The College of Humanities and Social Sciences, along with administrators, faculty and staff members, and students, celebrated the groundbreaking of a new academic building and its prospect in the future of Sam Houston State University on Friday morning (June 8).

“Beautiful buildings like this one we break ground on today are catalysts for the realization of dreams,” said Texas State University System chancellor Charles R. Matthews. “They enable us to move beyond all boundaries into a bright future. Today we celebrate the groundbreaking of a new building, but more importantly, we celebrate the physical home for an exciting intellectual endeavor to provide the future leaders of our great state of Texas.

The recently named Humanities and Social Sciences Building is a part of an over $200 million construction program that has taken place at Sam Houston State over the past five years. When complete, Humanities and Social Sciences Building will be the largest academic building on campus, with almost 150,000 square feet of classroom, faculty office, student support and administrative space. The 13 classrooms will provide 1,434 seats in small seminar rooms for graduate programs and two large auditoriums, according to university president Jim Gaertner. “I’m fairly certain that it was Winston Churchill who said that ‘We shape our buildings and then they shape us,’” he said. “I do believe that this building was shaped and designed largely in congruence with the values that we hold dear at this grand old university,” he said. “Values such as...Continued on Page 19
OTHER CHSS NEWS

Academic Building V Renamed College of Humanities and Social Sciences Building

The regents also approved changing the name of Academic Building V, which is under construction, to College of Humanities and Social Sciences. At a cost of $30 million and with 150,000 square feet of space, it will be the largest academic building on campus and is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2008. In addition to its academic programs and academic administrative offices, the building will house a new Teaching Enhancement Center and the Student Advising and Mentoring Center, as well as university administrative offices including Accounts Payable, Business Office, Human Resources, Payroll and Purchasing.

Online Picasso Project

Pablo Picasso would surely and unabashedly endorse the fact that the most comprehensive website about a single artist is one devoted to cataloguing his own work. The Online Picasso Project is fit for an artist who famously boasted, "Give me a museum and I'll fill it," and declared, "My mother said to me, 'If you are a soldier, you will become a general. If you are a monk, you will become the Pope.' Instead, I was a painter, and became Picasso." The brainchild of Dr Enrique Mallen, a Spanish-born art historian educated at Cornell University who currently teaches at Texas's Sam Houston State University and has published extensively on Picasso, the website encompasses a highly detailed timeline of Picasso's life as well as a chronological index of 13,147 individual art works from 633 collections. The site also contains additional information culled from the monumental volume of documentation and commentary on the artist's unparalleled artistic achievements, intellectual and personal life. But its real treasure trove is the attractive, sharp images which come complete with full captions. Helpfully, a separate site lists all the fraudulent works of art that were previously posted by error on the site itself.

In the era of CCTV, memory storage, eternal emails and Gordon Bell, we can all preserve our every asinine thought, meaningless utterance and minor accomplishment. That is why it is so important that the real achievements of history's greats be well preserved and presented, and as accessible as possible.

An invaluable asset to any scholar, student, or artist now and in the future, the Online Picasso Project beautifully and diligently organizes material about one of the past century's most significant artists and thinkers, establishing with seemingly endless evidence why Picasso deserves such tireless attention.

McNair Scholar Presents at Texas A&M Research Symposium

San Juanita Garcia has not graduated, but her participation in the McNair Scholars Program has already opened many doors. She began her academic career as a participant in the freshman program, Bearkat Learning Community. She was active in Kappa Delta Chi, and as a junior applied and was accepted to Sam Houston's Ronald McNair Scholars Program. Although she won’t graduate until Aug. 4th with her bachelor's degree in Spanish and Criminal Justice, she has already presented her research nationally. Recently, she presented results of her study “Punitive Incarceration Ideologies: An Analysis of Texas Residents” at the National Science Foundation, Research Experience for Undergraduates Symposium at Texas A&M University.

Although San Juanita has been accepted to the doctoral program in Sociology at Texas A&M for the fall, she says that she hopes to return to Sam Houston eventually as a faculty member.
Ty Cashion Man of Letters

Ty Cashion, associate professor of history at Sam Houston State University and author of Sam Houston State University/An Institutional Memory: 1879-2004, has been elected to membership in the Texas Institute of Letters. Cashion will be inducted during the group’s annual meeting April 14 in Dallas.

The organization was founded in 1936 by J. Frank Dobie, Walter Webb, and others including journalists, scholars and poets, and promotes and recognizes 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.

Cashion and other new members will read selections from one of their works. He has chosen Pigskin Pulpit: A Social History of Texas High School Football Coaches, a book he wrote in 1998 after interviewing a number of coaches, including his father. "I'd challenge anyone to interview even a few old-time coaches and not come away with a profound sense of appreciation for who they were," said Cashion. "Of course, most scholars are convinced these men were Fred Flintstone with a gimme hat and whistle who were concerned only with winning. How far from the truth they are!"

In addition to Pigskin Pulpit and the SHSU history written for the 125th anniversary of the university’s founding, Cashion has a number of other books, journal articles and publications, as well as book reviews and conference presentations. These include What’s the Matter with Texas? The Great Enigma of the Lone Star State in the American West published in Montana: The Magazine of Western History; Three R’s and the Hickory Stick on the Texas Frontier, published in the East Texas Historical Journal, Rewriting the Wild West for a New History in the Journal of the West, and others.

History Faculty Publish Ten Books

2006-2007 was another good year for the History Department as the history faculty published ten additional books. These works include:


Gregory T. Papanikos and Nick Pappas, eds. Essays from the 3rd International Conference on


For more information on these books and other History Department publications, visit the Faculty Publications page at http://www.shsu.edu/~his_www/publications.htm.
These results suggest that a “summer camp” for history teachers not only offers teachers with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the past and to develop lasting friendships with fellow history educators, but it also reinvigorates teachers with a love for their discipline and equips them with innovative classroom techniques that results in improved student learning.

