pay a hefty fine to get the phone back.

But a pilot study in Navasota revealed this zero-tolerance policy wasn't a deterrent for students, said Sam Sullivan, professor of curriculum and instruction in SHSU's College of Education.

According to that study, 95 percent of students still brought their phones to school anyway.

"It was clear that schools can't defeat this, even with zero tolerance," Sullivan said, "so it became a question of what would happen if we allow students to bring their technology to the classroom. How can we best utilize it?"

Enter “BYOT.” Bring Your Own Technology has been implemented in several states across the country and is now being test driven by a handful of school districts in the Huntsville area. Sullivan and Huntsville ISD are studying its effects, but from a teacher-training perspective.

“If teachers don’t get training on how to integrate student technology into the classroom, it’s not going to work,” Sullivan said. “What kind of training teachers need and how effective that training is is up to the school districts. I’m hopeful that we will be able to establish that it’s not just teachers’ attitudes about incorporating it, but the training they receive.”

Sullivan’s hypothesis is there will be a direct relationship between the quality of the in-service and the time spent in in-service, which will then correlate to how much the teacher incorporates cell phones and laptops into the classroom.

The ongoing study will incorporate social media such as Twitter to expand its reach in terms of feedback from teachers.

“We’re hoping to spread this across the country,” Sullivan said. “School districts want to know what they can do to change teachers’ activities in the classroom and have them involved in their students’ technology. If this keeps students interested and listening, we’ve accomplished a purpose.”

TURN UP THE RADIO

When you go into surgery, you don’t expect to come out with scalpels or gauze sewn into your body. When you purchase an appliance, you don’t expect, on delivery day, to hear the item has been lost and they have no idea when it might possibly show up. When you pick up your dry cleaning, you don’t expect to come home minus a pair of slacks or as the unintended owner of a blouse that clearly doesn’t belong to you.

All of these unfortunate business-related incidents can be avoided with RFID, said Pam Zelbst, associate professor and director of the Sower Business Technology Laboratory in SHSU’s College of Business Administration.

Radio Frequency Identification is a method of tracking items electronically, and you don’t have to have them in your line of sight to do it. It’s the basis of one of Zelbst’s research projects on the efficiency



and effectiveness of RFID on the supply chain, whether those supplies are medical or consumer/customer-related.

“If you had RFID in the operating room, you could tag all of your equipment and then scan the patient before sewing him up,” Zelbst said. “RFID would have allowed the company to know where that lost appliance was and answer the customer’s questions about when it would be delivered. Instead, they lost the sale because she canceled the order.”

In the case of the dry cleaner, errors to customers’ orders were reduced to 0 percent after implementing RFID. And the department store JC Penney recently announced they are going to a paperless system for inventory control and checkout, a system based on RFID.

“Because of the technology, suppliers can make decisions close to real-time instead of based on information an hour or a day old,” said Zelbst, who in January 2012 published a book with co-author Victor Sower titled *RFID for the Operations and Supply Chain Professional*. “It makes good business sense. The sky’s truly the limit here.”

SOLVING SEX CRIMES

There’s been a lot of media coverage recently about school shootings and gun violence, but another difficult yet more prevalent social problem exists. It’s sex crimes, and William Wells, working closely

with the Houston Police Department, is at the helm of its latest research.

Wells, an associate professor in SHSU’s College of Criminal Justice, is the lead researcher in a project titled “Action Research to Enhance Investigations and Prosecutions of Sexual Assaults in Houston: Improving the Analysis and Use of Forensic Evidence.”

This is not to be confused with media attention surrounding a backlog of rape-kit evidence sitting in crime labs. A backlog is when evidence has been submitted but not checked in a timely manner, Wells said; whereas this project is about evidence the crime lab doesn’t even know exists—because it was never sent to them in the first place.

“HPD wants to do something about this, for which I think they should be commended,” Wells said. “They went out and sought federal funding to deal with it.”

The research is funded by the National Institute of Justice and is a natural fit for SHSU’s College of Criminal Justice because of its interest in combatting violence against women, the importance of assisting crime victims, and the role of forensics in investigations.

Wells’s role is to oversee and direct the collection and analysis of data coming in to HPD from a wide variety of sources. Wells will track results as rape-kit evidence is tested.

The study launched in 2011, but as research was underway, Wells came across situations that needed to be addressed before moving forward. For example, a good portion of HPD sex-crimes investigators indicated they needed additional training, Wells said, and that the relationship between community victim advocates and investigators could be better.

Since the bigger picture of the study is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of sex-crime investigations overall, Wells gave time and attention to these situations before proceeding.

He anticipates the study will be ongoing through mid-2014.

“I really love working with police departments on research projects,” Wells said. “It’s the intersection where good, scientific research and real-life practice meet.”

Dallas Arnold



Turning 'MAJORS' Into 'PROFESSIONALS'

By Kim Kyle Morgan

Numerous hours in the classroom, several hours in labs, a handful or more hours working part-time or full-time jobs, family commitments, homework, studying...there's no doubt the life of a university student is jam-packed with obligations.

So why on earth would undergraduates want to take on extra work? Especially if it's not required?

Many of SHSU's undergrads turn to research simply because they're hungry for knowledge.

"I tell students that engaging in research allows for a great number of intellectual possibilities, both as a student and as a

person," said Kimberly Bell, associate professor of English. "We only really learn about a topic through critically engaging it and talking about it with others; in the process, we find new avenues of inquiry into the topic and, also, learn something about ourselves—we learn about our limitations but also about our interests and our passions, our level of determination and commitment to something."

There are numerous ways SHSU encourages undergrads to gain extra knowledge: independent study, through SHSU's Elliott T. Bowers Honors College, scholar programs, research symposiums, state conferences and assisting professors

with various projects.

Bell, who is also associate director of the honors college, said honors students completed roughly 400 contracts for research-based projects in 2012, and based on the diversity of presentations at the college's annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, honors students are not alone in conducting vast quantities of research. The URS is held every spring and allows students from all academic backgrounds, including non-honors students, to share research with their peers and gain experience in preparation for future conferences.

"We had nearly 300 people attend last year's URS; 115 of those who attended were students who also presented their research," she said. "The high number of those attending and not presenting indicates, to me, that even those who are not conducting research or who do not have it ready to present are still interested in research in general."

For Jaimie Hebert, SHSU provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, undergraduate research can be seen as a reflection of the faculty themselves.

"If you can find ways to keep the passion going with faculty, you don't have to convince students to take on extra because the professors become magnets for students," he said.

Hebert, a statistician, was himself mentored by professors, something he strived to pay forward to his own students when he became a professor, and today, as provost, encourages his faculty to do as well.

"I worked on programs of great importance to the Department of Defense, but I could always find an aspect of my research that was approachable to an undergrad student," Hebert said. "Nothing, outside of the curriculum, is more important. It gives students the opportunity to build confidence. This goes on in almost every department at SHSU. We emphasize it."

While many students are engaging in these kinds of projects—which result in standard papers, posters or PowerPoint presentations—many faculty are also encouraging their students to take on less traditional means of research and are achieving the same results.

"Last year we worked with Raven Films, a student film group on campus, and they did two panel presentations, where they showed student films, and one

presentation on different aspects of film writing,” Bell said. “We hope to encourage more research projects like these that are sometimes viewed as ‘unscholarly.’ The film shorts and discussions generated afterwards were most certainly scholarly.”

From business to sociology, biology to agriculture, plenty of undergrad-assisted projects are underway at SHSU.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

It happens all too often. Hot on the heels of human trends come adaptation for our furry friends. Most recently, it’s raw-food diets.

SHSU assistant professor of biology Aaron Lynne, whose wife is a veterinarian in Conroe, wondered about the bacterial content of such a diet.

“Bone is ground up within the raw food,” Lynne said. “What goes through the grinder is what you get.”

Lynne launched a research project titled “Bacterial Analysis of Bone and Raw Food Diets for Pets.” Dallas Arnold, a 24-year-old senior biology major, didn’t have to chew on it for long before diving in. His study examines the effects of microbial content in raw-food diets on domesticated pets and their owners.

Arnold tested 10 samples representing five brands and found more than just bones, chicken, salmon, beef, lamb and turkey. He discovered several potential pathogens, including *Salmonella*, *E. coli* and *Staphylococcus*. He’s still testing for *Shigella*, one of the most common causes of “traveler’s diarrhea,” which is easily spread through contaminated feces.

Certainly, ingesting pathogens isn’t recommended, but pets eating the raw food and owners handling the raw food are both at risk of food poisoning.

Arnold also tested for antibiotic resistance, which he said “was indeed a trend.”

All in all, Arnold said he would never put his pet on a raw-food diet. Both the health risk and the cost of the diet come at too high a price, he said. Furthermore, claims that the diet helps pets with allergies and coat development are anecdotal, not scientifically proven.

“Pets have been living with humans for a long time,” Arnold said. “They are not wild wolves from prehistoric times. They have adapted to the way we feed them, so it’s not correct to say a raw-food diet is, in fact, what a dog should be eating anyway.”

PLAYING IS SERIOUS BUSINESS

Sometimes the best way to ensure a lesson sticks is to take people out of their comfort zone, which is exactly what Pam Zelbst had in mind when she had her business students building Legos in a very technical way.

