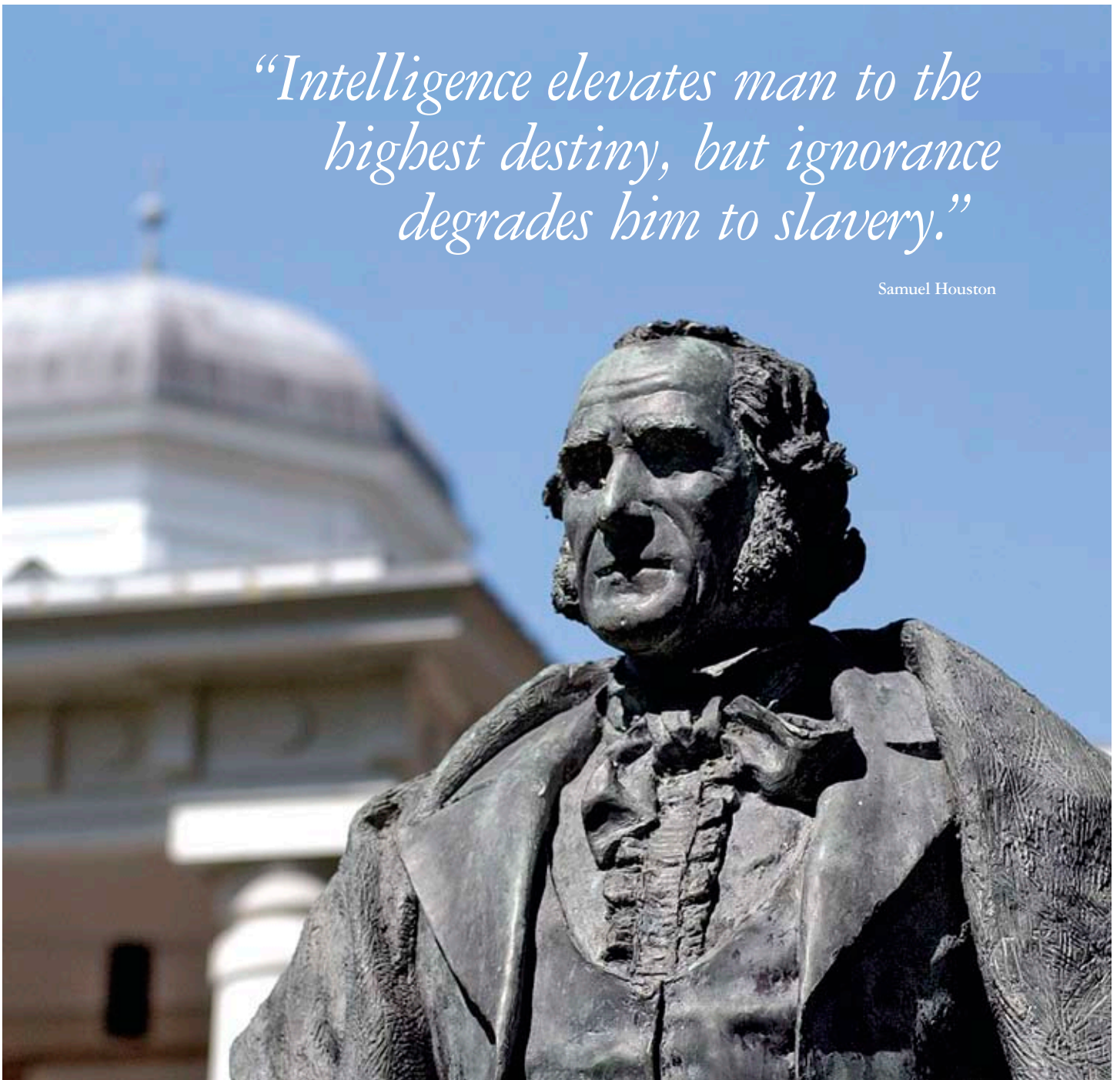


Heritage

Honoring Our Traditions. Envisioning Our Future.

“Intelligence elevates man to the highest destiny, but ignorance degrades him to slavery.”

Samuel Houston



THE Vision



We Are All Called To A Noble Purpose

At Sam Houston State, we are entrusted with educating and expanding the minds of tomorrow's leaders, whose actions will affect not only individual destiny but that of society as a whole. I can think of no other purpose that is a nobler calling than helping to shape the future by awakening the minds of the next generation.

The hallmark of Sam Houston State University since its founding has been a quality, caring, and dedicated faculty and staff. While our purpose evolves and broadens, the true heart of this grand old university has stood the test of time.

Each and every faculty and staff member embraces this core value. Whether teaching, conducting research, coaching an athletic team, administering programs, maintaining our facilities or beautifying our lovely campus, everyone at Sam Houston contributes to improving and enriching the lives of our students.

"In a completely rational society, the best of us would aspire to be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something less, because passing civilization along from one generation to the next ought to be the highest honor and the highest responsibility anyone could have."

Lee Iacocca

We all carry memories of a special person at Sam Houston State who made a difference in our lives. As educators, we are so fortunate and blessed to learn of our former students' accomplishments and to receive feedback on what an impact their time at our university has had on their journey through life.

As enrollment continues to grow, maintaining access and personal interaction between students and faculty, which are so highly valued, will become an increasing challenge. This and other critical opportunities have been identified and prioritized in our *Share the Vision Campaign*. Our campaign goal is \$50 million, and of that amount, an objective of \$18 million is designated for faculty and staff endowments to preserve the university's tradition and its very special culture of caring faculty and staff that are both dedicated to and outstanding in what they do.

Significant investments in our faculty by donors would support the addition of endowed chairs and professorships, which are essential to attracting and retaining the best faculty. Funds would also provide ongoing professional development opportunities as well as enable our deans, department chairs, and administrators to have the necessary resources to recruit and support outstanding professionals. Such investments enhance the quality of education, producing immeasurable benefits for generations of students.

Sam Houston would not be the very special place it is today without the support of our alumni and friends. As you read through this issue of the *Heritage* and learn more about the contributions and accomplishments of others, I trust you will be inspired to participate in a meaningful way during one of the most exciting periods in our history. Each person who chooses to "*Share the Vision*" does so with the noblest of purpose.

James F. Gaertner,
President

Executive Editor
Kristina K. Ruiz
kruiuz@shsu.edu

Editor
Julia May
jmay@shsu.edu

Feature Writers
Frank Krystyniak
Jennifer Gaunt
Julia May
Paul Ridings

Contributors
Darlene Andrews
Rhonda Ellisor
Thelma Mooney
Cindy Truax

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

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

The goal of *Heritage* is to keep you informed about Sam Houston State University. *Heritage* is published twice a year by the Office of University Advancement for alumni, donors and friends of SHSU.

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A Lesson In Giving

by Jennifer Gauntt

The College of Education takes the university's motto, "The measure of a Life is its Service," very seriously. Among its core values, which compose the acronym RESPECT, are "Responding to the needs of others," "Serving others above self" and "Caring for students, faculty and staff."

Professors in each of the college's five departments attempt to instill a generous nature in the classroom, encouraging students to serve in their communities and Huntsville through various outreach projects, as well as inviting alumni and people from all over the state to campus to learn both from and with.

"Education is a helping profession," said Genevieve Brown, dean of the College of Education. "Our mission is to make society better one child at a time. People we work with consider their profession a passion.

Curriculum and Instruction

Recognizing that Texas has a teacher shortage, SHSU's curriculum and instruction department reaches out to those with a bachelor's degree in fields other than education but whose "hearts are in teaching" through the Post Baccalaureate Alternative Route to Certification program.

Designed for "working professionals," the program offers different ways to receive certification while also allowing the acquisition





“Our mission is to make society better one child at a time.”

Genevieve Brown, College of Education Dean

of hours towards a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction, according to Brown.

“If preparing teachers is our mission, then reaching out to a new population only extends and improves the quality of our program,” said Charlene Crocker, department chair.

This unique program offers students a variety of certification options, including acquiring a teaching position in a public school or through student teaching, taking the 24 required hours at the graduate level or taking the 24 hours plus the additional 12 hours required for the master’s degree.

Courses are offered online and during the summer and can be completed in as few as 12 months.

The idea has been well received; since its inception, the program has grown from fewer than 30 students, with three interns, to 245 students, including 54 interns, in the fall 2006 semester.

Those who choose the undergraduate route to certification also make their presence known in the classroom.

Since fall 2006, students earning their bachelor’s degree in academic studies and secondary education now spend more than double the number of hours in the classroom after the department increased the requirement to as many as 120 hours per semester.

During the field experience, students actively interact with public school students, from working with an individual or tutoring several students to working with small groups and delivering lessons to entire classes.

“It is a part of our enculturation of students into the profession,” Brown said. “Every profession has a culture, and the sooner we can get our students into these schools and agencies, the better it is for the student teachers and their future students.”

Educational Leadership and Counseling

In 2004, the educational leadership and counseling department opened the Dr. Jack Staggs Counseling Clinic, named after the retired professor emeritus, to serve as a facility where graduate students can receive hands-on experience.

Since the clinic’s opening, not only have students honed their counseling skills, but hundreds of people in the Huntsville and surrounding communities have benefited.

Ten weeks out of the year, the clinic offers free play therapy classes to Hispanic families with children who are enrolled in Aldine school district’s Keeble Early Childhood Preschool.

Classes are taught in Spanish and designed to help parents develop play therapy skills they can apply in their day-to-day parenting, according to play therapy professor Yvonne Garza.

“Learning to serve others gives students a feeling of efficacy. It enhances their belief that they can make a difference in the lives of others.”

Genevieve Brown,
College of Education Dean



Once skills have been presented and practiced, parents and their children are videotaped to review how well they are applying the play therapy techniques, giving both counselors and the parents an opportunity to observe areas of strength and needs for improvement.

“The emphasis is on building family relationships, not focusing on the child’s problems,” Garza said. “So far, the parents involved are very excited about all they are learning.”

In addition, the Staggs clinic opens its doors to the community offering free counseling three to four days a week.

