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Jim Olson, Dan Murrie and Sandy Thompson were honored for their outstanding work in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences during the college's annual fall meeting. Olson, distinguished professor in the Department of History and winner of all three of the university's excellence awards (teaching, research and service), was presented the college's Outstanding Teacher Award. He has also won the Carnegie Foundation's Texas Professor of the Year and the Texas State University System Distinguished Professor awards.

John de Castro, dean of the college, referred to an Olson comment that he hoped to be remembered for, and the true worth of his career would be measured by, his teaching rather than the many books he has written.

"He need not worry," said de Castro. "His teaching has left an indelible mark on all of his students and on his colleagues."

Murrie, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and Philosophy, was presented the college's Outstanding Researcher Award. He is credited with more than $466,000 in outside research funding, while publishing eight articles, one book, and two book chapters. He is also noted for sharing his expertise in and love of research with his students, involving both graduates and undergraduates in his projects.

"Dan Murrie has established himself as a premier researcher in psychology, and his research has provided excellent learning opportunities for our students," said de Castro.

Sandy Thompson, departmental secretary for the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, was presented the Staff Excellence Award. With 14 different programs and more than 300 majors, Thompson's department is considered one of the most complex in the college.

Janis White, who chairs that department, praised Thompson's "excellent organization and communication skills."
James S. Olson, distinguished professor of history at Sam Houston State University, has added the title of "regents' professor" to his many other honors. The university's Board of Regents announced the honor during their recent meeting on campus.

The text of a resolution honoring Olson reads: "Whereas, the Board of Regents of The Texas State University System has determined that it would advance the cause of higher education in the State of Texas and otherwise contribute to the public good of the state to create the Office of Regents' Professor; Whereas, the purpose of said Office is to recognize exceptional and outstanding members of the professoriate who have achieved excellence and otherwise excelled in teaching, research and publication, and community service, demonstrating in performance of their duties an unwavering dedication to their students, universities, and communities; and, Whereas, the Office of Regents' Professor is a lifetime designation bestowed by this Board of Regents upon tenured faculty members who have been acknowledged by their peers and administrators as exceptional and recommended by their presidents and the Chancellor; and, Whereas, James S. Olson, Ph.D., has achieved such excellence, whose student evaluations, in the words of President James Gaertner, rank him as "the most popular and highly regarded faculty member" on campus; being named a Piper Professor (2006) as well as the Carnegie Foundation Texas Professor of the Year (2005); authoring or editing 47 books on such diverse topics as the Vietnam War, John Wayne, native American civil rights struggles, Catholic immigrants, and the history of cancer; and, funding and establishing scholarships at his university as well as serving on numerous faculty and administrative committees; and, Whereas, James S. Olson, Ph.D., by his qualities of mind and character, has brought great honor to Sam Houston State University, to the Texas State University System, and the Great State of Texas; Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved on this 16th day of August 2007 that James S. Olson, Ph.D. be designated a Regents' Professor and forever hold said title, including all honors, rights and privileges appurtenant thereto."

James S. Olson Named Regents’ Professor

Terry Bilhartz received the Faculty Administrator Excellence in Research Award, and Susannah Bruce received the Excellence in Research award for the Department of History at the CHSS annual Fall meeting.

Jim Olson received the Outstanding Teacher award for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at the CHSS annual fall meeting.
Sam Houston State University’s Political Science Junior Fellows’ recent five-day trip to Little Rock, Ark., and Memphis, Tenn., included visits with Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe and Attorney General Dustin McDaniel.

The students also visited a variety of educational destinations, including The Clinton Presidential Library, the Little Rock Civil Rights Museum, the Douglas MacArthur Museum of Military History, the National Civil Rights Museum, and Graceland.

“We chose destinations that were politically, historically, and culturally significant,” Bryant said. “We set out to have fun while learning, and the trip was certainly successful in that regard.”

Bryant said the students felt fortunate to meet with Beebe for 30 minutes since the group worked on his campaign in 2005 and 2008.

“The governor held the group up as an example of public-minded individuals coming together to ‘make a difference,’” Bryant said. “He complimented the students on their efforts to help change the way people see government and offering positive visions and constructive engagement.”

For Junior Fellows President Ademide Adedokun, who has met with three governors in the past two years, the visit was the highlight of the trip. “Gov. Beebe and his staff were wonderful,” Adedokun said. “It was great to hear about his approach to solving public problems. His enthusiasm for service is contagious.”

Following their 30-minute meeting with Beebe, the students met with the governor’s staff, learning more about the workings of the office and careers in political science.