“Most of our students have played with Legos, but have never built a robot,” said Zelbst, SHSU associate professor and director of the Sower Business Technology Laboratory. “Being business students, they have never had to program a robot before either.”

One team built an alligator robot to follow people around, trying to bite them. The purpose wasn’t to play with robots, but to give students a taste of project management.

“We only really learn about a topic through CRITICALLY ENGAGING it and talking about it with others.”

Evan Blanc, 22, said she learned there is a fundamental difference between “team” and “group” and that a successful project manager must be a good leader as well as a good manager.

“A ‘group’ is people coming together, but working separately,” Blanc said. “A ‘team’ has collaboration, working towards a common goal. A ‘manager’ gives people information and enforces rules and procedures, but a ‘leader’ motivates people by taking action beyond the book.”

Blanc, who presented her findings at the 2012 SHSU Undergraduate Research Symposium, said the project opened her eyes to what it takes to be a proficient project manager. As a result, upon graduating this fall from with a master’s degree in

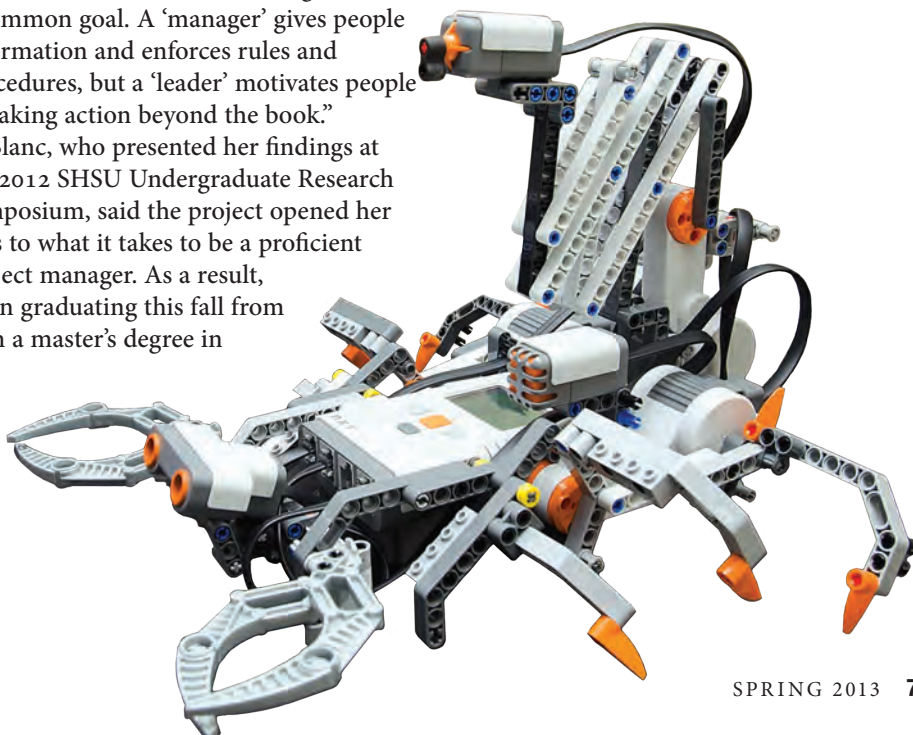
business administration, she will be better prepared for the work place.

“Not everyone can be or wants to be a project manager, but I would say the experience of the robot project showed me I do have those capabilities,” Blanc said. “It gave me the confidence to move into the future. Now I want to experience what that would be like in the real world.”

KEEPING IT ‘REAL’

Looking ahead with confidence to the “real world” is exactly what Hebert wants for SHSU students. With thriving undergraduate research opportunities in place, SHSU students leave campus not only book smart, but life ready.

“It’s the same reason we have an orchestra on campus,” Hebert said. “The music department trains students extremely well in theory, composition, methods...all of those things. But if we don’t have a place for students to go and synthesize all that information together, then we graduate music majors. We don’t want to graduate music majors, we want to graduate musicians. We want to graduate biologists, not biology majors. There’s a difference. We know what it is, we recognize it, and we go after it.”



Mary Alice Conroy and CH My Southern Charm



Walking into the office of the director of the Sam Houston State University Psychological Services Center, one is drawn to the number of pictures of horses adorning the walls and placed in strategic locations around the room.

"It's my therapy," explained Mary Alice Conroy. "Psychologists can benefit from therapeutic activities as well as their patients."

She's a member of the Texas and American Saddlebred Horse Associations. She has been showing horses since completing graduate school and participates in four or five shows a year in the Houston area.

Not unlike the rest of her endeavors, Conroy's passion for horses has provided her with opportunities for service to others. While living in Kentucky, she volunteered with a riding program for the handicapped.

"We had gorgeous horses that had 'aged

valuable degree," a master's in speech and theatre arts. As a graduate student, she worked as a teaching assistant and did communication research.

She received her doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Houston and interned at the University of Colorado Medical Center where she took an interest in forensic psychology.

Following her graduation, she went to work as a staff psychologist in the Women's Drug Abuse Unit of the Federal Correctional Institution in Fort Worth.

"I was going to save the prison system, one inmate at a time," she said.

Her career with the Bureau of Prisons entailed responsibilities as an administrator and consultant to a number of state correctional departments, as well as an appointment to a national mental health taskforce. She was transferred to different facilities across the country, and in some of the cities where she lived, she served as an adjunct faculty member in the

a pre-doctoral internship with the Bureau of Prisons, he heard about Conroy's work.

"She had a stellar reputation within the federal prison system as a highly competent psychologist," he said. "With the forensic psychology program getting started so soon after I came to SHSU, I knew of people who were still in the federal prison system and knew that if we could get somebody at the end of that career, someone who was well-respected and highly-competent, it would be quite a coup for the university.

"Mary Alice had worked in all the leading institutions in the federal prison system where psychological services are delivered—assessment, regular treatment, specialty treatment, sex offenders, competence, sanity—she had done it all," Lyons said.

"When I reached out to her, she didn't seem terribly interested at the front end. I sort of 'cheated' a little bit and asked her a series of questions about what she would be doing, and it became clear to me that the plans she had for the future were still in a state of flux," he said.

"I thought if we could paint a nice picture of a good-looking future in Huntsville, Texas, maybe that would be attractive to her. I think a lot of the draw was the fact that the SHSU forensic psychology program was brand new and she would have the opportunity to really leave a mark on it and play an instrumental role in preparing the next generation of clinical practitioners in the field," he said. "Also, Texas has a much friendlier climate for both people and horses."

"Initially, I said I wasn't interested," Conroy said. "But I decided that it was too cold in Minnesota, so I would go to Texas for a few years, and then move on."

However, she soon found that she loved working with the students and running SHSU's Psychological Services Center. She had found a place where she could make a difference.

With her students in mind, Conroy often volunteers her time as a forensic psychological evaluator for the courts, particularly those in rural counties, which might not be able to afford those kinds of professional services. During the past year, she completed 80 evaluations.

Although she is in great demand across the state, she limits her cases to the ones within driving distance.

MARY ALICE CONROY

Working To Make A Difference

By Julia May

out' of competition and were donated for tax purposes," she said.

A self-proclaimed flower child of the 1960s, Conroy says the philosophy she subscribed to during that time is still with her.

"I'm not working to make a living. I'm working to make a difference," she said.

It explains why after completing a very successful career as a forensic psychologist with the Federal Bureau of Prisons she has embraced a second career at SHSU, full of demands on her energy and time, and taken on many service commitments.

The road to SHSU has taken Conroy "all over the place."

Her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University is in economics. Her first job out of college was working in Arizona on the Navajo Indian Reservation helping set up a health clinic and working with youth. While in Arizona, she coached the debate team for Northern Arizona University.

She attended Colorado State University where she earned what she calls her "most

psychology and psychiatry departments such as the University of Kentucky and the Menninger Foundation.

In 1992 she became board certified in forensic psychology. She went on to serve as a member of the American Board of Forensic Psychology, a board examiner, and eventually president of the American Academy of Forensic Psychology.

She spent her last four years before retirement with the federal prison system in Rochester, Minn., as the director of forensics with the Federal Medical Center.

Because federal law enforcement officers can retire at age 50 with 20 years of service, in 1996 Conroy decided it was time to move on and recognized a strong desire to give back.

"I was at a point in my life when I was financially secure and it was pay-back time," she said. "It really is ingrained in me to make a difference in the world."

Fortunately for SHSU, the timing was perfect.

While Phillip Lyons—now an SHSU criminal justice professor—was completing

“I want my students to get these experiences, and I don’t want them traveling so far away that they’ll have to miss their classes,” she said.

Judge Kenneth H. Keeling of the 278th Judicial District presides over civil and felony criminal matters in Walker, Leon and Madison Counties. Occasionally someone will bring to the attention of the court that an individual scheduled for trial may have mental issues. Keeling said he relies on Conroy and her group to provide thorough and accurate assessments of these individuals, particularly in competency cases.

“She is extremely bright, very organized and a delight to work with,” he said. “I don’t know what we would do without her. I can only imagine how valuable she is to the university, teaching young people and sharing her knowledge and experience.”

Her work earned her two prestigious recognitions in 2012: the “Outstanding Contribution to Education Award” from the Texas Psychological Association and the “Distinguished Contribution to Forensic Psychology Award” from the American Academy of Forensic Psychology.