Types of counseling include marriage and family, play therapy, children and adolescents, career and career assessment, substance abuse and mental health, and specialized work with children who have Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and their families.

This past fall, the clinic reached out to children in the area who have been harmed by sexual or physical abuse through a relationship with the Children’s Safe Harbor in Conroe.

As part of the collaboration, Children’s Safe Harbor and Child Protective Services personnel utilize the facility two-and-a-half days each week to conduct forensic interviews, which can be used in trials, in a safe, comfortable and confidential environment.

Health and Kinesiology

With rates of obesity, heart disease and cancer on the rise, the health and kinesiology department works to increase awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle by hosting and participating in a number of events.

Students and faculty annually help organize and assist with the American Heart Association Heart Walk, the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, clothing and food drives for the SAAFE House and Good Shepherd Mission, help with CPR mass trainings, and hold health fairs at Huntsville Memorial Hospital and the Huntsville school district, among many others.

“By serving in these types of activities and events, our students can apply much of the theory and knowledge learned in the classroom regarding fitness, wellness and the value of having a fit and healthy lifestyle while sharing that knowledge with others,” said Alice Fisher, chair of the department.

A partnership with the Willis Ladykats Basketball Club, an area non-profit organization, provides both undergraduate and graduate students a means of gaining valuable coaching experience through the club’s annual Spring Instructional League and Spring Tournament Season.

In addition, students in the adaptive kinesiology class work with special needs students of all ages from the Huntsville and Willis school districts stressing the importance of being physically active within their physical limitations.

These elementary and secondary students come to the SHSU campus six times a year to participate in a multitude of activities, from playing with beach balls to jumping rope to kickball and even shuffleboard.

Students in wheel chairs, for example, can do a ball toss or they can use hockey sticks to try to hit a golf ball into a hole, Fisher said, adding that the activities help with thinking, processing and developing fine motor skills.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to observe,” Fisher said. “There’s just laughter, and they’re all having a wonderful time.

“We want those students to have every opportunity to excel in different kinds of physical activities that we, as individuals

without special needs, take for granted,” she said. “It helps develop character while emphasizing wellness and being actively engaged.”

Language, Literacy and Special Populations

Many of the programs sponsored by the language, literacy and special populations department focus on the special needs of different groups of people.

Through a Texas Early Education Model Rural Expansion Project (TEEM) grant, Jana Beard, project coordinator, visits Huntsville-area early childhood and preschool classrooms to mentor teachers by helping them set up quality teaching environments.

Offering model activities, side-by-side coaching (teaching along with them), tips and bringing in other materials, Beard works with not only with public schools but also with private child care and head start classrooms where certification to teach isn't always required.

SHSU's TEEM Project began in 2006 with 15 community pre-kindergarten teachers. This fall, that number will rise to 30.

“We don't care if they're faith-based, private for-profit, private non-profit, public school or head start, we just want to be able to offer them all the same things so that children, no matter where they choose to go, will get the same quality education,” she said.

In 2002, LLSP faculty and students became “Best Buddies” with clients from Bridgewood Farms, an agency that serves adults with various developmental disabilities, in the Willis/Conroe area.

SHSU's “Best Buddies” chapter of the international organization matches student volunteers with the clients to promote friendships and socialization reflecting the philosophy that adults with disabilities have qualities and value and should not be isolated, according to Paula Adams, associate professor of special education.

Volunteers commit to making regular contact by phone or e-mail, having monthly face-to-face interaction or an outing with their buddies, and participating in the one to two chapter-sponsored activities as well as activities planned by Bridgewood Farms, such

as community dances and bowling outings.

“Most students have reported finding their experiences in Best Buddies to be quite rewarding because they are able to enrich the lives of others, learn a lot about the life span issues of individuals with disabilities and have a great time while doing so,” Adams said.

Joyce McCauley, professor of reading, combined her area of expertise with the needs of a “special population” for her Full Circle Literacy Project.

Designed to promote literacy through cross-generational tutoring and mentorship, the College of Education collaborates with local businesses, public schools and retirement homes in its four programs, all of which were created in 2002:

- The Senior Reader program, which includes residents of The Forum senior living community in The Woodlands, tutors struggling first-grade readers at Sally K. Ride Elementary School in Conroe.
- Computer Companions involves SHSU pre-service teachers enrolled in technology courses in teaching e-mail, scanning and Internet skills to The Forum residents.
- The Chicken Soup Group gives senior adults who have difficulty seeing or reading the opportunity to once again enjoy books as college students read aloud or lead group literary discussions.
- Life Matters, a program in which high school students, with writing assistance by a Sam Houston senior enrolled in English methods course, transcribe the most poignant or interesting stories of senior adults' lives for publication in “Life Matters” and “Learning from Life's Lessons.”

Library Science

As many as 800 alumni, principals, librarians and other participants have attended the library science department's annual Children's and Young Adult Book Conference held on SHSU's campus each fall.

Since 1982, the department has hosted the festival, which brings in renowned children and young adult authors to speak, including



“Arthur” creator Marc Brown, “Hatchet” author Gary Paulson, and “Koala Lou” author Mem Fox. The festival also offers workshops on a variety of topics.

“The format gives participants a chance to meet these authors up close and personal,” said library science chair Mary Berry.

“Participants have come from as far away as Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri and New York to hear these authors speak,” she said. “We can't find places on campus big enough to accommodate all of the people who want to attend.”

Speakers for this fall's conference, which will be held on Nov. 3, include Joan Bauer, Mo Willems, and Greg and Cynthia Leitech Smith.

The department also indulges budding artists every fall and spring semester with its Art Seminars in Children's Book Illustration.

The one-day session, generally limited to 40 participants, “enriches courses in children's literature” and allows students and librarians to “interact with and learn from a successful illustrator,” Berry said.

Illustrators such as Chuck Galey, James Ransome and Jan Spivey Gilchrist have presented their unique artworks during the event, which generally includes a hands-on activity using the illustrator's own medium and technique.

“These samplings of a professional's medium and technique result in insights into the art of book illustration while being fun and sometimes downright hilarious as everyone tries to emulate the artist's work,” Berry said.

Nationally-recognized illustrators Denise Fleming and Mike Wimmer are the scheduled presenters for the fall 2007 and spring 2008 seminars, respectively.

Fleming's seminar will teach how to make paper using her technique, while Wimmer's session will include painting with oils. ★

Breaking Through The Language Barrier

By Jennifer Gauntt



“As demographics change, we have to change; we change delivery method, we change curriculum, we change attitude.”

Genevieve Brown
College of Education Dean

As the Spanish-speaking population continues to rise in Texas, one of the issues schools across the state will continue to face is educating students who don't speak English natively, or oftentimes at all.

A rapidly growing Hispanic population has significant implications for education initiatives in Texas public education, both policy-wise and in the classroom, according to College of Education dean Genevieve Brown.

The Texas Education Agency reported in 2006 that Texas' total school enrollment had grown by 18 percent since 1996, while the Limited English Proficient enrollment had grown by 106 percent since 1999.

“If we're really going to serve the State of Texas—and as a state institution, that's what we're called to do—we have to know the demographics of the groups we're serving,” Brown said.

With these statistics in mind, SHSU's College of Education faculty members have

been working to not only put qualified Spanish-speaking teachers into the classrooms and in the upper echelons of the field but also have been researching the most effective ways to teach English-language learners.

“A lot of the research we do in education is about having a positive impact on the field, it's about sharing with people so we can have a positive impact in the profession,” Brown said. “It is very important for the future of our state that we have an educated citizenry.”

Beverly Irby, chair of the educational leadership and counseling department, along with two co-principal investigators from other universities, received one of three \$7 million grants from the Institute for Education Sciences, a U.S. Department of Education program in Washington, D.C., to study the effectiveness



of two teaching methods commonly taught in schools across the country.

Working with children in Houston's Aldine school district, Irby and her team are following English-language learners from kindergarten to third grade to determine which teaching method works best in terms of language acquisition.

The three investigators monitor two groups of children as they are taught using the typical instruction techniques, Structured English Immersion and Transitional Bilingual Education, as well as two other groups taught using one of the standard models infused with curriculum "interventions" devised by the group.

Transitional Bilingual Education uses the native language to help students learn the second language, whereas Structured English Immersion puts children directly into English-only classrooms.

The "interventions" include teaching strategies such as STELLA, a story retell with higher order thinking design created by Irby and her team that will soon be published, and other research-validated models such as daily

oral language and communication games.

The findings through two years have been "impressive," according to Irby, with intervention groups improving at a greater rate than those not under the intervention.

"Children in the experimental transitional bilingual classes (integrated with the interventions) are actually outperforming all other groups in English on specific measures," she said. Additionally, the bilingual classroom groups are also outperforming students in the Structured English Immersion classrooms in their native language.

The implications of the study could potentially impact national policy.

"We don't have any really good randomized trial studies or any experimental type of studies that tell us which is better for students in terms of English language acquisition," she said. "There's a big debate about that."

This kind of research will give schools a basis for which they can advocate a certain program, giving them empirical data on which to base a decision.

"California has been Structured English Immersion for seven years, but they did not meet annual yearly progress goals last year for No Child Left Behind," Irby said.

"With the Hispanic population growing, all of these studies are important economically for Texas," she said. "If we don't promote this large group of students who are actually the largest majority-minority population now in Texas, our economy is going to suffer."

"No one comes to this country and doesn't expect to learn English," Brown said, "but it's the manner in which we teach them that makes the difference."

While Irby is studying the best way to teach these students, she and other professors on campus have also received approximately \$3.5 million in grants aiming to bring more Spanish-speaking leaders into schools.

The FAME Grant allowed SHSU to train and certify 60 bilingual people receiving principal certificates who serve on campuses with high numbers of English-language learners.

The Bilingual Fellow Grants allowed seven bilingual fellows to earn a doctorate in educational leadership with an emphasis in bilingual ESL education. Those fellows are now top administrators in school districts serving large numbers of second-language learners.

Through the Teachers and Administrators Improving Reading for Limited English-Proficient Students program, more than 70 bilingual and English as a Second Language teachers have graduated and are now leading efforts to improve the reading scores of English-language learners in small school districts in south central Texas, according to Rebecca Bustamante, a TRIAD instructor and program adviser.

