

Heritage

The Magazine of Sam Houston State University

ALUMNUS
COMMITTS
\$25
MILLION
TO SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

INSIDE

BEARKATS' HISTORIC
RUN BRINGS MAGIC
TO SAM HOUSTON
STATE UNIVERSITY p20





A SEASON OF CHAMPIONS



The 2011 Fall semester can be described best as historic and remarkable. Sam Houston's football team took Texas and the nation by storm as week-after-week our team demonstrated its superior ability and determination on the field. Our student-athletes and coaches exemplified what being a champion is all about.

The outpouring of support, the incredible energy, and the level of pride

found within our university community, the City of Huntsville and across the state of Texas were profound. The deafening roar of the fans in the stadium was ample evidence of the spirit this university can generate.

In addition to the spectacular football season, alumnus Fred Pirkle committed \$25 million through his company, Therm-Omega-Tech, Inc., to support the development of engineering technology programs at SHSU. This pledge is the largest in Sam Houston State's history. His championship of American manufacturing and the university that helped prepare him for a successful career will have a permanent impact on future generations of students and our nation's workforce.

Our championship spirit extends beyond the playing field and the boardroom. It can be seen and felt on campus everyday as our faculty, staff and students continue to strive for learning excellence. Within the pages of this issue of the *Heritage* magazine, you will read of a number of stories that reflect this spirit, including:

- Maegan Morrow, an alumna and music therapist at The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research Memorial Hermann in Houston, was interviewed on national television by Diane Sawyer regarding her role in the recovery of former Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. (See page 5.)
- The College of Education was recently recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* for having one of the "Top Online Education Programs" in the nation at the graduate level. (See page 16.)
- Alumnus Bill Brinkley's passion for science has led to groundbreaking research in cellular biology which has contributed to cancer treatment breakthroughs. (See page 25.)

These accomplishments and contributions are among the countless examples of outstanding teaching and research fostered by our university.

Being a champion is as much a mindset as it is a talent. Champions compete to win through an intense focus, a willingness to learn and a positive attitude. They push beyond the boundaries of what seems possible to set ever higher levels of achievement for others to emulate and strive to eclipse.

At Sam Houston State University, our scholars, staff, students and alumni exemplify these qualities through the highest levels of research, teaching, community service and athletic competition. Their tangible contributions to society improve our state's and nation's quality of life today and for the future. They have the stuff of which champions are made.

Dana Gibson
President

Heritage

Editor
Julia May
jmay@shsu.edu

Writers
Jason Barfield
Amy Barnett
Jennifer Gauntt
Julia May
Paul Ridings

Photography
Brian Blalock

Design & Layout
Clockwork Studios
State of TX HUB-certified
www.clockworkstudios.com

Masthead Design
Ford Design
281.992.4042

**Vice President for
University Advancement**
Frank R. Holmes
holmes@shsu.edu

**Associate Vice President
for Marketing and
Communications**
Kristina K. Ruiz
kruiz@shsu.edu

**Director of
Alumni Relations**
Charles Vienne
alumni@shsu.edu
800.283.7478

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Fred Pirkle's historic gift to Sam Houston State University is an extraordinary example of philanthropy.



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By Julia May

ALUMNUS COMMITTS

\$25 MILLION

TO SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

WHEN FRED PIRKLE VISITED SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY IN 2009, HE SAW AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACT UPON ONE OF THE THINGS HE IS MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT—TEACHING AMERICANS TO BE LEADERS IN THE MANUFACTURING WORLD.

Sam Houston State University has received a \$25 million pledge from Warminster, Pa.-based Therm-Omega-Tech, Inc., to support the university's engineering technology components within the current industrial technology program and to establish a new engineering technology program.

Fred Pirkle, the founder of Therm-Omega-Tech, Inc., graduated from SHSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial arts in 1970 and a master's degree in industrial technology in 1974.

The pledge is the largest gift in the university's history.

"Sam Houston State University students who are getting a technical education are learning skills for life," Pirkle said. "Those technical skills are critically important for America in today's world. Americans are hard workers, and we're smart workers. I want the students who are touched by this gift to be inspired to contribute to the success of this country and be leaders in the world."

"We are truly honored and deeply grateful for Mr. Pirkle's generosity to and vision for

his alma mater," said SHSU President Dana Gibson. "This remarkable and unprecedented gift is an investment in the future of Sam Houston State University and will enhance the university's ability to provide opportunities for students to gain invaluable knowledge and experience in industrial technology."

"Fred Pirkle is a remarkable man who is providing extraordinary leadership in philanthropy at Sam Houston State University," said Vice President for University Advancement Frank Holmes. "His contribution through his firm will provide a lasting and transformational legacy for the creation of critical programs to serve the citizens of our state and nation.

"It is an extension of an inventive mind that sees problems as exciting opportunities to create new methods and techniques to make our lives better. Others are certain to follow the example that Fred is setting for charitable giving," Holmes said.



Bottom left: Barbecuing is one of Pirkle's passions.

Top left: Pirkle and SHSU President Dana Gibson enjoy a light moment during her visit to Pennsylvania.

Right: "Genius at work."



The gift will provide funding for three areas. A portion will be applied toward the construction of a state-of-the-art academic facility and associated laboratories, including advanced equipment and technology, to house engineering technology and related academic programs. The building will be named The Fred Pirkle Technology Center.

In addition, the gift will support a permanent endowment fund, known as The Frederick L. Pirkle Scholarship Fund, to provide financial assistance for SHSU students enrolled in the engineering technology program.

The donation will also be used to establish The Frederick L. Pirkle Enrichment Fund to provide resources for an academic chair or professorship in the

engineering technology program and to support internships for students majoring in engineering technology at SHSU.

"Mr. Pirkle visited the campus a couple of years ago when he came for the 'Centennial Celebration of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences at Sam Houston State University,'" said SHSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jaimie Hebert.

"He was so pleased to see that the program from which he had graduated was continuing to change with society and the economy to produce workers who could immediately impact the Texas work force," Hebert said.

"Mr. Pirkle credits Sam Houston State University with helping prepare him to be successful with his work, and when he came back and saw what a magnificent job his institution was doing to prepare today's young men and women for careers in industry, it made the connection for him," Hebert said.

"He let us know at that point, he would do something significant some day to help us with our mission," he said.

Pirkle grew up in the Texas Hill Country near San Antonio. Following high school graduation, he worked several years as a mechanic before enrolling in Sam Houston State University.

After earning his master's degree at SHSU, he moved to Houston and taught in the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District. He left teaching to work as a sales engineer for Commercial Industries Division and later Eggelhof, Inc. While employed by Eggelhof, Inc., he was assigned to Ogontz Controls in Philadelphia, Pa.

Pirkle left Ogontz Controls and founded Therm-Omega-Tech, Inc., in 1982 to manufacture valves of his own patented design. The company grew to be a leader in the field of manufacturing temperature control valves and devices, gaining worldwide respect across diverse industries. Therm-Omega-Tech freeze protection valves have become the railroad industry's standard for preventing freeze damage to diesel locomotives, annually protecting billions of dollars of railroad equipment worldwide.

Since then, he has patented more than 20 products, including the BBQ Guru, the first temperature control device for charcoal grills and cookers. His patented products are manufactured in the Therm-Omega-Tech facility.

The Sam Houston State University Alumni Association recognized Pirkle's career accomplishments last fall by honoring him as a "Distinguished Alumnus," the university's most prestigious designation for a former student. ★

Editor's Note: Fred Pirkle lost his battle with ALS on March 9.



The SOUND of *Music*

ALUMNAE FROM SHSU'S MUSIC THERAPY PROGRAM

USE THEIR DEGREES TO DO
"MIRACULOUS" WORK AT MEMORIAL
HERMANN'S REHABILITATION AND
RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

By Amy Barnett

One method music therapist
Amy Culpepper-Marroquin
uses to help trauma patients
in their journey to recovery is
singing while playing the guitar.





From behind a closed door on the third floor of a large Houston office building, the strums of a guitar are heard followed by the familiar tune and words to Pat Benatar’s “Love is a Battlefield.” First there’s only one voice, then another, softly chiming in on every other word. Next, complete phrases come from the second voice, because now they’ve made it to the chorus, and Shirley Nicholson knows the chorus by heart.

“She loves ‘80s music,” Stephen Nicholson said of his wife. He waits and listens as Shirley finishes her session announcing, “She wasn’t supposed to make it this far.” Then the door opens and Shirley comes out in a wheelchair, with a protective helmet on her head.

Shirley is a brain trauma patient at TIRR Memorial Hermann, The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research. The avid runner, who had no previously known health problems, collapsed in the elevator of a downtown Houston gym when she had two back-to-back strokes that led to a severe brain injury and put her in a coma for 10 days.

“There was so much swelling in the brain that the doctors said if she survived she would be blind and would never be able to eat or even swallow again,” Stephen said. “Then there was a miracle. She came out of the coma and started trying to communicate.”

And what happened next, he said, was also miraculous.

“We met Maegan and she started playing her guitar, and Shirley started doing things she was never supposed to do,” he said.

Maegan Morrow is a music therapist at TIRR and a Sam Houston State University graduate. The alumna, who earned her degree in 2002, knew her life would always involve music from the time her uncle convinced her to join their church worship band. She started her college career as a music vocal performance major, and soon after transferring to SHSU, she learned about music therapy and was hooked.

Her colleague and fellow Sam Houston alumna Amy Culpepper-Marroquin has a similar story.

“I’ve been in music my whole life, but while I was going to school I was drawn to things that were more biological and medical. As soon as someone introduced me to music therapy, I knew it was exactly what I wanted to do,” said Marroquin, who graduated in 1995.

Morrow and Marroquin spend their days playing instruments and singing songs with patients at TIRR. While most would agree, through our own experiences, that music can affect a person’s mood, studies show it can do much more than that.

“The key thing to remember is music is really processed throughout our entire brain, so we can access parts that have been damaged in patients with brain injuries where you can’t access it with just language alone,” Marroquin said. “The norm today

“Helping patients get through the traumatic times in their lives is my priority.”

is to think that since music is creative, it’s processed in the right hemisphere, but that is not the whole story.”

A study published in a 2006 edition of *Neurology Now* journal found that listening to music stimulates the brain and the body-mind connection and can reactivate speech centers of the brain, prompt memory, and improve gait and coordination. The results of the study go on to say, “by layering words with melody and rhythm, you can train the brain to use a less traveled pathway to the same destination. So when the connections to one area of the brain are damaged, other connections can be coaxed into play—sometimes in pretty creative ways.”

Marroquin gets creative with her group therapy class, as it often turns into a jam session. Patients sing along to “Happy



Maegan Morrow

Music

The SOUND of

Birthday” and “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” some picking up tambourines or maracas.

Although that may not seem like a monumental achievement, these are patients who just weeks before had limited brain function, some with little hope of recovery.

“In our assessment we want to see how the patient is responding to what we do and what their musical preference is,” Marroquin said. “If a patient doesn’t like a certain type of music, they are less likely to respond.”

At TIRR, patients take part in group therapy and private sessions to ensure they are getting the most out of the music. Once they respond to songs they are familiar with and start singing along, they practice singing phrases like “I am thirsty, I am thirsty.”

Studies show it is the repetition that can create changes in the brain. The next step is to take the music out and for the patient to speak the common phrases.

As patients work to essentially rewire their brains for speech, music therapists are also aiding in their physical therapy.

“People who are having a hard time walking can use the rhythm aspect of music to help really coordinate their movements to be able to step normally and not have a limp when they leave here,” Marroquin said.

“Sometimes it’s unbelievable to me,” Morrow added. “I don’t get to see what it’s like with just physical therapy or speech alone, but when I come in and see how they respond to music, it’s just amazing.”

The nation has watched with amazement as former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords has made great strides in her recovery after a deranged gunman shot her in the head on Jan. 8, 2011. Six people were killed and 13 others injured when the 22-year-old man opened fire on the crowd in a Tucson, Ariz., supermarket parking lot where Giffords was hosting a meet-and-greet with constituents.

Giffords was flown to TIRR in Houston just two weeks after the incident, unable to speak and still considered by doctors to be in “serious” condition. Part of her therapy at TIRR involved Morrow and her guitar.

In just one month and one day Giffords went from almost no speech at all to singing her favorite songs and is now talking in complete phrases. While Morrow is proud to be a part of her success, she admits success stories like Giffords’s are pretty common at TIRR.

“TIRR is a model system. We know what we’re doing here,” she said. “We help people get better and back to normal life. We get people going back to work or back to college, so it’s not uncommon that she has had such a great recovery.”

Morrow credits SHSU for her own success in music therapy.

“The coolest thing about Sam Houston is they have in their curriculum the practices that we do here,” she said. “Neurologic music therapy is taught at Sam, and that’s not the case at other universities. So when I did my internship, I felt prepared.”