Noted in Conroy’s selection were her role in developing and maintaining SHSU’s unique doctoral program with forensic emphasis—the only program in the country that actually has students fully

participating in court-ordered forensic evaluations; chairing the national Forensic Specialty Council; invited participation on the National Judicial College Panel on Mental Competencies; conducting invited training for judges on both the regional and national level; conducting training for mental health professionals in the forensic arena on both the regional and national level; and serving on the American Psychological Association Committee on Legal Issues. She has also contributed to the professional literature in recent years, including two books on violence risk assessment.

Conroy is quick to give her faculty and students credit for her recognition.

“I tell them, ‘You guys made my reputation, and I appreciate that,’” she said.

SHSU’s forensic psychology program is rigorous and highly competitive. Last year, 180 potential students applied for nine slots.

The program was recently reaccredited for seven years, the maximum that the American Psychological Association and its Commission on Accreditation gives, which is becoming increasingly rare, according to Conroy.

“She really wants her students to learn and is willing to make personal sacrifices for their benefit,” said Lyons. “She makes sacrifices in terms of time and the effort that she invests in their clinical reports, supervising their clinical work, theses,

dissertations...it really is incredible.

“Talk about giving back. She’s given back much more than I think she could have ever obtained from the system,” he said. “When her students have completed the program, they’re qualified and competent.

“This program has an unheard of success rate in placing its students in internship sites. Those students go on, after their internships, to great opportunities,” he said. “A lot of it has to do with the solid foundation Mary Alice has established for them.

“We talk a lot about hiring in the spirit of service and hiring those individuals who are truly interested in serving others,” Lyons said. “That, of course, ties in with the university’s motto, ‘The measure of a Life is its Service.’

“In many ways, I think Mary Alice is the best that we have to offer by way of faculty, because she does possess all of those competencies,” he said. “She serves as an outstanding role model for her students, and she’s the embodiment of the scientist practitioner, which is emphasized in psychology. But at the same time, she has this deep and abiding commitment to service—service to the community, service to her students and service to the university.”

Q&A with Mary Alice Conroy

What has been your most intriguing case?

Panetti v. Quarterman, in which I testified twice regarding the defendant’s competence for execution. The Supreme Court ultimately ruled that to be competent for execution a defendant must *have a rational as well as factual understanding* of his impending execution and the reasons for it.

What is something you have done of which you are extremely proud?

I was invited to join a taskforce chaired by state Sen. Robert Duncan charged with revising the law regarding evaluations of competence to stand trial. The taskforce was five psychiatrists, six attorneys and me. I was very pleased with the results because, for the first time, the law required specific qualifications (beyond simply a degree and license) to do these evaluations. The law also outlined specific elements that must be considered—something very much misunderstood by general clinicians. Two years later, the insanity law was revised—modeled on our competency statute.

What pushes your buttons?

Cruelty to children and cruelty to animals.



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Mitchel Roth

The search is the most exciting part

By Kim Kyle Morgan

Fresh off the plane from Beirut, Lebanon, Mitchel Roth can cross another job well done off his very lengthy list. Roth flew more than 14,000 miles round trip with SHSU's Global Center for Journalism and Democracy just to spend a few days teaching Arab journalists how to find sources and resources for covering war-crimes trials.

Roth, professor of criminal justice at SHSU, has some experience of this nature as the author of two books on war journalism. He's also the author of several more books ranging from organized crime to law enforcement.

Sounds like a standard criminologist, but Roth is also a historian. It makes sense if you consider that crime has been around as long as mankind, but there are only a handful of history Ph.D.s that actually work in criminal justice across the country.

“I like to consider myself pretty equally a criminologist and a historian,” Roth said. “My research methods are more those of a historian than a social scientist—more qualitative and archival than quantitative and statistically based.”

Roth gets down and dirty in his research, interviewing as many people as possible and digging for tidbits of information that have never before been uncovered. And make no mistake, Roth would much rather sit for hours in a well-stocked library than in front of his computer.

“The search is the most exciting part,” Roth said, “especially when it comes to fruition.”

He found some gems while researching his latest book, *Houston Blue: The History of the Houston Police Department*, released, with co-author Tom Kennedy, last fall. Kennedy, a former newspaper reporter, used his journalism skills to interview and write; Roth used his historian skills to search for long-forgotten information, some of which was lost to fire and poor record keeping.

“There’s an almost 20-year period around the Civil War when there’s nothing on the history of Houston,” Roth said. “So I needed to find letters. A lot of Europeans wrote memoirs about traveling through Houston at that time, so I needed to find those.”

At the University of Houston library, Roth found documents relating to “vice” in Houston during the Victorian era.

“It was pretty much the same as anywhere else in terms of prostitutes, gambling and drinking,” Roth said. “The best way to live alongside that kind of behavior was to keep it in a zoned area. I found some zoning stuff that no one’s ever referred to before.”

Roth also found letters telling the mayor

not to hire a particular police chief.

The resulting book has impressed folks who can be hard to impress—those within the Houston Police Department.

“We are very pleased with his work,” said Mark Clark, a 34-year HPD veteran and executive director of the Houston Police Officers Union. “The book is entertaining, even for people outside the police culture. There are some interesting things people may have never known; things I didn’t know myself.”

Originally from Maryland, Roth headed west for his master’s and doctoral degrees in history at the University of California in Santa Barbara.

He joined the faculty at SHSU in 1992 and has since written numerous papers, articles and book chapters on a wide range of topics, leaving very few countries unturned, including counter-terrorism, hostage-taking and kidnapping, horse-mounted and bicycle policing, the eco-mafia in Italy, drugs in the classroom, the Sicilian mafia, organized crime in the Balkans, financial sources of the PKK (a Kurdish-based terrorist organization), female police officers, Bonnie and Clyde, Jamaican posses, Jewish terrorists, the Ohio state penitentiary fire, mail-order brides and women trafficking, and socialist policing—just to name a few.

He’s been interviewed for several radio programs, television documentaries and newspaper articles on topics such as crime relating to the Ten Commandments, most notably, thou shalt not kill and thou shalt not steal; child killers; serial killers; and prison escapees.

One might wonder how a lifetime of delving into such dark topics makes a guy feel about life in general.

“I would rather not put my head in the sand and say ‘I’m not living in this world,’” Roth said. “I’ve learned to live with it. And if you really study the history of mankind, go beyond media sensationalism, it’s a safer world now than before. There’s less murder and less war.”

But even as a guy that’s “driven around with homicide cops and gone to murder

scenes in Houston just for the hell of it,” there is something that recently got to him—the school shootings in Newtown, Conn. struck a little too close to home.

Roth is the father of an 8-year-old daughter, a child that was born when he was 51 years old, who is the absolute light of his life.

“She has at least 200 Golden books in her room,” Roth proudly proclaims.

Roth himself has about 10,000 books in his own collection, and if you ask him if he’s read them all, he just laughs.

“I don’t buy every book I read, and I don’t read every book I buy,” he said.

Roth loves books so much that when he misbehaved as a child, his punishment was the confiscation of his most prized possession, his library card.

“I always saw myself as an author,” Roth said. “I used to write stories, take them to the movie theater and ask the ticket-taker if they would make my story into a movie.”

Roth is still writing stories, albeit based on true occurrences. He just wrapped up *Crime and Punishment: A Global History* and is now working on a book about the history of the Texas Prison Rodeo in Huntsville. He’s gathered all his research and is ready to get to what he calls the “quick and easy” part for him, the actual writing.

“Every time I talk to him, he’s writing another book,” said Chad Trulson, who was an SHSU student from 1997-2002 and is now an associate professor of criminal justice at the University of North Texas. “He’s a writing machine. He was the gold standard of who to look up to when it came to writing. He said to write often and write well.”

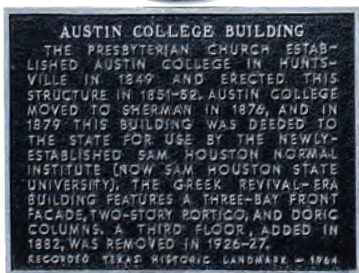
Looking back on it all, Roth can’t help but ponder what comes next.

“So many people in academia think they’re changing the world,” Roth said. “And it’s good when you’re young to feel that way. But you’ve got to get comfortable with some mediocrity. Understand where you are in the food chain; just keep doing what you like to do. I happen to love working with books.”



Austin Hall Named To National Register Of Historic Places

By Julia May



AUSTIN HALL, the oldest building and most notable landmark on the campus of Sam Houston State University, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a federal program to identify, evaluate and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

"While we embrace the future in making decisions and addressing the educational needs of our students, we have a deep and reverent respect for our past," said SHSU President Dana Gibson. "We are greatly honored that the National Park Service has included Austin Hall on the National Register of Historic Places. Not only is Austin Hall a treasured reminder of the hopes and dreams of early Texans, it is the architectural symbol of Sam Houston State University."

Designed in the Greek Revival style, the two-story, red-orange brick building with large white Tuscan columns and onion domed cupola is the anchor building at the north end of the campus quad in the heart of the university's historic district. The

building was recorded as a Texas Historic Landmark in 1964.