In addition, a bilingual counselor grant helped approximately 40 professionals enter schools across the state.

"All of these programs are federally-funded, and we went after them so we could have an impact and serve the changing demographics," Irby said. "It's our social and moral imperative, and we feel compelled to help those English-language learners in schools." ✨



Eleanor Smith Garrett grew up in the piney woods of East Texas. Both her parents were teachers, and when her father was working toward his master's degree at Sam Houston State during the summer months, Eleanor would accompany him to Huntsville spending time in the Estill Library while he was attending classes.

When Eleanor graduated from Pennington High School near Groveton, it was almost a foregone conclusion she would attend Sam Houston State and continue the family tradition of teaching. Eleanor attended the university from 1951 until 1955, graduating with honors and earning both bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

She taught at schools in Nederland, Vidor, Port Neches and Garland before joining her husband Charles to start up the Garrett Metal Detector Company, today the world's largest manufacturer of metal detection equipment.

At the company's headquarters in Garland, Eleanor greets visitors with a warm, engaging smile. She is generous with her hugs and makes guests feel as if they were her closest friends. Walking with her through the building, visitors get the feeling of being in a small, comfortable school. Employees light up when Eleanor enters their workspace; she acknowledges them by their first names and knows quite a bit about the backgrounds and lives of each.

Maybe that's one reason she was such a beloved teacher before entering the business world.

The business was started in 1964. Her husband Charles, an electrical engineer at the time, had been designing a better metal detector to help him with his hobby of treasure hunting. He worked on the device every evening at his workbench in the garage of their family home in Garland. Finally, after Eleanor grew weary of listening night-after-night to the noises coming from the garage, she gave Charles an ultimatum: put the detector on the market or quit working on it!

Charles was delighted to follow her suggestion to market his new product, and his avocation became a career for both of them.



Eleanor withdrew her savings from the Texas Teacher Retirement System to finance the new company. And, the family garage would continue to serve as its manufacturing facility.

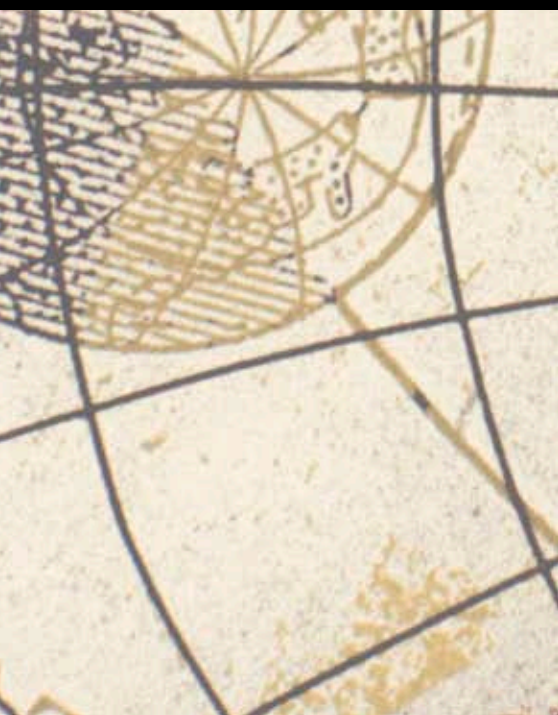
"I had organized the kindergarten at Orchard Hills Baptist Church and was serving as the program director," she said. "In the early days of getting our company started, I would work at the kindergarten during the day and keep books for the business at night." All this for the mother of two young children who was about to give birth to a third!

Their first big decision was how many detectors to build. Eleanor explained they decided on the goal of selling one per day because such sales would enable the family to continue its current standard of living.

Serious treasure hunters over the world soon became familiar with the Garrett name as the detectors built by Eleanor and Charles

Uncovering a Treasure

By Julia May



Serious treasure hunters over the world soon became familiar with the Garrett name as the detectors built by Eleanor and Charles proved to be the finest available.

proved to be the finest available. After some 15 successful years serving treasure hunters, the Garretts expanded their business into the security industry.

Today air travelers over the world either walk through a Garrett detector or are scanned with a Garrett hand-held wand. Various types of security detectors have been manufactured and sold for more than 20 years by the Garretts. In 1984 they furnished metal detectors to the Los Angeles Olympic Games, the first time metal detectors had ever been used at an Olympics to safeguard athletes and spectators.

Garrett detectors have helped secure all the Summer Olympic Games since and most of the Winter Olympics. Earlier this year more than 900 walk-through and 1,800 hand-held detectors were shipped to China for the 2008 Summer Olympics. The Garretts have also

been awarded the contract for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and have already begun preparing for that event.

Eleanor said that the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain were especially memorable for her. "We had between 15 and 20 employees rotating back and forth every week to install and maintain the equipment," she said. "We rented a condo, and I flew over and cooked and did laundry for them. I even took my crock pots on the plane with me."

Eleanor has always been industrious. While a student at Sam Houston, she lived in Elliott Dormitory and worked at the Ex-Students Association Office for Martha Mitchell. She also typed papers for other students.

"We had to have the lights out in the dorm by 11 p.m.," she laughed. "But I would set up my typewriter in the shower and shut the bathroom door so no one would know I was up."

Eleanor also sang with the college choir, and she still has her sweater with the choir letter attached. "When we performed, we wore navy skirts and white blouses with navy shoes and stockings," she recalled. "Our formal attire was a black V-neck long-sleeved evening gown, and we had to wear pearls."

Every spring the choir would spend a week touring Southeast Texas and would stay at the homes of individuals. "The first time I ever slept under an electric blanket was while we were on one of our choir tours," she remembered. "I was quite impressed."

Her singing time was not limited to performances with the Sam Houston choir. Before eating meals at the college cafeteria each day, the girls—who ate separately from the boys—had to sing. One of their favorite songs was sung as the end of the semester approached. Eleanor still remembers the words and the tune, and will sing it when asked:

*Three more days and we'll be free,
Free from all this misery.
No more beans and no more hash,
No more dating college trash.
Going home, (thump, thump)
Going home, (thump, thump)
Going home.*

Eleanor also remembers Texas Governor Allan Shivers and his wife would occasionally stop by the Sam Houston campus on their way from Austin to their home in Woodville.

"He would stop in Huntsville to visit with the Texas Department of Corrections officials," Eleanor said. "But he liked to eat on campus with students because he said the food was better at our cafeteria than anywhere else. We always knew when the governor was coming because everything looked so nice, and the meal was extra special."

The governor wasn't the only famous politician to set foot on the Sam Houston State campus when Eleanor was a student. Her commencement speaker was Lyndon B. Johnson. A U. S. senator at the time, Johnson would go on to be the 36th president of the United States less than ten years later.

Eleanor treasures her memories of Sam Houston State and still has the ink bottle that she carried to class each day. "I used royal blue ink instead of black ink because the blue ink was easier to wash out of your clothes," she explained.

She also has the orange beanie cap she was required to wear six days a week as a Bearkat freshman. "We didn't have to wear the beanies on Sundays," she explained, "but we had to wear them the rest of the week. Sometimes I rolled my hair with bobby pins and put the cap on to hide the pins."



While Eleanor's passion, creativity and service are treasured by those who know her, as an alumnus, she is also considered one of Sam Houston State University's finest treasures.

Eleanor's knowledge of and love for history, particularly Texas history, came in very handy during her first week on campus as a Sam Houston State freshman. "All freshmen had to go to the Old Main Auditorium and look at the painting of General Sam Houston leaning back against a tree following the Battle of San Jacinto where he was wounded," she said. "We were told that we had to sit in the auditorium and look at that picture until we found the dog that was at the battle. We could not leave the auditorium until we found the dog."

Eleanor pointed out that the idea was students attending Sam Houston State should have knowledge of and appreciation for Sam Houston and his contributions to Texas.

"Well, the dog is behind the tree, which means, of course, that it can't be seen," she said. So, Eleanor whispered that information to her friend sitting next to her. That was around 10 a.m. They left the auditorium and went to the Student Union Building where they spent the morning. "When we walked back to the auditorium at noon, most of the students were still sitting there, staring at that picture, still looking for the dog," she said.

After graduation, she and Charles were married after he completed his tour with the Navy, and moved to the Beaumont area where Charles was a student at Lamar University. Eleanor taught school while Charles attended college and the couple returned to the Dallas area after his graduation. Their family grew to three children with the births of Charles Lewis, Deirdre and Vaughan.

At an age when most individuals are either thinking of retiring or already have, the Garretts show no signs of slowing down. Both are still as passionate as ever about the business as they oversee a major expansion of their



Garland factory.

In addition, Eleanor remains active in a host of organizations as she has for many years. Her love for history is evidenced by her close association with the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Daughters of the American Revolution, both of which she has served in a number of local and state offices.

She is currently a national officer of the Magna Charta Dames and Barons and values her membership in other organizations such as the Daughters of the American Colonists, Mannikin Huguenot Society, Colonial and Antebellum Planters, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy, just to name a few. She was commissioned a "Yellow Rose of Texas" by Governor Rick Perry, an award given to honor Texas women who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer and community service.

Charles and Eleanor also maintain a tree farm in East Texas. In 2002, they were honored

with the Texas Tree Farmer of the Year Award from the Texas Forestry Association for their efforts in preserving Texas' natural forestry lands.

"When I was a child, I would ride horseback into the woods with my maternal grandfather," Eleanor recalled. "He would point out the various species of trees and identify their uses and purposes, so I became very familiar with them."

About 25 years ago as various family members and friends indicated a desire to sell property in the area, the Garretts began to buy the land. In 1988 they planted 250,000 pine seedlings on over 1,400 acres of land near the Davy Crockett National Forest.

It's no wonder the Garrett name has become so strongly associated with "treasure." While Eleanor's passion, creativity and service are treasured by those who know her, as an alumnus, she is also considered one of Sam Houston State University's finest treasures. ★

Of all the exciting things taking place on the Sam Houston State University campus this year, perhaps the most meaningful event—at least for students, alumni and friends of the university—took place in Austin on June 15 when Gov. Rick Perry signed House Bill 1418 which prevents the university’s name from being changed by its governing board. The bill, authored by state Rep. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) and sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Steve Ogden (R-Bryan), was passed during a roll-call vote for local legislation May 22. It became effective immediately when the governor signed it.