Morrow completed an internship at the Center for Music Therapy in Austin before beginning her career at TIRR in 2004; Marroquin began working at TIRR in 1999. Although music therapy has been recognized as a profession since the National Association for Music Therapy was founded in 1950, Morrow and Marroquin feel they are still pioneering the field.

“I feel like I am an evangelist for music therapy,” Morrow said. “I’m getting to show people the best version of our research, and I know as a musician that this is what I’m supposed to be doing at this point in my life. This is my own mission field, because people come to TIRR from all over the world to get better and we get to treat them, so I am so thankful for that.”

“It’s an awesome feeling,” Marroquin added. “Helping patients get through the traumatic times in their lives is my priority. If I can do that by bringing in music that they are familiar with, I know it’s going to help their progress.”

Stephen Nicholson could not agree more. The 20-year military pilot calls himself “logical” and “realistic,” but his reality was forever redefined at TIRR the day his wife defied the odds, picked up a microphone and started singing “Love is a Battlefield.”

“I’m as black-and-white as it gets,” Nicholson said. “I’ve seen this first hand, and it works.” ★

Award-Winning Economics Researcher Finds Inspiration In Heritage



Hiranya Nath uses both his personal experience in a developing country and professional experience in the United States to teach SHSU students the value of information in a global economy.

A world away from the small village in India where he grew up, Sam Houston State University economics professor Hiranya Nath has an office crammed with books and papers—the tangible evidence of his work at the university, studying macro and monetary economics, and development and information economics.

Somewhere in between the books and papers, according to Nath, is one of the most important tools he uses: his worldview.

“Going back to India to visit my family is a really conducive environment to my

economic thinking,” Nath said. “The India of today, one of the fastest growing countries in the world, is not the same India I grew up in. It is constantly changing and growing, and I am amazed at the progressive economy there. Since I grew up there, it is easy to link my research on developing countries and understand it better using my worldview.”

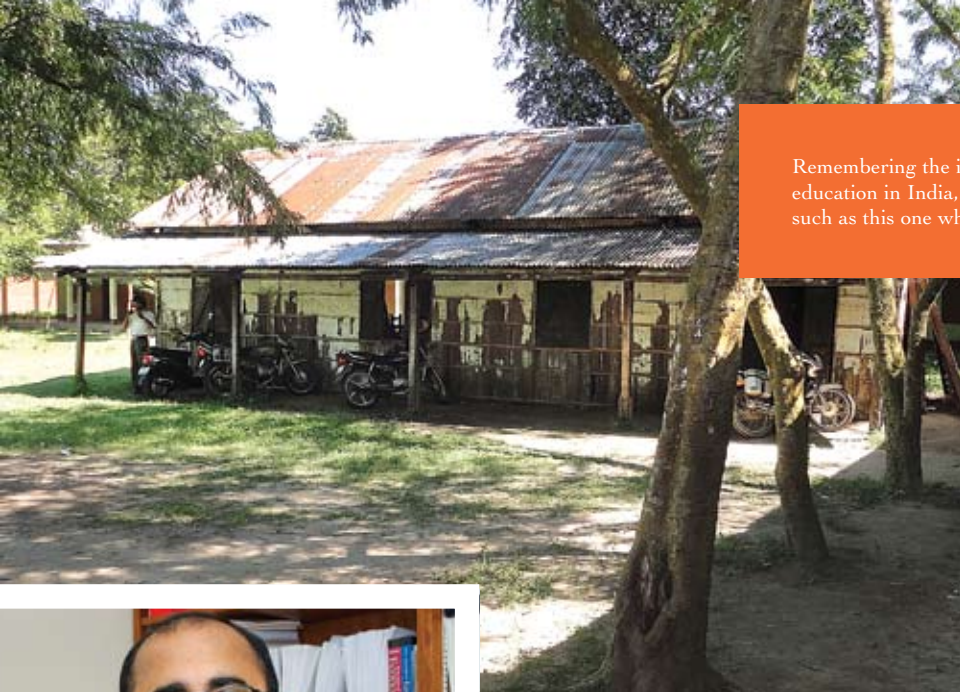
He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Delhi, his Master of Philosophy degree in economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, a Master of Arts in economics and a

doctorate in economics from Southern Methodist University.

He has taught at SHSU in the department of economics and international business since 2002.

For his doctoral research, Nath studied movements in prices of various commodities and services over time. After he joined the economics faculty at SHSU, he extended his research to include the study of consumer prices across U.S. cities, saying the differences in consumer prices and inflation across cities have important implications for people’s decisions about where to live and work and for businesses’ decisions about where to invest.

Nath said his interest and involvement in information economics research began “just by accident.”



Remembering the impact of his education in India, Nath visits schools such as this one when he goes home.


By Meredith Mohr

“This presents a problem that is difficult to overcome—one generation has the money and the power over another, but they do not seem to be optimistic about their society changing, and their children are already in the process of change, some of them born into it. They are very bright, but that only goes so far; they need some sort of support from their parents. Someone needs to provide them the confidence that they can do it. I think about my academic training when I go back and know that is important for me to emphasize.”

According to Nath, 25 percent of the population still lives under the poverty line in India. Despite the unevenness stemming from growth and prosperity being in different pockets, he said there are examples of hope for continued economic growth in India. Even poor people have innovative ideas, if only they could overcome various constraints.

“My sister, who runs an embroidery school, sometimes orders tea from a roadside tea vendor for her employees and customers,” Nath said. “In the past, the man would send his young son around to take orders from all the nearby shops and then he would deliver the tea. But a few years back, he talked to all his customers and established a system using his prepaid mobile phone. Say if they give him one missed call, he understands they want five cups of tea. Two missed calls mean a different amount of tea, and so forth. He knows that if he answers his phone, he will have to pay for the minutes, so he just works from the missed call system and has successfully established a more efficient and innovative way of running his business.”

Nath said these are the stories and examples that continue to inspire him in his economic research and in his teaching at SHSU. As he studies these areas of research, he also encourages his students to start thinking like economists and to be challenged by these issues, so that they may someday find solutions in them. ★



“I was raised in a village in Assam, a state in northeast India,” Nath said. “My parents were low income and could not afford many things. My school was in very bad shape. There was no roof or electricity, and there was a shortage of teachers.

“Somehow I made best use of the limited resources and tried hard,” he said. “My teachers and my parents encouraged me a lot. That education has been such an important part of my life and it led me to where I am today. I believe education in developing countries is so important, especially in the context of how countries such as India are developing with the innovation of bright young minds.”

That innovation is exactly what he has observed over the past few years when he has traveled back to India to visit his family.

“It is an environment I am inspired by,” he said.

But Nath also noted that parallel to the creativity of young minds spurring India forward was a “generational disconnect.”

“As things in India are changing, both in terms of society and technology, I am beginning to notice a rift in the people of the older generation and the current generation,” Nath said. “Kids there now live in a virtual society. During my childhood, everyone used to go outside and play together but now they all have Facebook accounts and go to Internet cafes. Technology has arrived in a big way. The generation of their parents does not seem to understand these changes very well and are skeptical. This leads to an overall negativity.

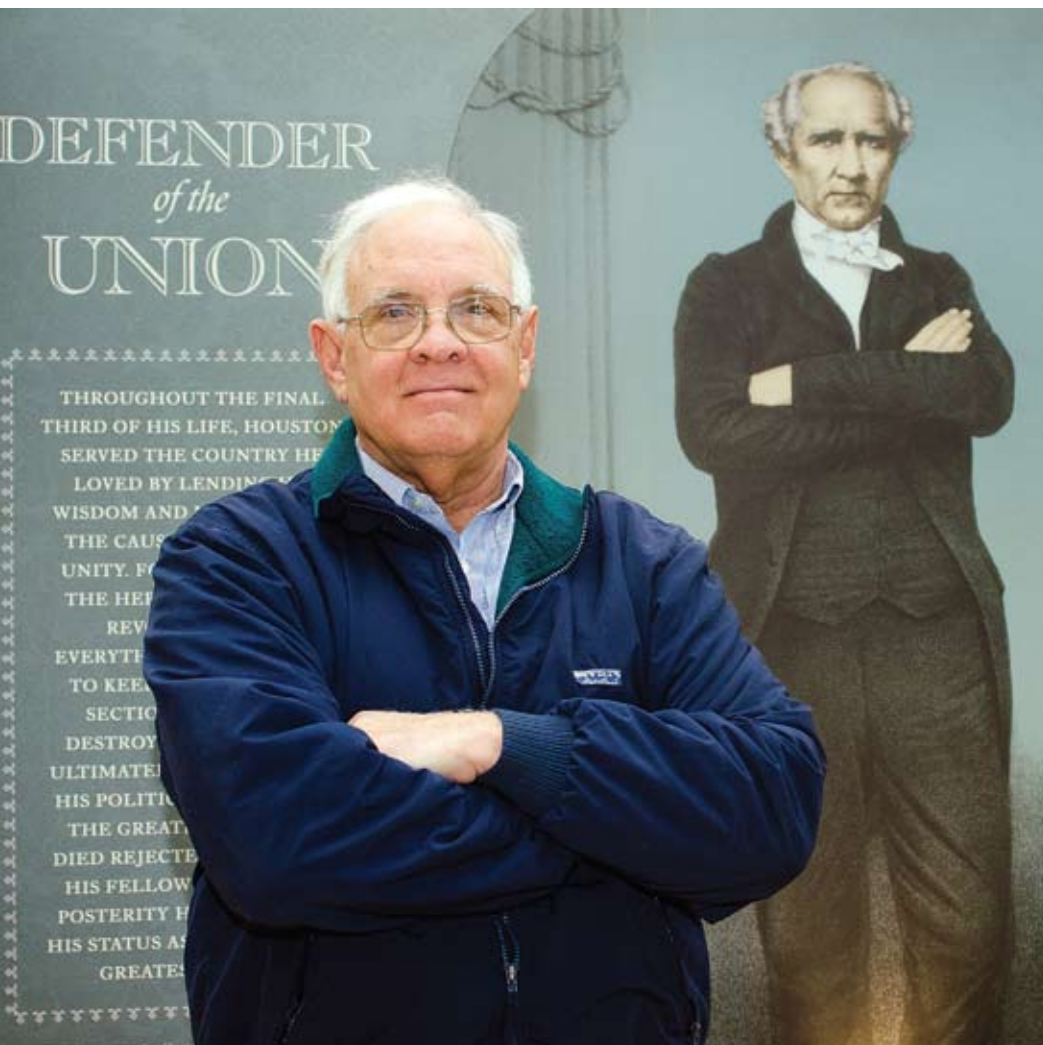
“As a doctoral student, I worked for a professor at Cox School of Business at SMU one summer and ended up writing a few papers with him,” Nath said. “He needed an economic perspective and I needed a job. Eventually someone at UCLA noticed and published some of my work.”

One of his coauthored papers “Information Services in the U.S. Economy: Value, Jobs and Management Implications,” published in *California Management Review*, has been a required reading for graduate-level courses in several universities including the University of California, Berkeley.

Since he joined the SHSU faculty, Nath has published more than 30 peer-reviewed articles in various outlets including well-respected journals. For his work in monetary, developmental and information economics, Nath was awarded the SHSU Faculty Excellence in Research Award in 2011.

He has also been working on research involving the economies of developing countries, an area that has a particularly personal meaning for him, he said.

Mac Woodward Named Museum Director



Walter “Mac” Woodward has been named the director of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, effective Jan. 1.

He succeeds Patrick Nolan, who retired from the position on Dec. 31, 2011.

“Dr. Patrick Nolan did a marvelous job of leading our museum for the past 19 years, building an excellent team and a solid foundation on which to build an outstanding program,” said Frank Holmes, SHSU vice president for university advancement.

“With his retirement, we felt fortunate to be able to appoint Mr. Woodward as his

successor. Mac worked closely with Pat for more than 12 years,” Holmes said.

“His appointment provides the museum with leadership continuity, together with experience and genuine passion. Both men have been dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of artifacts depicting the life and times of Texas’s greatest hero, Sam Houston, for the benefit of the citizens of our state and nation,” he said.

Woodward earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Sam Houston State University in 1970. He later graduated with his master’s degree from the University of Houston’s Institute for Public History and

attended the Modern Archives Institute at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

He was employed by the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in 1994 as a historical interpreter. A year later he was named the museum’s curator of collections.

In addition to his management, preservation and exhibition responsibilities as curator, Woodward has performed museum-related activities with other institutions including the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Texas Highways, and Institute of Texan Cultures, and assisted with the Department of Interior National Historic Landmark Report, among others.

He has made presentations to the Texas State Historical Association, The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums, the Texas Association of Museums, and has served on numerous Sam Houston State University committees.