"The application process required extensive research and documentation about the architectural distinction and historical significance of the building," said Mac Woodward, director of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum.

Woodward, along with SHSU campus space planner Mary Holland, university archivist Barbara Kievit-Mason, and preservation specialist Allison Chambers from Ford, Powell & Carson architectural firm, compiled the narrative, photos, maps and drawings required for the application.

The university received official word that the building had been approved for the listing on Jan. 30.

Texas hero Gen. Sam Houston helped dedicate Austin Hall on June 24, 1851, and was a member of the first board of governors of Austin College, the Presbyterian school which first occupied the building.

The building was completed in 1853 on the site once known as "Capitol Hill," which overlooked the city of Huntsville and the surrounding countryside.

Following the U.S. Civil War, a local smallpox scare and a yellow fever outbreak, the Presbyterians decided to relocate their college to Sherman.

The Methodist Church bought the building in 1877, with plans to use the facility as a school for boys. That effort failed, however, and the church sold the building to Huntsville citizens.

In 1879, an item on the agenda of the 16TH Legislature proposed to establish a teacher training school. The citizens of Huntsville sent a letter to the legislature informing them that a campus and building were ready to be occupied, and on April 21, 1879, Gov. Oran M. Roberts signed the law establishing Sam Houston Normal Institute as the first tax-supported teacher training institution in Texas. The first classes were held on Oct. 10,

1879, with four faculty members and 110 students.

Sam Houston Normal prospered and in 1881 Austin Hall's cupola was removed so that a third floor could be added to provide more space.

As enrollment grew, so did the need for an expanded curriculum and additional academic buildings. Buildings such as Old Main and Peabody Library were constructed, and the extra space in Austin Hall was no longer necessary. During the 1926-27 academic year a leaking roof led to the removal of the third floor.

Occasional minor modifications were made from that time until Feb. 12, 1982, when a fire destroyed Old Main, located just a few feet away, and partially burned Austin Hall.

Although severely damaged, Austin Hall was restored, complete with its bell-tower cupola. One of the building's most interesting architectural features—the soft molded bricks on which generations of students have carved their names—was preserved and has remained an endearing part of the building's legacy through several restorations.

The most recent restoration was completed in 2012 with the installation of new electrical and plumbing systems, floor refinishing, and repairs to the roof, shutters and masonry. Austin Hall was rededicated on Oct. 20, 2012, and is currently used for university receptions, meetings and special events.



SCENE

SHSU hosted a number of events during the Fall semester that brought together students, employees and alumni.

at SAM



Students gathered to celebrate the spirit of the holiday season during the 92nd annual Tree of Light ceremony on Nov. 27



Football "fanatics" won some of the best seats in the house for the Battle of the Piney Woods in October through the Student Services division -sponsored spirit contest. To participate, students submitted photos and captions highlighting their Bearkat spirit.



The annual SamJam Carnival held at Holleman Field was among the many activities students were able to participate in throughout Homecoming Week.



President Dana Gibson visited with children at the Fall Festival at Gibbs Ranch.



The CHSS Art Plaza and Outdoor Classroom creates a beautiful space behind the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Building. The college formally dedicated the plaza in November.



Grammy-award winning performer Ludacris was the headliner for this year's third annual Sammpalooza, which also included the All-American Rejects and Eve 6.



Approximately 25 former Orange Keys, representing every generation of the Bearkat ambassadors, connected with current members during the first Orange Keys reunion during homecoming week. The group was founded in 1959 as a service organization for women and became co-ed in 1982.



Ashley Baker and Ashton Winfree were elected Homecoming Queen and King.



The Block and Bridle animal science club hosted a "Children's Barnyard" for local elementary students.



Sammy enjoyed the fireworks at the Firefest event.



Tailgaters hang out before joining the 26,185 fans inside Reliant Stadium who attended this year's Battle of the Piney Woods and witnessed SHSU defeat SFA for the second consecutive year.



Members of the SHSU community always look forward to the annual Homecoming Parade.



Former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales discussed his life and career during the President's Speaker Series presentation in November.



Foundation Facilitates Ant Research Funding

By Julia May

TEXANS are familiar with the red imported fire ant, which causes misery for homeowners and gardeners and wreaks havoc on electrical equipment, livestock and wildlife, costing billions of dollars in damages each year.

Now there is a new ant species in the state, and while this one doesn't sting the way fire ants do, they still carry a bite—in terms of lost time and resources.

Nylanderia fulva, commonly referred to as the Raspberry crazy ant, was first discovered around Houston in 2002 and was initially considered an urban problem. However, the species was recently discovered in agricultural products as well.

Known for short circuiting electronics in homes and offices and knocking systems offline in major businesses, the ant received a lot of attention when it invaded the Johnson Space Center in 2008.

Sam Houston State University has received a \$115,579 donation from the Walker County Fire Ant Control Committee through the Sam Houston University Foundation to examine ways to combat the effects of these two invasive species and others in the region.

The work is directed by Jerry Cook, associate vice president for research and sponsored programs, at the Institute for the Study of Invasive Species at SHSU. Plans call for bringing in an additional researcher to study methods of controlling the ants, working with chemical companies and pest control operators to introduce environmentally safe baits, and testing products locally in the field.

"During the 1970s, the destructive activity of the fire ant population in Walker County had gotten bad," said Joe Sandel, president of the Walker County Fire Ant Control Committee Board of Directors.

"A group of landowners got together and set up a fund to assist the federal government with their efforts to control the problem, which included spraying Mirex, a pesticide, from airplanes."

The Environmental Protection Agency banned the use of Mirex in 1976, so the committee invested the money that had not been used, which was around \$27,000. Through the years, the \$27,000 grew to more than \$115,500.

"We learned about the establishment of the Institute for the Study of Invasive Species at Sam Houston State University, and we felt that a donation to be used to develop ways to handle the fire ant and crazy ant problem in Walker County would make good use of the money," Sandel said.

The donation was made through the university's foundation, a private support organization, which re-organized and changed its tax affiliation earlier this year from a Section 509(a)(3) tax-exempt status to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation, in part to be able to accept gifts on behalf of the university such as the one from the local fire ant committee.

"Our bylaws stated that we could only donate money to a Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entity," Sandel said. "So we made the contribution to the Sam Houston University Foundation knowing that it could be used for our intent."

The committee's donation is an example of what university officials hope to see continue in the future as other groups learn of the foundation and its new status.

"Some companies, foundations and individuals restrict their contributions to 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations, and most other major universities have partnerships with foundations such as the Sam Houston University Foundation to assist in private fund raising," said Frank Holmes, SHSU vice president for University Advancement.

"The foundation's move earlier this year to change its tax status and become more actively involved in the philanthropic support of the university now permits the university to receive funds from private organizations such as the Walker County Fire Ant Control Committee to advance research efforts," he said.

Cook and his team have been working with Tom Raspberry—who initially discovered the new ant species and for whom it is named—for several years. The first issue they ran into was accurately identifying the ant.

"I first saw the ants in a chemical plant in 2002," said Raspberry, a Pearland pest control company owner. "I didn't pay a lot of attention because the numbers were very low. The next year, however, they had multiplied into the billions."

Raspberry sent samples of the ants to be identified, twice, and both times they came back misidentified.

"I'm one of the few pest control companies that actually uses a microscope," he said. "That's how I knew they were different from the common ones in the area—the microscope and the numbers. I could get it to the right genus, but I couldn't go any farther. None of my books had anything in them."



Tom Raspberry

“When you see them out in nature, you just know, without even looking at them closely that this is something different, because they are in these giant swarms and you don’t see this number of insects together any place,” said Cook. “They have a unique behavior.”

Eventually Rasberry and Cook connected and narrowed the identification down to something close to *Nylanderia pubens*, commonly called the Caribbean crazy ant.

“It’s a species from Cuba,” said Cook. “It is close to that, but we still knew that’s not exactly what it was. Genetically, the Rasberry ant is closest to a species from South America. The Cuban one is different.”

Because other experts were convinced that the newly discovered ant was one that was already established in the United States, research dollars were difficult to obtain. Eventually, though, those same experts agreed that this species was different.

At this time, effective treatment products to combat the Rasberry ant are not available to the consumer, and professional pest control providers must be brought in.

“There is no one-treatment-fits-all for this ant or any other ant species,” said Rasberry. “Some are easier to manage, but you have to look at every factor at the job site and surrounding the job site.”

Even then, Rasberry feels that the ant has the potential for causing widespread damage to the ecosystem along the Gulf Coast.

Cook hopes that the funding provided by the local Walker County committee will be followed by larger research dollars at the national level now that the species has begun to invade agricultural products and is rapidly spreading throughout the state.

“This one ant just seems to be a bigger problem than any ant species we’ve had to deal with,” he said. “It is our biggest challenge yet in trying to control an ant species.”



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Student-Athletes Set Records On, Off Playing Field

By SHSU Sports Information

Sam Houston State student-athletes not only led the Southland Conference in success on the playing field but also in the classroom during the 2012 fall semester.

A total of 20 Bearkats who participated in fall sports posted a perfect semester grade point averages of 4.0. That's a figure higher than any of the other nine universities in the league.