Bryant said the students and McDaniel discussed the changes in the attorney general’s role over the past two decades, and he ensured that the students received a comprehensive overview of the office and its responsibilities.

“These kinds of interactions,” according to Chris Rahlwes, “really complement our classroom learning. In the classroom, we gain academic tools and on these trips we get to see how they are applied. It’s the best of both worlds.”

Masoud Kazemzadeh joined the Political Science Department in 2005. He was born in Iran. Since he was 14 years old, Masoud wanted to be a political science professor. He used to force his younger siblings and cousins to sit on rows of chairs in front of his blackboard so he could teach them English, math, and history. After finishing high school in the city Abadan, located on the northern side of the Persian Gulf, he came to the United States to attend the University of Minnesota. He studied International Relations there. He then went to the University of Southern California for his M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science. His doctoral dissertation received the Western Political Science Association’s “Best Dissertation in Political Science Award.” He was a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University in Fall 1998. Masoud has published two books and over two dozen articles including seven in peer-reviewed scholarly journals. He is working on his third book entitled U.S.-Iran Confrontation: Alternative Scenarios and Consequences.

Scholarship Donation

The International Association of Drilling contractors and the Reed Hycalog Corporation recognized Mark Burns, a former Political Science major, as the 2007 Contractor of the Year. With this award, Mr. Burns could designate the recipient of a $7,500 scholarship. He chose the Political Science Department at Sam Houston State University. The faculty and students of the Department are very grateful to Mark Burns. His generosity will benefit many students.
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, CONT.

Two Senior Professors Are Still Teaching

Dr. Witold Lukaszewski took early retirement in 2007. This allows him to teach each Spring semester for five years. He has taught at Sam Houston State University since 1970. His academic specialties are International Relations, the Politics of Eastern Europe, and International Conflict and Terrorism. In semi-retirement Dr. Lukaszewski is writing his memoirs, seeing his grandchildren, and kayaking in Newfoundland. He was able to get both former U. S. President George H. W. Bush and former President of Poland Lech Walesa to speak on the Sam Houston State University campus in earlier years. Dr. John Holcombe is serving as Interim Chair of the Political Science Department for the academic year 2007-2008 while a national search is being conducted to find a chair. His academic specialties are American Politics, the U.S. Congress and Political Behavior.

Dr. Holcombe has taught at Sam Houston State University since 1966. He won the University’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 1991.

This picture was taken at a lunch hosted by President George Bush (Sr.) on Thursday February 28. Standing from left to right are Prof. Witold J. Lukaszewski, former Secretary of State James Baker II, former President of Poland and leader of Solidarity Lech Walesa, President George Bush (Sr.), Dr. Marian Kruzel, former Treasury Secretary Robert Mosbacher, and Dr. Wojciechowski. That was a memorable lunch.

Many of the department’s faculty members conduct research on topics concerning nations outside the United States.
Clinical Psychology Internship Match

Following the completion of four to five years of intensive academic work, doctoral candidates in clinical psychology are required to complete a year-long clinical internship as the final requirement for their degree. The American Psychological Association accredits clinical internships around the country and admission is very competitive. Candidates typically apply a year in advance. Much like applications to Ph.D. programs, competitive candidates are then invited to come for interviews at the various internship sites. Sites then cull the interviewees down to their top candidates and submit rank order lists to the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). Candidates also submit rank order lists of their preferred sites, and on MATCH DAY each year students are notified if they have successfully matched with an internship.

On Match Day 2008 (February 22nd), SHSU was notified that all seven of this year’s applicants had matched with internships. All sites were APA (or CPA) accredited and included: 1) the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester, 2) the British Columbia Mental Health and Addictions Services, 3) the U. S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, MO, 4) Mendota Mental Health Institute in Madison, WI, 5) the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, MN, 6) Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and 7) Western State Hospital in Tacoma, WA. Psychology program faculty was especially excited by the quality and reputation of the sites selecting our students. Five of the seven were internships where SHSU students had not been before.

The most impressive thing about this internship match comes in comparison to doctoral programs throughout the country. The years 2007 and 2008 were the worst years in history for successful internship matches, with national match rates of 75% and 79% respectively. In both years, 100% of SHSU internship applicants matched with APA accredited sites. We congratulate those outstanding students and look forward to more exciting information about their future careers.
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

AKD Eta Chapter Reorganized

Mary Ann Davis, Assistant Professor of Sociology Chapter Representative of the Eta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD), announced that Spring initiation is scheduled for April 23, 2008. AKD is the International Sociology Honor Society. The motto Anthropon kata-manthanein diakonesein describes the AKD purpose “to investigate humanity for the purpose of service.” The Eta Chapter of the National Honor Society for Sociology, chartered in 1958, had not been active since Professor Joanne Ardovini-Booker the representative faculty member left SHSU in 2003/2004.