Woodward has been active in the Huntsville community, serving as project manager for several historic preservation endeavors, as a board member for numerous foundations and organizations, and committee member for several events.

He served four terms on the Huntsville City Council and was elected Huntsville’s mayor in December.

“I am proud and honored to be named the director of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum,” Woodward said.

“As the museum begins its second hundred years, I, along with the great staff, want to continue to build on Dr. Nolan’s efforts to enhance the museum’s role and importance as a proud member of the Sam Houston State University community, Huntsville, and Walker County,” he said. “We look forward to continuing to tell the story of Sam Houston and the Houston family as we serve the people of Texas.” ★

'Thank You' To Dr. Patrick Nolan

This tribute from the Sam Houston Memorial Museum staff appeared in the *Huntsville Item* in December 2011. Dr. Nolan died on January 19, 2012.

For the past 19 years Dr. Patrick Nolan has been the director at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum. This fall he announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 2011. Under his leadership and guidance the museum has made tremendous strides and improvements.

Dr. Nolan compiled an impressive resume prior to arriving in Huntsville. After receiving his Ph.D. in history at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Nolan became an archivist and associate professor at the University of Wisconsin at River Falls. After two years he accepted the position as director for the Center for the History of Flight at Wright State University. He also served as head of archives and special collections and associate professor. In 1988, Dr. Nolan moved to Wilmington, Del., to be the executive administrator for the Center for the History of Business, Technology, and Society at the Hagley Museum and Library. In 1992, Dr. Nolan could not resist the opportunity to return to his first love, western history, and accepted the director's position at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum.

Dr. Nolan took the reins of the museum and hit the ground running, planning for the Sam Houston Bi-Centennial Celebration. At the same time plans were in the works for a new museum education building, now known as the Katy & E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Center. If those two projects were not enough, Dr. Nolan began planning for the museum's accreditation by the American Association of Museums, and, of course, the annual Sam Houston Folk Festival, held on the museum grounds the last weekend in April. Under Dr. Nolan's direction, the

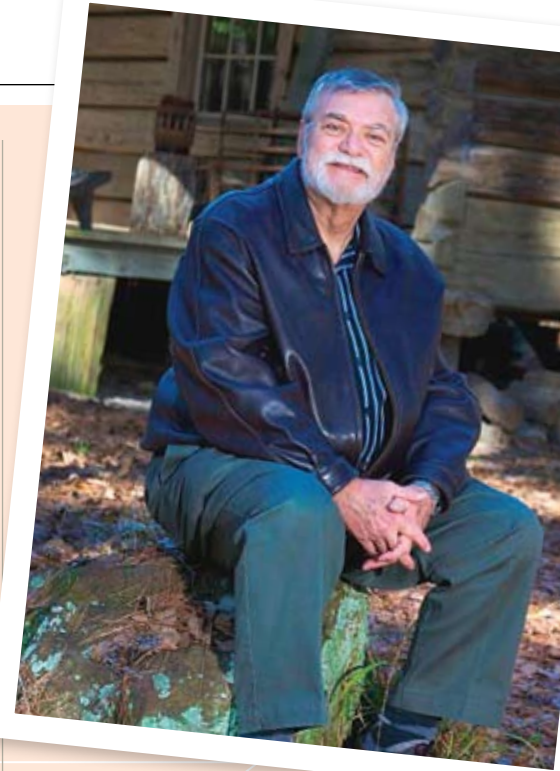
museum has been on a continuous mission to expand and update in order to meet the needs of the university, the community, and our thousands of annual visitors.

The Katy and E. Don Walker, Sr. Education Center opened in 1995 with a new museum store, education office, auditorium, activity room, library, and exhibit gallery. The accreditation process culminated with the American Association of Museums awarding an accreditation to the museum in 2000. The permanent exhibits in the memorial museum building were renovated and updated, and the museum can now more fully tell the life of Sam Houston, why he is the most important person in Texas history, and worthy of being recognized as a national figure.

Dr. Nolan also coordinated the donation of the Fernland property and its historic structures to Sam Houston State University. This generous donation by Caroll and Mae Tharp made possible the relocation and restoration of the Bear Bend Cabin to the museum grounds.

Just this past year several important changes and additions took place that will enhance the museum's future. The Exhibit Hall has been completely remodeled. The Wigwam Neosho Museum Store returned to this location and the rear portion of the building is now available for groups and activities. We are all very excited about the opening of the W. S. Gibbs Conference Hall on the lower level of the education center. This new spacious area with meeting rooms can accommodate up to 300 people and will be available to the university and community. True to W. S. Gibbs's wishes, this area is an attractive, well-designed, and affordable space for the entire community.

Dr. Nolan is more than just a dynamic museum director. He is a man of wit and charm, who was never happier than when stepping out of his academic role and into the 19th century, strolling the museum



grounds in period dress. He can quote the poets from Longfellow to Smooth Lawson, he is a terrific archivist, a Minnesotan who is a proud honorary member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and who epitomizes the old saying, "I was not born in Texas, but I got here as fast as I could."

JoAnn Purvis, museum administrative coordinator, said, "His professional archival skills made my job easier, and his unique laugh made the office a pleasant environment."

"I will miss his laid back management style. In spite of budget constraints, Dr. Nolan always finds a way to continue and complete our museum projects," said Peter Grivich, museum employee.

Mac Woodward, curator of collections, said, "It has been a privilege to work under Dr. Nolan's leadership. I have learned so much from him and he has given me the freedom to grow in my profession."

We at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum will be forever grateful for Dr. Nolan's leadership, friendship, and service to the museum, university, and community. ✨

New Agriculture Endowment Recognizes Professor's Dedication To FFA



The Dr. Herb Schumann Leadership Endowment for Student Teachers in Agriculture will provide scholarships each semester for students beginning the 12-week field experience at a mentoring school.

Doug Ullrich, Jr., and Dwayne Pavelock, two current agricultural sciences faculty members who have taken the responsibility for writing the materials for FFA competitions since Schumann retired as professor of vocational education, were instrumental in creating the endowment.

Ullrich began writing leadership materials in 1996 and has exclusively developed FFA quizzes since 2001. Pavelock began authoring parliamentary procedure materials for the chapter conducting events in 2001.

The majority of the funding for the endowment comes from the sale of event materials.

"Dr. Schumann served for 12 years as the chairman of the State FFA Leadership

Contests, which are held at SHSU," said Ullrich. "He retired in 1996, yet continued on a half-time basis until his full retirement in 2001.

Last summer, when the Department of Agricultural and Industrial Sciences alumni met in Arlington for their annual banquet and fundraiser in conjunction with the state ag teacher conference, the establishment of the endowment was officially announced.

"We designated the scholarships specifically for student teachers," said Ullrich, "because the semester in which they do their student teaching is tough. They can't work very much because of their schedules, and by the nature of what they teach, they have to put in a lot of time on weekends and after school."

It's also a tribute to Schumann, who was responsible for preparing more than 700 students to become certified teachers of vocational agriculture and agricultural science. ★

A \$40,000 endowment to honor a retired professor who spent many years authoring leadership development materials used in FFA contests throughout the state has been established at Sam Houston State University.

SHSU Named Home of Invasive Species Institute

Sam Houston State University has been named the location of the Institute for the Study of Invasive Species (ISIS), the first comprehensive research effort in Texas focused on the early detection and elimination of multiple invasive species.

Texas State University System Chancellor Brian McCall announced the creation of the institute in November, which will draw from the experience of more than 40 researchers throughout The Texas State University System.

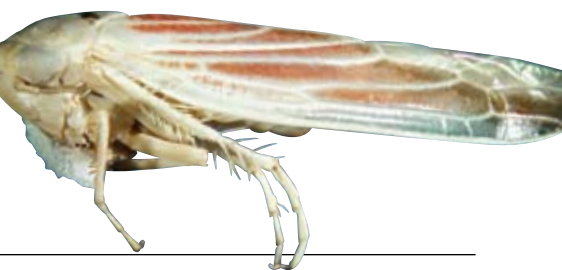
While several agencies and organizations work on the invasive species problem in Texas, ISIS is the first that will establish a comprehensive management plan for multiple species. Using GIS mapping and predictive modeling, ISIS researchers will

be able to rapidly identify new and existing invasive species. This information can be used to quickly develop invasive species management plans for Texas and the Gulf Coast region in order to control or eradicate potential threats.

The institute will be located in the laboratories of Sam Houston State University's Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies.

"At SHSU we will house staff to facilitate early detection and rapid response efforts," said Jerry Cook, associate vice president for research and interim dean of SHSU's College of Sciences.

"Associated with this will be our biological museum holdings which will facilitate identification of species and provide for long-term vouchering of specimens," he said.



In addition to Cook, several SHSU faculty and research scientists will be actively involved with the operation of the institute, including Autumn Smith, Jack Hill, Chris Wilson, and Amber Bartelt.

Individual SHSU researchers have the option of participating on projects, including eight biology faculty and five geographic information system faculty.

Cook was recently appointed as The Texas State University System representative to the board of directors for the Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council. Among the council's objectives are to promote awareness and an understanding regarding invasive pests and plants and their control across Texas, and to serve as an advisory council regarding the funding, research, policy and management of invasive pests and plants. ★

Four Named To CHSS Wall Of Honor



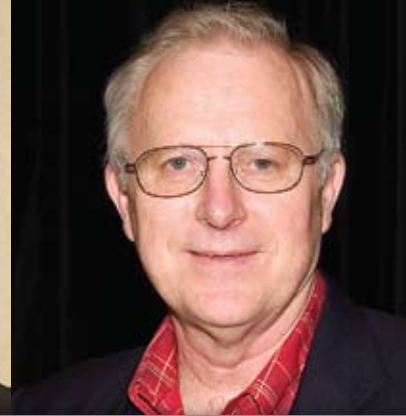
Robert Gammage



John W. Holcombe



Ron Koska



James Olson

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences will honor four individuals on March 23 who have brought dignity and honor to the college through their accomplishments and service.

Selected for recognition on the 2012 Wall of Honor are alumni Robert Gammage and Ron Koska and faculty members James Olson and the late John Holcombe.

“The 2012 CHSS Wall of Honor recipients are wonderful exemplars of the college’s distinguished alumni and faculty,” said John de Castro, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

“We are proud of all they have accomplished, the honor that they have brought upon the college and university, and their outstanding contributions to the education of our students. We are pleased to be able to recognize and honor these extraordinary individuals and present them as role models for future generations,” he said.

Robert “Bob” Gammage earned a Master of Arts degree from SHSU in 1965. He was elected to the United States Congress, as well as the Texas House of

Representatives and Texas Senate. He was also elected to the Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Appeals, and served as assistant attorney general of Texas. He has taught at South Texas College of Law, San Jacinto College and Sam Houston State.

Ron Koska graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1961 and founded his own Houston-based firm in 1969. Koska has served on the CHSS Advisory Board and is a Lifetime Member of the Alumni Association of Sam Houston State University. He also has served as a benefactor of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, Delta Tau Delta National Fraternity, the Brookwood Community, the University of St. Thomas, Port Mansfield Chamber of Commerce, and the Special Olympics, along with other organizations.

James Olson is a Distinguished Professor of History and a former department chair at Sam Houston State University. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brigham Young University and the Master of Arts and doctoral degrees from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Olson is the recipient of all three

of SHSU’s faculty excellence awards, for Excellence in Teaching, Research and Service. In 2004 the Council for the Advancement of Education and the Carnegie Endowment for Education named him “Professor of the Year, Texas, for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.” Additionally, Olson is the author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of more than 30 books.

John W. Holcombe was a professor of political science at Sam Houston State University until his death in 2008. During his tenure, he also served as acting chair of the department. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas in 1963 and his doctorate from Claremont Graduate School in 1972. Holcombe taught classes in American politics, legislative politics, and political participation at SHSU and was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award in 1991. He also served as faculty adviser to the SHSU chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha national political science honor society. He authored numerous publications throughout his career and participated in many panel discussions at national and international political science conventions. ★

SCENE

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

at SAM



The Jim Ferris family with Sammy at Homecoming.



The SamJam Carnival during Homecoming Week.



Welcome Week Casino Night.



Tree of Light Ceremony.



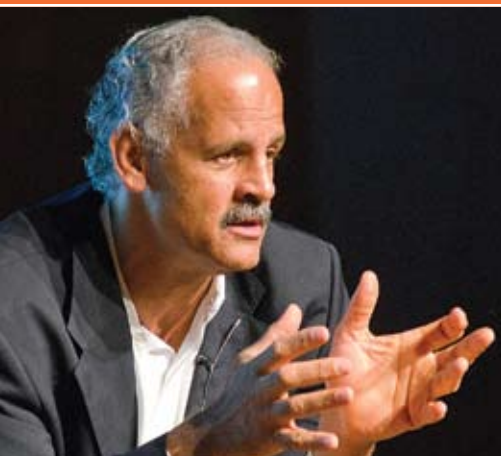
President Gibson at the opening of Old Main Market.