Brian Bell, Trey Diller, Kaleb Hopson and Riley Smith from Sam Houston's NCAA Division I Football Championship finalists; Kayla Anderson and Tricia Mallory from soccer; Tayler Gray from the Bearkats' Southland championship volleyball team; and Bearkat runner Allysa Dooley all achieved the remarkable feat of earning both all-conference honors as well

as being members of the elite 4.0 GPA group.

Overall, 32 other Bearkats from all 17 sports teams posted perfect 4.0 semester grade point averages during the fall semester.

The athletic department set an academic record this fall with seven sports squads compiling team GPAs higher than 3.0.

This academic success came as the Bearkat intercollegiate athletic program posted one of its most successful fall sports seasons ever in 2012, winning Southland Conference championships in both football and volleyball, finishing as runners-up in cross country, and reaching the league's post-season soccer tournament.

These performances highlight the SHSU Department of Athletics Fall 2012 Academic Report released by associate athletic director for student services Chris Thompson and her staff.

"Seven of our sports teams produced team grade point averages higher than 3.0. We've never had a semester with that many of our sports teams over 3.0 before," Sam Houston director of athletics Bobby Williams said. "We are extremely proud of our student-athletes' achievements in the classroom and commend our coaching staff for the job they do in recruiting quality student-athletes. The No. 1 goal for each of our sports teams is to have our young men and women earn their Sam Houston degrees."



Football Team Rewrites Bearkat, Southland Record Books In Unprecedented Seasons

NEVER IN THE 97-YEAR HISTORY OF SAM HOUSTON FOOTBALL

has there been consecutive seasons of back-to-back success to match the Bearkats' performances in 2011 and 2012.

The Sam Houston football team won 25 of its 30 games, earned consecutive No. 2 NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision final national rankings and made back-to-back appearances in the NCAA National Championship finals.

No other team in the 50-year history of the Southland Conference has equaled this feat.

Only six times have other Southland squads reached the finals. None of those appearances were in consecutive years. Only once before has a Southland team been ranked in the FCS final top five in successive years (Louisiana-Monroe was No. 2 in 1992 and No. 4 in 1993).

Sam Houston is one of only eight football programs in the nation to appear in consecutive NCAA Division I Football Championship finals.

Since the Kats cracked the FCS top 10 after an October 2011 victory over Stephen F. Austin at Reliant Stadium, Sam Houston has ranked among the FCS top 10 for 20 consecutive weeks.

In 2011 and 2012 combined, the Sam Houston football team played on national television nine times and in regional telecasts for eight other games. The exposure has brought unprecedented sports media attention to the Huntsville campus.

While the 14-0 run to the national

championship in 2011 was incredible, the 2012 team's road back to Frisco was even more amazing.

After a heart-breaking loss at Central Arkansas where the Bears scored 14 points in the final five minutes to upset the defending Southland Conference champion 24-20, the Kats stood 1-2 and on the brink of having the team's repeat playoff hopes dashed all together.

"The loss at Central Arkansas was the turning point in our season," senior safety and two-time Southland Conference "Defensive Player of the Year" Darnell Taylor said. "We were flat that day and didn't play our best. The loss told us we could be beaten. We knew we had to run the table in conference play just to have a chance to get back in the playoffs."

The team responded, going 10-1 with the only loss in those 11 games to Football Bowl Subdivision No. 8 and Cotton Bowl champion Texas A&M.

Seven of those 10 victories came on the road including two wins on the road against the No. 2- and No. 3-seeded teams in the tournament.

Playoff wins over Big Sky Conference tri-champions Cal Poly, Montana State and Eastern Washington made the Bearkats one of only eight football programs to make repeat visits to the national championship finals.

With two-time Southland Conference "Player of the Year" running back Timothy Flanders rewriting the Bearkat record book, Sam Houston's explosive offense accounted for 600 points in 2012, the third-highest point total ever for an NCAA FCS squad.

Twenty-one Bearkats were named All-Southland Conference and four received All-America honors during the 2012 season.

"Our long-range goal as a football program is to get to the point that Sam Houston is a team that is spoken about as an FCS power," Bearkat head football coach Willie Fritz said. "I think when people across the country who know anything about FCS football rattle off the top programs, they're going to say our name. That's good."

Fritz's 31-10 won-loss record at Sam Houston marks the program's most successful three-year performance ever. The Bearkats' back-to-back Southland Conference titles in 2011 and 2012 mark the program's first NCAA Division I football league crowns in consecutive years. The 14-0 and 11-4 records also are the Bearkats' first consecutive double-digit victory seasons.

This success is translating to the makeup of the university as well.

Bearkat director of athletics Bobby Williams believes Sam Houston's exposure in athletics has helped boost enrollment as well as improving the overall perception of the university.

"I think our university has seen the impact that football has had on it, because we increased enrollment by 900 students, and we've been growing steadily over the last seven or eight years," Williams said. "To be projecting 22,000 students in three years, that's a pretty huge deal. Football has been a catalyst for this, playing on ESPN, playing for championships. Not just conference championships but the national championship. It's changed the way fans and alumni look at us and the way we look at ourselves as an athletic program. It's been extremely positive."



Fall Sports Wrap Up Banner Season

Football wasn't the only intercollegiate sport to shine during the 2012 fall semester, with SHSU's volleyball and women's cross country producing outstanding performances as well.

The Sam Houston volleyball team earned the Southland Conference championship in 2012, hoisting the league regular season trophy for the first time since 1994.

The season was a banner year climaxed by having Deveney Wells-Gibson named as the 2012 Southland Conference volleyball "Player of the Year" and Brenda Gray receiving league "Coach of the Year" honors.

Wells-Gibson, Kendall Cleveland, Tayler Gray and Kim Black all earned All-Southland Conference honors. Wells-Gibson, Cleveland and Gray also were honored for their performance in the classroom as members of the Academic All-Southland team.

The volleyball team rolled up 13 consecutive victories at one point during their march to the conference title, the longest winning streak since SHSU moved up to the Division I level in 1986.

The Sam Houston women's cross country team equaled its highest Southland Conference finish ever in October, finishing as runner-up at the league meet. The two points separating the first-place SFA and second-place Bearkats mark the smallest winning margin at the Southland championships since 1994.

Alyssa Dooley, Solenn Riou and Ana Moreno all finished among the race's top 10 individuals to earn All-Southland Conference. Dooley was the race runner-up, while Riou and Moreno placed seventh and eighth, respectively.

Dooley's performance tied as the highest finish ever by a Bearkat woman at the Southland cross country meet. Jennifer Alvarez also was the runner up in the 1993 meet.

Riou was named as Southland Conference Cross Country "Freshman of the Year," the first Bearkat runner to receive the honor.





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Nancy Wilson with picture of her father, Coy Perkins



The Legacy Continues

For Beloved Administrators Of A Bygone Era

Many college alumni leave their alma mater after graduation to begin their lives and careers in other settings.

That was true for a group of Sam Houston State Teachers College graduates who earned their degrees in the 1920s, '30s and '40s, just as it is now. Many went to other universities to obtain advanced degrees.

These individuals, however, returned in the prime of their lives, bound by their vision to make Sam Houston State worthy of its slogan—*A great name in Texas education*.

“They served the university with distinction, going back to the days when Dr. Lowman was president, and helped position the university for what it has grown and developed into today,” said Nancy Wilson, a former SHSU Alumni Association board president and member, and the daughter of W. C. “Coy” Perkins, the university’s first alumni director.

Although there were quite a few respected and beloved administrators who served during that time, Wilson said she especially remembered several who worked closely with her dad, including W. E. Lowry, Reed Lindsey, Elliott Bowers, Dewitte Holleman, Ferol Robinson, Frank Leathers and James Gilmore.

The legacy of these individuals continues today through scholarships at SHSU, which have been established in their names.

•• W. C. “COY” PERKINS ••

Perkins received his Bachelor of Science degree from Sam Houston State Teachers College in 1926. He served in all levels of education from teacher to deputy state superintendent in the State Department of Education before returning to Sam Houston State in 1949 as the dean of public service.

His job duties included helping to place teachers in public schools, overseeing

extension courses, hiring student workers, directing the Ex-Students Association, and “anything to do with public relations,” Wilson said.

When the SHSU Alumni Association established the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Perkins was selected as the first recipient.

Jack Parker was a Sam Houston student during the 1960s when he first became acquainted with many of the administrators. Parker himself would be in the next generation of leaders who would take the university into the next century.

As a student, he remembers Perkins as taking his job very seriously, particularly when it came to hiring student employees for departments.

“When I was a senior, I applied for a job as a student assistant working for M. B. Etheredge and Jack Staggs,” said Parker. “I had to interview with Mr. Perkins and he asked me three questions: was I married, was I in a fraternity, and did I have a car. I told him I wasn’t married, but I was in a fraternity and I did have a car. He told me that based on those answers I didn’t need a job.”

Later Perkins and Parker became better acquainted and became good friends.

“He introduced me to quail hunting,” said Parker. “We would go hunting around 5:15 a.m. on property owned by Dewitte Holleman and Reed Lindsey, be back in town before dark.”

The Coy and Ruth Perkins Scholarship has been established by Wilson in her parents’ memory.

•• W. E. LOWRY ••

Lowry, who earned a master’s degree in education at SHSTC in 1935, was known to his friends, family and co-workers as “Brick.”