To learn more about Sam Houston State University, log on to www.shsu.edu/today@sam.

Hendrickson, Wang, Keathley Are 2007 Excellence Winners

Three faculty members who excel at teaching, service and research have been selected for special recognition from among the hundreds at Sam Houston State University who also do those things well.

Excellence award winners for 2007 include:

Ken Hendrickson
Excellence in Teaching

Rosanne Schrieber Keathley
Excellence in Service

Jianzhong Wang
Excellence in Research



Museum Awarded Certification

The Sam Houston Memorial Museum has been awarded certification through the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) Curatorial Facility Certification Program. The museum is the third facility to be certified.

Patrick Nolan, museum director, said the Historical Commission’s recognition is the second given the museum in recent years.

“I am very proud of this certification, as it further demonstrates to the professional community this museum’s commitment to maintaining the highest standards of

professional performance,” said Nolan. “Like our 2000 national accreditation by the American Association of Museums, this recognition by THC is an endorsement of our high standards.”

Certification enhances a facility’s reputation by illustrating its ability and willingness to hold itself accountable for collections care and management. Benefits of certification include allowing the facility to receive state-associated held-in-trust collections and recognition that the curatorial facility operates in line with current state standards. ★

University Advancement Wins Awards

SHSU's Division of University Advancement won three prestigious awards at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Southwest District IV annual conference in Dallas March 31 – April 4.

SHSU staff members competed with professionals from universities in Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, New Mexico and Mexico.

University Advancement was awarded the "Grand Award" for the faculty and staff "Invest in Our Future" campaign. The category was Annual Giving-Best Use of Volunteers. Cindy Truax, director of annual giving, accepted the award for the university.

University Advancement also received the "Award of Excellence" for the Criminal Justice Graduate Information Packet. This award was in the Visual Design-Design Improvement category.

The division also won a "Special Award" for the 2006 "Face to Face" scholarship benefactor

and recipient luncheon, an annual event organized by Darlene Andrews, director of donor relations. The award was in the Development Projects and Special Events category.

For its work with SHSU, Channel Three Productions won a Telly Award in the Recruiting category for filming "Where Education is Up Close and Personal." The 11-minute video contains information a prospective college student would want to know about "Sam," and was produced under the guidance of Kris Ruiz, SHSU marketing director, and Joey Chandler, director of the Visitor's Center.

Another company, Vision Media, won the Communicator Awards "Award of Excellence" for the commercial "Success Sam Houston" which was shown on MTV and televised collegiate football games. Only about 10 percent of all entrants receive this highest honor. The production of the commercial was also managed by Kris Ruiz. ★



College Of Education Honors Distinguished Educators

The College of Education honored educators from across the state for their contributions to the field during its third annual Distinguished Educators of the Year dinner held in March.

Recognized were John E. Sawyer, distinguished administrator; Jane Ann Brown, distinguished elementary teacher; Pepper Smith, distinguished secondary teacher; Sonia Villarreal, distinguished support professional;

and State Rep. Lois W. Kolkhorst, friend of education.

"The honorees have been dedicated to others and trying to help others their whole lives," said master of ceremonies Tommy Poe, a 1965 and 1972 SHSU graduate who is also the executive director for ESC Region 6. "What a wonderful legacy that is."

This year's recipients were selected from more than 150 nominations. ★



Cashion Elected To Texas Institute Of Letters

Ty Cashion, associate professor of history and author of *Sam Houston State University/An Institutional Memory: 1879 – 2004*, has been elected to membership in the Texas Institute of Letters.

The organization was founded in 1936 by J. Frank Dobie, Walter Webb, and others including journalists, scholars and poets in order to promote and recognize distinctive literary achievement in Texas.

Each year the Institute awards more than \$25,000 in literary prizes for fiction, poetry,

non-fiction, newspaper and magazine writing, design, translation, humor and children's and young adult literature.

The Institute's Web site lists more than 300 members, including Larry McMurtry, Horton Foote, Bill Moyers, Dan Jenkins, Leon Hale, Molly Ivins and Liz Carpenter.

Paul Ruffin, distinguished professor of English at SHSU, is also a member. ★

Governor Appoints SHSU Student To Regents

Gov. Rick Perry named SHSU economics and international business major Magdalena Manzano as the second student ever to be appointed to the Texas State University System's Board of Regents.

The senior, who was appointed to the position on Jan. 31, will serve a one-year term, until Feb. 1, 2008.

As a Student Regent, Manzano will have the same powers and duties as the other

members of the Board of Regents, with the exception of voting and being counted to determine a quorum.

Manzano was selected for the position by Perry after a lengthy process, which included completing an application, being interviewed by Vice President for Student Services Frank Parker and university President Jim Gaertner and being selected as a finalist by TSUS Chancellor Charles Matthews. ★





The Bearkat athletic program pulled off a “three-peat!” in 2006 – 07, accomplishing what no other Southland Conference member has achieved. Sam Houston State earned its third consecutive SLC Commissioner’s Cup all-sports championship.

The Southland Conference Commissioner’s Cup has been awarded annually each year since 1997 – 98. The cup represents the official “All Sports” championship for overall men’s and women’s athletics in the league.

To earn the Cup in 2006 – 07, Sam Houston State won league titles in women’s indoor track and field and women’s golf and finished as conference runner-up in five sports (football, men’s basketball, women’s tennis, women’s outdoor track and field, and softball).

Texas State-San Marcos and Sam Houston State have each won back-to-back cups, the Bobcats in 2004 and 2005 (tying that year with SHSU) and the Bearkats in 2005 and 2006. No previous program has achieved a Cup “three-peat.”

The Bearkats won the men’s all-sports cup as well with 66.5 points, finishing four and a half points ahead of runner-up UTSA. The men’s all-sports trophy is the second such award for men’s athletics. Sam Houston won its first title in 1999 – 2000.

“Winning the Southland Conference Commissioner’s Cup for the third time in a row is the most outstanding achievement ever accomplished by the Sam Houston State University athletic department and our student-

athletes,” director of athletics Bobby Williams said. “Not only does this achievement prove that every one of our sports teams is vital to our program, but also demonstrates the importance and contributions of each and every student athlete. My congratulations go out to all the student-athletes, coaches, parents, staff, faculty, and administrators for this honor. Most importantly, I am proud to be a Bearkat.”

During Sam Houston State’s three-year Commissioner’s Cup run, the Bearkats have won seven conference championships and finished as league runners-up 12 times. Additionally, 144 Sam Houston student-athletes have been recognized as All-Southland Conference a total of 222 times. ★

“OUR STUDENT-ATHLETES ARE CHAMPIONS ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASS ROOM, PRODUCING A 2.90 OVERALL GRADE POINT AVERAGE, THE HIGHEST IN DEPARTMENT HISTORY.”

Bobby Williams,
Director of Athletics

For the first time in Sam Houston State’s 20 years as a Division I sports program, both the Bearkat softball and baseball teams earned NCAA national playoff berths this spring.

Each team earned its NCAA playoff berth by winning the Southland Conference post-season tournament championship, upsetting higher seeded teams in the national tournament. And, for both squads, one of the key elements for their success was the performances of star pitchers.

For softball, the team leader in the pitching circle was Brandi Crnkovic, a sophomore from Caldwell. For baseball, the star on the mound was Luke Prihoda, a senior from Weimar with a family name rich in Bearkat baseball tradition.

Each earned “Most Valuable Player” honors after leading their teams to SLC post-season tournament titles. Both were key players in Sam Houston’s NCAA victories. And both came back from injuries in 2006 to have outstanding seasons in 2007.

Crnkovic pitched an incredible 23 consecutive scoreless innings during the Southland Conference tournament hosted May 10 – 12 by Sam Houston State. She struck out 29 batters as she tossed shut out victories over three times including No. 1 seed Texas-Arlington in the semifinals and No. 3 seed Texas State-San Marcos in the championship game.

“What has made Brandi such a good pitcher is her mental toughness,” SHSU softball head coach Bob Brock said. “She injured her finger as a freshman and only played in 15 games last year. But she came back this year and that toughness has just come out. She is just getting better and better.”

PITCHERS LED BASEBALL, SOFTBALL TO NCAA PLAYOFFS



You can't say enough about Brandi, especially the turnaround she has had since her injury."

At the NCAA regional in College Station, Sam Houston State jumped out 5 – 0 on nationally-ranked Texas A&M before falling 9 – 5 in the first round. In the elimination round, the Bearkats upset No. 2 seed Louisiana-Lafayette 2 – 1 behind an eight-inning, four-hit performance by Crnkovic.

The victory capped a 20 – 12 record in 2007 for Crnkovic, the most wins for a Bearkat pitcher since 1993. That marks quite a turnaround for a player who managed only a 2 – 6 record during the injury-shortened season in 2006.

A 7 – 11 record against a challenging pre-conference schedule made the Bearkats appear to be a long shot for Southland honors this spring as well. But, behind Crnkovic's pitching that produced a 1.83 season earned run average, Sam Houston rolled up a 20 – 10 league mark to finish as SLC runner-up.

"At the beginning of the year it still felt like my freshman year because I struggled,"

Crnkovic said. "Then I just decided it was time to grow up and pitch the best I could. I finally got my movements down and gained a lot of confidence."

Sam Houston State ranked as the third most improved program in NCAA Division I baseball, going from a 23 – 31 record in 2006 to a 40 – 24 mark in 2007.

On the mound for the Bearkats in 35 of those 64 games was righthander Luke Prihoda, the younger brother of Brad Prihoda who played

on SHSU's last NCAA tournament team in 1996 and cousin of Stephen Prihoda, all-star pitcher for the Kats from 1992 to 1995.

Prihoda earned second team All-America and first team All-Southland honors, was SLC "Pitcher of the Year" and was a finalist for the NCAA Division I "Stopper of the Year" award after leading NCAA Division I baseball with 18 saves.