Members of the Bearkat Battalion were the first to sign the 9-11 remembrance wall in the LSC.



Johnathan Brouillet closes the 9-11 Memorial Ceremony with "Amazing Grace."



Stedman Graham, President's Speaker Series guest.



Stephanie Elizondo and Joseph Anderson, Homecoming Queen and King.



President Gibson and Greyson Lutterschmidt, Fall Festival.



President Gibson, Dan Rather and Peter Roussel at "Mingling With The Media."



Rodeo Championship Celebration at Gibbs Ranch with past national championship team members.

SHSU Earns Top Recognition In Online Graduate Education



Twelve years ago, Sam Houston State University’s College of Education paved the way for the university’s online education when it introduced the first web-based degree.

Now offering nine fully online graduate degrees and eight hybrid graduate degrees, the college has been recognized by the U.S. News and World Report for having one of the “Top Online Education Programs” in the nation for graduate education.

SHSU is one of only 14 graduate education programs in the country, and of only two in the state of Texas, to earn the U.S. News “Honor Roll” designation, “highlighting programs that consistently rank in the top third among their peers at the bachelor’s and master’s levels,” according to the magazine.

“The College of Education is excited about and appreciative of receiving such an outstanding honor,” said College of Education Dean Genevieve Brown. “It is truly a tribute to our innovative and student-centered faculty and staff. More than a decade ago, our college leadership and faculty members had the vision and commitment to initiate a delivery system that would be reflective of the emerging needs of working professionals in schools and agencies.”

Announced Jan. 10, honor roll designations were based on rankings in four areas in master’s degree-level programs in business, computer information technology, education, engineering, and nursing, as well as online bachelor’s degree programs.

The College of Education ranked within the top 50 in three different categories,

including No. 4 for student services and technology; No. 21 for faculty credentials and training; and No. 46 for student engagement and accreditation.

Rankings were based on a number of criteria, including technology accessible to students; the percentage of faculty with terminal degrees and faculty experience; and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education accreditation and student collaboration requirements on assignments.

“Maximum class size does impact the score for student engagement accreditation because it’s a quality indicator,” said Beverly Irby, associate dean for graduate programs for the College of Education, who noted that the average class size for their online graduate programs is about 18 and usually reaches no higher than 25.

“There are public and private universities that consider scale to be important,” she said. “We consider quality to be the most important aspect of our graduate education program online, and this particular component is included as a quality indicator for the U.S. News and World Report.”

The student services and technology indicators (SHSU’s overall online bachelor’s program also earned the No. 2 spot in the nation) include support services from the SHSU DELTA Center, which opened in 2009 and both provides and supports many of the digital tools and programs utilized across campus; Newton Gresham Library, which offers livestreams of video collections, chats, and other digital content; and Blackboard and classroom livestreaming.

These things reflect the “support and movement” of the university, Irby said.

“Our student services and technology is like a village. We’re always trying to improve, and I think services such as those offered by the DELTA Center have helped us to improve,” she continued. “It takes all of us, the entire university, to attain such a recognition.”

SHSU’s graduate College of Business Administration online degree ranked No. 14 for student services and technology and No. 53 for student engagement and accreditation. The entire online bachelor’s degree program, in addition to earning the No. 2 ranking among all online bachelor’s programs in the nation for student services and technology, also earned No. 5 for faculty credentials and training, and No. 66 for student engagement and assessment.

“DELTA (SHSU’s Distance Education and Learning Technologies for Academics) has had a mobile initiative for more than two years,” said Bill Angrove, associate vice president for SHSU online. “We are proud to be able to incorporate the diverse online learning technologies that provide a greater flexibility for students to take classes by the methods of their choosing and at the times of their choosing.

“These services and technology components have played a large part in the top rankings for the undergraduate online bachelor’s degrees and the colleges of Education and Business Administration’s online graduate programs,” he said.

In addition to the online and hybrid graduate degree programs offered by the College of Education, SHSU offers 14 fully online and hybrid certification programs for students who already have a bachelor’s degree. This summer the college’s department of educational leadership and counseling will initiate a fully online doctoral program, the only one in the country in development education administration, according to Irby. ★

Austin Hall Gets A Much-Needed 'Facelift'



Shutter damage and cracks between the bricks are among the things the \$2 million restoration project will work to ameliorate.

Alumni who have carved their names in the bricks of the building need not worry. The project is leaving one of the building's most distinctive features intact.

Austin Hall, the oldest building on the campus of Sam Houston State University, is in the middle of a restoration that includes extensive repairs and a bit of “dressing up,” according to university officials.

“It has been 27 years since Austin Hall was last renovated, and now thanks to the generosity of three charitable foundations, the architectural symbol of Sam Houston State University is undergoing a much-needed facelift and work that will prevent this beautiful building from deteriorating,” said SHSU President Dana Gibson. “The contributions of these organizations are helping restore an important part of Sam Houston and Texas history.”

The three foundations that have committed to assisting in the funding for the Austin Hall restoration project include Houston Endowment, Inc., The Brown Foundation, Inc., and The Elkins Foundation.

Estimated to cost \$2 million, the project has benefitted from donations from alumni and businesses as well.

SHSU's Facilities Planning and Construction Office is leading the project which includes everything from floor refinishing to cupola restoration, as well as the installation of new electrical and plumbing systems.

The bricks with names of generations of Sam Houston State students carved into them will not be replaced with new bricks. They will, however, be taken down so that new mortar can be applied. They will then be “re-placed” in their previous location on the exterior of the building, except for those bricks that have deteriorated beyond use, such as some of the ones below the windows.

“The bricks with the names carved in them are a part of the history of the building,” said Chad Huff, SHSU's facilities architect.

“Even the bricks that can no longer be used on the outside of the building will be

placed inside the building in some manner,” he said.

Austin Hall first opened its doors in 1851 as Austin College, a Presbyterian school for which Gen. Sam Houston was on the first board of governors. The Methodist Church later owned the landmark before it sold the building to the citizens of Huntsville. In October 1879, it became Sam Houston Normal Institute, and for the first time, it prospered.

In 1888 Old Main was built to meet the needs of a growing student population. The two buildings became historical fixtures for Sam Houston State University until a fire in 1982 destroyed Old Main and left Austin Hall damaged.

Austin Hall was restored and rededicated in 1986. Today it is still used for university receptions, meetings and special events, making it the oldest continuously used higher education facility west of the Mississippi River.

The restoration project is scheduled to be completed in May 2012. ★

Alumni Endow Chair In College Of Business Administration



Charles Amato (left)
and Gary Dudley (right).

Two Sam Houston State University business alumni have announced their plans to establish a \$1 million endowment at the university, which will provide funding for the enhancement of programs within the College of Business Administration.

Charles Amato and Gary Dudley, both of San Antonio, have established the Amato-Dudley College of Business Administration Dean's Chair Endowment, to help attract and retain eminent scholars, as well as meet emerging student needs.

The dean of the College of Business Administration, who will also serve officially as the Amato-Dudley Endowed Chair for the College of Business Administration, will administer the endowment. The dean's suite offices will be named in honor of the donors.

These funds will provide a "maximum amount of flexibility," allowing the dean discretionary use of the endowment's earnings in what he views as the college's areas of greatest need, from faculty and student professional travel, development, and scholarly research, to other priorities and opportunities that benefit the college, according to Dean Mitchell Muehsam.

"In a time of diminishing state funds, contributions from alumni and the private sector allow the college to maintain its pursuit of excellence," Muehsam said. "We are extraordinarily appreciative of the generosity demonstrated by Mr. Amato and Mr. Dudley.

"Their confidence will motivate us to provide even greater services to our students," he said.

Dudley and Amato are co-owners of the San Antonio-based Southwest Business

Corporation (SWBC), a diversified financial services company providing a wide range of insurance, mortgage, and investment services to financial institutions, businesses and individuals.

They are also part owners of the San Antonio Spurs, and Amato currently serves as the chair of the Texas State University System Board of Regents.

The SHSU alumni met in middle school while growing up in LaPorte.

They lost touch during their teen years but met again in the mid-60s when they pledged the same fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, at SHSU. They each received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from SHSU before setting out to make their marks on their communities.

After graduating in 1969, Dudley began coaching in the Houston school district and served six months of active duty in the Marine Corps before taking a job selling insurance products to banks and credit unions in the Houston area.

After earning his degree in 1970, Amato began a banking career with Bay City Bank and Trust. In 1974, the two met again at a party in Houston, where Dudley recruited his fraternity brother to work with him and sell insurance to financial institutions in San Antonio.

Two years later, the entrepreneurs decided to venture out and co-founded their own company, SWBC, with the purpose of providing insurance to financial institutions, while at the same time providing high levels of customer service.

Today, the San Antonio-based SWBC is a multi-faceted company with offices across the country and more than 1,400 employees.

Dudley and Amato have remained active with their alma mater and have received multiple recognitions from the university.

They are recipients of the SHSU Distinguished Alumni Award and have

been inducted into the College of Business Administration's Hall of Honor. Amato and Dudley are members of the President's Circle, and are Life Members of the SHSU Alumni Association. Dudley also serves on the College of Business Administration Advisory Board.

Both also have been inducted into the San Antonio Business Hall of Fame and, in 2009, both were awarded the Beta Gamma Sigma Medallion for Entrepreneurship.

Dudley and Amato credit SHSU for giving them a well-rounded education and teaching them the value of hard work, adding that they are proud they can help SHSU continue that success with future

students. It is for this reason, both said, that they decided to create the Amato-Dudley College of Business Administration Dean's Chair Endowment.

"Both professionally and personally we understand the importance of giving back, and we appreciate all that Dean Mitchell Muehsam and President Dana Gibson have done to contribute to the success of our youth," Dudley said. "We have hired many SHSU graduates who become leaders not only at SWBC but in the community.

"Getting a solid foundation is important, and that is just one of the many things SHSU offers," he said. ★



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**BEARKATS'
HISTORIC**

RUN

Tim Flanders

**BRINGS MAGIC
TO SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

By Paul Ridings



RECORDS FELL AND SPIRITS SOARED IN SHSU'S BEST FOOTBALL SEASON EVER.

On the way to Sam Houston State University's first appearance in the NCAA Division I Football Championship game, there was one question that came up in every interview of a Bearkat player.

When did you realize that the 14-0 run to the finals was going to be such a special season?

For All-Southland Conference quarterback Brian Bell, the moment came at a team meeting following the completion of the 2010 season.

"Just before Christmas break, Coach (Willie) Fritz brought us all in for a team meeting," the sophomore from China

Spring recalled. "He put three things up on the board. He wrote '6-5' and followed that with 'average.' Then he wrote '8-3 good' and finally '10-1 great.'

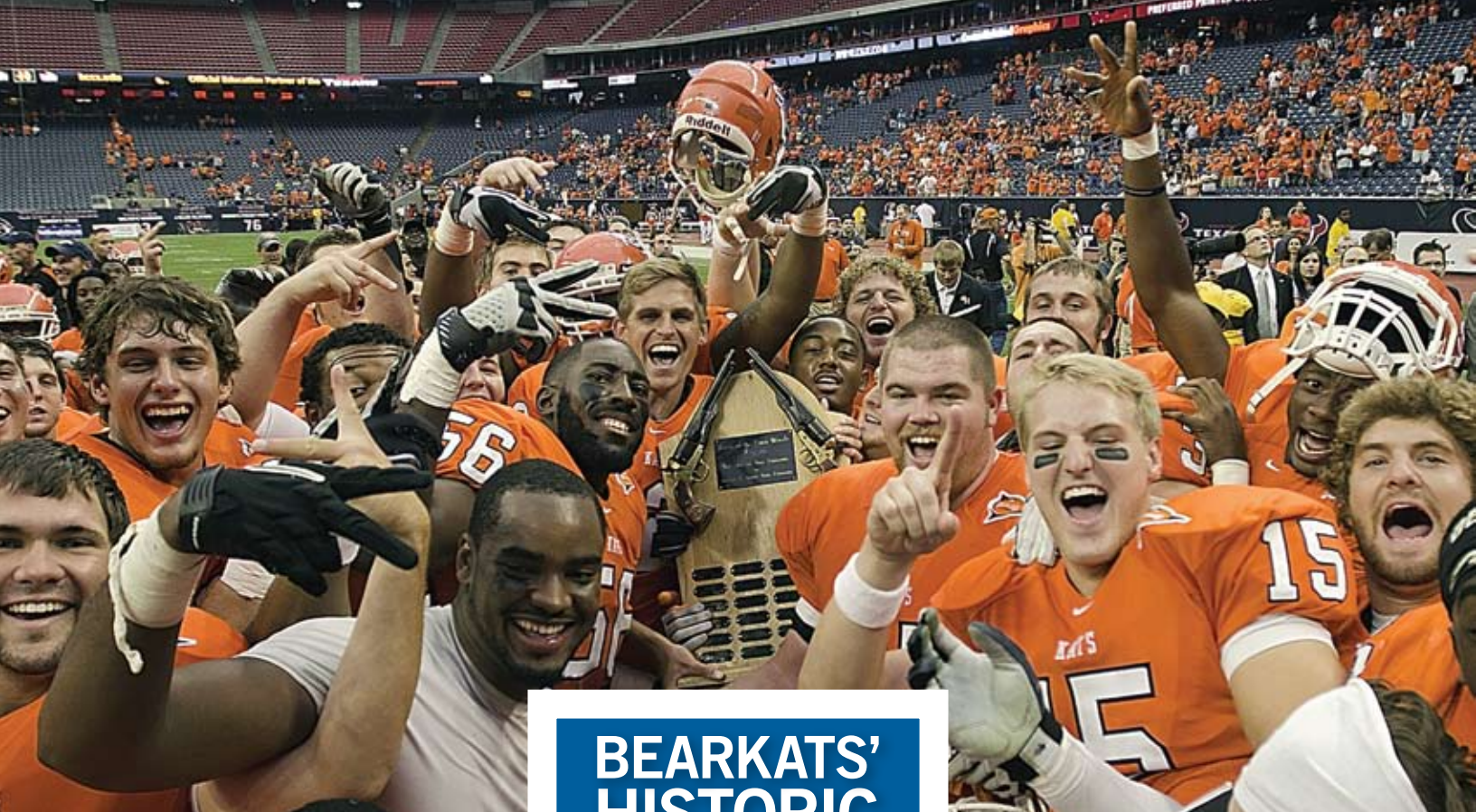
"Coach Fritz said that 6-5, average, is what we were in 2010. He crossed out 'good' and told us he thought we could go straight to 'great' in 2011. Right at that moment, we thought he was a little crazy, but having the coaching staff show they believed in us and what we were capable of really helped us and our confidence."