Local Teachers Reinvigorated at Teaching American History Academy

Between July 9 and July 27, 2007, more than fifty Region V and VI 5th through 12th grade history teachers attended a Teaching American History (TAH) Academy at Sam Houston State University. The academy was funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The TAH teachers who attended this academy completed 105-contact-hours in graduate level instruction. During the in-class and out-of-class sessions, these teachers read and discussed a half dozen history books, reacted to presentations from nine professional historians, visited two museums and a presidential library, and examined a number of conceptualization models designed to better enable students to piece together the American past. The instructional faculty of the academy, all members of the Sam Houston State History Department, are published authorities in their fields and, like the TAH attendants, dedicated teachers. They included Drs. Terry Bilschutz (SHSU history department chair), Jim Olson, Caroline Crimm, Susannah Bruce, Ty Cashion, Yvonne Frear, Rosanne Barker, Jeff Littlejohn, and Brian Domitrovic.

During the sessions the SHSU faculty and the TAH teachers discussed a plethora of ways for making history come alive. They examined innovative methods of using primary sources (records from the period under study) to breathe life into the past, engage students, and create better citizens and future historians. They explored how to use technology in the classroom to make history exciting and relevant. Creative low-tech “hands-on” teaching tactics also were explored. The participants, for example, attended a costume ball with period clothing, period music and dancing, cooked a meal using Dutch-ovens over an open fire, and lived a day as a Civil War soldier would have lived by marching, drilling, and firing black-powder rifles and cannon. At the conclusion of the academy, most of the participants reported feeling revitalized, inspired, and excited about the start of the next academic year.

To access the effectiveness of the U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History Program, the teachers who attended this summer training will offer American history examinations in the fall and spring to their students, and the scores of these students will be compared with history scores of other students taught by instructors who did not receive the summer in-service training. In 2006-07, the students of the teachers who attended the 2006 summer institute performed significantly better on history exams than did other students in the same region. These results suggest that a “summer camp” for history teachers not only offers teachers with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the past and to develop lasting friendships with fellow history educators, but it also reinvigorates teachers with a love for their discipline and equips them with innovative classroom techniques that results in improved student learning. Teachers interested in attending next year’s TAH academy should contact Mel Moreau at the Region 5 Education Service Center.
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political Science Interns

The Political Science Department enjoyed its most successful year in 2006, placing more than fifty students across Texas and in places as far as Washington, DC and New York City. The students worked in local, state, and federal offices, while also interning in businesses and interest groups.

The interns represent the top tier of the university’s students, earning high grades, volunteering in the community, and representing the university at many functions. In the past year, for example, many students have done volunteer work for Walker County CASA, the City of Huntsville, various nonprofit agencies in Houston, and other charitable causes. Further, many of the interns have extended their learning by traveling to other states on educational field trips—visiting other universities, government officials, and national landmarks. The department continues to expand its internship program. This semester, for example, the department has placed students with Mayor Bill White, the Houston City Council, and two additional congressional offices in the nation’s capital. Currently, the Political Science department is in the midst of placing interns for the summer and is expecting another successful and rewarding semester.

The expanded internship program has also offered expanded opportunities for students. Former interns have recently been accepted for graduate studies at Texas A&M’s Bush School of Government and Public Service; the University of Mississippi’s Masters program in Political Science; Rice University’s MBA program; SMU Law School; and George Washington University’s Graduate School of Political Management. Similarly, the department’s interns have also enjoyed increased employment opportunities, including the Harris County Juvenile Probation; Koch Industries; Capital One; Indiana University. With more former interns graduating in the spring, the future looks bright SHSU grads!

If you are interested in donating to intern scholarships or would like to have an intern work for your company, contact Mike Yawn at 936.294.1456.

Political Science major Awarded Chancellor’s Scholarship

When senior political science major Brandon Reese showed up June 8 for the groundbreaking ceremony for Academic Building V he had no idea that his service effort would be worth a scholarship. Reese was one of 10 political science junior fellows who helped at the event, which was attended by Charles Matthews, chancellor of the Texas State University System. The system includes Sam Houston State University and eight other colleges and universities. Matthews was so impressed with the ceremony and the junior fellows that he offered political science a $1,000 scholarship for a student of their choosing. Last year Matthews and his wife, Julie, began offering $1,000 scholarships to one department in each of the system's component institutions. Reese, who expects to graduate next May and go on to law school, was selected as the recipient. He will also be invited to sit with Matthews and SHSU president Jim Gaertner at the scholarship awards luncheon this fall. "The honor of Chancellor Matthews' attendance at our groundbreaking ceremony signaled his commitment to our university and students," said John de Castro, dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. "His thoughtfulness and generosity in recognizing and supporting our outstanding students confirms it."

Robert Biles Steps Down as Chair

Dr. Robert Biles stepped down as chair of the Department on September 1, 2007, having served in that position for eight years. He returned to full-time teaching and research as Professor of Political Science. Dr. Biles chairs the search committee to conduct a national search to select a chair to begin service on September 1, 2008. The interim chair for the academic year 2007-2008 is Dr. John Holcombe, who has taught at Sam Houston State University since 1966. A major project for this year will be to develop a strategic plan for the Political Science Department for the period from 2008-2013.
Journeys with Sam

The Journeys with Sam organization promotes travel to sites of historical, political, and social significance. This semester, the students, led by President Amy Jacks, have traveled to Washington, DC; Virginia; and Galveston, TX. During their trip to Washington, DC, the students met with Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and Barack Obama, toured the major monuments in the nation’s capital, and visited George Washington and George-town Universities, exploring the schools’ graduate programs in Political Science. During their visit, the students stayed in the historic Watergate Hotel.

Currently, the organization is planning a summer trip to New Orleans, LA and Fall trips to Little Rock, AR and various presidential libraries.

MPA Capstone Projects

The Master of Public Administration program is a relatively new program in the Political Science Department. One of the requirements for that degree is to complete a capstone project. Several recent such projects have dealt with topics concerning The Woodlands, a planned community about 40 miles from Huntsville. These topics have included the following: the impact of parks on residential property values, how to make The Woodlands Town Center an international destination, and separate studies on that community’s fire department, police department, and ice rink.