He produced a 7 – 3 won-lost record and 1.61 earned run average, striking out 65 batters in 72 innings work. Following the season, Prihoda was drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks.

"I got lucky," the humble reliever said. "I just put my faith and trust in the Lord and my talents. You can't be intimidated as a closer. You've just got to trust your stuff and hang it out there on the line."

Prihoda had a hand in three of the Bearkats' four victories at the Southland Conference tournament and in both wins at the NCAA regional. Sam Houston State had not qualified for SLC post-season play since 2000 and returning to the tournament was a team goal in 2007.

"All the players were committed to getting to the tournament," Prihoda said. "Then, to win the Southland tournament and go on to the regional was even better. Now, people are going to look back and say this is the team that resurrected the once-great baseball tradition at Sam Houston State."

Prihoda came to Sam Houston from McLennan Community College but was hampered his junior year by a shoulder injury. His senior season, however, he helped the Bearkats return to NCAA tournament action for



the first time since 1996.

The senior earned the save in a 5 – 4 victory over Troy and an incredible 11-inning 12 – 11 victory over Southern Mississippi.

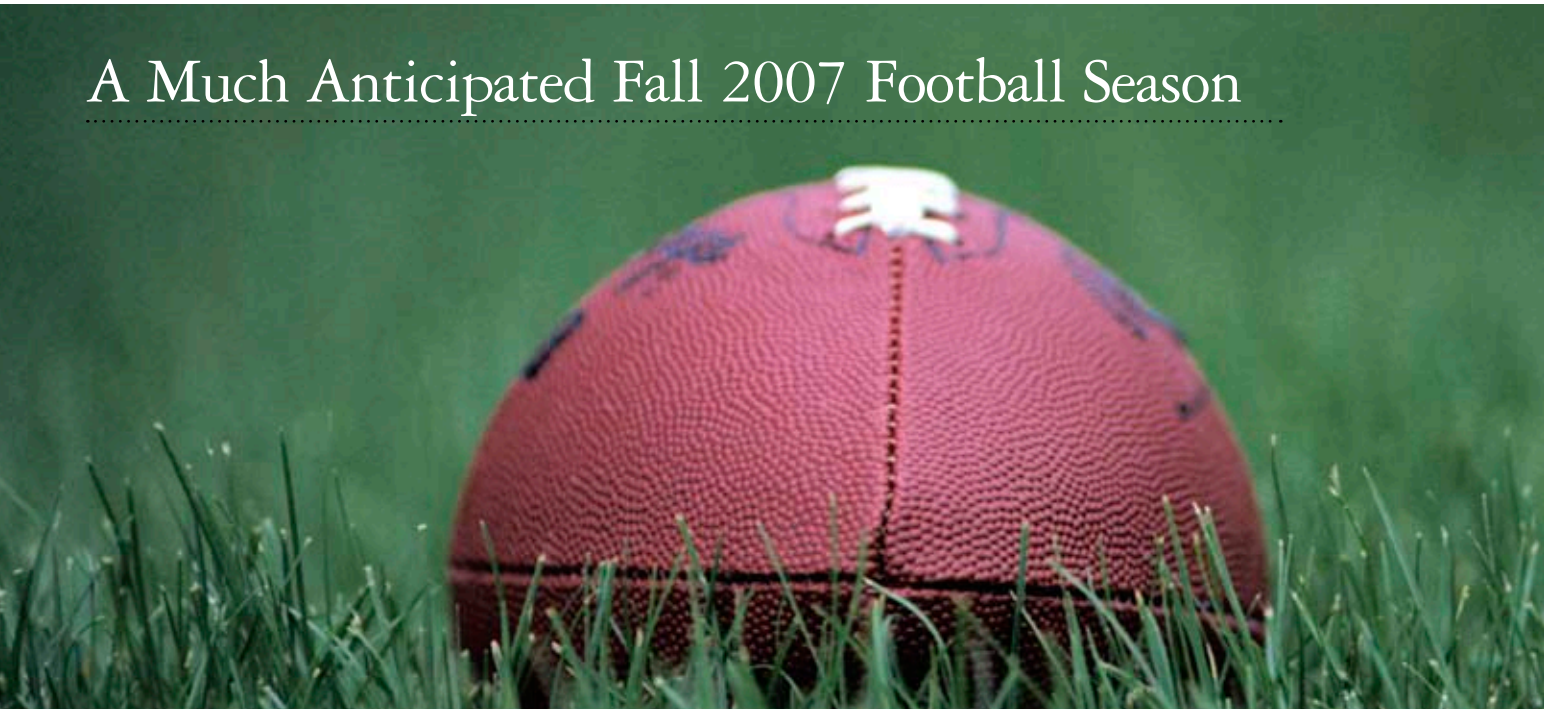
In his first season at Sam Houston State, coach Mark Johnson humbly gives all the credit to the players who got the job done on the field this season. The longtime Texas A&M coach who breathed life into SHSU's once-proud program goes on further to say it was Prihoda's performance that put the team over the top.

"There is no question that Luke is our MVP," Johnson said. "There are a lot of great pitchers in our conference, but Luke contributed more as a reliever and saw more action. He brought us home quite a few times this season and was a joy to watch."

Prihoda said he just did his job. Whatever Johnson and pitching coach Justin Hill asked, he was willing to do.

"I've always liked throwing in the ninth inning," Prihoda said. "It's quite an adrenaline rush—you can't beat it. Three outs and you're walking in a line with your teammates and you know you've helped get another win." ★

A Much Anticipated Fall 2007 Football Season



Six players who earned All-Southland Conference honors during the Bearkats' 2006 league runner-up season plus several high profile newcomers make Sam Houston State's upcoming 2007 football schedule one of the most eagerly awaited seasons in recent memory.

Head coach Todd Whitten and his staff begin their third season at Sam Houston with 47 returning lettermen including six starters on both offense and defense.

Becoming more explosive on offense and putting more pressure on the quarterback on defense are two of the staff's top goals coming into the 2007 season.

Heading the list of top returning players are seniors tight end Blake Martin (39 catches, 481 yards, 2 TD) and offensive tackle Brandon Hale. Both were first team selections in 2006. Cornerback Scorpio Babers, fullback Dustin Dziuk, and quarterback Brett Hicks were

honorable mention selections last year. Defensive lineman David Branch, All-SLC in 2005, returns from an injury redshirt season last year.

Several transfers figure to fill important spots in the Bearkat lineup including Rhett Bomar (Oklahoma) at quarterback, Chris Brown (Texas) at defensive end, Trey Payne (Baylor) at wide receiver, Frank Simon (Northeastern Oklahoma) at linebacker, and Olufemi Ogundare (Eastern Michigan) at running back.

Bomar passed for 2,018 yards and 10 touchdowns for the Sooners in 2005, leading Oklahoma to the Holiday Bowl title as a freshman in 2005.

Hicks, last year's starter, and Bomar combined for 596 passing yards in the 2007 Orange-White spring game. Sam Houston returns four of its five offensive linemen, each starting all 11 games last season. The Bearkats lost all three starters at wide receiver and the league's leading rusher but look to improve with several talented young players.

Four secondary starters, all four-year lettermen, graduated. The secondary has been a key area in the past two recruiting classes and the Kats look to a group of talented young players to take over. ★

2007 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Date (Day)	Opponent	Site	Time
Aug. 30 (Thur.)	Angelo State	Huntsville	6 p.m.
Sept. 8 (Sat.)	Arkansas-Monticello	Huntsville	6 p.m.
Sept. 15 (Sat.)	North Dakota State	Fargo, ND	6 p.m.
Sept. 29 (Sat.)	Oklahoma State	Stillwater, OK	6 p.m.
Oct. 6 (Sat.)	# Central Arkansas	Huntsville	6 p.m.
Oct. 13 (Sat.)	# McNeese State	Lakes Charles, LA	7 p.m.
Oct. 20 (Sat.)	# Northwestern State	Huntsville	2 p.m.
Oct. 27 (Sat.)	# Stephen F. Austin	Nacogdoches	6 p.m.
Nov. 3 (Sat.)	# Nicholls State	Huntsville	6 p.m.
Nov. 10 (Sat.)	# Southeastern LA	Hammond, LA	6 p.m.
Nov. 17 (Sat.)	# TX St-San Marcos	San Marcos	6 p.m.

Southland Conference game



Spring Sports Wrap-Up



Southland Conference championships in two sports, an all-time best finish in tennis, NCAA playoff appearances in baseball and softball, and NCAA finalists in track and field highlighted what had to be one of the most successful springs in Sam Houston sports history.

Led by freshman sprinter Jessica Fisher of Houston and senior pole vaulter Jennie Sewell of Rockwall, Sam Houston State won its first Southland Conference women's indoor track and field championship in February.

The Bearkat women scored 135 points, led by 22 from Fisher who won the 60 and 200 meter dashes and ran the second leg on the runner-up 4x400 relay. Fisher was named SLC indoor women's "Freshman of the Year."

Sewell was SLC indoor women's "Field Events Athlete of the Year" after winning her fourth league pole vault championship with a school record mark of 13 feet, 1.75 inches.

Sewell completed her career as one of Sam Houston State's most honored track athletes by winning the NCAA regional pole vault title and her third Southland Conference outdoor championship in May. She was also the university's first Texas Relays champion after

winning the pole vault in Austin in April.

Curtis Collier was named Southland Conference women's indoor track and field "Coach of the Year."

With three players finishing among the top 10 individuals, Sam Houston State won its second Southland Conference women's golf championship in April.

Freshman Stefanie Page fired a two-under final round 70 to tie with Lamar's Therese Nilsson for the individual crown. Page sank a 20-foot birdie putt on the second hole of a sudden death playoff with Nilsson to earn the Southland individual title.

Page was named Southland Conference "Newcomer of the Year" and was a first team All-Southland Conference performer.

Jennifer Heinz, Landa Stewart, and Wendy Joyner also were recognized as All-Southland. Head coach Mike Dirks was named SLC

women's golf "Coach of the Year."

Men's basketball, softball, women's tennis, and women's outdoor track and field produced runner-up finishes in Southland action.