For Southland Conference "Player of the Year" Tim Flanders, the realization of the potential of the 2011 team came in spring training in March and April.

"Everyone came into spring camp more committed than ever before," the sophomore running back from Midwest City, Okla., said. "We had a very good camp and a great spring game. Once we got the winning streak going in the fall, we just kept building momentum."

Southland Conference "Defensive Player of the Year" Darnell Taylor points to Sam Houston's 48-45 overtime victory at New Mexico in the third game of the 2011 season.

"We didn't play as well defensively in that game, but when we beat an FBS team on the road in Albuquerque, we knew we had a chance to win every game," the junior safety from Mesquite said.



BEARKATS' HISTORIC RUN

Another milestone victory for the Bearkats was the 38-14 win over No. 24 McNeese State in midseason. The victory marked only the second time Sam Houston had beaten McNeese at Cowboy Stadium.

“One of the big things our coaches emphasized all year is focusing on going 1-0 each week,” Southland Conference “Offensive Player of the Year” Richard Sincere said. “That’s what we did. We were 1-0 each week for 14 straight weeks.”

Whenever the magic started, it is undeniable that there has ever been a season like 2011 in the 96-year history of Sam Houston State football.

During the 14-1 season, Sam Houston earned its highest Football Championship Subdivision ranking ever, standing No. 1 in the FCS poll from Nov. 20 to Jan. 9.

The Bearkats were the only squad out of 126 FCS teams to finish the regular season 11-0. Sam Houston ranked among the top 10 teams in the nation in nine NCAA statistics categories, standing No. 1 in rushing defense, No. 2 in scoring defense and turnover margin and No. 3 in total defense.

The 14 victories, the most ever in one season by the Bearkats, included a perfect 7-0 Southland Conference record as SHSU earned its first undisputed Southland football championship. Sam Houston posted wins over five nationally-ranked opponents and went 9-0 at home at Elliott T. Bowers Stadium, one of 26 school records set during the 2011 campaign.

Seven Sam Houston players received All-America honors. Fifteen Bearkats earned All-Southland Conference honors, with Flanders, Sincere and Taylor sweeping league honors as Player of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, respectively.

Flanders, who rushed for 1,644 yards and 22 touchdowns in 2011, and Taylor, who led Sam Houston with 128 tackles, both earned recognition on five All-America squads. Other All-America honorees included Sincere, offensive linemen Travis Watson and Chris Crockett, defensive back Dax Swanson and defensive lineman J. T. Cleveland.

The Kats were tops in the classroom as well. Sam Houston led the Southland Conference with seven selections on the 2011 academic all-league squad. Watson, a senior political science major, was named Southland Conference Student-Athlete of the Year and was a finalist for the National Football Coaches Association Scholar Athlete of the Year post-graduate scholarship award.

Sam Houston head coach Willie Fritz received football’s top coaching honor as American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) FCS Coach of the Year. After directing the Kats to their best two-year record in 96 seasons of football (20-7), Fritz also was voted as Southland Conference, AFCA Regional and American Football Monthly Coach of the Year.

The Bearkats’ Southland Conference championship and NCAA playoff victories over No. 22 Stony Brook, No. 7 Montana State and No. 5 Montana before capacity crowds at Elliott T. Bowers Stadium brought regional and national publicity to Sam Houston State University unlike any event before.



BEARKAT PRIDE PRODUCED A POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT AS WELL

Sam Houston was featured in four national telecasts on ESPN, ESPN2 and ESPN3; newspaper features in USA Today, the Washington Post and major Texas dailies in Houston, Dallas and Fort Worth; national radio exposure on Sirius XM, Westwood One and Turner Communications; and TV interviews in every major Texas market.

Chris Crockett, one of five fifth-year seniors on the 2011 Sam Houston team, summed up the season best in a news conference the day before the championship game at Pizza Hut Park in Frisco, Texas.

"This is the best football season that I've ever had in my life," Crockett told the large group of reporters. "This has been really special. I think I can speak for all the fifth-year seniors that we've been very blessed and are very proud to be the first football team in Sam Houston history to go to the national championship.

"And we've just been trying to savor every moment. It's been a fun ride this year. This has been the most fun I've ever had in my life playing football." ★

The Sam Houston football team reached the NCAA Division I National Championship Game with home playoff victories over nationally ranked Stony Brook, Montana State and Montana that brought unprecedented sports excitement to Huntsville and the university community.

Bearkat pride reached an all-time high as students, faculty, alumni and local residents piled into Elliott T. Bowers Stadium in record numbers that also benefited the local community.

"The success of the Bearkats was good not only for the university, but for our city," Huntsville City Manager Bill Baine said. "It is about recognition. People are seeing Sam Houston State all over the place. One of the things that benefits our city is our growing university. That brings more people to town who are buying things in our shops, eating in our restaurants and sleeping in the hotels."

Local businesses and restaurants boasted Bearkat pride with signs in windows and on marquees, before and after games. Nearly 30,000 fans attended the three contests. Those people needed somewhere to stay and a place to eat.

"We were full in both my hotels," said Karen Fletcher Adams, area operations manager for Holiday Inn Express and Best Western. "We saw people come from all over for the games."

By earning the No. 1 seed with an 11-0 regular season record, the Bearkats paved the way for the road to the national championship game to go through Huntsville as long as the team kept winning.

Prior to this year the highest Football Championship Subdivision ranking the Bearkats had achieved was third in 2004, when they produced an 11-3 record.

"I don't recall there being this type of turnout then," said Kerry Murray, who has owned Murski's Icehouse in Huntsville since August of 1993. "The difference is that this time around the Bearkats were ranked No. 1 and got the top seed. Everything got off on the right foot and that caught the attention of the fans earlier. I saw probably three-and-a-half to four times an increase in gross sales with the playoffs here. We saw a lot of Bearkat alumni come in that used to hang out here during their college days."

Bearkat Head Coach Willie Fritz was quick to point out how the stadium noise was a factor in the team's play on the field.

"We had just sensational crowds," Fritz said. "I was really excited about our crowds, how loud they were, particularly in the fourth quarter. The atmosphere was great. The two years I've been here as a head coach and my previous stints as an assistant coach and graduate assistant, I don't remember anything like this." ★

Former Student-Athletes Selected for 2011 Hall Of Honor



The 2011 Hall of Honor inductees are, from left: Lee Singletary, Steve Hume, Dennis Kainer, Derick Preston, Carla Lowry, Sandy Mader, Karen Zoch Konkaba, and Susan Feldman.

Eight Bearkat sports greats were inducted into the Sam Houston State University men's and women's Halls of Honor at the Lowman Student Center December 10.

Susan Feldman (softball), Carla Lowry (women's basketball and volleyball), Karen Zoch Konkaba (volleyball) and Sandy Mader (softball) are the 2011 inductees for the Sam Houston Women's Letter Association Hall of Honor.

Steve Hume (baseball), Dennis Kainer (baseball), Derick Preston (basketball) and Lee Singletary (golf) are the four 2011 inductees for the Sam Houston Lettermen's Association Hall of Honor. This year's additions bring the total number of members to 168.

Susan Feldman was a member of the Bearkats' inaugural softball team in 1971 and has been active in her support of women's athletics both at Sam Houston State University and in the Southwest. She is a well-known personality in the sport of track and field as an official at area and national meets.

Carla Lowry was hired in 1967 to organize and coach Sam Houston's first volleyball and basketball teams. After directing the Bearkats to TIAAW state titles in both sports, she later coached and served as an athletic administrator at UT-Arlington and Southwestern University in Georgetown.

Karen Zoch Konkaba ranks as Sam Houston volleyball's all-time kill leader with 2,028 in 198 matches during her four-year career from 1984 to 1987. Earning NCAA All-Region and Gulf Star and Southland All-Conference honors, she led the Kats to two NCAA Division II Final Four Appearances.

Sandy Mader, a two-time All-America shortstop, ranks among the top 10 in Kats' hitting (.329 career average), runs scored (124), hits (196), home runs (13) and triples (11). Playing from 1983 to 1986, she led SHSU to two NCAA World Series appearances and four NCAA Division II regional tournaments.

Steve Hume earned All-America honors as an outfielder for Sam Houston, compiling a .351 career batting average on squads that earned a 149-68 record from 1978 to 1981. He was the leading hitter on the 1981 baseball team that rolled up a 38-18 record.

Dennis Kainer was an All-America pitcher, compiling a career record of 30 victories and 12 losses and a 3.33 earned run average from 1979 to 1982. His 30 career pitching wins ranks No. 2 all-time at Sam Houston and his 235 career strikeouts are the third highest total in school history.

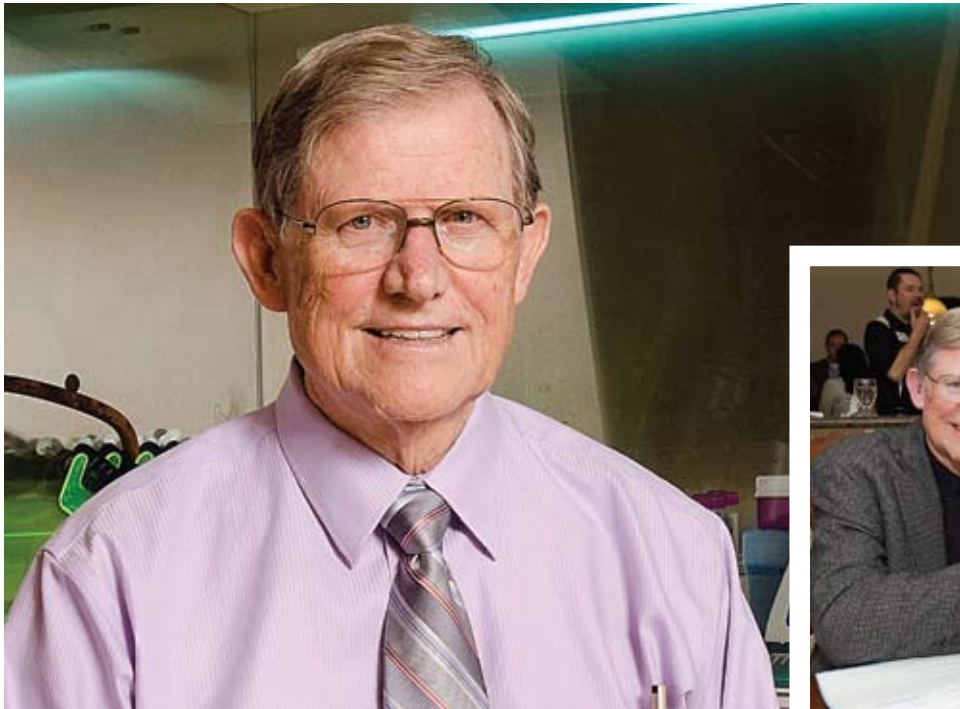
Derick Preston ranks as Sam Houston's fifth all-time scoring leader with 1,451 points. He earned All-Southland Conference honors three times in his four seasons as a Bearkat from 1993 to 1996. He ranks fifth in career three-point field goals (181) and 13th in Bearkat all-time rebounding (533).