Membership Criteria:
The Eta Charter of AKD will grant lifetime membership to those who meet or exceed the following minimum requirements: Undergraduates must be a Sociology major or minor; at least a junior (third year); with an overall G.P.A. of 3.0 and a 3.0 G.P.A. in Sociology courses taken at the host institution prior to initiation; with at least four regular courses in sociology prior to initiation. Graduates Students must have completed one half year of graduate study in Sociology at SHSU (i.e., one semester or two quarters or the equivalent academic unit) with a graduate G.P.A. of B or better.

Invitations to join AKD were extended to thirty-one initiates. The initial Initiation Ceremony is scheduled for April 23, 2008 at 4:30 PM in the LSC Room307. The speaker will be Dr. Dudley L. Poston, Jr, Dudley L. Poston, Jr. Professor of Sociology; George T. & Gladys H. Abell Professor of Liberal Arts; Director, Asian Studies Program at Texas A&M University.

An AKD Community Service Project was held on April 25, 2008 in the Kate Barr Ross Park, to assist the Huntsville Head Start, a local pre-school, with their Field Day.

Medical Sociology Reinforced

The Sociology Department has recently reinforced its emphasis in Medical Sociology. This focus has been strengthened through the hiring of new faculty, the development of cutting edge research, and the creation of new courses. In the fall of 2006, the Department hired Dr. Jin Young Choi, a Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii, who specializes in health care systems and delivery. At SHSU Dr. Choi has joined Dr. Deng and Dr. Bonanno in the development of new research projects. Dr. Furjen Deng has been active in the study of health delivery and systems as they pertain to ethnic minorities. In particular she has been involved in the study of the social consequences of breast cancer among members of the Chinese community in the greater Houston area. She also focuses on the effects that this form of cancer has on the working of, and social equilibria within, this ethnic community. Dr. Choi and Dr. Bonanno are part of an interdisciplinary (Sociology, Psychology and Medicine) and multi-institution (SHSU; University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center) research group that is investigating the “Social-Psychological Consequences of Facial Disfigurement Resulting from Orbital and Periorbital Cancer.” This project is part of a larger research effort to identify factors that improve the quality of life of cancer survivors. In this particular case, advancements in medicine allow facial cancer patients to be cured or survive for an extended period of time. However, these patients are left with acquired alterations in their facial appearance that compromise their social function and psychological well-being. The focus of the research effort is to study the consequences of this medically induced disfigurement and to develop protocol to improve these patients’ quality of life. Dr. Choi has also redesigned the existing undergraduate course in “Health and Illness” and developed a new graduate course in “Medical Sociology.” It is the objective of the Department to attract new graduate students who wish to specialize in medical sociology and to offer assistance to the local communities. As accomplishments in medicine create conditions that cannot be addressed through medicine alone but require the contribution of the social sciences, Medical Sociology has emerged as an ideal partner to the medical sciences. Through its various efforts, SHSU Sociology is now positioned to contribute to this exciting area of study.
Leading the Way in Rural Sociology

Per capita, the Department of Sociology at SHSU boasts the largest concentration of rural sociologists working in any sociology department at any institution of higher learning in the State of Texas. Rural sociologists at SHSU are teaching, conducting basic and applied research, and writing professional and popular articles on rural and community development issues, environmental and natural resource concerns, and related topics. The development of outreach educational and technical assistance programs that address important issues relating to community development and natural resources in Texas is also a central feature of their work.

As corroborated by research, the social and economic fabric of many rural communities has been progressively weakened by a number of regional, national, and global changes over the past few decades. Transformations in economic, demographic, and spatial organization have had profound impacts on rural communities. On average, rural areas maintain lower per capita incomes and higher poverty, higher dependency, and lower labor force participation rates than do urban areas. In addition, the quantity and quality of many amenities and public services (i.e., fire and police protection; educational, transportation, and shopping facilities; welfare activities; health care; water, refuse, and sewage systems; and organized recreational opportunities) frequently are inadequate to meet the needs of rural residents.

Concomitantly, the desire for rural and small-town community and economic development to mitigate local problems and ameliorate socioeconomic disparities is increasingly recognized by state policy makers, local elected officials, and the citizenry at large. Furthermore, the need to attract and retain sufficient levels of human capital in rural areas to improve the overall quality of life is often a major priority for many communities.