Other capstone projects have studied crime in Texas, immigration, and welfare programs. Two recent projects dealt with topics concerning education: retention among university freshmen and students’ desire to learn aerospace science curriculum.

Political Science Research

Some faculty members focus their research on the United States. Dr. Robert Biles is a co-author of a widely used Texas Government book, Practicing Texas Politics. Dr. John Domino recently completed the third edition of his book, Civil Rights and Liberties in the 21st Century. The topic of kinship relations within the U.S. Congress is being researched by Dr. James Carter. Drs. Robin Bit-tick and Johanna Dunaway also focus primarily in their research on America.

Many of the department’s faculty members conduct research on topics concerning nations outside the United States. Two members are studying HIV/AIDS treatment: one concerning Zambia (Dr. Corliss Lentz) and the other pursuing the topic in studying India (Dr. Sarimista Majumdar).

Dr. John Bolus and Dr. Robert Biles examine topics in South America. Bolus has conducted extensive research on public sector reform on the provincial level in Argentina and Chile. Women’s political participation in Ecuador has been a long-term focus held by Biles.

Four members of the faculty have topics of interest in the Middle East. The current government of Iran is analyzed by Dr. Masoud Kazemzadeh. Dr. Mitzi Mahoney and Dr. Tamara Waggener have published research on women’s political participation in the Middle East. U. S. foreign aid in Turkey has been examined by Dr. Rhonda Callaway.

Other faculty members have research interests in Europe. Domestic violence policy in The Netherlands is a topic of interest studied by Dr. Mitzi Mahoney. Dr. Melinda Kovács continues her study of the European Union, included a special focus on Hungary.

Finally, Dr. Bill Carroll pursues an interest in whether there has been a political party realignment in Japan. He also reads widely to support the material he presents in a new course he developed on “Religion and Politics.”
Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program Receives Accreditation

One of the major goals of the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program has been accreditation by the American Psychological Association. The program underwent its initial site visit in June of 2006. The report of the three site visitors was extremely positive, containing much praise and only minor recommendations for change. Early this Spring, the program was notified that accreditation had been granted. The program was accredited for five years, as opposed to the more typical initial accreditation of three years.

Even prior to the accreditation, the program attracted a large number of very qualified students. For example, in fall 2007, 92 applications were received with 8 students being accepted for admission. The primary attractions of this program appear to be three fold. First, prospective students are impressed by the number of juried presentations and publications accomplished by current students. For example, in 2006, there were 31 student conference presentations and students authored 10 publications. Second, prospective students have been very excited about the program’s extensive clinical offerings. Available practicum sites include hospitals, outpatient settings, private practices, and correctional agencies – some paying the student’s full stipend. Finally, students are attracted by the program’s forensic emphasis; prospective students report that SHSU is one of the only graduate programs in the country that allow students to fully participate in forensic evaluations for the courts on cases ranging from trespassing to capital murder.

An important piece of the doctoral program is the training clinic – the SHSU Psychological Services Center (PSC). The PSC provides clinical and forensic services to the community at very reduced cost. Both therapy and assessment services are offered for adults, children, families, and couples.

As of the end of 2005, the clinic had opened over 800 cases and currently has a substantial waiting list for both assessment and treatment. Forensic evaluations are now performed for courts in 13 counties. The PSC began forensic work in 2000 with a total of 11 cases; thus far in 2007, clinic staff have averaged two forensic evaluations for the courts per week.

Granting of the doctoral degree in clinical psychology requires completion of a one-year internship. In their final year of graduate study, students must apply for internship placements located throughout the country in an official match process. Obtaining such placements has become increasingly difficult in recent years. The successful match rate nationally has dropped year by year from 82% in 2000 to 75% in the most recent match.

However, even prior to accreditation, SHSU students have maintained a 90% match rate. Last year, 100% of SHSU students matched with APA accredited internships (compared with the national average of 75%).

A major goal of the doctoral program is to have all of its graduates successfully employed in the field of their choice. Each Fall, graduates are surveyed to measure outcomes in this area. Results from the most recent survey indicated that 26% of graduates were completing organized postdoctoral training programs, 58% were employed in clinical positions, and 16% held academic posts. This is very consistent with the program’s scientist-practitioner model.
The graduate program in school psychology in the Department of Psychology and Philosophy at SHSU is proud to announce that all of the graduates in the spring 2007 class passed the National School Psychology Examination. A passing score on this exam does three things. First, it allows the student to be awarded the master's degree at SHSU, second, it qualifies the student to acquire a Texas state license to practice called "Licensed Specialist in School Psychology" (LSSP) offered through the Texas Board of Examiners of Psychologists and third, the student can obtain the highly prestigious Nationally Certified School Psychologist credential (NCSP). Having the NCSP allows students to move from state to state with minimal effort in obtaining a license and often involves a salary supplement. This is all possible because the school psychology training program at SHSU has been approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) following a rigorous review process. NASP approval is the highest accreditation in the nation available to pre-doctoral training programs.