“He was very interested in sports at Sam Houston, because he himself had been a lineman in football, which is how he got his nickname,” said Parker.

Lowry served as the state director of vocational education from 1945-50, working closely with future U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson. He came to Sam Houston State as director of public service in 1950 and was promoted to dean of the college in 1951.

As the result of an administrative reorganization in 1965, Lowry was named vice president of academic affairs and dean of the faculty, a role in which he served until his retirement in 1974.

SHSU’s agriculture program held a special place in his heart. Following his retirement, the W.E. “Brick” Lowry Scholarship was established in his and his wife’s honor to provide financial assistance for students majoring in agriculture and who were active in the Collegiate FFA Organization.

“He was a wonderful individual to be around, and he was tireless in his efforts to promote Sam Houston State,” Parker said.

•• DEWITTE HOLLEMAN ••

As a student at Sam Houston State Teachers College, Holleman lettered in basketball and baseball and served as captain of the baseball team his senior year. He graduated with a degree in physical education in 1931.

After a career in teaching, he returned to the college and served 34 years as assistant business manager, business manager, and comptroller, running SHSU’s business operations.

Parker was Holleman’s successor as comptroller.

“He was my mentor. His financial acumen was remarkable,” said Parker. “He really knew how to be innovative in stretching the dollars.”

Holleman loved to hunt and spend time on his ranch, but his great passion was baseball.

“He was very proud of the work at the Bearkat baseball field, which later carried his name,” said Parker. “He was especially

pleased that it was beautifully done at a low cost.”

The Dewitte Holleman Baseball Endowment provides scholarships for Bearkat baseball players.

•• REED LINDSEY ••

Lindsey graduated from Sam Houston in 1933 with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and physics.

Following a teaching career in Huntsville, he became the accountant for Sam Houston State in 1945 and was named dean of admissions and registrar in 1952. He served until his retirement in 1978.

A strong supporter of Bearkat athletics, he never missed a home football game in more than 25 years.

Parker remembers Lindsey as having a sincere interest in SHSU students.

“He, Mr. Holleman and Dean Lowry were particularly interested in giving veterans a chance to get an education, especially those veterans who had started school and left to serve, and then came back,” he said.

The Reed S. Lindsey Basketball Endowment is named in his honor.

•• FEROL ROBINSON ••

Robinson, known affectionately to his students as “Dr. R,” received his Bachelor of Science degree in vocational agriculture in 1942 and his master’s degree in 1947, both from Sam Houston.

After earning his doctorate, he returned to Sam Houston State to direct the journalism program for 20 years, training hundreds of news men and women, teachers, public and industrial relations personnel, and journalism graduates who pursued other careers. He later became vice president of university relations.

SHSU alumnus Frank Krystyniak knew Robinson from his time as a student as well as a university employee who reported directly to Robinson.

“Literally hundreds of Sam Houston students, whom he advised, taught, and was often just there for them to talk to when they had a problem, loved Dr. R. like a second father. Some of them, no doubt, loved him more than a first father,” Krystyniak said.

“He always had time to listen to a problem, give advice, or help a student over a financial or academic crisis.

“I worked for him as student editor

of the Houstonian and later in a public relations and communications capacity in the administration,” he said. “He was creative, supportive, understanding, and I can’t imagine how anyone could have been a better leader.”

Three endowments have been established in honor of “Dr. R.”—the Ferol Robinson Scholarship Endowment, the Endowment for Tomorrow’s Journalist, and the Dr. Ferol Robinson Journalism Endowment.

•• ELLIOTT BOWERS ••

Bowers was associated with Sam Houston State for more than half a century, as a student, faculty member, administrator, president and president emeritus.

An outstanding musician, he toured briefly with the Lawrence Welk band and served as director of music at Huntsville High School while attending college. He received both his bachelor’s (1941) and master’s (1942) degrees in music from Sam Houston State Teachers College.

Following his service during World War II, Bowers returned to Sam Houston State to work as director of testing and guidance, director of the student union, vice president for university affairs and dean of students, and served as interim president twice before being named president, a role he fulfilled for almost 20 years.

Parker remembers Bowers for his vision.

Among the major facilities completed during his administration were the Eleanor and Charles Garrett Teacher Education Center, Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum, University Theatre Center, George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center, Dan Rather Communications Building, Lee Drain Building, the Health and Physical Education Building, Bearkat Stadium, and the Music Building.

Bearkat Stadium was renamed Bowers Stadium, and the street that runs just south of it was named Bowers Boulevard. The Elliott T. Bowers Honors College is named in his honor.

“He had the keen ability to listen and take a complex problem and come up with a solution that everyone understood,” said Parker.

“He was a powerful advocate for Sam Houston during legislative sessions,” said Parker. “The legislators trusted him because he always told them the truth.”

•• FRANK LEATHERS ••

Following his high school graduation Leathers enlisted in the U. S. Army and served as a rifleman in Gen. George Patton’s 3RD Army in Europe during World War II.

After the war, he returned to his ranch in Texas, thinking he was too old for college. However, with his parents’ encouragement, he enrolled in Sam Houston State College in 1946 and graduated in 1949. While a student, he and his wife, Lyndall, owned and managed a rooming house off-campus for students pursuing an education on the G. I. Bill.

He had a distinguished career in public education and was serving as superintendent of schools in Lufkin when another Sam Houston graduate—SHSU President Arleigh Templeton—invited him to return to the university as vice president for fiscal affairs.

“He was a hands-on administrator who enjoyed getting out on campus and seeing the work taking place,” said Parker.

“He oversaw the physical plant, and custodial and grounds maintenance, and was very knowledgeable about the operations of the university,” Parker said. “He often traveled to Austin to testify before the Legislature, and he was respected by the legislators for being honest in answering their questions.”

Leathers’s memory is honored through the Frank P. Leathers Enrichment Endowment and the Dr. Frank P. Leathers Math or Science Teacher Education Scholarship.

•• JAMES GILMORE ••

After his service in World War II, Gilmore earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from SHSU in 1949, followed by a master’s degree in 1957.

He would serve at SHSU as a professor of finance, chair of the Department of General Business and Finance, associate dean and dean of the College of Business Administration, and vice president for Academic Affairs. He retired after 41 years with the honorary title of dean and professor emeritus.

Leroy Ashorn, professor of finance and associate dean and coordinator of graduate studies for COBA, was both a student in Gilmore’s classes and later an administrator when Gilmore was dean.

“My most vivid recollection of James Gilmore as an educator was his demanding, but fair approach as a teacher,” said Ashorn. “He expected a lot from his students, which I feel helped me as I moved through the remainder of my undergraduate and graduate experience.

“I remember stopping by the campus in 1970 during my third year of graduate studies at Arkansas to visit,” Ashorn said. “The school here had spring break and the only person I could see was Dr. Gilmore who was now chair of the business department.

“During our visit, he handed me an application and told me to get it in for the coming fall semester. I will never forget the confidence he had in me to basically offer me a job without recommendations, transcripts, or anything of that nature until I could have them submitted.”

When Ashorn joined the faculty in the fall of 1970, Gilmore was his supervisor.

“More importantly he was my life-long mentor,” Ashorn said. “Whenever I needed guidance in one of the finance classes he had assigned me, I could always talk to him and get the help I needed.

“I have never known anyone who could be so demanding, but so fair and loving,” Ashorn said.

The James E. Gilmore Endowment and the James E. Gilmore Endowment for COBA Excellence and Advancement honor his memory.

•• COMMON BONDS ••

“They all worked together as a team for the benefit of the university,” said Parker. “They had the three R’s of dynamic leadership—rectitude, responsibility and relationship.”

“Because of their common backgrounds, they enjoyed a friendship away from campus as well as on campus,” he said. “They shared interests in hunting, banking and ranching. They were veterans and valued service to our country. They had grown up during a time when they were expected to accomplish much with very little resources, and they carried that philosophy into their careers.

“They were tremendous role models for students and for those of us who followed in their footsteps as university administrators,” he said. “It was a privilege to work with all of them.”



Elliott T. Bowers

Five Honored As Distinguished Alumni

The 2012 Distinguished Alumni award recipients were recognized for their accomplishments and service in criminal justice, the military, education and business. Honorees recognized with the award on Oct. 19 were Michael Devine, John McManners, Bertie Simmons, Anton Vincent and Siddharth Keswani, the outstanding young alumnus.

MICHAEL DEVINE

Michael Devine is a special agent with the Naval Criminal Investigation Service whose career with the agency has been split between the criminal investigation and foreign counterintelligence divisions.

His work has led to a number of professional accolades, including a three-time nominee as the NCIS “Special Agent of the Year” and 15 military medals from his concurrent service with the United States Navy Reserve and NCIS.

Devine earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in criminal justice from SHSU in 1984 and 1988, respectively, and his bachelor’s degree from Westfield State College in 1982. He currently holds the rank of captain in the U.S. Navy.

He resides in Glendale, Calif., with his wife, Linda, and his children, Austin and Rachel.

JOHN McMANNERS

When Col. John McManners retired from the U.S. Army in 1992, he ended a 30-year military career in which he had become a highly decorated officer who had traveled all over the world.

In addition to 16 military medals and recognitions, he was personally decorated by the King of Laos as a “Knight of a Million Elephants” in 1969.