For the women's tennis team, their second place finish with a 9 – 2 league mark is the team's best performance in SHSU's 20 years in the Southland. Following the season, the tennis team earned its first ever NCAA Division I top 10 regional ranking by placing No. 8 in the final Southwest Region standings.

Matt Adkisson, senior pole vaulter for the Bearkat men's track and field team, won the Southland Conference title and was runner-up in the NCAA regional to earn a spot in the NCAA national finals in Sacramento, CA. ★

Please visit www.gobearkats.com, for more information and up-to-the-minute news on SHSU athletics.

Saying Goodbye To Ferol Robinson



FEROL ROBINSON, 88,
RETIRED SAM HOUSTON STATE
UNIVERSITY VICE PRESIDENT
AND MENTOR TO HUNDREDS
OF COMMUNICATION
PROFESSIONALS THROUGHOUT
TEXAS AND THE NATION, DIED
FEB. 4 IN HUNTSVILLE.



“Dr. R” retired in 1981 as vice president for university affairs. At that time his administrative responsibilities included student life, athletics, intramurals, development and fund raising, alumni relations, scholarships and endowments, special programs, student recruitment, the Lowman Student Center, information and publication services, the Sam Houston Memorial Museum, student housing, the health center, university police, financial aid, and vending.

He came to Sam Houston State Teachers College in 1938, earning both bachelor’s (1942) and master’s (1947) degrees.

After serving in the U. S. Army for three and a half years during World War II, he

returned to Sam Houston in 1946 and married Mary Creed Engledow, who died in 2004. They had two daughters, the late Pamela Ann Robinson, and Patricia Gail Trammell.

After receiving his doctorate from the University of Missouri in 1953, he returned to Sam Houston State to direct the journalism program for 20 years, training hundreds of news men and women, teachers, public and industrial relations personnel, and journalism graduates who pursued other careers. He was co-editor of the *Alumnus Magazine* and faculty sponsor for the *Houstonian* campus newspaper.

His students loved him because he always had time to listen to a problem, give advice, or help them through a financial or emotional crisis.

He was a rare combination of teacher/father to hundreds of journalism majors and minors.

He was a gifted writer who could turn a phrase but never turned away a student. Although he had a big office and broad responsibilities when he retired in 1981, he said that his happiest days were in the *Houstonian* newsroom “mole-hole,” teaching, advising and producing publicity on Sam Houston.

His legacy continued after retirement, through the scholarships established in his honor by former students. Since February, many additional donations have been made to the Ferol Robinson Endowment through the Office of University Advancement; Box 2537; Huntsville, TX 77341-2537. ★

Editor’s Note: We sincerely regret not being able to recognize Dr. Robinson in our Fall/Winter edition of the *Heritage*. At the time of his passing, the magazine was being printed.

IT'S A GRAND SLAM!



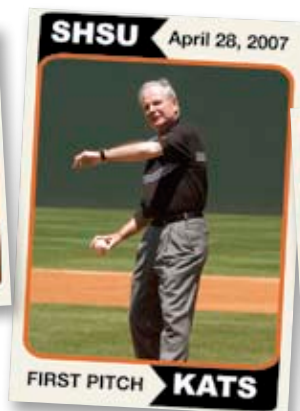
A \$1 million gift to SHSU from Houston entrepreneur and renowned philanthropist Don Sanders—a member of the university's Class of 1958—was officially recognized this spring with the dedication of the Don Sanders Baseball Stadium.

Friends and family of Sanders were on hand to help celebrate the occasion, including baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan, former Texas governor Mark White, and former Astros player Terry Puhl.

"When we were looking into naming the baseball field, we had several criteria in mind," head baseball coach Mark Johnson said.

"We wanted the person to be an alumnus of Sam Houston State, we wanted someone who was interested and involved in baseball, and we wanted someone with integrity, credibility and strong character to reflect what we want to do here for our baseball program," he said. "Mr. Sanders was a perfect fit."

The \$5.5 million facility includes not only the stadium, but also spacious dressing areas, indoor hitting cages, stadium lights, and coaches' offices. It is the newest baseball



complex in the Southland Conference.

Sanders is founder and chairman of the investment firm Sanders Morris Harris. He is a former owner of the Houston Sports Association and the Houston Astros Baseball Club and currently, along with Ryan, is co-owner of Ryan-Sanders Baseball. Ryan-Sanders Baseball owns the Astros' Class AAA Round Rock Express and Class AA Corpus Christi Hooks.

Sanders is a leading figure in Houston in a variety of civic, corporate and financial enterprises. His board affiliations include the Nolan Ryan Foundation, the DePelchin Children's Center, and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. In 2001, he was named Houston Interfaith Charities' "Sportsman of the Year."

"Baseball is a big part of my life," said Sanders. "I feel that the gift to Sam Houston State can have a substantial impact on the

university and the baseball program not only today, but also in the future."

Sanders also complimented the hiring of new SHSU head baseball coach Mark Johnson.

"The addition of Mark Johnson brings credibility to the baseball program," said Sanders. "He is a class act for any university."

University officials expressed great appreciation for Sanders's donation.

"This generous gift will benefit the Bearkat baseball program for evermore," said SHSU President Jim Gaertner. "It will also perpetuate the name of one of our most distinguished alumni." ★

Dedication To Education Honored

Anyone who has ever loved or been loved by a grandparent knows how precious and strong the bond can be in a grandparent-grandchild relationship.

To honor the memory of his grandparents, David Haralson and his wife Dolores of Hobe Sound, Fla. have established the Olive and Edgar May Education Endowment Fund to provide financial assistance to an undergraduate student majoring in any program within the College of Education.

The first scholarship from the endowment was awarded this year to Brandi Carroll who is from Trinity, Texas. Students from Trinity are given preference.

“My grandmother was a teacher and administrator for Trinity schools for many years,” said Haralson, “and both my grandparents made significant contributions to the Trinity community.”

Olive was a graduate of Sam Houston State University. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and a Master of Education degree in elementary education. She later received a Professional Elementary School Principal Certificate all from Sam Houston State.

As an educator, she taught in the classroom, coached, conducted spelling bees and established the Student Council. She also served as the principal of Trinity High School.

Even after Olive retired, she continued to work with school children by substitute teaching and tutoring. Her husband Edgar was a civic leader in Trinity.

“He was involved in everything pertaining to the town, and everyone in the area knew him,” said Haralson.

Edgar would open his welding shop at night for local students to decorate floats for parades and make decorations for other occasions



such as dances and school parties.

“Both my grandparents were well-known and well-loved in the community. I didn’t want their names to be forgotten,” he said.

Haralson decided an endowment would be the perfect way to keep the names of Olive and Edgar alive in the community in perpetuity while honoring their passion for education.

“We must have an educated population in order to benefit society and ensure human development,” said Haralson. “What better way to honor the memory of two people who strongly believed in the importance of education than to provide academic funding for students who intend to go into the teaching profession.” ★

Memorializing The Spirit Of Giving

Tom Thweatt III had an overriding passion to help others and lived a life that held no regrets.

“He appreciated each day and didn’t worry too much about the next, but for every day his prayer was always that God provide him an opportunity to help someone,” said his father W.T. “Tom” Thweatt Jr. “That’s the way he lived.”

A “brilliant” but “low-key” young man who never bragged about his accomplishments, Tom received a bachelor’s degree in psychology with honors from Texas A&M University in only three years.

After working in the restaurant business, he decided to return to A&M for a Master of Business Administration degree. Although Tom completed his graduate studies, it was toward the end of the program that “he realized his heart was really in spiritual counseling,” according to his father.

Tom’s life goal of helping others brought him to Sam Houston State where he joined the master’s program in counseling. On March 9, 2005, just months away from graduating, Tom was killed in an automobile accident. He was 29 years old.

In August, when Tom would have graduated, Sam Houston awarded the degree to him posthumously. Ann Marie, his wife and “soul mate,” to whom he had been married exactly 19 months on the day he died, walked across the stage to accept the diploma.

Choosing “to keep his name alive,” Thweatt and his wife Lou established the W. Tom Thweatt III Memorial Graduate Fellowship Endowment Fund for “people like Tom who share similar aspirations and career goals,” Thweatt said.

After the endowment was established, the level and number of contributions from friends,

peers and colleagues, including SHSU faculty members, far exceeded the average contributions made to a student “in memory gift,” according to Darlene Andrews, director of donor relations for University Advancement.

The room in the Jack Staggs Clinic where Tom did most of his counseling has since been named in his honor. In addition, his fellow classmates planted a crepe myrtle tree on the north side of the clinic in his memory. A plaque marks the tree.

“It wasn’t in his nature to just talk about helping people; his nature was to actually take action and help people,” Thweatt said. “That’s what gave Tom satisfaction: waking up in the morning and thinking about his day, who he could interface with and how he could touch them.” ★



**Q. DOES A BEARKAT
HAVE STRIPES?
A. YES, IF HE'S ALSO
A ZEBRA.**

by Frank Krystyniak

“Zebras” are what sports fans sometimes call the game officials because of their traditional striped-shirt outfits. Walt Anderson is a Bearkat who became a zebra—a four-year letterman as a kicker in football at Sam Houston State University from 1970 – 73, and is now at the top of the world of football officiating.

If you watch National Football League games you’ve probably seen Walt. As the head of his officiating crew—the “referee”—he gets to go on live TV and explain rulings on the field. He grew up in Texas and played high school football in Channelview, but he plays no favorites with either the Texans or the Cowboys.

“People are always asking me ‘who’s your favorite team in the NFL,’ Walt says. “I tell them ‘my favorite team is the officials.’”

“You just don’t care who wins. We enjoy the game. We love the game but our role is to make sure it’s settled on the field, according to the rules.”

Most Cowboy fans remember last season’s Wild Card playoff game when Tony Romo botched the hold on a Martin Gramatica 19-yard field goal. Most don’t remember that the

official who had to make two key decisions in that game was Walt Anderson.

Both calls came late in the game. On the first a Dallas receiver fumbled the ball into his own end zone, and it appeared to have been recovered by Seattle for a touchdown. The Cowboys got the break on that one when Walt ruled that the Seattle player who recovered the ball had his foot out of bounds. It was a two-point safety instead of a touchdown.