Considering the diminishment of rural sociology departments at the land-grant universities across this country (including the demise of the Department of Rural Sociology at Texas A&M University in 2004), where can students turn to best acquire the skills (i.e., theoretical, methodological, statistical, decision-making, communication, etc.) needed to understand and address the social, economic, demographic, political and cultural changes occurring in rural areas? Here in the State of Texas, the answer to the aforementioned question is, undoubtedly, the Department of Sociology at SHSU.

Several members of the Sociology Department have been, and continue to be, recognized both nationally and internationally for their work in the sociology of rural areas. Three faculty members currently serve as President of professional associations related to rural sociology. Dr. Alessandro Bonanno is President of the International Rural Sociological Association, Dr. Gene Theodori is President of the Southern Rural Sociological Association, and Dr. Douglas H. Constance is President of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society.

Dr. Jin Young Choi, a Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii, specializes in the health care system. She has joined Drs. Deng and Bonanno in development of new research projects in Medical Sociology.

Food and conversation before the annual College of Humanities and Social Sciences Fall General Faculty Meeting.
Although spare time is not a concept fully understood by the faculty of the Mass Communication Department, staff members managed their share of distinction outside the classroom in the past year.

Michael Blackman edited two books by Mike Cochran, the well received biography of former governor Clayton Williams, *Claytie: The Roller-Coaster Life of a Texas Wildcatter* (Texas A&M Press), and the autobiography of poker icon Doyle Brunson. Blackman also was named to the board of advisors for a national prize to be awarded annually by the Texas Observer in honor of the late Molly Ivins, the Texas author and essayist.

Dr. Janet Bridges is again serving as research co-chair for the Mass Communication and Society division of AEJMC. The division is the second largest in the organization. The co-chairs are responsible for the research sessions at the national conference in Chicago this year. A total of 137 papers were submitted a year ago and five formal research sessions were organized.

Marc Edge’s book, *Asper Nation*, about Canada’s media moguls, was reviewed and praised in the January/February 2008 edition of *Quill and Quire* magazine. Halcyon Press plans a summer publication of a collection of sports columns by Mickey Herskowitz, called *Forgive Us Our Press Passes*. A scholarship in his name has been awarded by the communications school at his alma mater, the University of Houston. (Blackman and Herskowitz are the Warner Endowed Journalism co-chairs at SHSU.)

Wanda Reyes will represent the Mass Communication department after her selection to a three-year term on Sam Houston’s faculty senate. This position will give her a chance to use her training as an assistant professor of public relations.

Dr. David Payne (right), SHSU Provost speaks at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Fall General Faculty Meeting.
Effective communication is essential in every aspect of life, according to Frances Brandau-Brown, graduate adviser for the Communication Studies Department. Teaching those skills is the goal of the department’s new Master of Arts program, which will be offered beginning in the fall 2008 semester at the University Center in the Woodlands after recently receiving approval from the participating partner schools at the University Center, according to Terry Thibodeaux, associate dean in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The program had earlier received the full approval of both the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas State University System Board of Regents. The 36-hour thesis and non-thesis track program will have an emphasis on family and interpersonal communication, offering “a better understanding of how communication works in a variety of settings,” Brandau-Brown said.

“There’s a difference between talking to people and being personally effective and socially appropriate,” she said. “Our goal is to help people learn the strategies that will make them more successful in dealing with issues that would crop up in human resources, marketing, teaching or as a doctor, lawyer or politician. “We teach persuasive strategies, interpersonal strategies, conflict resolution and negotiation,” she said.

The program, the first in the state to offer the family component, will only be offered at the University Center, as it is more conveniently located for the audience being targeted by the department. “Since we are trying to reach former graduates who are working, it will be easier for those people to take classes at the University Center,” she said.

There is a growing demand for communication majors in the job market, according to Brandau-Brown. In 2003, nearly 70,000 students across the country graduated with a bachelor’s degree in communication, while approximately 6,500 received master’s degrees and 400 received doctorates in the field, according to the National Communication Association. “The numbers are steadily increasing every year because people recognize that no matter what career you’re in, you have to be effective in communicat-
Dr. Terry M. Thibodeaux, Professor of Communication Studies and Associate Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, had been conducting research and writing about his native Cajun culture for 20 years when he received an interesting e-mail message from a friend in Louisiana. The friend was forwarding a short request soliciting a collaborator on a writing project that involved Cajun characters, Acadian history, and time travel. Intrigued on several levels, Thibodeaux responded to Ann Davidson’s message, and a writing team was born. Almost four years later, that collaboration is about to yield a novel to be published this spring by Texas Review Press entitled Catherine’s Cadeau. The French word cadeau means gift or present.