After retirement, he worked for a law firm in San Antonio and Austin that specialized in social security disability. He returned to Huntsville in 2005 and has become an active university and community leader.

McManners earned his Bachelor of Science degree in history from SHSU in 1962 and his master’s degree from Webster University.

He and his wife, Geanie, reside at Elkins Lake and have two daughters and three grandchildren.

BERTIE SIMMONS

During her 52 years in education Bertie Simmons has earned a reputation as a visionary, a creative problem solver, and a successful change agent.

Through her 36 years as an educational administrator, Simmons has led schools all around Houston, including serving

as Houston ISD regional superintendent and assistant superintendent for school operations.

She has been recognized with the SHSU College of Education’s “Distinguished Educator of the Year Award” and a plethora of other education-related recognitions.

She is also active within the Houston community and has served as a discussion leader for SHSU’s Elliott T. Bowers Honors College fundraising event “Let’s Talk!”

The 1968 SHSU Master of Educational Administration graduate also holds a bachelor’s degree from Northwestern State University and a doctorate from Texas Southern University.

ANTON VINCENT

Anton Vincent found the recipe for success as a “powerplayer” for the General Mills Corporation, where his career has



Left to Right: Michael Devine, Sid Keswani, John McManners, Anton Vincent and Bertie Simmons (seated)

been highlighted by his participation in the mergers and acquisition group that executed the \$10 billion purchase of The Pillsbury Group. In 2012, he was named president of the frozen snacks division. In this role he oversees more than \$2 billion in retail sales.

An active member of both the General Mills and local communities, Vincent's business recognitions are many, including General Mills's highest distinction, the Champions Award (2009) for business impact, and the Vanguard Award (2011) for his volunteer work.

The Jackson, Miss., native graduated from SHSU in 1987 and later earned his Master of Business Administration degree from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University.

Vincent and his wife, Lindy, are parents of three young children and reside in Minnetonka, a suburb of Minneapolis.

**SIDDHARTH "SID" KESWANI,
OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS**

Though Sid Keswani joined the Target Corporation just a year after earning his undergraduate degree, he rose through the ranks and within six years was named a senior vice president.

In this role, Keswani is responsible for the financial performance of more than 450 stores located in the southeastern United States.

He also is a dedicated and active community leader and volunteer with several philanthropic organizations.

Keswani earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from SHSU in 1994 and later returned to college to obtain his Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Texas at Dallas.

He lives in Allen with his wife, Leila.



Join The Growing Alumni Club Network

The Sam Houston State University Alumni Association club network is stronger than ever and growing. With 10 chartered clubs across the state, alumni are coming together to show their "Bearkat Pride."

The following are chartered clubs of the SHSU Alumni Association:

- Alamo Area Alumni & Friends Club
- Austin Area Alumni & Friends Club
- Austin/Washington County Area Alumni & Friends Club
- Bay Area Alumni & Friends Club
- Cowtown Area Alumni Club
- Greater Dallas Area Alumni & Friends Club
- North Harris/Montgomery County Alumni & Friends Club
- Walker County Area Alumni & Friends Club
- Black Alumni Club
- Hispanic Alumni Club

Clubs coming soon are:

- Waco Area Alumni & Friends Club
- Young Alumni & Friends Club

The purpose of forming a club is to reconnect with fellow Bearkats, meet new friends, and explore interesting opportunities that the Alumni Association has to offer. Joining will provide networking, social events, volunteer activities, as well as develop membership and support for the Alumni Association.

Club members are also encouraged to assist the university with projects and programs including: recruitment, recognition programs, legislative advocacy, annual fund development, and cultivating relationships with SHSU students within the area.

For more information, or to start a club in your area, contact Amy Pfeil, assistant director for Alumni Clubs and Constituent Programs, at apfeil@shsu.edu or 936.294.4095.

Where Are They Now?



John Evans, '77 BBA John Evans originally chose SHSU because he was offered a golf scholarship, but soon fell in love with the campus and quickly appreciated the small class sizes.

"It made you feel like you had a voice in class," he said.

"Whenever I traveled away from school, I always felt that returning to Sam was like going 'home,'" he said. "I loved the experience of golf, campus, and Sigma Chi activities."

John graduated in 1977 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. While attending SHSU, he learned many skills that he feels were important for his success after graduation.

"College and life experiences there were the difference—learning to interact with others and work with classmates to accomplish mutual class-related goals," he said.

His talents and interests all came together after graduation as he began his own business, River City Marketing, Inc., doing business as Mission Golf Cars. The business is now the largest independent golf car dealership with EZ Go in the U.S. It started in 1981 and now has 54 employees.

"Golf was a passion for me, and a golf-related business came easy," he said.

James Keith, '03 BFA While growing up in Victoria, James Keith was interested in pursuing a career in criminal justice or radio/television. Sam Houston State University, said Keith, was a natural choice, because it was "the best school for both."

He soon decided to take part in SHSU's RTV program because of the small classes and hands-on experience.

While attending SHSU, Keith said he made many happy memories during conversations at "the wall" at the Jolly Fox and could always count on running into a brother Sigma Phi Epsilon member on the campus mall.

Keith graduated in 2003 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in RTV.

After graduation, Keith married, completed a marathon, and moved to San Antonio, where his work as assistant news director at KABB-TV has earned him recognition as one of the city's "40 Under 40 Rising Stars." He's also been named a top reporter in Texas by the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters.

He also volunteers as a Big Brother, is a member of First Baptist Church San Antonio, and has begun pursuit of a master's degree.

Keith feels his education at SHSU gave him the opportunities to accomplish his goals.

"Sam Houston helped me get the hands-on training, internships, and curriculum needed to be successful in television," he said. "I couldn't be more proud to be an alumnus of SHSU, unless of course we could snag a national title in football soon."





Bryan Brown, '89 BBA Bryan Brown describes his education at SHSU as the genesis for his academic and professional accomplishments. He saw SHSU as a historical institution that would be valued by potential employers and give him an edge when applying to graduate school.

After graduating in 1989 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting and receiving his commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, he attended Tulane Law School and Tulane's Freeman School of Business, where he obtained a juris doctorate and a Master of Business Administration degree in finance.

Brown's license to practice law allowed him to transfer from the Army's infantry to the Judge Advocate General's Corps in 1994. He also began his civilian practice with McDermott International, Inc., an energy services company in New Orleans.

A year later, he moved to Washington, D.C., to work as an attorney in the division of corporation finance with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In 1998 he moved back to Houston to work as an associate at Porter Hedges and was promoted to partner in 2002. In the same year, Gov. Rick Perry appointed him to the securities board, where he remained until 2011.

He is currently a partner at Thompson and Knight, LLP, in Houston.

"SHSU gave me the tools to be competitive in academic environments and today's business world," Brown said.

He remembers many good times at SHSU, but especially intramural sports on the Army ROTC basketball team. He also enjoyed attending the football and basketball games.

"Bernard of Chartres (circa 1159) said that we are like dwarfs on the shoulders of giants, so that we can see more than they, and things at a greater distance. This was recently popularized by Jay-Z in one of his songs in which he said, 'They say a midget standing on a giant's shoulders can see much further than the giant,'" Brown said. "Our accomplishments are not solely attributable to our own efforts, but often times by those who preceded us. I stand on the shoulder of many giants, starting with my mother Doris L. (Johnson) Brown and grandmother Gertie M. (Taylor) Eugene and those that came before them."

Ronald Robertson Ron Robertson came to SHSU in 1967 because he was interested in journalism and had heard that many instructors in the program were working journalists.

He fondly recalls his association with Sigma Chi Fraternity and living in Huntsville while he was a Bearkat.

After college, he began his career with Duracell Battery Company, in sales, working in Lubbock and Houston as a manager. He then worked for another Houston company as a sales manager in the lawn and garden products division.

"A big change for me came when I tried stand-up comedy in Houston," he said. "It quickly developed into a career that spanned 25 years."

His first paid job was with Jerry Seinfeld. As a performer, Robertson traveled throughout the world nearly 300 days a year and worked Las Vegas for 20 weeks a year. He was featured in TV shows, commercials and live performances.

"In 1999, I decided that touring was a bit too much and wanted to spend my time at the beach in California," he said.

He changed careers again and is currently the Maybach relationship manager at Mercedes-Benz of Beverly Hills.

"I still see all my old comedy friends, and I play golf and spend time at my Las Vegas home, as well," he said.

He also keeps in touch with his Sigma Chi brothers from SHSU and tries to see them whenever possible.

"My education at SHSU made a huge impact on my life," Robertson said. "My journalism training helped me in my comedy writing, and my years in Sigma Chi helped me deal with all types of audiences."

That training also helped prepare him for interacting with some of the wealthiest people on earth, something he does regularly in his new career.

"I used to say in newspaper interviews that being in stand-up comedy is like going to college—except the allowance is much bigger and you don't have to go to class," Robertson said.



CLASS NOTES

Bartley Braden, '61, retired from the Army Reserve after 42 years of active duty and reserve time that spanned three wars. The former officer took up running and has more than 64 medals in the State Senior Olympics in events ranging from the 50-meter dash to the 10,000-meter run. Braden has also refereed over 5,000 high school basketball games.