Most of the nine students who completed the three year graduate program which includes a year of full-time internship in the public schools are already employed, several of whom were employed by their internship sites. With the extreme shortage of school psychologists in the United States, it is unlikely that any of SHSU's School Psychology graduates will ever be without a position. Salaries tend to be significantly above other human service fields at the master's level. The SHSU program has been fortunate to attract students from all around the country as well as Texas and has a high retention rate and a nearly perfect passing rate on the national exam since the inception of the program. Inquiries regarding this program should be directed to Dr. Tom Wood at 294-4662 or twood@shsu.edu.
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociology Faculty are Involved

Dr. Alessandro Bonanno
This summer, Sandro Bonanno delivered plenary lectures at two international conferences. He opened the XII Congress of the Brazilian Sociological Association with a lecture on "The Global Reorganization of Society and the Future of Sociology." This inaugural lecture took place on May 29th in the city of Recife and was delivered in Portuguese. On August 20, Dr. Bonanno delivered a keynote address at the European Congress of Rural Sociology held in Wageningen, The Netherlands. Dr. Bonanno’s paper was on "Globalization and the Mobility of Capital." Dr. Bonanno, along with Dr. Doug Constance, Kristin Erlandson, Gilberto Aboites and Francisco Martinez published a book in Spanish entitled "La Construction de Resistencias en un Mundo Global" (The Construction of Episodes of Resistance in a Global World). The book, whose English version is scheduled to appear next year, is the outcome of a joint research project between members of the Sociology Department at SHSU and members of the Center for Socio-Economic Research of the Autonomous University of Coahuila, Mexico. It is also one of the products of the long-standing cooperation between the Sociology Department and Universities throughout Latin America. Dr. Bonanno was also awarded a "Visiting Professor" scholarship by the "Programa de PósGraduação" of the Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil. Dr. Bonanno will spend the month of October in Brazil working on the completion of a new book entitled "The Reorganization of Time and Space under Globalization."

Caron Cates
Ms. Cates currently teaches multiple sections of Introduction to Ethnic Studies and a summer section of Social Problems. She is also the Correspondence grader for Social Problems, Race and Ethnic Inequality, Marriage and the Family and Cultural Anthropology. Her areas of interest are Social Inequality, Race and Ethnic Studies, Sociology of the Community, Social Change, and Feminist Theory. Ms. Cates has presented several papers on these topics at professional meetings. She is co-author of the book chapter, "Resisting Integration in the Global-Agro System: Corporate Chickens and Community Controversy in Texas," in the book Globalization, Localization, and Sustainable Livelihoods edited by R. Almas and G. Lawrence. Ms. Cates is currently working on her second Masters degree, an MA in Military History.

Dr. Jin Young Choi
Dr. Choi’s research focuses on social inequality in health, health care and community health. She is currently involved in several research projects: social capital and health care among ethnic communities; a health care project on the consequences of facial disfigurement due to facial and orbital cancer; and chronic diseases and community support. Dr. Choi teaches various courses to both undergraduate and graduate students, including Introduction to Ethnic Studies, Sociology of Health and Illness, Research Methods in Sociology, Seminar in Sociological Research, and Applied Research Methods.

Dr. Doug Constance
Currently Dr. Constance is working on a USDA-funded project with the Texas Department of Agriculture. With Roger Hanagriff and Michael Lau in the Department of Agriculture at SHSU, he is researching the barriers faced by Texas ranchers and farmers regarding adopting organic production methods. In June Dr. Constance became the President of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society, a professional association that focuses on alternative and sustainable food systems. Over the summer he presented research papers at the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society and the Rural Sociological Society annual meetings.

Dr. Mary Ann Davis
Mary Ann Davis received SHSU funding for a summer research project: “The Health Effects on Adults age 55 and Over Who Function as Caregivers for Family Members with Alzheimer’s disease." This research is a continuation of Dr. Davis’ ongoing research on morbidity and mortality. The study will investigate the health effects on adults who are primary caregivers of family members with Alzheimer’s disease (AD) through a secondary analysis of the National Institute of Aging database, the Health, Illness and Social Life at Older Ages. The relationships between adults as primary caregivers and health indices such as diet, BMI and exercise; behavioral indices such as religious attendance and social contact; and several demographic variables also related to health outcomes will also be analyzed. In August she presented at the American Sociological Association meeting in New York. In 2007 Dr. Davis taught Ethnic studies in the Spring; Social Movements in the Summer; and will be teaching Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies in the Fall and Spring 2008.
Dr. Furjen Deng
Dr. Furjen Deng is developing culturally-appropriate support programs for Chinese Breast Cancer Survivors in Houston. Her research studies important information to help the medical profession provide programs to the growing Asian community in Texas. This research is funded by the state of Texas Department of Cancer. Dr. Deng will continue to serve as the new Associate Chair of the Sociology Department.

Dr. Karen Douglas
Dr. Douglas conducts research regarding Mexico-US border water. Currently, this research focuses on the El Paso area which includes New Mexico, Juarez, Mexico and El Paso. Part of the research involves interviewing water stakeholders (municipalities, irrigators/agriculture, environmental, etc.) in the region.

Dr. Amy Manning Kirk
Dr. Kirk’s current research includes an examination of the effectiveness of the 10-year old Louisiana Covenant Marriage Law in preserving marital stability and quality over time. As a part of this research, she is examining divorces among covenant marriage couples and is conducting in-depth interviews with covenant marriage activists. She is also collaborating with colleagues from Sam Houston’s Education and Leadership Training Program to investigate how the socialization process affects romantic commitment among college students. Dr. Kirk teaches Marriage and the Family and Introduction to Ethnic Studies. She is also the website coordinator for the Sociology Department.

Dr. Lee M. Miller
Lee Miller continued her ongoing research on community response to disasters this summer. After participant observation, in-depth interviews and surveys of Walker County responders, community members and volunteers, Dr. Miller will begin interviewing Katrina evacuees who have resettled in rural East Texas this fall. In June, Dr. Miller was a guest lecturer at the University of Ferrara in Italy where she spoke on innovation in disasters. She presented her research at the annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Boulder, Colorado in July and at the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) conference in New York City in August. Dr. Miller teaches Introduction to Ethnic Studies, Socialization, Social Control and Social Deviance, Social Movements and Social Inequality. She is the coordinator for the Applied Internship in Sociology, a co-sponsor of the Sociology Club and co-leader of the Sociology Field School in Italy.