Minutes later Dallas was driving toward the Seattle goal. On third down the receiver came up a half yard short, even though Walt’s crew ruled initially that he had made a first down. On this one Walt’s replay decision was not in the Cowboys’ favor.

The review showed that it was not a first down. The Cowboys tried a field





goal that would have given them a late-game 23 – 21 lead, but quarterback/holder Romo mysteriously mishandled the placement and Dallas lost by a point.

“This is one of the hardest calls Walt Anderson will ever have to make,” announcer Al Michaels was saying in the broadcast booth as Anderson reviewed the play under the replay hood. After the game there was little criticism of the officiating.

When he was a Bearkat, Walt had no idea he would become a sports celebrity of sorts. He was all-conference in 1972 and academic all-America in 1972 and ‘73. After he graduated in 1974, he began study toward a dental degree.

He soon realized that football had been too much a part of his life—especially with his father, Mac Anderson, coaching in Florida and Texas—to step away from it completely. It was his father who encouraged him to look into officiating as a way to stay connected to the game he loved, and Walt started out doing little league and junior high and then high school games 33 years ago.

He moved into the college conferences—Southwest, Southland and Lone Star. While



he chooses not to work Houston Texan games, because several of the coaches and players have been his neighbors, he has done a number of Bearkat games.

During his 11 years in the NFL he has worked four Wild Card games, three divisional championships, three league championships, and Super Bowl XXXV (New York Giants vs. Baltimore in 2001). That was the first Super Bowl in which instant replay was used. He was the line judge, made the first call challenged on instant replay, and was upheld.

Then last season he was selected to be coordinator of football officials for the Big 12 Conference. As if he needed something to do in his spare time.

He practiced dentistry in Sugar Land for 20 years and owned one of the largest group dental practices in the Houston area, with 13 doctors and 45 employees. Five years ago he sold his practice to devote full time to his officiating.

“Full-time” may not adequately describe the number of hours he puts in.

Many of those hours are spent in what he calls his “junior command center.” This is a media viewing and production room upstairs in his Sugar Land home, containing much of the same equipment as larger rooms in NFL headquarters in New York and Big 12 headquarters in Dallas.

His typical work week starts minutes after the last one ends.

By the time he has filled out his game report he is given a videotape that he reviews on the plane on his way to Dallas. Monday, Tuesday and part of Wednesday he’s in the Big 12 office. On Tuesday he gets another tape of his previous NFL game.

Early in the week he does a conference call with his crew. The NFL spends Tuesday and Wednesday grading each crew, and the crew chiefs get that report on Wednesday night—what Walt calls “the good, the bad, and the ugly.”



You just don't care who wins. We enjoy the game. We love the game but our role is to make sure it's settled on the field, according to the rules.

In the Big 12 he’s responsible for all aspects of the officiating—selecting new officials, assigning crews to games, reviewing and critiquing, and training.

He flies home to Houston Wednesday night and has another e-mail or conference call with his crew on Thursday, reacting to the NFL report. He spends Thursday and Friday in the junior command center, reviewing tapes of Big 12 games, of his crew’s last game if he feels it is necessary, and of the week’s upcoming game.

If they're working an Indianapolis Colts game, for instance, they want to be sharp on no-huddle offense implications. They also pay particular attention to a team's receiver patterns, because each potential receiver is watched by an official on each play. Often teams set out three receivers together, who then criss-cross in various patterns to confuse the defense.

"You don't want to end up with two officials watching one guy and nobody watching the other one," Walt says.

During the season on a typical day he gets up at 5:30 or 6 a.m. and gets to bed about 2 a.m. That makes for 19 – 20 hour days, seven days a week. His one luxury, when he travels to a game site, is to get to bed earlier so he'll be more rested and less likely to make a bad call.

Over the years Walt says he has learned a lot from legendary NFL officials Jerry Markbriet and Red Cashion, as well as George Foshee, who he started with in high school.

Walt is not ashamed of how hard he works and why.

"I excel at preparation," he says. "I don't have the muscles of (Ed) Hoculi, or the height of (Terry) McCaulay. I put in as much or more time than any of them. That's my strength—preparation."

While he tries to maintain his neutrality when it comes to teams and players, over the years he has had some interesting interchanges, not all of which can be repeated in a family publication.

He recalls Bill Cowher, late in a game that the Steelers were leading comfortably, asking him "should we kick the field goal or run out the clock."

"That's not my job to make that decision," Walt told him. But Cowher persisted.

"I'd just run out the clock," Walt finally offered. "You may see this team again in the playoffs." Cowher took his advice.

He remembers that in the Cowboys playoff game in Seattle Bill Parcells was upset when he thought he was going to have to use a timeout.

The play clock had not been started correctly, and Walt was in the process of fixing that.

While Walt was watching the replay, television viewers were watching Parcells give the line judge holy hell. What TV viewers did not see after Walt's announcement that cleared up the problem was Parcells putting his arm around the line judge and apologizing for his impatience.

"That's the kind of classy guy he is," Walt says of Parcells. "He rarely questioned calls, but usually had a good reason. *The Big Tuna* needed more than a good reputation among NFL officials, however, "retiring" for the fourth time in January.

For the most part, coaches give him less grief than fans might imagine from some of their televised outbursts.

"They have so much pressure to win," Walt says. "They snap sometimes but they don't have too much time to get upset with officials. They have to get back to coaching."



When he decides to hang up his striped shirt and cleats, he'll have a lot of stories to tell about players as well. Like one exchange he had with one quarterback. As the "referee," Walt's job is to keep an eye on the quarterback, especially for late hits.

He recalls the quarterback complaining, "Walt, they're holding."

"I can either look downfield and not protect you," Walt told him, "or do what I'm doing."

"You just keep doing what you're doing."

While Walt's work is open to national scrutiny on every game he does, because of millions of critical eyes, an NFL official's character must be unquestioned and his financial privacy is non-existent as far as the league is concerned.

"My finances are an open book to them," he says. "They keep track of that."

Unlike baseball umpires, most NFL officials have or have had other jobs. Members of Walt's crew come from various backgrounds and live in scattered locations including Chattanooga and Knoxville, Tenn., Atlanta, and Findlay, Ohio.

The NFL officials pay scale is based on experience, from \$2,500 per game to \$10,000. Playoff assignments earn them additional money. Walt estimates that the average for an NFL official is about \$80,000 a year, with the range being \$45,000 to \$160,000.

While NFL games are big business, deadly serious and highly competitive, they are also fun, Walt says. He wouldn't put in such long hours and ask his family to sacrifice so much if they were not.

One of his most amusing moments, and one that shows his unbiased approach to his job, happened during a game in Miami. He was reviewing a ruling on the field that the Dolphins had scored a touchdown. While he was looking at replays he thought about his mother, who is a big Dolphin fan.

"My mother is watching this game," he told the replay official in the booth, "and boy is she going to be mad when I reverse this call." ★

A Measure Of A Life Is Its Service

Two former SHSU athletes and a current professor are among those who were selected to receive the 2007 SHSU Alumni Association Service Award for their outstanding commitment to the university and respective communities.

Tom Freeman, James Hanscom, Robert Lane, John Magee, Michael Murray and Chris Thompson were honored during a luncheon on April 27th.



Tom Freeman

Tom Freeman, a 1958 graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, is a long-time entrepreneur in the Huntsville community. Having owned two businesses—Town and Country Cleaners for more than 20 years and Freeman Investments, L.L.P., a real estate development company—he still manages to devote a considerable amount of time representing Sam Houston “exceptionally well in the community.”

Freeman has served as chairman of the Walker and surrounding counties’ “Share the

Vision” capital campaign, a member of the President’s Circle Executive Leadership Council, a Samuel Houston Society member, and an SHSU liaison on the Texas State University System’s Governmental Relations Committee.

His community involvement includes serving as a deacon and active member of the First Baptist Church; member and past president/chairman of the board of the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce; and former director of American Bank as well as First National Bank.

James “Jim” Hanscom

James Hanscom is a 1962 SHSU graduate with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He received his Master of Business Administration degree from Pepperdine University.

A life member of SHSU’s Alumni Association, he served on the board of directors for five years, during which time he was a member of the committee that created the campus’ alumni garden and was the organization’s president in 2005. Hanscom is also a life member of the Sigma Chi

fraternity and past alumni president of the local chapter’s house corporation.

His community involvement includes serving on the new clubhouse building and long-range planning committees for Elkins Lake, the Huntsville Item Advisory Board, and the Republican Party’s finance committee where he was the Republican Party precinct chairman for Jefferson County. As a charter member of the Birmingham (Ala.) Sunrise Rotary Club, he was chairman of the organization’s polio inoculation committee.





Robert "Bobby" Lane

A professor and former department chair for SHSU's agricultural and industrial science department, Bobby Lane has, over the past 24 years, made a difference inside and outside the classroom.

Lane, a 1977 Bearkat graduate with a degree in agricultural education, was "instrumental in expanding the alumni program in agriculture" which during his tenure on the agricultural alumni association's board of directors contributed over \$10,000 to student professional development activities, provided a \$500 annual ag alumni leadership award at the agricultural awards banquet and hosted ag alumni annual gatherings in various Texas cities for the past 12 years.

In addition, Lane organized and coordinated the first SAM School for Successful Agricultural Management, a two-and-a-half day collaborative educational program for beginners in ranch management involving SHSU and Texas A&M faculty members. He also coordinates the Area IX and State FFA Forage Evaluation Career Development events

on campus each year.

He received his master's and doctoral degrees in agronomy from Texas A&M University.

His teaching skills and leadership were common sentiments expressed in the nominations letters.

"Dr. Lane is recognized as one of the leading agricultural educators in the state and has had an exemplary career as a classroom professor and academic leader at Sam Houston State."

"While he was chair of the department of agricultural sciences at SHSU, the program flourished, research blossomed, and the students won many competitive awards for their knowledge and skills."

His off-campus accomplishments include leading mission teams for the First United Methodist Church to Mexico, Costa Rica and Alabama; serving as vice president of the Walker County Fair Association; participating as board member for the Walker County Children's Protective Services; and writing a weekly column, "The Scoop on Agriculture," for the Huntsville Item.