Kenneth Riddle, '62 & '67, and Velva Schrader Riddle, '72, celebrated their 50TH wedding anniversary with a reception at First United Methodist Church in Gatesville Aug. 25. Kenneth retired after 40 years of teaching at Gatesville State School for Boys and Gatesville Junior High School. Velva retired after 30 years of teaching at Gatesville High School and Windham School District.

Robert E. Roush, '64 & '66, was an invited participant at the White House Commemoration Event for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 14, 2012. Roush and Hubert H. Humphrey III, director of the Office of Older Americans, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, made remarks about how health care professionals can help screen their older patients for vulnerability to financial exploitation. Roush just finished 41 years at Baylor College of Medicine and was honored earlier this year as a "Pioneer in Geriatrics" by the Houston Gerontological Society. He was the honoree at the Huffington Health Forum on April 4, 2012. Roush will complete his second term as president of the National Association for Geriatric Education this fall in San Diego, Calif. He and his wife **Carole, '66**, live in Houston.

Catherine Ezzell, '72, recently retired after almost 40 years of service at the Clara B. Mounce Public Library in Bryan.

Don Allee, '73, executive director and chief executive officer of the Mississippi

State Port Authority at Gulfport, has been named to the Port Subcommittee of the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council. Allee has served as Gulfport's chief executive since 2002 and has almost 30 years of public port management experience.

Don Gilbert, '74, was presented the Leo W. Tosh Award from Rusk Industrial Foundation for dedication to improving Rusk and East Texas. Gilbert served as the first Texas commissioner of health and human services, from 1998-2002, and as commissioner of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, from 1995-1998.

Robert Bain, '76, is proud to announce the birth of his first grandchild, Brooks. Brooks was born on Aug. 17 and weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz.



Tony Garcia, '79, and Donna Garcia, '87, celebrated their 30TH wedding anniversary with a trip to Italy. (above) Tony and Donna proudly wore their Bearkat orange while visiting the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Lori Engel, '80, has moved from the "big city" to farm life in Kountze where she runs a farm business.

Charles "Chuck" Jones, '81, married Deborah "Debbie" Lawson Stewart on Nov. 8 in Marietta, Ga. Debbie is a '82 graduate of Texas A&M and works as a compliance/BSA officer for Post Oak Bank in Houston. They reside in Richmond.

Stewart Russell is currently the chief of police for the Pasadena ISD Police Department. Stewart and his wife Michelle have two sons, Trevor and Nicholas.

Wendi Green, '82, received the 2012 Continued Excellence Award during the 68TH annual conference of the Texas Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences in Marble Falls. She has served as a family and consumer science agent with Texas AgriLife Extension since 1999 working in Freestone and Cherokee counties.

J. Stacy Horn, '84 & '86, was named senior vice president for commercial in 2012 with Meritage Midstream Services II, LLC. Headquartered in Golden, Colo., Meritage Midstream provides oil and gas producers with a full complement of midstream services. When not working, Horn loves to travel and spend time with his wife Brenda and his pets. He also enjoys building and driving off-road vehicles and hot rod cars.

Joan (Ferguson) Lathrom, '85, has taught school for more than 25 years. She was the state finalist for the H-E-B Excellence in Education Award in 2009 and Katy ISD teacher of the year in 1998-99 and 2011-12. She has two sons who are Bearkats and one future Bearkat at home.

John Cloud, '85, retired in April 2012 after 27 years with the Liberty County Supervisions and Corrections Department as a unit supervisor of the Cleveland sat-

ellite office. He was hired one week after receiving his criminal justice degree and remained employed with Liberty County until his retirement. Cloud is looking forward to spending more time with his family and attending more SHSU football games.

Richard Nader, '86, has been named vice provost for international affairs at the University of North Texas after having served in the position in an interim role since July 1, 2011. Nader joined UNT in 2008 as the first director of research development in the Office of Research and Economic Development.

Tim Halloran, '87, is an agent with G&H Financial Insurance Services, Inc., in Katy. He and his wife Laura have two sons, Jarad and Bryan.

Mike Giles, '89, was named senior vice president of information technology at Express Energy Services, a leading oil field company in Houston.

Kelly Butler, '92, has recently been named police chief in his hometown of Wortham. Butler has 15 years of law enforcement experience.

Matt Berkheiser, '93, is the executive director for environmental health and safety at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He was recently selected as a "Best Boss" honoree.

Claudette Cabrera-Ludwig, '97, recently completed her 11th year with the Ford Motor Company and was promoted to the Lincoln marketing and sales team.

Ronnie Schnell, '02, joined the Texas A&M University department of soil and crop sciences faculty and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as a state specialist for corn and sorghum on Oct. 1.



Jason Shankle, '07, graduated from Regis University in May 2012 with a master's degree in psychology and is a psychology/business professor at the Community

College of Denver. While attending SHSU he was the youngest to be accepted in the McNair Program. He became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., in 2009 and is also a member of the Chamber Connect Leadership Program of Denver. Shankle volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and is the former chairman of the Urban Youth Movement sponsored by Big Brothers Big Sister, Inc. He has a clothing line named Sgloire, which specializes in motivational quotes on business attire. He also released his first poetry book on Dec. 15, which is available on amazon.com.

Cody Velkovich, '08, an Austin Area Alumni Club member, opened Limitless Landscaping in 2012, an artificial grass installation and landscape design company serving Central Texas. Velkovich also recently received his mortgage banker's license through the Texas Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending.

Kendra D. Wise, '08, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N.J. During the eight-week training program, she completed a vigorous curriculum of academics and practical instruction on water safety and survival, military customs and courtesies, seamanship skills, physical fitness, health and wellness, first aid, fire fighting and marksmanship.

Chris Richey, '09, was featured in Advocate magazine with Olympic gold medal winner Greg Louganis. Richey founded The Stigma Project as an extension

of his own personal journey of having been diagnosed with HIV and witnessing the associated stigma first-hand. He continues his consulting work in fundraising/development and actively participates in local non-profits, including his first ride as a cyclist in the AIDS LifeCycle, benefiting the LA Gay & Lesbian Center, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. Richey lives in West Hollywood, Calif., with his dog Boss.

Katelyn Stafford, '10 & '11, recently finished her first year in the doctoral program in molecular and translation toxicology at The Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health. She has chosen to do her dissertation studying sex difference in the pathogenesis of myocarditis.

Send us updates on work, relocations, marriages, family, degrees, accomplishments - and a photo, too.

Let Bearkats know what you've been up to by completing the online form or sending us an email. Class Notes are shared in the Heritage magazine.

Email: alumni@shsu.edu

or fill out the form at shsu.edu/~alu_kat/services/classnotes

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IN MEMORIAM

Mary Parish Shaw '36
Wyatt L. Gillaspie '38
Melvin A. Reimer '38
Charles C. Easterwood '42
Velma Wilkerson Wade '42
Mattie Faulkner Walker '42
Eleanor Prather Dube '46
W. H. Hodges '47
Robert C. Oliphant '48
John H. Keller '49
Archie C. Lemons '49
Clemon L. Montgomery '50
Billy G. Cozart '51
Genevieve Waller McCaffety '52
Johnny F. Ackel '53
Bobby G. Laird '53
Shirley Head Goodman '54

Mattie B. Prather Medford '56
Pat H. Scantlin '56
Clyde C. Cauthen '60
Tony E. Dressell '60
Ernest J. Arredondo '61
John W. Kearney '61
Barbara E. Ferris '63
Ella Louise Sherron '64
Robert A. Gammage '65
Donald A. Wilkins '65
Jo A. James '66
Mary McCord Bach '67
Kenneth D. Baxter '67
Joseph B. Eddleman '67
James P. Jones '68
Ruth W. Polan '68
Patricia Markey Shell '68

Kermeta Jan Clayton '69
Irene F. Hopkins '69
James W. Wooten '70
Glenda Butler Meisner '71
Gregory Z. Madeley '72
Daniel E. Freeman '73
Thomas O. Miller '73
Lillian Eaves '82
Sharon Tolar '82
Richard J. Braniff '83
Carolyn Stovall Bruns '83
Mario H. Villarreal '91
Amy Dorsett '95
Carol Laing Ritter '95
Roland M. Mireles '97
Dirk M. Grassmann '01
Dorothy Cowart Roberson '01



In recognition of the selection of Willie Fritz as 2012 Division I-FCS Coach of the Year, Liberty Mutual donated \$20,000 to the SHSU Alumni Association and \$50,000 to charities of the Fritz's choice. Executive Director Charlie Vienne (center) accepted the check from Liberty Mutual on behalf of the association.

Bearkats-In-Business

Score BIG

Bring together successful business owner, Carolyn Faulk, and a group of like-minded SHSU graduates and watch things start to happen. Carolyn was instrumental in organizing Houston-area alumni in and around the city into a newly formed Bearkats-in-Business group. Their first sponsored event knocked the ball out of the park with over 170 in attendance including special guests and Hall of Famers - Elvin Hayes, Elvin Bethea and Milo Hamilton. Close to \$200,000 was raised in support of SHSU athletic programs.

This effort was a true testament to the passion and loyalty of Sam Houston State alumni where generations of graduates and supporters stood proud and stood together. These are the true champions of the university.

To learn more about ways you can support Sam Houston State University, contact the University Advancement office at 936.294.2402.



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