Dr. Gene Theodori
Dr. Theodori teaches, conducts basic and applied research, and writes professional and popular articles on rural and community development issues, environmental and natural resource concerns, and related topics. He is either the principal investigator or a co-principal investigator on five active research projects. These projects include: “Field Testing of Environmentally Friendly Drilling Systems” (funded by the United States Department of Energy); “Acceptance and Assimilation of Environmentally Friendly Energy Exploration and Production Practices” (funded by the Global Petroleum Research Institute); “Attitudes and Behaviors on Water Conservation in Texas” (funded by the Texas Water Development Board); “Water Pricing and Household Water Conservation” (funded by the Renewable Resources Extension Act); and, “A Membership Survey of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association” (funded by the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association). Dr. Theodori is currently President-Elect of the Southern Rural Sociological Association.

Ms. Sujey Vega
Ms. Vega conducts ethnographic research on the experience of Latinos/as making home and negotiating transnational identities in non-traditionally receiving areas of the United States. Additionally, the research also includes the non-Latino response and studies how community is made and protected in these ever-changing regions. Ms. Vega will be presenting her dissertation research at the American Studies Association’s national meeting in October 2007. Ms. Vega is currently on a writing grant from her doctoral institution to aid in the completion of her Ph.D. in Anthropology. She looks forward to teaching in the department of Sociology in the future and is always available to discuss her work with the Sam Houston community.

Dr. Walter Bennett Retires
With the completion of this 2006-2007 Academic School Year I am retiring as a full-time Professor of Sociology. I will continue to be interested in issues related to ‘correctional education’ and especially the teaching of sociology in those organizational environments. This special interest has evolved around our ongoing departmental participation in the University’s Undergraduate Degree Program that has been offered in conjunction with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Institutional Division since the Fall 1974 Semester. I want to take this opportunity to express a Most Sincere Appreciation to my past and present Departmental Colleagues, our students and the many ‘significant others’ for the personal and professional relationships that have been extended to me during my tenure at Sam Houston State University. Many, many thanks to you all!
The Houstonian editor Shawn Farrell and his staff won first place in the student print category of the Houston Press Club's 2007 Lone Star Awards.

The coverage of a tragic event involving a Sam Houston State University student has earned the university's campus newspaper a first place award.

Houstonian editor Shawn Farrell and his staff won first place in the student print category of the Houston Press Club's 2007 Lone Star Awards recognition. The award was presented June 8 at the Hilton Hotel on the University of Houston campus. The winning entry was headlined "She Saved His Life--Then He Killed Her." It included stories relating to the December 2006 death of SHSU student Rachel Pendray.

"This winning entry's as much about teamwork as it is the execution of the final package," the judges wrote. "Shawn Farrell, the editor, quickly assembled a pool of reporters, which in turn, covered the key angles of the murder very well considering the one-day turnaround on deadline."

Among the reporters listed on The Houstonian's online archives site who had by-lined stories relating to the tragedy were Gina Pereira, Rachel Gleason, Linda Wollard, Amy Megill, and Kristen and Courtney Lundgren.

Attending the awards presentation were Gleason and the Lundgrens as well as current editor Kenny Bybee, Christi Laney and Houstonian adviser Michael Blackman.
The department of Communication Studies was well represented at the National Communication Association annual convention last November in San Antonio. Professors Bello, Brandau-Brown, Collins, Hatton, Ragsdale, and Zhang had convention papers. It was similarly well-represented at the Southern States communication Association. Drs. Bellow, Braundau-Brown, and Ragsdale had a paper presented at the International Pragmatics Association meeting in Goteborg, Sweden. Professor Zhang represented the department at the International Communication Association convention in San Francisco.

Perhaps the three highlights of the year were 1) getting approval from the Higher Education Coordinating board to offer the MA, 2) hiring Amber Walker from Penn State, and 3) getting approval to change it’s name to Communication Studies, bringing it in line with widely accepted practice in the profession.

The department was the proud recipient of the College award for Teaching Excellence in 2006.

Two new faculty members in Communication Studies are making a big impact on the department. Shaun Zhang is beginning his third year at SHSU, while Amber Walker just arrived on campus this fall. Dr. Walker earned her B.A. from Columbus State and her M.A. at the University of Arkansas. She recently completed her Ph.D. at The Pennsylvania State University. Her dissertation research focuses on communication in dominant-submissive relationships, specifically communication between parents and adult children. She said, “I thought I would like Sam Houston when I accepted the position, but I have been pleasantly surprised at just how much I have enjoyed the school, the area, and my new students.”

Dr. Zhang earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees in English in his native China, where he also taught high school English. He began studying Communication at Kent State where he received his M.A. in 2001. He earned his Ph.D. at The Ohio State University in 2005. His primary research interest is in communication within close relationships. He recently got his second publication in one of the preeminent journals in the field, Communication Monographs. Department Chair J. D. Ragsdale said, “Getting one article in Com Monographs is a high distinction in our field. Having articles accepted in consecutive issues is almost unheard of.” Dr. Zhang said, “I have enjoyed my first two years at Sam Houston State. I like the people I work with. I like my students, too. Everybody is friendly on this campus.”

The Communication Studies Department is pleased and proud to have these exceptional faculty members join our department. Their excellence in the classroom and in their scholarship helps strengthen the department, and their energy and warm personalities have already had a great impact on their students and colleagues.

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Structures as Argument

Structures as Argument, edited by J. D. Ragsdale and with contributions by Rick Bello, Frances Brandau-Brown, and Terry Thibodeaux is finished and should be published in Spring, 2008.
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English Faculty Attend NEH Summer Seminars

Two English faculty—Paul Child and Robert Donahoo—participated in Summer Seminars sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Summer Seminar program which is highly competitive, brings scholars around the country to a given campus for intensive study in a particular area.

Paul Child, Professor of English, participated in a five-week NEH Summer Seminar, “Anglo-Irish Identities: 1600 to 1800,” hosted by the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Directed by Christopher Fox, founder and director of the Institute, the seminar explored the complex and contested cultural, political, and ideological identities of the group known variously as the Anglo-Irish, the English in Ireland, or the Protestant Ascendancy. The fifteen participants, who represented a broad interdisciplinary spectrum of philosophers, historians, linguists, and literary scholars from across the nation, read and discussed works by Edmund Spenser, William Molyneux, Jonathan Swift, George Berkeley, Maria Edgeworth, and Edmund Burke. They also enjoyed guest lectures from major international scholars working in the field.