This project involves two stories: one, the story told in the novel; the other, the story of how the book came to be published at all. Dr. Thibodeaux, as of this writing, has still never met his co-author face to face. She continues to live and work near Boston, Massachusetts. Starting in the summer of 2005, they began working together to take a story she had developed and make it into an epic that encompasses historical fiction, cultural study, romance, time travel, and more than 250 years of history. For almost two years, Thibodeaux and Davidson worked together using e-mail and an occasional telephone call, to fashion this story into what has become Catherine’s Cadeau.

The story follows a young Cajun woman, Monique Melancon, on a journey that takes her to Nova Scotia, where 250 years earlier her ancestors were brutally ripped from their homes and families and dispersed to the winds. The British government, at war with France over territory throughout North America, wanted to replace the “French Neutrals.” What is now Nova Scotia with loyal British farmers from the American Colonies. Thousands of Acadians were eventually exiled, with the largest numbers of them eventually finding their ways to Louisiana. But hundreds of Acadians never made it to Louisiana, scattering throughout North America and even to Europe and South America. Many lost family and friends to various diseases, exposure, and injuries from the harsh treatment.

Monique Melancon had a love of the Acadian culture and its by-product, her own Cajun culture, implanted deep into her soul by her mother, Catherine, who died when Monique was a young girl. Her mother had promised to take Monique to visit their homeland, but her untimely death prevented her from fulfilling that promise. Years later, Monique is invited to accompany her cousin Michelle and her husband Jacques on a trip to Nova Scotia where they are to perform at a music festival. On that trip, Monique goes to the historic park at Grand Pre to honor the dream she shared with her mother of visiting their homeland. While her friends and family search frantically for her, they are unaware that Monique has been granted a return to 1755 just at the beginning of what has become known as Le Grand Dérangement, or the Great Upheaval. She lives through a brutal imprisonment, finds love and a family she knew only in dreams, sees her family torn apart, and witnesses first-hand one of the darkest and least known chapters in American history. As Thibodeaux explains, “Through the story, the reader better understands the Cajun culture through the survival of the Acadian people and the strength of the bonds between Monique’s present-day family and friends. Ann and I tried to show the link between those ancient Acadians and their present-day relatives, the Cajuns, through this story. We are exceptionally excited that it will soon be available for everyone to read.”

One other aspect is what Thibodeaux calls “the icing on the cake.” The cover art and several sketches throughout the text were provided by his son, Mark, who graduated from Sam Houston with a Graphic Design degree and English minor. “Mark and my wife Paula were two of my most valued readers and reviewers as we worked on the book. And it was Ann’s suggestion that we ask Mark to design the cover art and maybe some illustrations for the interior of the book. Since he knew the story so well, it was not surprising that his artwork captured the spirit of the story so well. I couldn’t be happier and prouder that I could share this project with him on that level. This project really has been a gift on several levels.”
Assistant professor of English Scott Kaukonen has been recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts as a recipient of the organization’s 2008 Literature Fellowship in Prose, a $25,000 prize. Kaukonen was one of 42 writers from across the nation selected for the fellowship out of more than 777 applicants. “It’s money to allow you to write. In my case, it’ll allow me to take the summer off from teaching and focus solely on my writing, which is, quite frankly, invaluable,” he said. “I’m currently finishing a novel, and so I’ll likely be involved in revisions over the summer and/or starting a new project.” Kaukonen said the award is significant not only because of the money involved but because it’s a highly-competitive fellowship that is ultimately decided upon by a jury of peers. “There’s a select group of established writers who read through all the anonymous manuscripts and whittle them down and then spend a weekend in (Washington) D.C. in a hotel conference room, reviewing the finalists and discussing the work and making the decisions,” he said. For his application, Kaukonen submitted his short story, “Punnett’s Squares,” from his collection of stories, “Ordination.” “Punnett’s Squares” won the 2004 Nelson Algren Prize from The Chicago Tribune, while the collection won the 2004 Ohio State Prize for Short Fiction. “From a personal standpoint, it’s the kind of external validation that balances the, it seems, inevitable insecurities that can surround your own work as a writer—all that time you spend alone, writing, creating, doubting, battling your own fears, hoping your work is doing what you intend for it to do,” he said.
Department of English Faculty Embrace a Wide Range of Research and Teaching Interests

Department of English faculty embrace a wide range of research and teaching interests that range from linguistics to creative writing to literary criticism to rhetoric and composition to minority literatures.

Helena Halmari, Professor of English, published *Persuasion Across Genres: A Linguistic Approach* (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2005), with a linguist Tuija Virtanen (a Finnish scholar) serving as co-author. This collection of essays explores how persuasion, in its various linguistic forms, enters our lives daily.