Lee Singletary earned All-America honors twice, leading Sam Houston men's golf team to an NAIA runner-up finish in 1977 and the first of four consecutive national championships in 1978. He was a top 10 finisher in both the conference and national tournaments. ★

William R. Brinkley

—Going Places Where No One Has Gone Before

By Julia May



A life-long love of science has led an SHSU alumnus to groundbreaking discoveries that have given hope to those affected by cancer.



William Brinkley's passion for scientific research and education has taken him from the forests of east Texas to the marble halls of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Along the way, he has conducted and led groundbreaking research in cellular biology, which resulted in new discoveries in human cells and research that led to cancer treatment breakthroughs. He has been recognized for his work with numerous awards and national funding for his projects. He recently retired as the senior vice president for graduate sciences, dean of the graduate school of biomedical sciences, and Distinguished Service Professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

But don't think for a moment that Brinkley is going to kick back in a rocking chair overlooking his beloved place on Lake Livingston. He has too much going on for that to happen.

Brinkley grew near the community of Cut-N-Shoot, on the edge of the Big Thicket in southeast Texas.

"It was the most remarkable laboratory in the world," he said. "As a boy, I spent many, many hours in the woods, forests, fields and streams. I was interested in wildlife, and as a teenager I started my own taxidermy business." Through his work, he became familiar with the anatomy and structure of animals. He was particularly fascinated with birds.

He graduated from high school and came to Sam Houston with plans to become an ornithologist. With mentors like biology professors Jimmy Long and Bill Clark, Brinkley had opportunities to develop his interest and capitalize on his desire to learn more about biology, both as an undergraduate and graduate student.

"When I was finishing my courses for my master's degree, I went to Mexico with a famous ornithologist to collect birds for the

California Academy of Science," he said. "I was able to spend a great deal of time in a natural setting with someone who was an expert in his field, and I learned a lot."

Brinkley's plans to become an ornithologist changed when he graduated.

"My wife, Shirley, who is also a Sam Houston graduate, is a scholar, as well," he said. "We both came from modest-income families, and we had to work our way through college. She majored in what was then known as home economics, and at the time there weren't many colleges offering graduate degrees in home ec."

However, one university—Iowa State—had one of the nation's strongest programs in home economics, and both were offered scholarships in their respective fields.

"Iowa State had a big Department of Zoology, and when I arrived, one of my professors invited me into his office and introduced me to a piece of equipment called the electron microscope," Brinkley said. "He

told me that no one knew how to use it, and figuring it out was going to be my task.”

Brinkley became a pioneer in electron microscopy, which helped him “get off to a good start” with his career.

“I decided to work on the human chromosome, and some of my early work was on the human genome, by way of the structure of the chromosome,” he said. “I discovered some things that had never been seen before, which led to me being invited all over the world to give talks.”

Upon completing his doctorate at Iowa State, Brinkley returned to his home state for postdoctoral studies at the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in Houston.

After a number of years there, Brinkley moved to the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, where he served as professor and director of the Division of Cell Biology. Later, he worked at Baylor College of Medicine, where he was professor and director of cell structure in the Department of Cell Biology.

In 1985, he accepted the position of chairman of the Department of Cell Biology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Concurrently, he was co-director of the Gregory Fleming James Cystic Fibrosis Research Center and senior scientist at the university’s Comprehensive Cancer Center.

In 1991, he was invited to return to Baylor to serve as vice president for graduate sciences and dean of the graduate school.

Throughout his career, he has been actively involved in many professional organizations, serving in a leadership role in all of them at one time or another.

As president of the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology, he found a calling in the science policy arena and became a dedicated advocate for biomedical research funding.

“During my term as president of FASEB, I had a goal to double the amount of money allocated for medical research from the National Institute of Health in five years,” he said. “I was naïve to believe we could get it done, but we started talking about it and people caught on, and it happened.

“I learned how to get into people’s offices and how to relate a story about the difference the money could make,” he said. “I taught my



Brinkley has conducted groundbreaking research leading to new discoveries in cancer treatment.

colleagues how to do that so they wouldn’t just appear with their hands out.”

It took hard work, persistence, and patience, Brinkley said. It also took a chance meeting with an influential congressman who happened to be seated by Brinkley on a trip to Washington.

“I had been calling his office repeatedly to get an appointment with him, and he wouldn’t see me,” Brinkley said. “I was so discouraged because we needed his endorsement. He was the House majority whip in Congress who also had connections in Houston, and without his approval nothing was going to happen.”

On the way to Washington that morning, Brinkley couldn’t believe his good fortune.

“He didn’t know who I was, and at first he acted like he didn’t want to talk,” he said. “But we started talking ‘good ol boy.’ I told him I grew up in Cut-N-Shoot in Texas, and he asked me if I knew some people who had lived there, and before long we were having a friendly conversation.”

Brinkley was able to tell the congressman about progress that was taking place with medical research in areas such as stem cells, cancer and diabetes—something in which the congressman had a personal interest.

When the plane landed in Washington, the congressman assured Brinkley that he would “do his best” to help with getting the appropriations pushed through.

“Sure enough, we got down to the point where he and two others were required to sign this appropriation for the House before

it would go on to the Senate,” Brinkley said. “He signed the paper, and we got the funding.”

Eight years ago Brinkley’s own life was touched in a very personal way by the disease he has devoted so many years to studying.

“My wife, Shirley, has a rose garden. One day, she discovered a lump under her arm and thought it had been caused by an infection from a thorn,” Brinkley said.

“I was trained at M. D. Anderson, and all such lumps are potentially serious, so we decided to have it biopsied,” he said. “She didn’t have any other symptoms. However, the biopsy revealed that she had ovarian cancer, stage 4. It had already metastasized and was very serious—unbelievable!”

Shirley’s oncologist met with the Brinkleys and recommended chemotherapy followed by surgery to remove the tumor burden, then suggested a second treatment with a drug that had been effective for some women, but not all.

“He told us that the drug had even been very dangerous for some women, but we had little choice,” Brinkley said. “Then he went on to tell us that the drug is extracted from the bark of the Oriental yew tree.

“Shirley nudged me with her foot under the table and said, ‘Taxol.’ I had done the initial studies on the drug 20 years earlier and published two papers on it,” Brinkley said. “Some doctors on the East Coast found that it was very effective for the treatment of some ovarian and breast cancers. Some

SHSU's Online Education Program Opens Doors For Students With Dreams

women can't tolerate it, and some women do fine with it."

Although, as Brinkley said, Shirley "went through hell" during the treatment, she survived and has been cancer-free for the past nine years. Without the drug, Brinkley feels that she would not likely have lived beyond a year.

"This is just one of the many reasons I believe so strongly in basic research," Brinkley said. "Just think, this drug that comes out of the bark of a tree. What a difference it has made in the fight against these types of cancer."

Brinkley himself marvels at the progress that has been just during his lifetime in cellular research.

"Now that we know so much about the genome, we're going to try to develop patient-specific drugs to treat cancer," he said.

Now that he has retired, Brinkley is focusing his efforts on science policy and continuing his work as an advocate for support for medical research.

"I'm also going to be working with my friends at Sam Houston State in the biology department, helping them raise money for scholarships and funding," he said.

"We need to do more for science education," he said. "I want to help strengthen K-12 science. SHSU has a strong reputation in teacher education, and I'd love to see the university be a springboard for training outstanding science teachers, as well as scientists.

"Science discovery is so exciting," Brinkley said. "It's like an adventure because it means going places where no one has gone before."

Brinkley sees his relationship with SHSU as a way to thank his alma mater for launching his successful career.

"I was so fortunate to have the opportunities that I had as a college student," he said. "A lot of people helped me get to where I am today. I was blessed to have so many professors, friends, and smart people who saw potential in me that I didn't see in myself."

The Dr. William (Bill) R. Brinkley Endowed Scholarship in the Department of Biological Sciences was recently established. For information about the endowment, contact the SHSU Office of University Advancement at 936.294.5625. ★



For education professionals like Consuelo Malecek, who earned a master's degree through SHSU's online program, distance learning has provided numerous opportunities and advantages that might not have been available through a more traditional route.

When Consuelo Malecek was a little girl playing in the rain forests of Belize, she assumed that she would follow the established pattern of other young girls in the area.

In a culture where education for girls was considered optional, she thought she would go to school until she was 12 or 13, get married around the age of 14, and begin a family. It was what her mother and grandmother had done and what most of her classmates planned to do as well.

As the second oldest in a family with 13 children, she would sometimes miss school

for a couple of months in order to help care for her siblings.

However, her outlook on education changed when her fourth grade teacher found a way to spark her interest.

"There was a garden outside the classroom," Malecek said. "I took a special interest in tending the garden, and my teacher gave me a little certificate that said that my garden was the best. It inspired me to become an agriculture science teacher.

Although, the desire was there, obtaining her dream of becoming a teacher seemed impossible.

Rural students in Belize must leave home to attend high school, much in the



Left: As the second oldest out of 13 children, schooling wasn't in Malecek's future as a child because of the cost in Belize, where she grew up. Right: Today, all 12 of her brothers and sisters have followed in her footsteps and have gone on to earn college degrees.

way that American students leave home to attend college. They pay to go to high school as well.

"My father was greatly opposed to me going," she said. "He believed that by keeping me home, he was protecting me."

Also, her older brother was already attending the high school, and her parents had no money for another child to go.

However, the principal, who had been Malecek's fourth grade teacher, was finally able to convince her father to at least allow her to take the entrance exam. She made the second highest score, which made her eligible for federal grants and scholarships to cover her books, fees, uniform and boarding.

The grants and scholarships she received allowed Malecek the opportunity to go to high school, but she still had to be extremely frugal.

"I had two uniforms that I wore the entire four years I attended," she said. "My mom preserved them and gave them to me 20 years later. They are so transparent after all the washing and wearing. But they are among my greatest treasures now, because they remind me of the time I was in high school."

Malecek excelled as a student, and her desire for more education led her, as a junior, to apply for every scholarship she could find in Central America, England, the United States, Honduras and Costa Rica.

She qualified for a Fulbright International Scholarship, and she was identified as a student who would be good to learn leadership skills that would impact Belize.

With her scholarship award, she had the opportunity to meet with recruiters from several universities who were interested in attracting bright students.

One of the recruiters was from Kirkwood Community College in Iowa.

"I didn't know the difference between a two-year college and a four-year college," she said. "I was recruited by four-year universities—one was the University of California, Berkeley—but the recruiter from Kirkwood showed me something I could relate to. He showed me brochures with pictures of corn, beans and pigs. Now that was something I understood."

Although she could have attended a more prestigious university, Malecek says that she is very grateful for ending up at a small Midwest community college.

"Given my background, I needed that kind of environment in order to thrive," she said.

Even so, the experience was a tremendous culture shock for her.

"I did not appreciate the snow," she said. "I would walk to class with wet hair and arrive with icicles dangling. Fortunately, someone introduced me to a blow dryer and told me to dry my hair before going out into the frigid weather."

Leaves falling from trees in autumn also frightened her.

"I had grown up in a rain forest where leaves stay attached to their limbs," she said. "I asked my host family in Iowa, 'Can

you assure me that the leaves will come back?' which they did, of course. Even then, I would peel the bark off the tree trunks to make sure it was surviving."

While attending school, she met her future husband, Mark. Today, they are the parents of two sons.

Two years after she arrived at Kirkwood Community College, Malecek graduated with an associate's degree in farm and ranch technology, food science technology, and beef production. She returned to Belize and taught science and Spanish at her old high school.

She was now aware of opportunities for advanced education, so she began looking at schools where she could get a bachelor's degree. She found one, again in the Midwest, that was known for its agricultural science program. In 1995, she graduated from Southern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural science education.

"Once I graduated, I realized there was not a great need for ag science teachers, but there was a tremendous need for bilingual education teachers," she said.

She began teaching migrant students in southern Illinois, most of whom were from Texas. She conducted summer programs and worked with parents in the migrant camps, teaching adult education and literacy classes. She found it rewarding to work with adults and to develop partnerships with parents for their children's education.



“It’s a wonderful university, and it has been like a home to me. I hope to be connected to it for a lifetime.”

In 1999, the Ministers of Rural Development of Education in Belize contacted Malecek and Mark about helping with a project.

The Maleceks moved to Belize and served as members of a task force for the establishment of a new school, which became known as the Julian Cho Technical High School. The Maleceks taught there for two years before returning to Iowa.

“At that time, teachers were being laid off in Iowa. But in Texas, bilingual and technical education teachers were being recruited,” she said.