Child, who teaches Restoration and 18th-century British literature at Sam Houston State and has published on medicine and literature, had the opportunity to continue work on a book project exploring Swift and the 18th-century medical world. Important to this ongoing study was the unlimited access to the rich holdings in 18th-century primary works at the Notre Dame Library that the seminar allowed. Group discussions and presentations by other participants also inspired new ways to address the “Irish question” in Child’s graduate and undergraduate courses.

Robert Donahoo, Professor of English, reports that attending the 2007 NEH Summer Institute, “Reconsidering Flannery O’Connor,” was an experience in complete immersion—to paraphrase rock radio ads, “All O’Connor, All the Time.” For the month of July, 24 scholars from across the country gathered in Milledgeville, Ga., to read, discuss, and research O’Connor’s fiction and life. At the heart of the Institute were three kinds of experiences: encounters with six of the county’s premier O’Connor authorities from institutions ranging such as Vanderbilt, Fordham and the University of Michigan; research time in the holdings of the O’Connor Collection which has the major cache of her manuscripts and personal library; and visits to sites connected to O’Connor including her childhood home in Savannah, the farm near Milledgeville where she did most of her writing, and the Special Collections at Emory University which recently opened an important set of O’Connor letters. The encounters with scholars included all-day seminars, public lectures, and individual conferences. Working in the O’Connor Collection allowed participants to deal with unpublished juvenilia, manuscript drafts, unpublished letters, marginalia in books, and on-site scholarly materials. The site visits provided access to additional O’Connor scholars, such as her authorized biographer who met with the group at Emory, and first-hand knowledge of influential environments. Days were usually formally capped off with viewings and discussions of film adaptations of O’Connor’s work as well as films influenced by her writing or with readings and discussions involving a variety of creative writers. However, no day ever closed without informal gatherings on the broad porch of the group’s shared residence where debates and discussions, both heated and humorous, were continued, and the ideas and information individuals had encountered that day were dissected and discussed.

Donahoo’s personal foci for the Institute were on historical and cultural contexts for O’Connor’s fiction and new teaching strategies. He gathered extensive research about the presence of juvenile justice facilities in the area and the shifting views of troubled juveniles in her fiction. This involved personal interviews and historical documents about the reformatory whose usual escape route took boys by the O’Connor farm. Donahoo used the conferences with scholars to elicit publication advice as well as future avenues of exploration. The Seminar will also have an impact on his teaching. Donahoo reported, “I not only worked to plan out an O’Connor course for upper-level students but I brought home a trove of ideas about incorporating O’Connor’s fiction into other classes. I expect to put some of these to use this term in the graduate Bibliography and Research Methods course.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, CONT.

Jesus in the Mist

Paul Ruffin, Distinguished Professor of English, has published Jesus in the Mist, a new collection of his short stories. Advance reviews have praised the collection highly. The New York City Strand said, “With topics ranging from race, class, abuse, and poverty to mythology and morbidity, the stories here will captivate and entertain any reader.” Kirkus Reviews notes that these are “remarkable stories of seekers, idealists, deployed to construct communities and articulate citizenship in the Chicano movement and the post-movement era. Beginning spring 2008, he will be offering classes on Mexican American and multicultural literature. 

Lee Bebout—New Assistant Professor

Lee Bebout joined the English faculty this fall. He received his B.A. and M.A. in English from the University of North Texas and his Ph.D. from the Program in American Studies at Purdue University. His research interests include Chicano/a literature and history, identity politics, nationalist discourses, and the work of public intellectuals. His essay “Hero Making in El Movimiento” will be published in the fall 2007 issue of Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies. He is currently working on a book-length project that examines how myth and history are

Reading Series Established

A reading series has been established that promised to bring to our campus writers of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction, with up to two readings per semester the initial goal, including at least one nationally prominent writer each year. The highlight of each visiting writer’s appearance would be an evening reading open to the public. In addition, a visiting writer would be a guest speaker either in the day’s creative writing course(s)—undergraduate and/or graduate—or would speak at an afternoon colloquium, focused on students, but open as well to the community. The series’ goals are to promote contemporary literature and its writers; to foster a sense of a community among writers and readers, both on the SHSU campus and in Huntsville and the surrounding areas; to increase the opportunities available to our students for exposure to contemporary literature and its writers; to promote creative writing at SHSU, the Texas Review, and the Texas Review Press; to contribute to the cultural life of Walker County; and to raise the university’s profile locally, regionally, and nationally.

On October 9, we will host Steve Gehrke and Nadine Meyer, poets, as our first visiting writers for the year. Gehrke, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Seton Hall University and the recipient this year of an NEA fellowship, is the author of three books, including Michelangelo’s Seizure, selected for the National Poetry Series and published by the University of Illinois Press; The Pyramids of Malpighi, winner of the Philip Levine Prize (Anhinga Press); and The Resurrection Machine (BkMk Press). Nadine Meyer, a Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Gettysburg College, is the author of The Anatomy Theater: Poems, also selected for the National Poetry Series and published by HarperCollins.

Bernadette Russo Offers GED Course

Bernadette Russo, Graduate Assistant in English, has begun a GED/Adult Literacy program at the Good Shepherd Mission to assist its members on the road to recovery. The focus of the program is to provide the participants with skills necessary to obtain a GED and ultimately to succeed in the job market. In addition to Russo, contributors to the program include Linda Huff of the Huntsville Community Church and Sharonda Evans of Conroe. Components of the program include emphases on reading, writing, and mathematics.
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Board Approves Independent Department of Foreign languages

The Board of Regents approved the creation of an independent Department of Foreign Languages beginning with the Fall 2007 semester. Drs. Akli (French), Andrist (Chair & Spanish) and Mallén (Spanish) and Professors Blair (ASL), Frankki (German) Gobran (Arabic), Han (Chinese) and Pluecker (Spanish) join the established faculty members, housed in Evans.