Paul Ruffin, Distinguished Professor of English, most recently published *Jesus in the Mist*, a collection of short stories set in the Deep South. The collection was listed on Amazon.com’s Top 100 Best-selling Hot New Releases (short story collections) for two months.

Julie Hall, Associate Professor of English, published *Reinventing the Peabody Sisters*, a collection of essays which re-envision the place of the Peabody sisters as significant writers and thinkers during the mid-1800s. Dr. Hall’s essay in this collection, titled “At the Crisis of our Fate”: Sophia Hawthorne’s Civil War Correspondence,” examines two groups of unpublished archival written by Sophia Peabody Hawthorne, who also collaboratively produced a journal with her famous husband, Nathaniel.

Kimberly Bell, Assistant Professor of English, published *Cultural Studies of the Modern Middle Ages*. This collection of essays places medieval and contemporary cultural texts side by side to reveal that there are certain ways of thinking and social conditions that persist over the years.

Bill Bridges, Professor of English, recently published the fourth edition of *The Longwood Guide to Writing*. This freshman writing textbook takes an aims-based approach to writing and offers advice on reading at the college level as well. Dr. Bridges’ co-author is Ronald F. Lunsford.

Dr. April Shemak, now in her third year at SHSU, notes that her teaching interests include a broad range of multicultural literatures within and outside of the United States. Dr. Shemak currently has a book project under contract titled *Asylum Speakers: New World Refugees and Testimonial Narrative* which explores various modes of witnessing refugees in fiction, photography, and U.S. public discourse.

Drew Lopenzina, Assistant Professor of English, teaches from the standpoint that Native Americans have stories and literatures that are every bit as crucial to the identity of this country as the works that have been historically canonized in our literary anthologies. Dr. Lopenzina currently has a book manuscript under consideration at SUNY Press titled *Red Ink: Native Americans Picking Up the Pen in the Colonial Period*.

Lee Bebout, a first-year Assistant Professor of English, teaches courses in multicultural U.S. literature. Currently, he is teaching a survey of Mexican-American (Chicano/a) literature spanning the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, focusing on how literature can be used to express varying political and cultural identities. Dr. Bebout is currently working on a book manuscript titled *Mythohistorical Interventions: Community, Citizenship, and the Chicano/a Imaginary* which explores how myths and histories have been utilized in the political and cultural discourse of the Chicano movement and post-movement era.
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Faculty, Students, Even Alumni Pitch In At Recruiting Event

Sam Houston State University is setting enrollment records every semester and if participation at a high school recruiting fair last weekend is any indication, the trend should continue. Last Saturday 16 faculty members and 39 students, in addition to regular recruiters from the admissions/recruiting office, spent the day at the 22nd Annual Houston Hispanic Forum Career and Education Day at the George R. Brown Convention Center. The SHSU effort included criminal justice and foreign languages displays as well as roving Bearkat student ambassadors. Debra Andrist, who chairs the foreign languages department, organized the extra faculty and student effort for the event. This event has evolved from one targeting a limited number of students to one attended by a multi-cultural/ethnic audience, including not only families, but students bussed in by teachers and counselors," said Andrist. Trevor Thorn, director of admissions/recruiting, said that Sam Houston State has sent recruiters to the event for many years, but that the faculty and student participation added an extra dimension."It's really nice when you have someone from CJ for instance, who can tell you in detail about CJ, or foreign languages, who can tell you about foreign languages in detail," he said. "Other departments are also selecting students and faculty who want to help with recruiting and are good at it."We're seeing more and more of this," Thorn said. "Anybody that's recruiting is a big help to us, especially if they're well-briefed and have been given some direction. The more the merrier."Andrist said that several alumni also showed up at the Houston event to give their support and perspective. SHSU administration and faculty participants included Richard Eglsaer from Academic Affairs and Sarah Kerrigan from forensic science/criminal justice. Foreign languages faculty, in addition to Andrist, included Madalina Akli, Yasser Derwiche Djazaerly, Shirin Bani, James Frankki, David Gerling, Alejandro Latinez, Enrique Mallén, Al Policarpo, Kay Raymond, Joaquín Rodriguez-Barberá and Rafael Saumell-Muñoz, Rob Blair, Xiuhui Han and Ray Rentería. Forensic Science graduate students who volunteered included Kevin Callahan, Aodelle Collins and Adrian Pérez. Undergraduate students included Kristen Pelo, Tressa Green, Katherine Younger, Kevin Quinney, Nam Nguyen, Stacey Williams, Cassie Salimi, Ashton Mouton, Jessica Holland, Christopher Benso, Michaela Carpenter, Maryam Dashatabadi, Andrea Jones and Tatiana Matwijiw. Also, Auntonya Rogers, Sophia Delarue, Elspeth Erickson, Brandon Gray, Nicolas Fabbro, Keshia Abott, Marisa Losoya, Dacia Bush, Alexis Andrei, Arriana Martinez, Glynda Haldt, La mont Perkins, Mercadi Crawford, Maggie Smith, Lora Ross, Shara Brown, Jennifer Castillo, Garrick Long, Brittany Flores, Nicole Taber, Rachel Gonzales and Abbi Konowitz.