She and Mark were both offered jobs at Kings Manor Elementary and White Oak Middle School in the New Caney I.S.D. and moved to Texas in 2002.

While working as a bilingual/ESL teacher, Malecek’s principal, Gloria Hammack, told her about Sam Houston State University’s Project TRIAD (Teachers and Administrators Improving Reading for Limited English Proficient Students). Beverly Irby, who was chair of the educational leadership and counseling department at that time and is now the associate dean for graduate programs, and Genevieve Brown, dean of the College of Education, created the project.

The program included research-based reading instruction action research, curriculum alignment and development, mentoring, and parent assistance in reading through class time, and face-to-face and distance education. Participants were to conduct action research in

their classrooms and collect data for improving English as a Second Language programs on their campuses.

The teachers who were involved not only had access to grants, stipends and workshops, but also were able to receive 12 hours of credit toward a master’s degree in instructional leadership.

“I wasn’t sure about taking it on,” Malecek said. “I had never contemplated the idea of getting a master’s degree. I was happy being a teacher. And I wondered if I could really do everything that was required.”

Her principal, who was also her mentor, encouraged her, telling her that she could be a great administrator. When Malecek discovered she could complete most of her coursework online, she made the decision to “jump in.”

“It was a wonderful arrangement. I could work and still be with my family, tuck my boys in bed every night, and do my classwork on my own schedule,” she said.

She became a member of the first cohort for the online Master of Education in instructional leadership degree and graduated in May 2006.

“I really enjoyed working with my cohort and I appreciated how well we supported each other,” she said. “Not all of our classes were online, so we were together on several occasions. We also attended and participated in conferences together, and we did a lot of our work on projects face-to-face.

“All my professors knew me and were interested in my success,” she said. “They advised me and supported me through my action research.”

The action research involved establishing a parent center at her school in New Caney. Not only did she obtain funding for the center, she coordinated volunteers to help with conversational English classes. She then began meeting with parents.

Her research on the correlations between student achievement and parental involvement won first place in SHSU’s Graduate Symposium that year.

The September after she graduated from Sam Houston with her master’s degree, she was hired by Region VI Education Service Center as a bilingual/ESL specialist. In 2010, she was named project director for the 21st Century After-School Program in the Adult Education Department.

Today, she oversees after school programs for 130 parents and 350 students in five Huntsville schools and one school in New Waverly, which address academics, enrichment, career readiness and family engagement. She also coordinates adult education ESL/GED programs in Polk, Trinity and San Jacinto Counties.

“I’m very grateful for what Sam Houston State University did for me,” she said. “I wanted to continue my schooling, but with a career in adult education. Sam Houston has given me the opportunity to do that.

“SHSU opened doors for me, because I would never have known about a career with Region VI had I not attended and participated in conferences as a graduate student,” she said. “It’s a wonderful university, and it has been like a home to me. I hope to be connected to it for a lifetime.” ★

Alumni Recognized For Distinguished Accomplishments



Walter J. Anderson, James D. Carey, James P. Ferris, James Gaertner, Frederick Pirkle, and J. Allen Shamblin were honored during the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Gala for their lives of good citizenship and their contributions to business, entertainment, education, and public service.

From left: Danny Labruzzo, accepting for Fred Pirkle; Jim Gaertner; Walt Anderson; President Dana Gibson; Jim Ferris; Jim Carey; and Allen Shamblin.

Walter J. Anderson

A former Bearkat four-year letterman, football has played a big role in Walt Anderson's life.

The 1974 SHSU graduate and 1978 University of Texas Dental Branch graduate was named All-Conference in 1972 and Academic All-America in 1972 and '73 while at SHSU.

Though he practiced dentistry for 25 years and owned one of the largest dental

practices in the Houston area, Anderson began looking into officiating as a way to stay connected to the game he loved.

His career as a referee has included officiating for the Southwest, Southland and Lone Star college conferences, as well as serving as coordinator of football officials for the Big 12 Conference since 2006.

Since moving to the professional level in 1996, Anderson has worked playoff games in every year of eligibility and has officiated

Super Bowl XXXV in 2000, as a line judge, and Super Bowl XLV in 2011, as the head of officials.

James D. Carey

A 1961 SHSU graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, Jim Carey made a name for himself in the automotive industry.

He was employed by Ada Oil Company in Houston before taking a job with the

Ford Motor Company, where he worked in various capacities.

As the national Motorcraft sales, promotion, and advertising manager, he was recognized for his successful efforts with advancement to the positions of Detroit district parts and service manager.

From 1994 to 1997, Carey served as Ford Motor Company's North American parts supply and logistics manager, in which he was responsible for the purchasing and warehousing of more than \$1 billion in automotive parts and directed the activities of more than 5,000 Ford personnel. He retired from Ford Motor Company after 32 years of service in 1997.

After his retirement from Ford, he was president of the Electronics and Logistics Division for Aftermarket Technology Corporation until 1999.

James P. Ferris

A part-time job taken to supplement his income became a career for Jim Ferris, who earned his bachelor's degree in education from SHSU in 1969.

Ferris began by washing trucks, doing mechanic work and loading trucks with local beer distributor Wismer Distributing Company before moving up to driver salesman, then supervisor, and then general manager. The company enjoyed monumental growth under his management.

Today, Ferris is a part owner of Wismer, also serving as its president and chief executive officer.

Remaining committed to his community, Ferris also serves on a number of boards, panels and associations.

James F. Gaertner

The 12th president of SHSU, Jim Gaertner earned his Bachelor of Business Administration (1965) and Master of Business Administration (1970) degrees at

SHSU and his doctorate (1977) at Texas A&M University.

Under his leadership at SHSU, enrollment grew by 33 percent; student graduation increased by 52 percent; the university achieved a Carnegie Doctoral Research classification; three new doctoral programs and 14 new masters programs were added; nearly \$280 million in construction projects were completed; and the university's first capital campaign was initiated, which raised more than \$61 million in commitments to pass the \$50 million goal.

Other occurrences under his direction include: the establishment of the Official Ring Ceremony, the President's Speaker's Series, and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Initiative for students; and the establishment of over 40 articulation agreements with community colleges in Texas, making SHSU a leader in such agreements in the state.

Frederick Pirkle

Fred Pirkle's career began with a stint in teaching after graduating from SHSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1970 and a Master of Arts in industrial technology with a minor in marketing in 1974.

After working as a sales engineer for Commercial Industries Division and later Eggelhof, Inc., where he was assigned to Ogontz Controls, Pirkle realized the future in energy conservation.

He founded Therm-Omega-Tech, Inc., in 1982, and began manufacturing valves of his patented design.

The company grew to be a leader in the field of manufacturing temperature control valves and devices, gaining worldwide respect across diverse industries.

Therm-Omega-Tech freeze protection valves have become the railroad industry's standard for preventing freeze damage to diesel locomotives, annually protecting billions of dollars of railroad equipment worldwide.

Since then, he has patented more than 20 products, including the BBQ Guru, the first temperature control device for charcoal grills/cookers. Pirkle's patented products are manufactured in the Therm-Omega-Tech facility in Warminster, Pa.

J. Allen Shamblin

Allen Shamblin earned his degree from SHSU in marketing in 1982, but it was his love of music that has led him to success.

As a songwriter, Shamblin's first recorded song, "He Walked On Water," sung by Randy Travis, topped the country charts in 1989.

A string of award-winning and chart-topping songs followed, including Dove Award winner "It's In God's Hands Now" (Anointed); Grammy-nominated "I Can't Make You Love Me," co-written with Mike Reid and recorded by Bonnie Raitt; and Academy of Country Music and Country Music Association award-winning "The House That Built Me," recorded by Miranda Lambert.

Shamblin was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2011.

He has also co-authored two children's books, "Don't Laugh At Me" and "A Chance To Shine," with Steve Seskin. "Don't Laugh At Me" has been translated into several languages and is being used by teachers as an aid against bullying. ★

Where Are They Now?



Larry Lozier, Jr. (BFA '08)



Jerry Prosis (BBA '79)



Charles Ellison (BS '59)



Lola Kramer (BS '67)

Alumni have been doing interesting things since leaving SHSU. Look to future issues for people you may have sat next to in biology, business or English. We may even feature you!

Larry Lozier, Jr. (BFA '08)

After hearing about SHSU's nationally renowned musical theatre program, Larry Lozier came to the university and earned a degree in musical theatre with a minor in dance.

Following his graduation, he became a featured dancer and singer/actor in "Cool Vibrations," a Matt Davenport Production for Sea World San Antonio.

He then signed a contract as a specialty production dancer with Celebrity Cruise Lines. In addition to dancing, he performed aerial harness routines and trained in silks and trapeze.

"As part of the contract, I was able to visit destinations throughout the Mediterranean Sea, such as Egypt, Italy, France, Portugal, France, Spain, Turkey and Greece, as well as several Caribbean islands," Lozier said.

Once the contract with the cruise line was complete, Lozier came back to the states and performed in two productions at Theatre by the Sea in Matunuck, R.I. — "A Chorus Line" and "Hello Dolly" with Tony Award winning actress Cady Huffman.

Lozier then returned to Texas and performed in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," directed by Fosse's Josh Rhodes.

"Soon after my time in Texas, a dream of mine came to fruition, as I was cast in the longest and only touring Broadway production of 'Cats,' the musical," Lozier said.

"Working alongside original Broadway company members in this historic musical, I've toured all over the United States and Canada and have performed in prestigious venues, including the Hobby Center as the featured character Skimbleshanks, the railway cat."

Last summer, he again returned to Texas and performed in the Theatre Under the Stars' production of "Urban Cowboy," which helped him achieve eligibility to join the actors union Actors Equity Association.

Lozier recently relocated to New York City and is under contract with the only currently running tour of "Cats."

"I'm a swing, covering nine diverse roles, and have been given the opportunity to recreate the role of Coricopat," he said.

"I'm also serving as the assistant dance captain and assistant stage manager."
"Cats" is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, making it the longest-running national tour in American history.

After the tour is completed, Lozier plans to return to New York City and work toward his dream of being cast on Broadway.

An avid sports fan, he enjoys following soccer and volleyball in addition to developing his interest in photography, movies and traveling.

Jerry Prosis (BBA '79)

Jerry Prosis came to Sam Houston State University as a student because "I received a full scholarship to play football, plus Sam had a reputation for being a fun school that still had an emphasis on academics."

He moved to Tennessee in 1981, where he married his wife, Kathy. They now have four children.

He has worked as the vice president of a major financial services company, chief operating officer for a mid-size manufacturing company, and is now vice president of sales and marketing for a division of Wyndham Worldwide.

"My first job was in the management training program at the former Joske's of Houston, and I got that job through the career

placement office at Sam Houston,” he said.

In addition to his career as a business executive, Prorise is also an accomplished Tennessee woodturner. He has been awarded two educational scholarships and the “People’s Choice” award at two Tennessee Association of Woodturners symposiums.

“I began my fascination with woodworking in general more than 30 years ago and became proficient in building simply designed furniture and utilitarian objects,” he said. “Only within the last 10 years have I become addicted to artistic woodturning.”

For Prorise, creating his woodturned art is a great escape.

“When I stand at my lathe with a 50-pound hunk of freshly cut wood whirling around at great speed, I am able to transcend into a creative state that allows me to concentrate on nothing but the raw ‘canvas’ that has been placed before me,” he said.

Prorise’s work is displayed in art galleries, and he offers his services to demonstrate at local woodturning clubs and various organizations, as well as private mentoring.

Charles Ellison (BS '59)

Although Charles Ellison was a photoengraving major and photography minor at Sam Houston State, he spent some of his time as a musician playing in Trinity for rush parties and at Press Capades—an all-college talent show held at Old Main.

Following his graduation, he worked for Knight Publishing in Charlotte, N.C., before joining his father in construction, building houses and boat docks.

The retail business caught his attention, and he opened and ran Ellison’s Westernwear in Franklin, Texas, for 30 years. During that time, he also opened and operated an ad specialty company, which had exclusive rights to soft goods with the Texas High School Rodeo finals, Louisiana high school finals, Texas Youth Rodeo Association, Working Cowboy finals, and others.

He now works with his company, Ellison Marine, which builds stationary and floating fishing piers in five states.

While working professionally, he continued his interest in music.

“I started playing music when I was 16 years old,” he said. “When I moved back to Franklin, I started playing again in 1966 at the New Baden Jamboree that my daddy, Hardy Ellison, started in 1954. It’s still operating today on the first Saturday night of every month.

“We were playing for dances in all the honky tonks in Texas by 1970,” he said. “I went to Nashville and recorded in 1973. Johnny Gimble and his recording group were the musicians. This promoted our business some, and we landed jobs in all the larger places and played with several stars including Mel Street, Johnny Rodriguez, Freddy Hart, Cal Smith and Bill Mack. We also shared stages with Hank Thompson, Willie Nelson, Jack Green, Jennie Sealy, Darrel McCall, George Chambers, and more.”