Dr. Mallén has designed a new logo for the Foreign Language Department.

New Programs & Initiatives for Foreign Languages

Numerous new programs and initiatives are in the offing, including at least two new potential Study Abroad programs with a French language component (Dr. Edwin) and with an Arabic component (Djazaerli), to be added to the popular Puebla Field School (Dr. Koeninger, Spanish). Dr. Frieda Koeninger reports that the SHSU Puebla Field School was again a success this June, with 47 SAM students. Dr. Balá Maniam taught two advanced business courses. Twelve Mexican students added a special dynamic to those courses. Dr. Alejandro Latinez taught two advanced Spanish courses. Students also had the opportunity this year of taking salsa classes and cooking lessons. The program culminated with a field trip to Cuetzalan, a small town in a marginalized area of the state of Puebla, with a rich indigenous presence. Dean De Castro and his wife, along with Asst. Dean Valerie Muescham, accompanied the group on the Cuetzalan field trip. FL is exploring exchange programs in Japan and Korea through International Programs to add to the program in Peru initiated by Dr. Policarpo.

While American Sign Language has already been added for fall (Saturdays, 9-12) in response to student demand, other curricular additions being considered include a graduate program; expanded Pacific Rim languages (Chinese already offered), including Vietnamese, Japanese and Korean; new practical applications courses, particularly in Spanish, including translation, internships, literature in translation, historical, ROTC, construction science and applied linguistics courses; and expanded practical applications courses in medical, criminal justice and business.

An exciting planned new course for spring is Viking Tales and the Discovery of America, taught in English by Dr. James Frankki. This course examines the Viking’s exploration and settlement of Iceland, Greenland and the North American coast - as recorded in the literature of medieval Iceland and Norway. The first few weeks will be spent on establishing the historical and mythological background of the Viking movement. The various gods and goddesses of the Germanic pantheon will be discussed (Thor, Loki, Freya, etc.) as well as the pagan creation stories. Next we will read selections from the Icelandic sagas, to include: Hrafnkel’s Saga, Laxdæla Saga, Egil’s Saga, Gísla’s Saga, the Saga of the Volsungs and the Vinland Sagas. Towards the end of the course we will discuss the most recent archeological discoveries at the L’anse aux Meadows excavation site, where Leif Eriksson set up the first Viking camps in the late 10th century. Finally, we will discuss theories –based on the evidence of runestones- that the Vikings may have traveled inland as far as Minnesota or Oklahoma, over 1000 years ago.

Dr. Debra D. Andrist will offer a course, Hispanic Women, in the spring.

The Department has already instituted new recurring events open to the SHSU community, including faculty, staff and students. Each month an FL Faculty Scholar will present a Research Seminar, third Mondays, 2-3 PM, FL Conference Room in Evans, and an FL Faculty member will present a Teaching Seminar, fourth Mondays, same time and place. Dr. Enrique Mallén will inaugurate the Scholars’ series in October , addressing his world-famous Picasso Project. The first teaching seminar will feature Dr. David Gerling discussing the work of the University Excellence in Teaching committee, of which he is a member.

FL is exploring the possibilities of incorporating a service learning/civic engagement component into some courses. For example, in a potential collaboration with History and possibly other departments, students may do volunteer tutoring in English at local businesses and/or schools. Currently, English-dominant students studying Spanish in Dr. Andrist’s class are meeting with Spanish-dominant employees of the University on Tuesdays from noon-1 pm and from 8-8:30PM in Evans 317 for informal Charla/Chat mutual tutoring.
Saumell is Democracy Week Speaker

Few people in this country appreciate democracy as much as Rafael Saumell-Munoz, who has seen its other side from the wrong side of the bars in a Cuban prison. Saumell, who will be the American Democracy Project's featured speaker for its April 2-5 Celebrating Democracy Week observance, is professor of Spanish and coordinator of foreign languages at Sam Houston State University. From 1975 to 1981 Saumell was a radio and television producer and scriptwriter in his native Cuba, eventually becoming the assistant to the president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television. In 1980, he received an award as a scriptwriter for Best Musical and Variety Show, “Todo el Mundo Canta,” and was also a member of the Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba. He seemed to be a promising Cuban literary star, except that Fidel Castro or one of Fidel's censors found something he didn't like in his writings.

After the publication of a collection of his short stories, he was detained by Cuban security forces on the charge of spreading "enemy propaganda." This is a term used to control, harass and incarcerate pro-democracy Cubans, and he was sentenced to five years in prison.

When he was released he was prevented from working in radio and television in Cuba. He emigrated to the United States in 1988, came to SHSU to teach in 1992, and completed

Foreign Languages Faculty: Who We Are

Pablo Picasso would surely and unabashedly endorse the fact that the most comprehensive website about a single artist is one devoted to cataloguing his own work. The Online Picasso Project, the brainchild of Dr. Enrique Mallen, a Spanish-born art historian educated at Cornell University, a painter himself. Few people in this country appreciate democracy as much as Rafael Saumell-Munoz, formerly an award-winning radio and television producer and scriptwriter in his native Cuba, eventually becoming the assistant to the president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television, who was a political prisoner of the Castro Regime.

Dr. James Frankki is a rockhound who has explored the theories and the sites runestones—evidence that the Vikings may have traveled inland as far as Minnesota or Oklahoma, over 1000 years ago. Madalina Akli was awarded an AATF Summer Scholarship to France (July 2007) by the Cultural Service of the French Embassy. The scholarship was intended to allow teachers to perfect their language skills and learn about the culture firsthand in an immersion setting. This scholarship represents one of only 21 AATF summer scholarships to Francophone countries awarded nationally.

Dr. Yasser Derwiche Djazaerly was one of eleven professors and teachers of German in the United States selected by the Swiss Embassy in Washington D.C. to participate in a one-week study trip to Switzerland sponsored by the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Debra Andrist taught a course Irish/Iberian Intersections on the campus of National University of Ireland in Mantothisummer. Dr. Mary Gutermuth, who spent 30 on Faculty Senate, has semi-retired from teaching after 40 years, but continues to advise the national French Honor Society.