Professor’s ‘History’ Gains Him ‘Historia’ Acceptance

As someone who has experienced life under Fidel Castro’s dictatorship first-hand, SHSU Spanish professor Rafael Saumell-Muñoz has had a lot to say on the subject throughout the years. His first collection of unpublished, “politically incorrect” short stories led to a five-year imprisonment in Cuba in 1981. Since then, he has written a number of articles, papers and books on Cuban literature, prison narratives and the histories of human rights and the prison system in Cuba. These scholarly contributions recently earned him unanimous election into the Academia de la Historia de Cuba (Exilio), an exclusive scholarly organization dedicated to telling its version of Cuban history. “The people who join this academia, or academy, are people who through their work will show some discrepancy with the official version of the history of Cuba that is told now through the schools,” Saumell-Muñoz said. “The Cuban government also controls the educational process, and they make sure to teach the students from a particular angle that they prefer.” Most of these people are “dissidents,” people who have been exiled (hence “Exilio”) for similar criticisms of the Cuban government or simply do not accept the government’s version, Saumell-Muñoz said.

In May, Saumell-Muñoz will travel to Miami, Fla., the academy’s headquarters, to read his paper on the Cuban 19th Century poet José María Heredia as his formal acceptance to the group’s invitation.
Global Efforts by the Department of Foreign Languages

Drs. Kay Raymond and Alejandro Latínez’s version of a Latin American literature text was published this spring and is in use in Department classes. Dr. Enrique Mallén’s latest book, Poesía del Lenguaje: De T.S. Eliot a Eduardo Espina is now in circulation. Five Foreign Languages professors currently have six book contracts: Drs. Madalina Akli, Debra D. Andrist, Shirin Edwin, Enrique Mallén (2) and Rafael Saumell Muñoz.

Six FL professors have published, or had one or more chapters, articles, translations or study guides accepted for publication (20 in all!), in the last year: Drs. Debra D. Andrist (5); Yasser Derwiche Djazaerly; Shirin Edwin (3); Alejandro Latínez (2); Enrique Mallén (3); Alcibiades Poli-carpo (4); and Rafael Saumell Muñoz (2).

Eleven Foreign Languages professors have, or will, present about two dozen papers at scholarly conferences or meetings this academic year: Drs. Debra D. Andrist at Asocia-ción Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica/Spain, South Central Modern Language Association/Memphis, Language & Education Congress/New Zealand, Southwest Council of Latin American Studies/El Paso, the Luisa Valenzuela Conference/Vienna; Yasser Derwiche Djazaerly at South Central Modern Language Association/Memphis; Shirin Edwin at Mod-ern Language Association and at the South Asian Literary Association, both in Chicago; James Francki at the International Congress on Medieval Studies/Kalamazoo; David Ger-ling at the National Latino & Hispanic Studies Conference/Baton Rouge; Frieda Koeninger at Louisi-ana State University; Alejandro Latínez at the South Eastern Council of Latin American Studies (2) and the Latin American Studies at Baylor University; Enrique Mallén at the Semiotic Circle of California/University of California-Berkeley, at the Conference of Hispanic & Spanish American Poetry/University of Virginia, at Digital Humanities 2007/University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, at The Poetry of the Americas/Texas A&M University, on his Picasso Project at Western Carolina University and at the Picasso Foundation/Spain; Alcibiades Poli-carpo at Hispanic & Latino Studies at Louisana State University (2); Joaquin Rodriguez-Barberá at the Carolina Conference on Languages & Literatures at the University of North Carolina; and Rafael Saumell Muñoz at a symposium at Washington University in Missouri, at the Institute of Hispanic Culture/Houston and at the Latin Book Festival/Houston.

The Picasso Project, under the director-ship of Dr. Enrique Mallén, continues to flourish. This year it has published a comprehensive bilingual concordance of Pablo Picasso’s writings. This is the first such concordance ever produced.