John Magee

A retired music teacher for the Brazosport school district where he taught for 37 years, John Magee brought "pride to that district" and influenced "thousands of students who have never forgot him."

Magee received his bachelor's degree from SHSU in vocal music in 1950 and his Master of Music Education degree from the University of Houston in 1954.

Over the next 36 years, he built a first-class choral program at Brazosport; directed award-winning "Sweepstakes" choirs; and led Freeport High School to a second place in a statewide recording contest.

To attract more boys to the choral program, Magee took the Brazosport High School Male Chorus on camping/concert tours to Colorado during the summer months. The group won acclaim throughout Texas and Colorado on five different tours.

After retiring in 1983, his influence spread to the community, where he has served as music director for community musicals, founder and director of the Brazos Area Boy's Choir, and as the part-time music minister at three community churches.

In 2001, 350 of his students held a reunion concert in his honor where his accomplishments were recognized through the renaming of the high school auditorium to the John Magee Performance Center. A scholarship program in Magee's honor was also established and funded entirely by former students to benefit graduating seniors from both high schools in Brazosport ISD. The reunions have become somewhat of a tradition. In 2001 and 2006, his former students came together under his direction and performed Handel's *The Messiah*.

Magee's love of people and passion for music can be summed up in a quotation from



one of his favorite chorale pieces. The line, "I am Music, the instrument of God," is engraved on a plaque in the John Magee Performance Center.



Michael Murray

A former SHSU football and baseball letterman and Hall of Honor recipient, Michael Murray has used his “fundraising genius” to benefit both the university’s athletics department and Lettermen Association.

The Huntsville native attended Sam Houston on a football scholarship and earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1970.

Murray has, over the years, given a tremendous amount of support to both the university and the athletics department. As president of the Lettermen Association board of directors, he initiated a Skeet Shooting Tournament as a fundraiser, as well as conceived the idea of selling corporate sponsorships at the annual golf tournament. He has been a Kat Pack board member for many years and is a contributor to the “Share the Vision” Capital Campaign.

From the nomination letters, Murray was acknowledged for his strong support of the university, “He has shown his support for the

continued success of the football auction by donating some of the bestselling items, such as hunting trips as well as Astros baseball tickets.” A long-time associate remarked, “... character, discipline, and hard work have indelibly marked him as someone to admire.”

Murray has worked in the life insurance business since 1971. Prior to starting his own agency, Murray Insurance & Financial Services, Inc. in 1986, he was vice president of Great Southern Life Insurance Company. Murray is a Million Dollar Round Table life member, annual qualifier and Court of the Table qualifier. He is also an annual qualifier for the Grand Council of the Texas Leaders Round Table. Each year, Murray has received the National Quality Award presented to agents for their production and retention of business.

Murray, a cancer survivor, is involved with the American Cancer Society and also works with the Rafiki Foundation and Living Water International. He is a member of the Houston Northwest Baptist Church.

Chris Thompson

A former “Player of the Year” for SHSU’s tennis team and two-time “Coach of the Year,” Chris Thompson brings together the university, community and student-athletes through service.

Stressing the importance of community service to her student-athletes, Thompson established the Bearkat Mentor Program, which requires all freshman student-athletes to mentor at-risk students in the public school system. She has “insisted” all “her kids” participate in local fundraisers for various charities.

After coaching tennis for 16 years, she now serves as the associate athletic director overseeing the athletic academic support program, academic services and NCAA compliance, as well as

the Bearkat Learning Enhancement Center, which works with all student-athletes on class schedules, tutors, degree plans, career selection and academic advisement.

Under her guidance, student-athletes have steadily increased their grade point average to surpass both the general SHSU student population and the average of all student-athletes in the Southland Conference, leading the league in academic achievement. In recognition of Thompson’s leadership, the university has been awarded the Southland Conference Commissioner’s Academic Cup for the past three years. ★



Putting Out The Welcome Mat

The new SHSU Alumni and Visitor Center serves as the gateway for prospective students and parents and as a focal point connecting former students to the university.

A spring ribbon-cutting event officially marked the opening of one of the university's newest facilities. Among the guests attending were Texas State University Board of Regents Chancellor Charles R. Matthews who spoke during the ceremony, Texas Congressman Kevin Brady, newly-appointed TSUS regent and Sam Houston alumna Trisha Pollard, and TSUS student regent Magdalena Manzano, a senior at Sam Houston.

The two-story building houses the Visitor Center on the first floor and the Alumni Center on the second.

First impressions are important and visitors will not be disappointed as they are warmly greeted in the modern reception area. Digital displays, computer stations and personnel provide basic information about the university while

an informative and upbeat film about academic programs and student life is shown on multiple plasma screens in a state-of-the-art auditorium.

"Now we have a place to 'wow' our visitors," said Joey Chandler, Visitor Center director.

The Alumni Center, located upstairs, also provides an impressive welcome as former students pass through an outside deck to the tastefully appointed reception area where guests can't help but marvel over the collection of Sam Houston class rings dating back to 1922, beautifully displayed in a case donated by alumni Gene and Ruth Denman Sollock.

"The new Alumni Center is a place to showcase the accomplishments of our alumni," said Charlie Vienne, alumni director. "It is also a place where alumni can reconnect with both the university and other Sam graduates." ★



CATCH A BEARKAT BY THE TAIL! TAILGATE SCHEDULE 2007

While the weather cools in the fall, football season is just starting to heat up. And what's football without a tailgate? Join in the pre-game festivities that mark the 2007 tailgate season. Tailgating begins 2 hours prior to kick-off. Visit <http://alumni.shsu.edu> for up-to-date schedule times.

DATE	DAY	GAME	LOCATION
Aug. 30	Thursday	Angelo State	Bearkat Alley
Sept. 8	Saturday	Arkansas Monticello	Bearkat Alley
Oct. 6	Saturday	Central Arkansas	Bearkat Alley
Oct. 20	Saturday	Northwestern State	Bearkat Alley
Oct. 27	Saturday	Stephen F. Austin	SFA Nacogdoches Campus
Nov. 3	Saturday	Nicholls State	Bearkat Alley
Nov. 17	Saturday	Texas State	San Marcos (Location TBD)

HOMECOMING CALENDAR 2007



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

Homecoming Parade	Sam Houston Avenue	6:30 PM	Student Activities 936.294.3861
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

Distinguished Alumni Gala Reception	LSC Ballroom	6:00 PM	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841
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Distinguished Alumni Gala Dinner	LSC Ballroom	7:00 PM	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841
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SHSU vs. Northwestern State Soccer	Pritchett Field	7:00 PM	Athletics 936.294.1729
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

Raven Kids 1-Mile Race	Intramural Field	7:00 AM	Recreational Sports 936.294.3658
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Raven 5K Race & 1 Mile Walk	Health & Kinesiology Center	7:30 AM	Recreational Sports 936.294.3658
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Alumni Coffee	Visitor & Alumni Center	9:30 AM	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841
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Pre-Game with the President	Austin Hall	11:00 AM	President's Office 936.294.3415
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SHSU Bearkat Alley (tailgate party)	Bowers Stadium	Noon	Athletics & Student Activities 936.294.3861
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SHSU vs. Northwestern State Football	Bowers Stadium	2:00 PM	Athletics 936.294.1729
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Black Alumni & Friends Club Homecoming Celebration	LSC Ballroom	7:00 PM	Alumni Relations 936.294.1841
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New York Event

What do you get when you combine the Big Apple with Orange Pride? An Unbeatable Pear! And that's just what you'll find at the New York Alumni & Friends event scheduled in New York City for December 7, 2007. For more information, contact the Alumni Relations office at 800.283.7478. ☆





A FATHER'S INSPIRATION. A SON'S DESTINY. AN EDUCATIONAL LEGACY.

As a small boy, M.B. Etheredge understood the value of education after making the connection between his own father's educational accomplishments and the high level of respect his dad held within the Weldon community. Even today, M.B. credits his father as his lifelong inspiration.

After both M.B. and his wife, Emma, graduated in the late 1930's from Sam Houston Normal Institute with degrees in education, they began their lives together as teachers. At the age of 26, he was hired as superintendent of a Brazoria school district.

His career in education was interrupted after the attack on Pearl Harbor. M.B. voluntarily enlisted in the army and after serving in Africa, he found himself in Europe advancing through France to Germany. Leaving the military at the rank of Lt. Colonel, M.B. had the distinction of being the second most highly-decorated veteran in U.S. history. Today, he is recognized as the most highly-decorated, living veteran.

After the war, M.B. returned to his family and his alma mater to pursue a master's in education. While completing his graduate

studies, he won a seat in the state legislature serving three terms and was chairman of the education committee.

His calling as an educator brought him back once more to Sam Houston where M.B. joined the university as a faculty member in the College of Education. For the next 30 years, he taught educational law to thousands of students.

But the story doesn't end there. In his "retirement," he launched a new career as a successful businessman in such ventures as banking, real estate and timber.

Now, at 93, M.B. remains active in the Huntsville community and maintains a strong relationship with the university. Over the years, he has been inducted into the Letterman's Hall of Honor and recognized as an SHSU Distinguished Alumnus.

As a lifelong advocate for education, M.B. has honored his father's legacy and through the M.B. and Emma Etheredge Endowed Scholarship, in memory of his wife, has ensured educational opportunities will be available for future generations of Bearcats.

To learn more about ways you can support Sam Houston State University, contact the University Advancement office at <http://www.shsu.edu/giving> or call 936.294.3625.

HOME COMING

COME HOME ...

HOLLYWOOD STYLE!

SHSU IS ROLLING OUT THE CARPET FOR YOU!



HOME COMING WEEK

October 15 – 20, 2007

Homecoming Parade

Thurs., October 18 6:30 pm

Bearkat Alley Tailgate

Sat., October 20 Noon

SHSU vs. Northwestern State

Sat., October 20 2 pm

For additional information and a complete calendar of events,
log on to our website www.shsu.edu/homecoming.

Sam Houston State University
Office of University Advancement
Box 2537
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2537