Ellison has been interviewed for a book entitled “Texas Dance Halls” that is scheduled to be released in 2013. He got out of the music business in 1981 but still sings occasionally at special events.

In 2000, Ellison began painting oils and is now in many larger art shows in Texas and Louisiana. His story and his paintings can be found at www.texas-artists.net.

As well as being an artist, musician and businessman, Ellison has served as the mayor of Franklin for 27 years.

He and his wife, Shirley, have a daughter, Jennifer, who also attended SHSU.

Lola Kramer (BS '67)

Lola Kramer graduated from SHSU with a major in physical education and minor in English.

After she completed her required vaccinations and received security clearance to join the American National Red Cross,

she was employed as a unit director in the Supplemental Recreation Activities Overseas program in Vietnam.

“I went in during the Tet Offensive in February 1968 and returned to the U.S. in February 1969,” Kramer said. “There were 627 who served in the program. I know of other Texans who served, but to my knowledge, I am the only Vietnam Donut Dollie from SHSU. I learned more in that one year than any other single year in my life.”

She went to Mexico for three months and supported herself by teaching English for Berlitz Language Schools.

Kramer was then hired by the American Red Cross as the director of Blood, Nursing and Health Programs for the Greater Long Beach Chapter, and then the Pasadena Chapter, both in California.

“My greatest professional achievement is having recruited more than 87,000 units of blood over a seven year period,” she said. “I also volunteered as a first aid and CPR instructor and taught health classes for expectant parents.”

She became employed as the assistant chapter director for the Tri-County American Red Cross in Fargo, N.D., where she volunteered as a water safety instructor.

“I then moved to Washington, D.C., to work as a systems analyst for a naval defense contractor,” she said. “I was also a volunteer at the American Red Cross National Headquarters and the White House.”

After 20 years, Kramer returned to Texas to raise her daughter, Kasaundra, who earned her master’s degree at SHSU and is employed at the university as the coordinator of intramurals and club sports.

Kramer is currently employed as the lead technical administrator at Johnson Space Center.

Since she’s been back, Kramer has been involved in establishing the SHSU Alumni Bay Area Club and helps recruit students for SHSU. ★

In Memory Of Longtime SHSU Donor Ron Mafrige



RON MAFRIGE

“The measure of an individual is what is left behind for your fellow man. I can’t think of a better way to do that than to help young people get an education.”

Reprinted from the *Huntsville Item*
Aug. 15, 2011

By Brandon K. Scott

HOUSTON—Longtime Sam Houston State University alumnus and donor Ron Mafrige died at his home Aug. 14, surrounded by his closest family members.

Mafrige, 73, contributed more than \$2 million to the university since graduating in 1960 and launching a successful career as a real estate entrepreneur.

“He was a leader in many ways for alumni,” SHSU President Dana Gibson said. “Whether it’s related to athletics or developing and advancing the university, he has definitely been an alumni leader for many years and that’s something that is going to be sorely missed.”

From collections of memorabilia and monuments, to endowments used to fund scholarships and programs, Mafrige volunteered to lead and participate in various Sam Houston organizations and initiatives.

At SHSU, Mafrige was a Life Endowed Member of the Alumni Association, served on boards for the Kat Pack and the College of Business Administration

and was director of the Kat Pack Club. Mafrige was also a recipient of the Alumni Association’s 1997 Distinguished Alumnus and 2004 Service Awards.

In 2005, he gave \$250,000 for the construction of an 11,000 square-foot strength

and conditioning facility named after longtime football coach Ron Randleman.

In 2008, Mafrige donated \$40,000 to build the 20-foot-tall statue of General Sam Houston created by alumnus David Adickes, which stands near the Lowman Student Center and Smith-Hutson Building.

He also purchased many of the granite benches seen across campus in honor of a number of people.

“It’s a sad day when you lose a Bearkat like Ron because he did so much for the university,” SHSU athletic director Bobby Williams said. “But what I will remember most is that he was a great person.”

Since 1968 Ron Mafrige Enterprises, Inc., has leased more than 1 million commercial square feet of office space in Houston, as well as helped pioneer the suburban office development as the exclusive agent for Strokes Adair Enterprises in Houston.

Outside of university endeavors, Mafrige and his family have established similar scholarship programs at his high school alma mater, San Marcos Baptist Academy, and at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, where seven of his \$10,000-scholarship recipients have opted to attend SHSU.

He is a lifetime member of the Houston 100 Club, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Republican National Committee and the Houston Realtors-Political Action Committee.

“I love this university,” Mafrige said in a 2006 interview. “The measure of an individual is what is left behind for your fellow man. I can’t think of a better way to do that than to help young people get an education.” ★

CLASS NOTES

Eva McKnight, '37, celebrated her 100th birthday on Nov. 29, 2011. She spends her time volunteering at East Texas Medical Center and participating in various groups and events with Green Acres Baptist Church.

Herbert Muckleroy, '55 and '61, is a retired teacher and superintendent of Silsbee ISD. He is currently the city mayor. Muckleroy was inducted in the Bearkat Athletics' Hall of Honor in 2000.

A. Hardy Roper, '63, has written his second book, *Assassination in Galveston*, which is available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. It follows his first book, *The Garhole Bar*, in the Parker McLeod thriller series. Hardy lives in Houston and can be reached at Hardy@westbay-publishing.com.

George Lantrip, '65 and '93, left General Dynamics in New Braunfels on Sept. 30 after 18 years. Before his employment with General Dynamics, Lantrip worked in the laboratory science field 25 years and as a registered laboratory animal technologist through the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. He has been recognized with both the Texas and National Ranch Technician Awards. He and his wife, Anita, have been married 36 years.

After spending 33 years teaching band in public school and a retirement of an additional 11 years, **Eugene (Gene) Stephenson, '65**, has returned to teaching. He is currently in his fourth year of teaching in the music department at Coastal Bend College in Beeville. He says he wishes he had discovered years ago how much fun college teaching is.

Retirement from the corporate world has allowed **Tom Hardy, '67**, time to return to his love of writing. *Slow Moving Dreams* is his second novel, and he is working on his third. All of his books are set in West Texas where he was raised and continues to enjoy

a love of the land and people who make West Texas special.

Barbara L. Hart, '78, has received the University of Texas Regent's Outstanding Teaching Award. These awards are the Board of Regents' highest honor to recognize faculty members from across the UT system who have demonstrated extraordinary classroom performance and innovation in undergraduate instruction.

William O'Dell, '85, earned his CPA license in Houston and has been named chief financial officer for Plains Exploration in Houston. He has been married to Sarah Reagan O'Dell for 20 years and is an accomplished bicyclist, when he is not riding his Harley!

Krystal Herron, '91, and husband Tim, along with big brother Justin, welcomed Sawyer Lynn Herron on Sept. 9, 2011. She was 9 lbs. 14 oz. and 20.5 inches long.

Dan S. Martin, '91, began Education Ride 365 on Jan. 1, 2012. The ride, which Dan is making on his motorcycle through 49 states, will conclude on Dec. 31. He is chronicling his journey at [http://www.edclick.net/under "Blogs."](http://www.edclick.net/under/Blogs) A former school administrator, Dan is now a consultant providing technology solutions in education.

Steve Schlake, '91, and wife Tracey welcomed son Robert Steven on July 27, 2011. Robert weighed 5 lbs. 6 oz.

Jim Stokes, '91, has recently been promoted to criminalistics administrator over the Biology Unit, Toxicology Unit, Trace Analysis Unit, Firearms/Toolmark Unit, the Laboratory Grant Committee, and the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations Eastern Regional Laboratory.

Deirdre Holloway, '94, is currently in her fifth year as principal of Blue Ridge

Elementary in Fort Bend ISD and was recently named Region IV's Elementary Principal of the Year.

Christopher Sower, '96 and '99, and his dad, Victor Sower, SHSU Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Management, have coauthored a book entitled *Better Business Decisions Using Cost Modeling*, which was published in October by Business Expert Press. Chris is currently employed as global logistics director at Champion Technologies in Houston.

Evan Lively, '00, and Karen Watts Lively, '01, announce the birth of their second son, Nolan James. He was born on Aug. 23, 2011.

Michael Curl, '03, was selected to the Willowridge High School Wall of Honor on Sept. 10 for his meritorious roles in public and/or private life following high school that have brought positive, public recognition, credit and honor to the school. He was also the first to be named to the wall of honor in all five categories that one could be selected for.

Kyle Frickle, '05, and wife Monica became proud parents of their first child, son Connor Kyle, on March 25, 2011.

Chad Cryer, '09, received the honor of being Firefighter of the Year and the Morlon Kizzee Award for community service at the Prairie View Volunteer Fire Department's 2011 Red and White Ball. He was part of the firefighting efforts at the Tri-County Wildfire in Waller, Grimes and Montgomery Counties in September 2011. He serves as quartermaster and senior firefighter at the fire department and has been a member since August 2009.

Nereida Sanchez DeLuna, '09, is currently working on her master's degree in curriculum and instruction at SHSU.

In Memoriam

Beula M. Rosser '41, '46
Lola I. Wiese '41
Billie J. Turner '46
William V. Nash '47
Joseph D. Walker '47
Howard Griffin '48, '50
Mildred K. Fisher '49
Merle D. Kovar '49
Oliver M. Refsell '49, '59
Alma L. Taylor '50
John O. Barnes '51, '54
Suzanne Gillespie '51
Juanita B. Lynch '51
Phyllis A. Pliske '51
Frances M. Goforth '52, '57
Addie S. Ivy '52
James Peterson Allphin '53
James H. Carleton '53
Joseph L. Smetana '53
Mike Mitchell '54
Stanley Paul Keathley '56
Jean Moses '56
Charles S. Davis '58
Joan K. Davis '58

Richard Dale Furr '58
Larry W. Goodbread '59
Anna F. Hall '59
Suzanne Johnson '59
Anna Frances Buchanan Hall '59
Johnny N. Mudd '59
Ronald P. Mafrige '60
James G. Timmons '60
Reed S. Lindsey '61, '63
Wilbur L. Urban '61, '64
Minnie M. Bennett '62
John R. Bosse '62
Gloria A. Johnstone '66
Judith P. Glover '67
John C. Huber '69, '72
Dorothy P. Lewis '70
Rowe E. Creager '73, '78
Pamela D. Martin '77, '91
Nancy L. Hoyt '79
Orland Craft "Gus" Seeley '80
Jon A. Boaz '84
William A. Traylor '92
Brad E. Huffaker '99
Sophia V. Mendez '10

Lesta Burt Johnson

Funeral services were held for Lesta Burt Johnson at First United Methodist Church in Huntsville on Sept. 26, 2011. Johnson served in SHSU's Library Science Department from 1966 until her retirement in 1991.

She was the department chair from 1966 until 1980, when she took a leave of absence to live in South Africa. She returned to SHSU in 1982 and taught as a professor until she retired. While at the university, she instituted flexible schedules so teachers could keep their positions while continuing their education, was instrumental in starting the master's degree program, instituted off-campus teaching, secured and administered two federally funded nationwide master's degree institutes, and led a drive to establish an adolescent book award from The Texas Library Association.

Memorial donations may be made to The Lesta Burt Johnson Scholarship Fund, mail to: Darlene Andrews, SHSU, University Advancement, PO Box 2537, Huntsville, TX 77341. ★

ALUMNI BOARD OFFICERS



The 2012 officers for the SHSU Alumni Association include, from left: Susan Lenamon, president-elect; Alan Tinsley, immediate past president; Jack Compton, treasurer; Barbara Bright, secretary; Mary Ellen Thornton, president; and Terry Williams, vice president. ★

Alumni Golf Tournament
May 19, 2012
High Meadows Ranch Golf Club
37300 Golf Club Trail Magnolia, TX 77355



Lunch and Range 11:30 am
Shotgun Start 1 pm
*Lunch & Dinner provided
for participants*

*For details on hole sponsorships,
individual or team entries, or
helicopter ball drop tickets please
contact alumni relations directly at
(936) 294-1841 or alumni.shsu.edu.*



Meet Harley Thomas

a junior from Hemphill, Texas

"I receive several scholarships each semester which help with my expenses for school.

I appreciate the opportunities that are available to me because of the support of Sam Houston State alumni and friends. I wouldn't be able to continue without the help of these generous donors."



Harley is a general business major, with a minor in business communications. She is involved in several campus organizations and also works at a job on campus while attending school. Working helps Harley with some of her living expenses, but more importantly, her education is supported by scholarships.


When you give to SHSU, you are investing in life-enriching experiences for hardworking students who aspire to be successful at Sam and far beyond. Your gift to the SHSU Annual Fund, regardless of the size, will help students like Harley achieve their dreams.

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