Dr. Rafael Saumell Muñoz was elected to the Academy of Cuban History (in exile). As a former political prisoner of the Castro regime in Cuba, he was interviewed by Pravda, the Slovak newspaper, about Fidel Castro’s resignation from head of state. Dr. Alcibiades Policarpo is on sabbatical spring 08 and will be going to Péru to visit several universities and the National Police in order to continue with the efforts of academic and pro-fessional agreements as part of our College and University International Mission.

Proposed Faculty & Curricular Ini-tiatives:

The Department of Foreign Lan-guages is thrilled to add a new scholar-ship, the Seola Arnaud & R.V. Edwards, Jr. Endowed French Scholar-ship for a major or minor in that language.

Foreign Languages has begun an ambitious program of co-sponsored interdisciplinary scholarly presentations by off-campus speakers: Dr. Joseph McFadden, Professor of History and President Emeritus of University of St. Thomas/Houston, on the Celtic Tiger (the current phenomenal Irish economic success); Dr. Roger Moore, 3M (master teacher), Professor and former chair of Spanish at St. Thomas University/Freiricton, New Brunswick, Can-ada, on several teaching technique and foreign language teaching examples; Professors RoseMary Salum, University of St. Thomas/Houston and founder/publisher of magazine, Literal: Latin American Voices, on her own short stories and magazine publishing; Norma Mouton, Univer-sity of Houston, on the works of Spanish writer, Pilar Paz Pasamar.

Foreign Languages Faculty are pre-senting their teaching and scholar-ship as part of Department speakers series: Drs. Enrique Mallen in the Picasso Project; Alcibiades Policarpo on the work of an American-Peruvian writer; Yasser Derwiche Djazaerly on Gothic architecture; Frieda Koeninger in March and Ale-jandro Latínez in April. Faculty and student representatives from FL have also attended the Latino Book Festi-val and the Hispanic Book Festival, both in Houston, as informal amba-sadors.
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Entergy customer service manager Stan Foley (third from right) presented an $18,000 grant on Friday morning to (from left) FCS chair Janis White, COE dean Genevieve Brown, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs David Payne, CHSS dean John de Castro and education associate professor Carol Parker, for three projects benefiting the Huntsville community.

Entergy Grant Lights Up Three Departments

An $18,000 grant from the Entergy Charitable Foundation will allow three departments to share their knowledge with the Huntsville community.

The grant was presented to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs David Payne by Entergy Huntsville customer Service Manager Stan Foley on Friday (Dec. 14) morning.

“Sam Houston State University deeply appreciates the generosity of Entergy in supporting our efforts to serve students and enhancing the university community relations,” Payne said.

The three-fold grant will be disbursed to the Family and Consumer Sciences and Mass Communications Departments and the College of Education.

FCS will develop a brochure on energy-efficiency for low-income customers and mass communications will work with Walker County Emergency Management in radio notification systems for such events as Hurricane Rita, Foley said.

“Our goal, with the ECF grants, is simple,” Foley said. “We want to leave the world a better place than we found it by working to create real education, employment and housing opportunities in the communities we serve.”

In addition to the SHSU grant, Entergy also funded two other Huntsville-area entities: the Community Organization for Missionary Endeavor (COME) Center received $3,000 for school supplies for students in kindergarten through fourth grades and the Walker County United Way received $4,000 for youth scholarships.

Sandy Thompson of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences was recognized with the CHSS Staff Excellence Award. “She can do everything from unjamming the copier to producing beautiful visual displays at holiday times to organizing a retreat on a tight budget! Her unflappable style and strong people skills help to keep the department and its majors on an even keel,” said Chair Janis White.
CHSS Vision Statement

To become a “Tier I Balanced” college -- nationally recognized for excellence in both instruction and research/scholarship – in which:
1. all students receive excellent instruction from tenure-track faculty,
2. undergraduate and graduate students are actively involved in research activities,
3. graduates are well regarded by employers and graduate and professional schools,
4. faculty who take equal instructional, scholarly/research, and service activities,
5. instruction and research/scholarship are equally valued and rewarded,
6. the scholarship of teaching and innovation in instruction are promoted and rewarded,
7. the quality of the research, scholarship, and creative activity of the faculty are well regarded internationally,
8. seeking extramural funding for research/scholarship is promoted and rewarded,
9. outstanding scholarship is valued regardless of the attraction of extramural funding,
10. extramural funding for research is used to support students and engage them in the production of knowledge and understanding,
11. an active cross-disciplinary intellectual environment is present that promotes creative interactions of faculty and students,
12. students and faculty are actively engaged in the community,
13. service to the college and the profession are encouraged, valued, and rewarded.

“A teaching institution disseminates knowledge; a research institution discovers knowledge -- a balanced institution does both.”

CHSS Mission Statement

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.

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.

Office Staff

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