New Course, Hispanic Women

Dr. Debra D. Andrist will offer a new course, Hispanic Women, in the spring 08. Taught seminar style, this course intends to foster the development of students with enhanced gender and ethnic consciousness. The student will develop a familiarity with, an appreciation for, and an ability to interpret and evaluate Hispanic literature and studio art (by womyn in this case) with gender and ethnic consciousness in mind. Topics explored will be Identity; Socialization/education; The body/the image; The body/the role: mother, wife, career, victim; Relationships/enforcers: Family, Lovers/Partners,
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND
CONSUMER SCIENCES

FCS Launches Record Number of Interns

During the 2006-2007 academic year, the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences launched a record 50 interns from the programs of fashion merchandising, food service management, interior design, and general family and consumer sciences. Internship positions covered a wide spectrum of opportunities ranging from the special events department of KRBE radio in Houston to Gaylord Texan resort in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex to high-end fashion retailers Nordstrom and BCBG Max Azria to a variety of interior design firms in the Houston metropolitan area. Students must have earned a minimum of 100 semester hours and the internship position must go through an approval process. Students work a minimum of 300 supervised hours, usually over the summer or over a long semester.

This past summer, three fashion merchandising interns, Kati Brett, Gina Garza, and Kimberly Wood, worked locally with Audie’s Boutique, an upscale fashion retailer on the downtown square in Huntsville. Students reported that the advantage of working with a boutique is that they have an opportunity to see the total store operation in a micro setting. Experiences ranged from the more glamorous such as accompanying owner Autumn Dubcak to market, setting up visual displays within the store, and modeling for an ad to be used in local print media, to dusting and vacuuming the store itself, chores necessary to making shopping environment a pleasant one for its customers. The accompanying photo shows one of the advertisements that students helped to produce, acting both as stylists and as models.

Interior Design Program Drafting Lab Goes High Tech

When interior design students returned to Sam Houston State University for the Fall 2007 semester, they were greeted with a totally revamped drafting studio. Over the summer, the drafting studio had gone high-tech! Gone were the heavy old drafting tables that could only accommodate manual drafting, replaced with new drafting tables that could accommodate both manual and computer-aided drafting. Each new lighter-weight drafting table has a larger drafting surface and is outfitted with an integrated computer station. With the computer stations, students now have access to Autocad 2007 and Autocad 3-D modeling and thus can integrate manual and computer-aided drafting to meet project requirements. The drafting studio’s 20 stations were funded with monies from the state’s Higher Education Assistance Fund (HEAF monies), discretionary funds from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and monies from Friends of Family and Consumer Sciences.

The attached photo shows (L-R) Mr. Sam McGee from Computer Services; Ms. Jeannine Grantham, interior design instructor; and Dr. Laura Burleson, interior design program director, at one of the new drafting stations.
For both districts, the “Teacher of the Year” honor is elected by the faculty of the school, and for most districts it is highly unusual for an “elective” teacher to receive this honor.

Two Named Teacher of the Year from the FCS Teacher Certification Program

For the 2006-2007 academic year, two recently certified FCS teachers were named “Teacher of the Year” by their respective schools. Tomball ISD’s Kathe Cox was named Teacher of the Year for Tomball School. She teaches FCS and sponsors the cheerleading squad for the school, commuting from her home in Montgomery. Conroe ISD’s Diane Johnson Carrington was named Teacher of the Year for Hawke High School, the alternative high school in the district.

Both Cox and Carrington were “returning” students and attained certification through the FCS department and the alternative certification program in the College of Education. Cox had received a degree in fashion merchandising from Texas Tech in the 1980’s (where she was a Red Raider cheerleader) and decided in 2003 to return as a post baccalaureate student to complete the FCS teaching certificate. Carrington was the secretary in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences when she made the decision to complete her degree in general family and consumer sciences, beginning her career as a teacher certification intern employed with Bryan ISD. Her second year of teaching was at Hawke in Conroe ISD.

For both districts, the “Teacher of the Year” honor is elected by the faculty of the school, and for most districts it is highly unusual for an “elective” teacher to receive this honor. Both Cox and Carrington report that they have found very fulfilling careers in FCS teaching at the secondary level.
Humanities and Social Sciences Building

By slightly more than 9,500 faculty, more than one million journal articles, almost seven million citations, over 6,000 awards and honors and more than 83,000 federal research grants, they reported.

Social Sciences Ranks #5

In all, the FSP Index research matched those faculty to more than 15,000 books authored by slightly more than 9,500 faculty, more than one million journal articles, almost seven million citations, over 6,000 awards and honors and more than 83,000 federal research grants, they reported.

English Faculty Attend NEH Summer Seminars

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Making a final assessment, Donahoo said, “Most importantly, I brought back a renewed enthusiasm for continuing my scholarly writing and teaching of O’Connor. Rather than running down my batteries, having ‘All O’Connor All The Time’ left mine fully changed.”
The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) provides an essential component to a liberal arts education: understanding human beings in their diversity as expressed in their literatures, histories, ideas, values, oral and written expressions, and behavior. By promoting analytic, interpretive, interpersonal, and communication skills, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences facilitates personal growth, competent professionalism, and responsible citizenship.

CHSS Mission Statement

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Giving to the College of Humanities & Social Sciences

The faculty and students of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences are highly appreciative of the generosity of our alumni and friends. These important gifts are used to develop and maintain high quality educational opportunities for our students. They are essential to developing interactions between students and faculty and for attracting top students and faculty to Sam. If you would like to contribute to the college, please either contribute directly by sending a check made out to the Friends of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences or by designating all or a portion of your contribution to SHSU to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. You may also designate your gift to go to a specific department or program in the college. Simply make out your check to the Friends of (name) Department. The college faculty and students will be most grateful.

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